

# *Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue*



*35 Years in the Making  
And Still Going Strong*



# WBHR 35th Anniversary Special Edition



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## Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue

Holly Moen - Executive Director and  
Treasurer, Allen Moen - Vice Presi-  
dent, Jane Elliott - Secretary; Board -  
Frank Mallon, Luke McNeely, Heidi  
Rasmussen and Michael Ryan.





*The Birth  
of a  
Program*



# Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue

*‘A True  
Diamond in the Ruff’*

*Happy  
Anniversary*



It was right around late spring/early summer in 1987 that the idea struck Erika Phillips to create the Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue.

Her love blossomed from answering an ad announcing a darling basset as “free to a good home”. And, as the overworked expression proclaims, the rest is history.

Thirty-five years later and the WBHR is stronger than ever and has provided care and loving homes to hundreds of bassets.





# Proclamation

## Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue Foundation Day – June 18, 2022

**WHEREAS,** Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue Foundation was founded in 1987 and has been actively serving Wyoming, and bordering States, by rescuing basset hounds for 35 years,

**WHEREAS,** Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue Foundation is an established 501(c)(3) organization of the Internal Revenue Code since May 15, 2010,

**WHEREAS,** Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue Foundation rescues basset hounds, whether from an area shelter, via owner relinquishment or taking in unclaimed strays,

**WHEREAS,** Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue Foundation has volunteers across five States, aiding in transportation of basset hounds, fostering of basset hounds and performing home visits for prospective new homes for said basset hounds,

**WHEREAS,** Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue Foundation will be celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at its annual Basset Lovers Picnic at Hugh Smith Park, Cody, Wyoming, on June 18, 2022,

**NOW THEREFORE,** be it resolved, that I, Matt Hall, Mayor of the City of Cody, do hereby proclaim that June 18, 2022, be Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue Foundation Day.

**DATED** this 17<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.

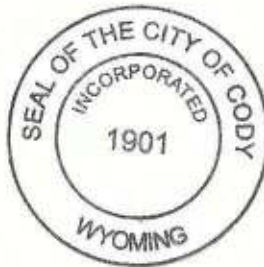


Matt Hall, Mayor

ATTEST:



Cindy Baker, Clerk





*Reaching Out for a Start*





# **WBHR - Getting a Start Thanks to Erika Phillips**



**Hello everyone and Happy 35<sup>th</sup> Birthday to WBHR, 35 years of wonderful memories with all the dogs and people who come across our path.**

**My love of Basset Hounds started with our first Basset named Bernice. She was advertised in the local newspaper as “free to a good home”. It was our gain to have her become a part of our family. She was the best dog ever. She was our treasure for over 12 years.**

**A friend of mine started working at Metro in the early part of 1986. She started telling me about all of the Bassetts that were starting to show up there. She talked me into taking a Basset that was a stray that no one claimed. I was told it was a male. It turned out to be a female, very pregnant with 11 puppies. We named her Molly. She turned out to be quite the opposite from our beloved Bernice. Molly was a challenge right from the get-go.**

**As the Bassetts started coming in, I could see why they would need a rescue. As all of you know, they are not dogs for everyone. They needed a home with lots of patience and a lot of sense of humor.**

**That’s when I decided to start WBHR. The first two I fostered I got so attached to them, that after a few days in their adopted home, I went and asked for the dogs back. The families were very kind and gave me back the dogs. What else can they do when a grown woman is on their front porch, crying her eyes out.**

**That’s when I knew I had to recruit some friends to foster for me. Few fosters were found. Next I needed funds for medical expenses and spays and neuters. As luck would have it, a friend was starting up her own cleaning service. She needed some help, so she hired me. That helped with some of the expenses.**

**There was no Internet at that time. All the dog adoptions were via our local paper. One year we had over 60 dogs that were placed. Lots of fence checking and home visits. My first donation was for \$50.00. I couldn’t believe people wanted to donate to this cause. That started a whole different path called fundraisers. Santa Photos, garage sales, being a vendor selling hot dogs at different venues around town.**

**With all the expenses, WBHR started to grow. With exposure came more dogs. A friend of mine gave me her hand me down computer. Now we were in the big time! Thanks to Jane Elliott, we went on the Internet. Jane was my God-send and we were able to get our first newsletter published.**

**After 18 years I was ready to retire from WBHR. It wasn’t an easy decision. I knew I was no longer at a place to continue. I needed sometime to heal; physically and emotionally. The sad stories were really getting to me. At that time, I couldn’t picture anyone else who would take over. Then a warrior spirit named Holly Moen came to the rescue. She has taken WBHR to a level that I could not have done. The baton was passed from me to Holly. I couldn’t have asked for a nicer person to entrust the care of our silly, drooly, stubborn, short-legged, furry kids to.**

**Thank you Holly and thanks to all the Basset families for all the wonderful memories we shared.**

**Much love to all of you,  
Erika**



# Changing of the Guard at WBHR

*Holly Moen (With Help from Allen) Takes Over from Erika*



## *It All Started with Shannia and Grew from There*

Allen and I became involved with WBHR in October of 2000, when we adopted Cyndi from Erika.

