

ShowSight  
*presents*

# THE BRUSSELS GRIFFON

**ShowSight Magazine**

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# CELEBRATING THE BRUSSELS GRIFFON



*Artwork by Dayne Thomas*

The American Brussels Griffon Association's tribute to our enchanting breed.

ABGA is the linchpin that connects the past, manages the present, and plans for the future. It is the primary guardian that protects and improves our breed in America.

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Official AKC Parent Club of the Brussels Griffon

# ST JOHNS

## *Brussels Griffons*

JEFFERY BAZELL & JEFFREY KESTNER | AMERICA'S OLDEST GRIFFON BREEDING KENNEL

*Ivan*

GCH St Johns Your Name of Lights  
OWNED BY ST JOHNS KENNEL



# *Our* History

*Zoey*

RBIS GCHS Homestead Zoey of Treyacres  
OWNED BY ST JOHNS KENNEL AND EVELYN HOLE



*Thank you to Kelley & Nick Grubb and L. Jane Handchumaker  
for presenting our dogs so well and to Evelyn Hole for all of her love.*

# Our Future

*Olive*

CH Winterfell's Almost An Angel at St Johns  
OWNED BY ST JOHNS KENNEL AND LIZ HARRIS



*Down*

GCH Isn't She Precious At Homestead  
OWNED BY ST JOHNS KENNEL  
AND EVELYN HOLE



GROUP 1<sup>ST</sup>

GROUP 1<sup>ST</sup>

GROUP  
FIRST

DEL-OTSE NANGO  
KENNEL CLUB, INC.  
OWNED BY MARGARET REED  
July 3, 2016  
© JC Photography

Chenango  
Valley  
Kennel  
Club Inc.  
1962  
July 2, 2016  
© JC Photo

Cincinnati  
Kennel Club  
May 30, 2016  
Robert  
Skibinski  
Photography

ALBUM Brook Nugent © 2016

THANK YOU TO JUDGES EDD BIVIN, JASON HOKE, MARGARET REED AND SANDRA WALKER FOR RECENT GROUP WINS

# BRUSSELS GRIFFON BREED SURVEY

## JEFF BAZELL



Jeff Kestner and I live in Bremen, Ohio about 45 minutes southeast of Columbus. Long-time friend and fellow judge, Michael Faulkner married Jeff and I on January 30th of this year, our 12th anniversary of being together. Outside of the dog world, I am a garden and floral designer and have owned my businesses since 1982. I have been involved in the sport of dogs since the age of nine and have bred many champion Newfoundland, Schipperkes and Brussels Griffon under the St Johns reg'd kennel prefix. I have been honored to judge dog shows around the world for 25 years. Jeff K was recently approved to judge Griffons as well. I received my first Griffon in 1977 and have judged them since 1992. I have judged specialty entries around the world. Our dogs are all co-bred with Evelyn Hole of Homestead Kennels. Our dear friend does a marvelous job at conditioning our show dogs by hand stripping and maintaining show coats. She is truly a rare gem. We all use our separate strengths to build a strong family of dogs. I finished my first champion, a Pekingese, at age nine.

## ANNE K. CATTERSON

I live in Southern California. I retired after 42 years as an Operating Room nurse and manager. I have 27 years exhibiting and 15 years in judging.

## PAMELA DEHETRE

I live in Loganville, Georgia and I have a boarding kennel as well as a bookstore. I've been in dogs since the early 60s. I started showing in the 60s and have been judging for eight years this February.



## NANCY HAFNER

I moved from Nashville, Tennessee to Tuscumbia, Alabama in 1987 as the plan was we would stay here for 10 years until my late husband was to retire. Things don't always work out as planned. As we were then to move home to

Indiana and build a house on the Smith Family Farm. I am still breeding and showing Apogee Baliwick Toy Poodles. I showed the Baliwick family of Ianthe Bloomquist with her black and brown Toy Poodles starting in 1985 and we have been friends since. Today, I co-own with her and she has been my winter home in Florida. I bred Miniature Poodles with a partner, A. Monroe McIntyre of Daktari of Apogee Daktari Poodles, from 1972 through mid 1990s while owning and operating Piccadilly Kennels in Nashville, Tennessee. When I moved to Tuscumbia, our home didn't have the space to continue to breed Miniatures. So, as they all went to over the rainbow bridge, I only bred black and brown Toy Poodles. Today, I am still a breeder/owner/handler. I also love traveling with friends and family, but I love raising Toy Poodles most of all! From 1969 to present, I am still going strong on a limited basis. I was top breeder in Miniatures Poodles from 1972 through the 90s. I am a Breeder of Merit in Toy Poodles, totaling 77 Miniature Champions and over 100 Toy Champions. I've been judging since 1998 for my one breed, Poodles. As for today, I judge the Toy, Non-Sporting, Terrier breeds, Groups and Best in Show.

