

Introduction

Note on Usage:

Readers may notice that, throughout this eBook, I don't capitalize "basset" hound. I realize many people do capitalize all dog breed names, but sometimes that's improper usage. I'm following the rule that states:

"Dog breeds. Only capitalize proper names and nationalities within the breed name (regardless of where they appear): German shepherd, Jack Russell terrier, Chihuahua, yellow Lab (rador). Otherwise, do not capitalize, even if it's a foreign word: golden retriever, papillon, wire-haired dachshund, shih tzu. "

~ [Gather.com: Capital Ideas](#)
John L.
2008

And also:
~ [Hunter College: Capitalization](#)
1998

So, if you were wondering about that small "b" I keep using when I spell "basset hound" -- now you know why!

So, you want to be owned by a basset hound. Oh, I'm sure you were thinking, "So, I want to *own* a basset hound". Well, get that misguided notion out of your head right now, buddy. For if you decide – after reading this little book – that you *still* want a basset hound in your life, make no mistake: *he* (or *she*) will own *you*, and not the other way 'round! Hopefully, you'll learn a few things about bassets from this book that you need to know, especially if you have not yet become enslaved, but are merely considering entering bondage.

The first thing we'd love for you to think about is, "Why not adopt a basset from a rescue shelter?" In fact, that's the main tack of this book -- adopting a rescued basset. I'm going to tell you what's *wrong* with most well-bred bassets (Chapter I: Basset Hounds: You Probably have *No* Idea!); What's right with most well-bred bassets; and what's most likely to be different about a basset adopted from a humane society or rescue shelter (hint: you won't know whether it's "well-bred" or not!)

The aim of this book is to tell you what you're getting into if you decide to get a basset hound, *especially* if you decide to get one from a rescue. My goal is to help you make the right

decision for both you and the basset. That way, maybe we can start reducing the number of bassets showing up on the doorsteps of humane societies and basset rescues all over North America. So, if you've always wanted a basset hound and, after reading this eBook, *I changed your mind* – I've done my job!

Just for example: the first thing that you need to know is that hounds in general, and bassets in particular, *were bred to do a job*. Among dog breeds, that's nothing remarkable – except for the fact that hounds were bred to do their jobs *independently*, out of sight of their so-called “masters” (yeah, right. Sure we are).

Now, bassets don't always work out of sight of their “masters” -- unlike coonhounds, some bloodhounds, foxhounds, etc. -- but they *do* work independently, so they may as well be out of the line of sight. Keep in mind at all times you'll be dealing with an animal whose first concern is his own agenda. When you call him, he'll pretend “to go deaf”. If he's on a trail, he may actually *be* deaf to your cries. He literally will not hear – or see -- you. Not that it would make a difference to him, anyway. If you think you can train that out of him, you don't know hound dogs. Can you live with a dog that *isn't* eager to please you?

Now, I *have* run into a few basset-related sites and articles where the person(s) will state something to the effect, “A basset’s first desire is to please everyone around him!” Honestly, I don’t know what hounds they’re talking about -- in over 30 years, I’ve yet to meet *any* hound -- basset or otherwise -- whose “first desire” was to please anybody but him/herself. That doesn’t mean there aren’t any out there -- I’ve just never met one. So, all other opinions aside, I stand by my statement: they’re **not** eager to please you. They’re running their own agenda, *as they were bred to do!* If you find one who’s eager to please, *you got very lucky*. And if your top priority is to have such a dog, I’d suggest looking at another breed, rather than depending on luck!

So if you're looking to compete in schutz hund, or win ribbons at trials, the vast majority of bassets are not going to fit your plans. Again, please look elsewhere. And please don't consider this a challenge to prove me wrong. It's just the truth, and if you obtain a basset with the idea you'll win obedience trials with her, you'll most likely be seriously disappointed, and the basset may very well end up at a shelter like *Basset Rescue of Montana*: a sad, unfair, and unnecessary situation.

I have a personal observation that I've been making for years: If you're a person who loves cats, and for whatever reason can't have one but, ironically, *can* have a dog – get a hound. Her “#! you . . . just try and make me!” attitude will be comfortably familiar to you. I've yet to have a cat lover prove me right, but I'm guessing I will, someday. On the other hand, if you feel that the main advantage of cats over dogs is the litter box . . . never mind.