As a teenager, I had dog-sat Molly one weekend for some family friends. Molly was an active basset hound and we had fun running in the pasture and playing all weekend long! After that introduction to the breed, I had always wanted a basset hound of my own, so Allen fulfilled that dream.

Allen bought me a basset hound puppy for Christmas of 1998. After a year and a half with us, we thought Shannia would enjoy a friend and we would enjoy having two bassets. We weren't sure how to go about finding another basset hound. My co-workers told me about Pet-

Finder on the Internet and suggested looking there. I'd never heard of PetFinder or dog rescues, only animal shelters. When I got on the computer that evening and looked at PetFinder I spotted Cyndi with WBHR. I emailed Erika and asked about her. It turned out that it was meant to be as Cyndi was being fostered with a family right here in Cody, the husband was a retired veteran who was home with her during the day. We were able to go meet Cyndi and that was it!



After adopting Cyndi we started fostering and helped transport a couple of times. We attended the 2001 and the 2003 WBHR picnics with Shannia and Cyndi on Casper Mountain. In the late Spring of 2004, a friend in Powell reached out to me about an unclaimed, stray basset hound. I told Erika about Daisy and she asked if we'd foster her. We did and with Erika's help we were able to work through the adoption process and in June we found Daisy a new, forever home in Colorado!

Our other bassets we adopted after Cyndi were Oscar, in August of 2007, Wishy, in July of 2008, Copper, in October of 2008, Toby in March, 2009, Ally in November 2009, Keely in May, 2020 and Gus in December, 2021.

There wasn't a WBHR picnic in 2004 or 2005. I asked Erika in the Summer of 2005 if she'd



*Cyndi*

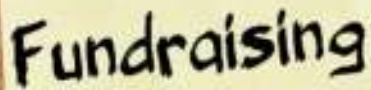
like to have the picnic at our place outside of Cody, as we had seven acres, all fenced in and basset proof! At that time it was too late in the year to set up a picnic, but Erika asked if we'd like to take over WBHR. She wanted to retire.

So in July of 2005, Erika transferred WBHR from herself to us and we've never looked back. I've relied on Erika's expertise, advice and shoul-

*-Continued on Page 8-*







## Fundraising

# Fundraising Takes on New Importance for Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue

*Continued from Page 7-*



*'Basset Hound Bootie' photo led to the very first WBHR calendar in 2008.*

der many, many times over the past 17 years. We've been very fortunate to have her help and guidance in a lot of hard situations. Even after 35 years, WBHR wouldn't be where it is if Erika wasn't still there in the shadows, willing to lend a hand. She even still gets random phone calls from people, asking about adopting a basset, relinquishing a basset or just wanting to order a WBHR calendar. Her friendship has been priceless!

The first WBHR calendar was 2008. Wes and Sylvia Huber helped format it for many, many years. The above photo of Fiona, Cyndi, Mocha and Shannia inspired the idea of a WBHR calendar. Fiona and Mocha were fosters at our house at the time.

In the Fall of 2014, I went through the process of obtaining our 501c3 status with the IRS. Becoming a valid non-profit with the 501c3 status allowed us to apply for grants and for our donors to claim their donations as tax-deductible. We also could then participate in contests, too, that were strictly for being awarded monetary or merchandise prizes because of our tax status.

Confirmation was obtained and because of financial records supplied to the IRS at the time of application, our status was backdated to May 15, 2010. The process was long and tedious, but thanks to the professional help from Reanne Wolff, CPA, and Chris Edwards, attorney, we were able to get it done.



WBHR has had basset hounds needing different leg surgeries over the years. Ruger's leg surgery was \$1,266, in January of 2006. Ripley had double leg surgery in 2010 in June for \$1,063 and then in August for \$1,202. Those amounts were half the total cost, as his new family paid half of the cost for each front leg. Loretta had front leg surgery of \$3,739, in 2013 and Charlie had double surgery; one to a back leg and one for a hip at \$3,281, due to being run over by his previous family in 2018. WBHR received over \$465 in donations towards Charlie's expenses.



# Animal Rescues - Why We Need Them

Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue was founded 35 years ago by some very wonderful, caring people who just loved basset hounds and hated to see them end up in shelters in our state and over time it has become established as one of the premier basset rescue organizations in the Rocky Mountain region.

Our bassets are taken in for a multitude of reasons; found wondering the countryside, owners die and extended family don't want them, picked up as strays at shelters and never claimed, relinquished due to moving, relinquished due to new

baby, relinquished due to too many dogs in the house, relinquished due to no fenced yard and they keep getting out, relinquished because the family doesn't have time for them and sadly relinquished because they're just not wanted anymore.

Ages have ranged from as young as 9-10 months old to as old as 13 years. Nearly all require vaccinations and half have needed to be altered.

The good folks at The Herbal Academy have a good take on the current adoption/rescue situation at the moment.