## DARRYL VICE



I live in Palm Springs, California; though I'm originally from upstate New York. I've managed a Styling Salon for JCPenney for the last 33 years. Outside of dogs, I enjoy things with my wife, daughter and granddaughter. I starting breeding Miniature Pinschers in the early 70s and late 70s got into the Brussels Griffons. I started showing in 1973 and starting judging 1994.

### 1. Describe the breed in three words.

JB: Well, actually, 3 phrases: thick-set, pout and human-like expression.

AC: Self-important, devoted and intelligent.

PD: Square, thickset and alert.

NH: Head: an almost human-like expression; body: compact, square, thickset and well boned; temperament: full of self-importance!

DV: Thickset, square and alert.

### 2. How do you judge the Griffon's mouth? Can you see from the outside whether or not it is wry, undershot?

JB: I judge their mouths very carefully. There is no need to pry the mouth open thereby constricting airways.

*Champion*  
TENOAKS N KAPERS ONE NOTE SAMBA  
**BULLET**

*GCh Seagryphs Sleeping With The Anemone x  
Ch Dacun's South'm Fiona*



**RESERVE BEST IN SHOW  
OWNER HANDLED**

*Thank you Judge Mr. Todd Clyde*

*Bred by:*

Craig and Carol Kokkeler

*Owned by:*

Raul J. Peralta and Rhonda Vandermeer

Visually thumb the mouth to determine if the dog is undershot and line up the midline in the nose with the cleft in the upper jaw and the dimple in the prominent chin. If it is within a vertical line, then the dog is not wry. If a dog appears wry then a closer examination of the mouth is required to see if the jaws align properly or if indeed the dog has a wry mouth.

AC: I look very carefully at the face straight on, looking for symmetry, as well as a wide underjaw and pout. I feel with my thumb for underbite. If anything seems questionable, I ask the exhibitor to show me the bite.

PD: I judge by looking at the bite. I can only discern a wry bite from the outside if the teeth show.

NH: If rough coated, I can lift gently the hair and look at bite. If a smooth, I can lift the lip softly to check. You can see it from the outside. If it's wry, the lower jaw is out of line as it should be straight across. I always use soft hand or ask exhibitor to show the bite. Do not fight with the dog ever to check the bite! One bad experience isn't good with these dogs—or any dog—as they never forget it!

DV: I first look at the way the lips meet, then lift the corner of the mouth. Yes, you should be able to see if the month is wry while the mouth is shut. The lips do not line up correctly. Also the undershot will show because of the extreme upturn to the lower jaw.

### **3. Is movement in the Brussels Griffon important? Tail set? How do you deal with natural tails in the ring?**

JB: I feel movement is very important, it should be balanced front to rear. So called two-piece dogs are very prevalent in the breed at this time...dogs with very short upper arms resulting in the dog standing with the front legs forward of the shoulders. The standard calls for the tail to be set and held high, enough said.

The only time I discount this is when a far superior dog in every other respect will not carry its tail in the ring. This is a bit common within the breed, but attitude should always be rewarded. The topline should be level and short between the neck and tail; a thick set and cobby body is called for. The world is changing and eventually we will follow suit and not allow cropping and docking any longer. I have judged abroad and placed dogs with natural tails.

Jeff K finished the second natural tailed Griffon in the US. I am not opposed to natural tails, but judge it as any other fault, because the standard says the breed is docked.

We crop all of our puppies unless one has been previously arranged to be exported. As a judge, I also put up the first natural tailed bitch to be exhibited in the breed here in the US. As a senior judge and known breeder of the Griffon, I would draw the line at a dog being speialed with a natural tail, though I have put up natural tailed dogs in other breeds that are traditionally docked.

I think this is a case where one is a harder judge on his own breed because he has such passion for it.

AC: Yes, movement is important for what it tells us about structure. A dog that doesn't move correctly most likely has some anatomical variances that, at the very least, are undesirable in a breeding program and more seriously portend future health issues related to joint disease, lung capacity or even SM (syringomyelia).

PD: Movement is straightforward. Tail set should be high and topline, level and short. Since the standard calls for a docked tail, an undocked tail is a fault.

NH: Yes, the breed standard states, "Movement is a straightforward, purposeful trot with moderate reach and drive and maintaining a steady topline." Carriage not only down and back but in the side gate, head up and tail up. Tail set carried high and docked. The back level and short, brisket should be broad and deep, ribs well sprung, short coupled, body thickset, neck medium length and gracefully arched. I deal with natural tails by judging it.

