



DISCLOSURE FORM

Many rescue bassetts come from pet stores/puppy mills or back-yard-breeders. As a result of their poor breeding practices, bassetts from these sources may not conform to the breed standard. This means they may be shy of children, hyperactive, and small in stature to name a few traits.

The age of many HHBR dogs is unknown, as very few come with official records. The age is usually the initial estimate given by the receiving shelter, which may be different from that given at the time of initial checkup. Different veterinarians may also give different ages, and those different opinions are sometimes reflected on the records.

Responsible Basset Hound ownership requires a commitment in TIME, ENERGY and MONEY. Your Basset Hound has certain veterinary, grooming, nutritional, training and exercise needs. The following information discloses what is considered to be responsible basset ownership

- **Veterinary.** As a minimum, the Basset Hound will require annual visits to the vet for a checkup and shots. Today, many routine shots are now on a 3 year cycle except for Bordetella (kennel cough) which should be done annually. The check up should include an examination of the ears, teeth, heart, and anal glands, and a check for intestinal worms. A stool sample is necessary to check for intestinal worms, and the vet will take a blood sample to check for heartworm. During the course of ownership, there may be other veterinary procedures such as dental cleaning and extractions. Depending on where you live veterinary costs can vary greatly. Expect to pay anywhere from \$100 to \$200 per year FOR ROUTINE VETERINARY CARE. Additional visits to the vet for non-routine procedures/visits could cost \$100 per visit. Dental work requires putting the dog under anesthesia and can cost \$150 or more.
- **Heartworm disease is deadly!** Heart worms ARE NOT intestinal parasites. Heart worms are contracted through the bite of a mosquito. It takes approximately 6 months for the disease to show up on a heart worm test after the dog has been bitten. Therefore it is imperative that you test your dog for heartworm every year or two years as recommended by your veterinarian. If you live in an area where mosquitoes are present nearly year round, you should keep your dog on preventative year round. If the preventative is stopped for more than a couple of months, you should have the dog retested prior to starting the preventative again. If your Basset Hound should have heartworm, you are facing a life-threatening situation. Treatment for heartworm will cost you several hundred dollars. Therefore, keep the Basset Hound on heartworm preventative. Giving your dog a pill once a month to prevent the disease is easy and less expensive than treating him for the disease.
- **Grooming.** Routine grooming of the Basset Hound can help keep veterinary costs to a minimum. A Basset Hound requires once a week cleaning of ears and teeth to prevent ear infections and dental problems. Unless you exercise your basset daily on concrete sidewalks, clipping toenails should be done every 7 to 10 days. Frequent brushing will decrease shedding. Daily grooming will also help in the early detection of fleas. There are many new products on the market that make flea prevention easy. Many dogs today are allergic to fleas, which leads severe skin dermatitis. Failure to do these simple things can lead to higher veterinary costs. Grooming supplies, - brushes, ear wash, toothpaste, (You can not use human toothpaste on a dog. Buy only toothpaste especially formulated for dogs at a pet store or from a vet.) flea combs, nail clippers, etc., will cost approximately \$100.
- **Nutrition.** Adult Basset Hounds generally eat between 2 and 4 cups of food a day. Basset Hounds have a tendency to get fat, partly because their "sad" look lends their owners to "take pity on them" and give them more food than they require. Overeating is dangerous to all dogs, and can lead to back and heart problems. Feed a well-balanced name brand dry food supplemented with a quality canned food and/or other supplements. Grocery store or generic brand dog foods should not be used. Avoid soft mushy treats as they can contribute to teeth decay and gum disease. Hard biscuits make the best treats.
- **Exercise.** Despite their lazy reputations, the Basset Hound requires exercise. All Basset Hounds love a walk, as they are by nature explorers and enjoy "checking" out the neighborhood. A Basset Hound without sufficient exercise will become a nuisance due to boredom. Ninety percent of all behavior problems can be attributed to lack of exercise. The exercise requirements of a Basset Hound vary. Some Basset Hounds are more high-energy than others, and a fenced yard will not suffice. A fenced yard is not a substitute for daily exercise. A daily walk of approximately 20 minutes is the average requirement. More is better.
- **Other Stuff.** The Basset Hound will require a collar, leashes and leads, tags, crate or bed, toys, bowls, etc. Expect to pay approximately \$100 to "outfit" your home for a dog. If you use a crate for your basset hound (and we recommend it), you can expect to pay between \$50 and \$100 for one