DV: Our standard asks for a docked tail to about one third, so with a natural tail it starts looking like an Affenpinscher. Also our standard has no description of how the tail should look like if natural. So if I judge it, it is a fault and how much it takes away from the look of the dog. The Affenpinscher is very different from our breed, along with the carriage and set of the tail. The Griffon tail is high set off a level croup, carried straight up. This with the level top line is very important for the type of the Griffon. As far as movement, good movement is connected to good structure. It is important, but not as important as type to me. I have to have type, then movement.

### **4. How do you see the look of natural and cropped ears affecting the expression of a Brussels Griffon?**

JB: One should know when ears are too big. The natural ear is described quite well in the ABGA Illustrated Standard. If the first thing you notice is a very large natural ear, then it is not in accord with the standard and should be noted.

AC: I don't see a whole lot of difference between the expression of a dog with a cropped ear versus a dog with a correct, uncropped ear. Where I see the difference is a dog with an improper ear that has been left natural. Then it makes the dog look clownish, undignified and unable to be taken seriously.

PD: The standard calls for the breed to be alert, so I prefer cropped ears, as the dog looks more alert.

NH: A cropped ear and a natural ear does give a different expression of the head. It's always about the picture of balance, movement and the whole dog. We are not just judging ears or tails!

DV: The ears make a very big part of the head of the Griffon and its expressions. Natural ears are very beautiful

# BIS GCHS SIMPATICA SMOOTH OPERATOR

## NUMBER ONE

BRUSSELS GRIFFON-BREED\*

A TOP-FIVE BRUSSELS GRIFFON-ALL BREED\*

MULTIPLE RESERVE BEST IN SHOW WINNER

MULTIPLE TOY GROUP WINNER

# 1 SADE



SADE IS ALSO  
**AMERICA'S**  
NUMBER ONE  
NATIONAL OWNER-HANDLED SERIES WINNER 2016

AKC NOHS Qualifying Period 10.08.15 thru 10.12.16



Breeders/Owners/Handlers: Patricia & Michael Holzkopf

\*AKC STATS THRU 09.30.16

*Patricia & Michael Holzkopf*

# Past

GCHB Krossfire Bellini

## "BELLA"

SHOWED 2011 THRU 2013  
WAS RANKED  
AOM AT NATIONALS IN 2012  
MULTIPLE GROUP WINNER



Shelly Hollen



© Debbie Henderson

# Future

Krossfire Disturbing the  
Daisy's O'Genesis

## "DAISY"



© Debbie Henderson

Present

CH Sunnybear's Midnight  
LeTeaze O'Krossfire

"MINDY LUV"

WORKING ON HER GRAND

GCHS Krossfire  
Dealer's New Deck

"DECKER"

GCH GENESIS PLAYING WITH  
A FULL DECK X  
GCHB KROSSFIRE BELLINI



© Shelly Hollen



**Krossfire Kennels**  
Australian Shepherds & Brussels Griffons

DEBBIE HENDERSON  
krossfirekennel@gmail.com | 832-656-0842

if correct. This means small and semi-erect, set high with the fold over the front of the ear. Unfortunately, a lot of the natural ears do not fit this description. Some are set low or come off the top of head, without being semi erect. Some are too big and fly off to the side. If this were the case, a cropped ear would give a better finish to the head and expression.

### 5. *Has the breed lost its breed type?*

JB: The best are still as good as anywhere on the planet that I have seen and I have seen thousands of Griffons. Bad fronts are quite common. So many dogs are very long in body. Heads tend to be about the same year after year within differing family groups, some very good and some plain. I feel that more attention should go to body type. The breed is losing upsweep to the under jaw that is necessary for the human-like expression, many are vertically flat like a Peke, Pug or Japanese Chin; this is incorrect regardless of cute factor.

AC: Not for the most part, but over the years we have gone through phases where a certain feature that is a part of breed type is being sacrificed for whatever reason. A few years ago it was eye size. Breeders have done a good job of bringing back the large, dark eye. Now it is lack of pout. The pout is paramount to breed type. That lower lip should be the most prominent part of the face when seen in profile and for many in the ring right now, that is not the case. I have every faith breeders will bring that back, too.

PD: No.

NH: This is a slow-to-mature breed, the entire finish of the face lower jaw and head, which is the total look for the breed takes up to two years. So, one judges the dog in front of you not what you think it might be later. In parts of the country, some lack type and some lack soundness—just like any other breed. It has to do with the ages and the condition the folks have their dog in as they enter the dog shows. I understand they have to get pups out early, ready or not. If they don't, they will be mature to win, but they will not want to be at the dog show. So, it's always important in making those first shows fun for pups and their new owners. A soft hand on the table to examine always!

DV: I feel that head type has been compromised by the lack of upsweep to the lower jaw, to form the pout we are looking for to give us that human-like expression. We don't have the domed forehead we used to have. It does give a different look. I see more and more Griffons that are not as large in bone or as thickset as they should be.

### 6. *How is the balance different between the Griffon and the Affenpinscher?*

JB: The Affenpinscher and Griffon should be moderate in angulation. The verbiage of the standards are nearly the

same with many of the same words to describe the body and angles.

AC: The Affen is more moderate and the Griff is more extreme. This applies to most aspects including grooming, coat, angulation, facial structure and reach and drive.

NH: Each is a low entry, square breed—and I love them both. Affs have their monkey-like Terrier expressions and Griffs have almost human-like expressions—how different that can be? Griffs are well-boned, thickset, compact, square, short bodied, shown in a full trot with reach and drive. While Affs have a job to do—rid the kitchen and stables of rodents, square, sturdy compact dog of medium bone, wired-haired Terrier with an alert and inquisitive towards its master and friends. It moves in a trot and has the monkey-like expression.

DV: Even though the breeds look a lot alike, they are different. Everything with the Affenpinscher is more moderate. Medium bone, medium angles, medium size eyes, etc. We are thickset, larger bone, higher set tail and more angle, large eyes. The rear of the Affenpinscher is set more under them because of their perceptible curve of their croup. Which also gives a little lower set of their tail than the Griffon.

The Griffon coat is harder in texture all over the body and the Affenpinschers has softer coat in their cape and on their heads. The Affenpinscher has a level nose set with no turn up and very slightly longer than the Griffon. They have a monkey like expression because of their protruding lip, we have a human like expression because of the larger eye and upturned jaw and pout formed by the bottom lip coming up over the upper lip. The Affenpinscher is also allowed a full natural tail. Ours should be cropped.

### 7. *Which is more difficult to judge: smooth or rough?*

JB: If you really want to do the breed justice, then don't look at them as two varieties, just judge the breed. You should look at the roughs more closely as some critical points are covered with furnishings, i.e.: the head, jaw width and amount of bone.

AC: To me, they are equal.

PD: It seems that there are not as many good smooths compared to the number of quality roughs.

NH: They have a different look, but both the same. The rough can make you think from ringside that it is what you are looking for; however, once you get your hands on it, hair can fill in where it might not be! (Ringside judging is easy, we have all done it, right?)

DV: Judges coming from a different group always have trouble judging the smooth Griffon. However, the rough Griffon is really the harder one to judge because of being able to hide everything with good grooming. The smooth coat shows everything. The smooth always looks like it has a longer nose, lesser bone and less width to



*JB*

**GCH Sleepy Hollow  
JB-Shua Dancing Lover**

**BEST OF BREED**

Devon Dog Show Association, October 8, 2016  
Judge Mrs. Sari Brewster Tietjen

Jb has TWO Best in Shows and  
numerous Group Placements

*Owners: DALLAS & VIRGINIA GIVENS AND JAYE SCHULTZ  
Handler: NICK WATERS  
Breeder: JAYE SCHULTZ*

*Lil-Bit*

**JB-SHUA Lil-Bit of Heaven**

**BEST OF WINNERS BITCH**

Devon Dog Show Association  
October 8, 2016  
Judge Mrs. Sari Brewster Tietjen

*Owners: DALLAS & VIRGINIA GIVENS  
Handler: ELLEN DIEHL-MATTO*



*Sleepyhollow*

**GCH B JB-SHUA  
DANCING LOVER BOY**

**BEST IN SHOW**

Lake Elmo, MN  
August 2016  
Judge Mr. Randy Garren

*Owners: DALLAS & VIRGINIA GIVENS AND JAYE SCHULTZ  
Breeder: JAYE SCHULTZ*

the muzzle. In reality some of the roughs have less muzzle and bone but because of the coat they appear larger.

**8. Do you think the dogs you see in this breed are better now than they were when you first started judging? Why or why not?**

JB: I have known many of the great ones closely and hope that all breeders are allowed to carry on with the breed we love. There have always been remarkable Griffons and hope this will always be true.

AC: The conformation is equal, but attitude is much better. The majority of dogs in the ring have show presence. When I started, there were a lot of shy dogs that didn't want to be there and showed poorly.

PD: Yes, there are more with better toplines and tail sets.

NH: No, I think there have been outstanding ones around the country for years.

DV: I think all breeds go through valleys of being good and bad—just as some breeders with their programs. Some breeders are having better breeding programs now than before and some not so much. I believe the smooth Griffons are in a much better place than years ago. Breeders started to concentrate on them more, where in the past they placed them. We have had some lovely smooths over the last 10 years. I will say the attitudes of the Griffons are much better now than when I first started breeding them. I remember when I first asked a handler that showed a lot of them, that I was looking for a show Griffon. His answer to me was a live Griffon is a show Griffon. Back then it was really hard to keep them alive. So as long as you had one with a great head, the rest didn't matter. So from that aspect, the Griffon has come a long way.

## "THIS IS A VERY SENSITIVE BREED..."

**9. What do you think new judges misunderstand about the breed?**

JB: I feel that they do not evaluate the head properly, it should be looked at from every angle and the best judges do this. I think many new judges shy away from smooths, the two varieties are to be evaluated and treated equally.

AC: The dog that is groomed to the extreme is not necessarily the best dog in the ring. In fact, a dog with a lavish beard and Terrier furnishings probably does not have a correct coat.

PD: Heads.

NH: The head. The eyes set well apart, very large, black, prominent and well open with the nose very black and extremely short, its tip being set back deeply between the eyes so as to form a lay-back.

DV: The smooth Griffons, they just have trouble judging one against the roughs.

**10. Is there anything else you'd like to share about the breed?**

JB: This is a very sensitive breed, please remember that, a Griff certainly would and will remember what they perceive as harsh treatment. This breed is being colored so heavily that I am appalled at times. I have seen many coats prepared with clippers/scissors. Both of these things are very discouraging to the old timers like me.

PD: They usually love everything and everyone.

NH: I think it makes a great breed to live with as a family pet with their self-important attitude!

DV: The breed is a lovely breed to own—or should I say be owned by. They are so sweet and loving. They are very content to be in your lap all the time. However, they don't forget anything. They are very smart and do well in obedience.

**11. And, for a bit of humor: what's the funniest thing you've ever experienced at a dog show?**

JB: I was judging a Toy breed with a major entry and several nice specials. A sweet lady enters with the single dog entry. She looked up at me with tears in her eyes and I spoke gently to her and asked if she was okay. "I'm so scared; I am ready to pee my pants." I hugged her and she and her beautiful little dog ended up winning the breed.

AC: My son, Paul, two of my friends and I went to Kansas City for our National Specialty. We would stay with my brother, not a dog person, but he lived in Kansas City and generously offered his home. He came to meet us at the airport in the pouring rain with his daughter in order to help transport all the luggage, dogs, etc. while I went to get a rental car. I met him outside the airport as we arranged and followed him home—a 45-minute drive. When we got to his house we realized neither of us had picked up the people and dogs, including his daughter, that were waiting at the curb at the terminal and they were still there. Following him, I could not see in the windows of his tall SUV in the rain and assumed he had them. He assumed I had picked them up. They have never let me forget this.

NH: I was showing a pair of Black Miniature Poodle pups that were littermates, one dog and one bitch—they looked so much alike. We always tried to find outdoor shows before the National to give our dogs the experience of walking on grass so we showed the Puppy Dog through WD and rushed back to get the puppy bitch into the 9-12 class. We got her off the table and ran to the ring, went in and onto the examine table only to find the two had changed tables in our groom area and I had the Puppy Dog in the Puppy Bitch Classes. So, I asked to go get the bitch puppy while everyone waited. That's life at a dog show! Everyone, me as well, had a good laugh! ■

# Introducing our Youngsters

INTERNATIONAL IMPORTS FROM FINLAND



**CH Blue Bay's Quand Vient Le Matin**  
father to Olli



**CH Blackwood Wicked of AHZ RN & GCH Blackwood Finley of AHZ BN CD RE**

GCH Blackwood Finley of AHZ has produced 7 Champion offspring!

## my newest import from Finland



**Blue Bay's Vol De Nuit** *Olli*



Last years Finish import, Group 1 Winner, AKC Champion. Olli is now here, to follow in his father's footsteps.

GCH Blue Bay's  
Roi De La  
Revolution  
*Teppo*



**CH Blue Bay's Quand Vient Le Matin**

*Matti*



Lew Olson | Blackwood Kennels | Griffons, Conformation & Performance Dogs  
Bred by Blue Bay Kennel, Jarmo Hilpinen & Marko Salmela, Finland || Handled by Karen Newman

# Announcing . . . NEW GRAND CHAMPION

# Chakra

BREEDERS/OWNERS  
KIRA SCHLESINGER &  
ERIC CONRAD

*Limited Showings*



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**Finished with Three Majors!**  
Thank you to Judges Vicki Abbott,  
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## GRAND CHAMPION BLACK MAGIC'S TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE HEART CHAKRA

ShowSight  
*presents*

SELECTED ARTICLES  
FROM OUR  
PREVIOUS ISSUES

# History of the BRUSSELS GRIFFON

By Jeffrey Bazell

**H**istorically speaking, the Griffon is not an ancient breed. While owners of some breeds will argue that their breed is the one that Noah chose to board the Ark, Griffon fan-

ciers generally take pride that their breed is completely man-made and highly caricaturized. Though the term “griffon” has been widely used among canine enthusiasts since the 1500’s, we do not find Brussels Griffon, or more correctly, Griffon Bruxellois, brought into descriptive terminology until the



**“SOME DUTCH BREEDERS HAVE BEEN WORKING AT RE-CREATING THE SMOUSHUND SINCE THE 1990s**

*by using street dogs and farm dogs that have a terrier look about them.”*



Smous (Smoushund)



Griffon de Ecurie

late 1870’s in Europe.

Some Dutch breeders have been working at re-creating the Smoushund since the 1990’s by using street dogs and farm dogs that have a terrier look about them. These recent breedings have failed to produce a consistency in size and color that the old photographs show.

The Pug breed also figures into the mix of the creation of the Brussels Griffon. The first recorded cross with the Pug came about in 1884 and was to a pedigreed black bitch named Mep. Several other recorded Pug crosses occurred between the mid 1880’s and 1926 and were registered with the Societe Royale de St. Hubert in Belgium. Many of these progenitor stock dogs are listed as Griffon de Ecurie on their pedigrees, but upon recognition of the breed by the kennel

*“The earliest mention of these dogs is in Societe records dating to 1886 and state clearly that these*

## **‘BELGE’ DOGS ARE DARKLY GRIZZLED WITH MARKINGS OR BLACK.”**

club authorities, became known as Griffon Bruxellois, Griffon Belge or Petit Brabancon.



Victorian Era Pug Dog

The earliest mention of these dogs is in Societe records dating to 1886 and state clearly that these “Belge” dogs are darkly grizzled with markings or black. Petit Brabancon translates literally to Little Brabant. Brabant was a region of central Belgium where the smooths were favored, especially among prostitutes and street performers who acquired them from breeders, disposing of them as “throwbacks” to the Pug.



Petit Brabancon, c. 1907

Though we may find their actions strange, we need to keep in mind that many of these type of thoughts are

carried forth among today’s breeders. After over 30 years of working very closely with Griffons, I have come to associate the breed more closely with their King Charles Spaniel relatives than either of the two other contributing breeds. Many of the features that breeders seek, and that are stated in all standards worldwide, are attributes that were contributed by the early breedings with Toy Spaniels. The facial arrangement, upsweep of under jaw, finish of face, bombe’ or crest of the cranial ridges, density and quality of bone and cobbiness of body are all features that were contributed by these King Charles or Toy Spaniel crosses. ■



Griffon Bruxellois, c. 1898

*“though we may find their actions strange, we need to keep in mind that many of these type of thoughts*

## **ARE CARRIED FORTH AMONG TODAY’S BREEDERS.”**

# JUDGING BRUSSELS GRIFFONS

By Carole Ross  
Hilltop Brussels Griffons

**W**hen talking to people about what the judges are looking for in the Brussels Griffon ring the most common answer will be “it is a head breed”. They are commonly referred to as such because the head probably is the most endearing feature the Brussels Griffon has. The head represents 35 points out of 100 on the point scale. To quote Jeffery Bazell (breeder judge) “A Brussels Griffon’s head is its crowning glory”. Jeff goes on to say “but only when found in combination with a well-balanced, cobby body.” That statement could not be truer. It is so important for a judge to judge the “full package”. The head, body and movement make up the “full package”.

The AKC standard calls for a head with an almost human like expression. The head is a very important feature. Eyes set well apart, very large, black, prominent and well opened. Eyelashes are long and black. Eyes should be edged in black. We are seeing Griffons in the ring with very little or no “eyeliner”. We are seeing a lot of small eyes in the breed and that is incorrect. Breeders should be breeding for proper eyes and judges should be looking for them.

Ears should be small and set rather high on the head. Ears may be shown cropped or natural. If natural they should be semi erect. Some will say there are “rose ears”. Rose ears are not part of the Brussels Griffon Breed Standard in the United States.

The jaw must be undershot. The incisors of the lower jaw should protrude the upper incisors. Brussels Griffon’s should have black lips. I say they should look like they are pouting. Neither teeth nor tongue should show when the mouth is closed. Judges should carefully examine the mouth. The undershot jaw can be checked

without prying the mouth open. I prefer to have the judge ask me to “show them the bite”. IF the judge prefers to examine the bite they should be very careful not to close off the dog’s airways by covering or pushing against the nose. They can actually check the bite visually and with just the fingertip lift the lip. The lower jaw is prominent, rather broad with an upward

sweep. A wry mouth is a serious fault. Disqualifications are an overshot bite or a hanging tongue.

The heads usually get broader by the time the dog is mature and the under jaw will tilt up to its maximum potential which should place the nose higher and in deeply between the eyes forming a layback. The skull shall be large and round, with a



domed forehead. The forehead shall not be flat. The judges should examine the head to be sure the groomer didn't leave a lot of hair on the dog's skull to make it look like it is domed. A smooth Griffon shows everything it has. No cover-up's. What you see is what it is. A rough coated Griffon with a good groomer can cover a lot of faults. I have seen pin heads look like they had large heads with domes when in fact it was just hair left longer and left in the shape of a dome. Nose is very black and extremely short. When I bred my first two

*er importance than weight.* There are also smaller dogs being shown and the standard states *a smaller dog that is sturdy and well proportioned should not be penalized.* Let me make emphasis on the fact that the smaller dog should not have spindly legs and be stringy in appearance nor shall the larger dog be built like a Border Terrier. Their bodies must be thickset, compact and with good substance. They must be well boned however they must not be Terrier-type. The neck should be of medium length with a graceful arch. The back should be level

bent and hocks well let down. Both front legs and rear legs should not turn in or turn out.

There are two types of coat. The rough coat is a wiry and dense coat. We are seeing very short coats in the ring. The rough coat should be long enough for the judge to be able to examine the texture. Sometimes the beards and leg furnishings look sparse on a very harsh coated Griffon. This is a proper coat. The soft coats will have what appears to be beautiful and full. This is improper. The harsher the coat the bet-



litters I got "button noses". I thought they were so cute. Then I really started studying other dogs in the ring and the breed standard and learned that the nostrils should be large. I like to see a nice sized nose pad now rather than the "button noses" I used to get. A Dudley or butterfly nose is a disqualification.

The body should be a thickset, short body. Brisket should be broad and deep, ribs well sprung. The Brussels Griffon is a slow maturing breed. It usually takes the breed 2-1/2 years for the head to be fully developed and the ribs to spring and the chest to drop to the maximum.

The body a judge sees in a youngster will be quite a different body in the same dog at maturity. The weight is usually 8 to 10 pounds and should not exceed 12 pounds. There are larger dogs being shown and the standard says *type and quality are of great-*

and short. The tail should be set high and held high. Our standard states that the tail shall be docked to about one third. There are dogs being shown with undocked tails. It is up to the judge's discretion whether to use the dog or not. On the scale of points the tail is grouped with general appearance (neck, topline & tail carriage). They count for ten points.

The forelegs are of medium length, straight in bone, well muscled, set moderately wide apart. The toes shall be well arched and the feet round and small (almost cat like in appearance). There should be balance between the front assembly and the width of the rear and the shoulders should not look front loaded and the overall picture should not be a pear shaped body.

The hind legs should be set true with strong thighs that are well muscled. Stiffles

ter it is. The rough coat is hand stripped and there should never be scissor marks. The smooth coat is straight, short, tight and glossy, with no trace of wiry hair. White hairs are a serious fault except for frost on the muzzle of a mature dog. White spot or blaze anywhere on the coat is a disqualification.

The movement is a straightforward, purposeful trot, showing moderate reach and drive and maintaining a steady topline. I would end with PLEASE JUDGE DOGS BY THE STANDARD and not what the current trend is. Some breeders have several dogs in the ring that are of similar type. A judge might look at the quantity of dogs that look alike and discount the dog that is proper according to the standard. If judges would judge by the standard it would force breeders to breed to the standard. ■

# LIVING WITH BRUSSELS GRIFFONS

By Jacque Jones  
Treyacres, reg.

**T**he phone rang...after I answered "Hello", the voice on the other end asked if I had any 'Brussels' for sale. This was the first clue they knew nothing about the breed. I explained that a 'griffon' is named after the city of Brussels, which is the capitol of Belgium, which is the country of origin for this breed. This would be like someone calling about a "german" when they really wanted a German Shepherd. Not a good sign that this caller had done their homework. But that

easiest way to tell them about stripping the coat is that the hair must be pulled out by the roots on a regular basis. Also this may be time to explain the use of chalk and hairspray. Clippers and scissors in the right hands, can make a griff look very presentable and just as lovable.

Their question: How do they get along with children? Great question! I explain that griffs are not toys and are not to be carried around by children as they often fall or jump from their arms and they can break! Griffes can be great with children provided that you train your child

'potty' behind furniture and no one is the wiser for quite awhile. However, if this is the dog for them, they can certainly train their griff to be housebroken.

Another question: Are griffs 'yappy'? Griffons can be, but any breed can be noisy. Pups must learn that it is OK to be left alone for short periods of time and then increase the time. Obedience training and socialization are a big plus.

My question: Do you have other dogs in the house? Griffes usually fit in with other dogs provided you do your part during the early weeks of their training. But having



is OK as you now have the opportunity to start from scratch and educate this caller about our breed.

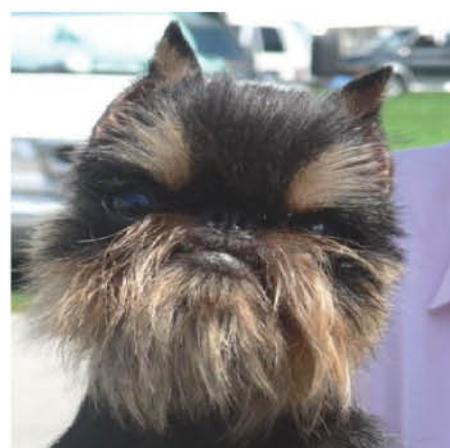
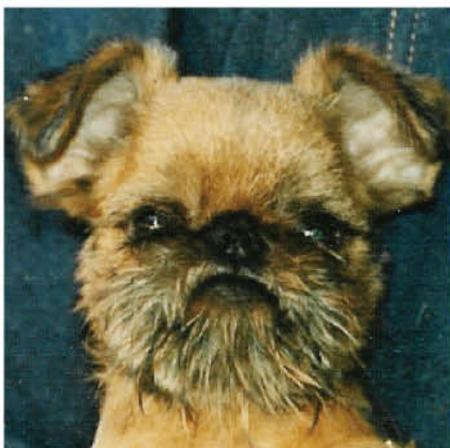
My first question: How did you hear about Brussels Griffons? Often the reply is that they saw one on TV, at a dog show, or from a picture in a book. This is probably not going to look like the cute little pup they may find to buy. Now this gives me a good chance to explain grooming. The

to care for the pup properly and to follow the rules...this may be more difficult than training the pup.

Their next question: What about housebreaking? Another good one! I explain about crate training and also the fact that in many instances, small dogs are more difficult to train than large breeds because larger breeds can't hide the 'evidence'. However griffs soon learn that they can

said that, a griffon may try to be the boss of your dog pack and this can present a problem. A griffon does not seem to realize that he is small, but highly intelligent and likes to use his brain to get what he wants.

My turn: Dog fights! This is a subject that needs to be discussed but seldom is. This could pertain to any breed but in this case it is all about Brussels Griffons. Does this potential buyer know anything about



**“I WOULD NEVER LEAVE THREE GRIFFONS, MALES OR FEMALES, TO RUN TOGETHER WHEN I AM NOT AT HOME.**

*Three or more dogs make up a pack and if there is a disagreement between them, they can gang up, two on one, and it can be deadly.”*

the history of the breed? Does he realize that these little creatures were bred to kill rats in the stables and this instinct can still be found in these dogs? Yes, their muzzle has become shorter over the years but it is still powerful and under certain circumstance it can cause damage. I would never leave three griffons, males or females, to run together when I am not at home. Three or more dogs make up a pack and if there is a disagreement between them, they can gang up, two on one, and it can be deadly. Yes, I have seen griffons killed this way. I learned the hard way and it was a horrible lesson for me to learn. I know of other breeders who have experienced this but it is seldom discussed.

Back to the phone inquiry: Are griffons easy to breed: Do you ever sell them as a pair? How many pups are usually in a litter: Do they ever require C-sections? How old before they can be sold?

My answer: Questions like this should be a warning to you...DO NOT SELL TO THIS PERSON! But yet, if you do not take time to educate this person about the breed, they will go somewhere else to find what they are looking for. If you

explain how expensive and difficult it is to raise a litter of griffs, you may just be talking to someone who really wants info and will listen to what you say. Invite them to your home...It won't take long for you to 'read' between the lines. If we take time to explain the problems that can occur with this breed, they may decide that griffons are not for them. If we brush them off with rude answers to their questions, they will find someone who will sell to them regardless of their motive.

Living with Griffons: Life with griffons can be exciting, wonderful and funny. Someone named them 'velcro' dogs as they love noting more than to be by their owners side. All breeds are different in their own way, but griffs seem to have it all rolled into one funny little creature. But one thing is for sure...Life with a Brussels Griffon will never be boring. ■



*Brussels Griffons entered my life over 50 years ago and this is the first time I have not had at least one, and usually more, running around the house keeping things lively but very seldom letting me out of*

*their sight. Having sold my home and large yard several years ago, I now live in a condo, which does allow dogs but no fenced in area. Yes, I did bring a griff with me but after he lived a good life I lost him. I found that I no longer enjoy doing all it takes to successfully house train a pup. Running up/down steps, day and night, in all kinds of weather, just isn't fun anymore. Yes, I could use newspapers, fake grass, etc. that are just sold for just such occasions but I am too old to make changes...so I am now without a dog. But I do occasionally attend dog shows. I is great to visit with friends, and watch them circle around the ring with a promising puppy on the end of the lead as he is being introduced to the world of dog shows.*

*Brussels Griffons are special little dogs!*

*I remember how exciting it was for me and I will keep those wonderful memories forever.*