"It is very important to

*-Continued on Page 10-*

*A word from Holly.....*



**W B H R Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue**





# *Animal neglect and homelessness is not an animal problem; it is a people problem'*



*-Continued from Page 9-*

remember that human beings share the planet with countless other inhabitants. As one part of a larger whole, we have a responsibility to respect and care for our fellow earth-dwellers, including plants and animals.

“When it comes to animals, people especially love their pets. There is so much we can do to help our furry friends, including supporting adoption and rescue. Shelters are bursting with homeless dogs and cats, often unable to keep up with the number of animals who need homes. Animal adoption and rescues are so vital in helping reduce cruelty, neglect, over-population, and euthanasia and to ensuring more animals find loving homes.

“Animal adoption and rescues are vast topics with many complex facets. The overarching premise, however, is that we humans are in a position to help our animal friends by making the most responsible choices available and respecting and caring for companion animals.

*“Too many animals enter the shelter system for reasons that are completely preventable”*

“Animal neglect and homelessness is not an animal problem; it is a people problem. Dogs and cats end up in shelters and rescues for a variety of reasons, but they all stem from choices made by humans. As American Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) President & CEO Matt Bershadker succinctly stated, “Too many animals enter the shelter system for reasons that are completely preventable.”

“According to statistics from the ASPCA, approximately 6.5 million companion animals enter shelters in the United States annually. That amount is relatively evenly divided between dogs and cats; 3.3 million dogs and 3.2 million cats

“Sadly, only about half of those animals—approximately 3.2 million—are adopted. While some of the remaining dogs and cats are strays or missing pets that are returned to their owners, the remainder are euthanized. The Humane Society

of the United States (HSUS) estimates that close to 3 million animals are euthanized each year in shelters across the country,

Please bear in mind that while between 6-8 million animals enter the shelter system annually, that represents only a small number of the homeless animals living in the United States, where there are an estimated 70 million stray animals.

While this information is difficult to quantify and estimates often vary by source, we have enough reliable information to paint a solid picture of why animal adoption and rescue are so critical.

Dogs and cats don't end up at shelters across the country through any fault of their own. When a person no longer wants or can no longer care for a companion animal, they often end up at a shelter—either through owner surrender or abandonment.

That means animal shelters and rescues are bursting with all types of dogs and cats who need homes, making animal adoption the best choice when adding a new member to your family.

Dogs and cats that are taken into the care of shelters and rescue groups each year find themselves homeless through no fault of their own. This means shelters and rescues are full of loving, spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and often fully trained pets who are just waiting to meet you. when you come home.

As pet owners, we owe it to our companion animals to take the very best care of them, which includes spaying and neutering to help control the pet population, providing adequate exercise and enrichment, proper feeding, and routine veterinary care.

Not only that, but all animals require patience, discipline, and training to help them adjust to their new lives, regardless of their origins.



*The Early Years*





*With the founding of Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue in 1987 the organization has risen to pre-eminence in the Rocky Mountain region and over the years, like Topsy, "it just grew".*

*Join us now as we revisit some memorable moments from the first 20 years of the organization's history in pictures and words.*

## Basset rescue keeps good hounds around

By RYANNE SCOTT  
Star-Tribune staff writer

Doofus and Sandy were in the dog pound — literally — after being dogged by their owners. Doofus's owners dropped him off for euthanization; Sandy had been through eight homes before ending up at the pound.

Tina Pater came to their rescue.

"The vets called, trying to find a home for Doofus — he was too nice to euthanize," said Pater, petting the droopy dogs

sitting attentively at her feet. "As for Sandy, I have no idea why she went through so many homes. She's got a very gentle temperament."

The "proud mom" of these dogs, Pater is a member of Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue and Adoption.

Last year, the group placed 44 rescued bassetts — dogs from pounds or shelters, strays whose owners cannot be found or whose owners no longer want them — and placed them in caring homes.

The statewide rescue group, which af-

filiated with the national group B.H. CARES in 1994, actually started saving dogs in 1987.

It all started when Erika Phillips, president of the Casper chapter, saw an ad for a basset in the newspaper, called up and took him home.

"Dogs become victims when people don't want to be bothered," said Phillips, who got her first basset 25 years ago. "With any dog there is a responsibility, people need to think about that before

Please see BASSETS, A8

### BASSETS: Statewide group holds annual picnics in Casper

Continued from A1  
they get one."

The group placed three dogs its first year and numbers — of rescued dogs and club members — have increased every year since.

The organization now has branches in Casper, Cody, Gillette, Jackson, Riverton, Sheridan and Torrington that work together so bassetts don't end up in the proverbial dog house.

Anyone looking to adopt a basset from the groups must submit an application, prove they have a fenced, secure yard, and meet with club members at their home before receiving their dog.

"We go to people's houses

to get a sense of their personality and to check the yard. It is very important to have a secure fence because these dogs take off after a scent and lose track of where they are," Phillips said.

The group tries to place a dog with a compatible family. If a dog is snappy at young children, it won't be placed in a family with kids.

Don't expect to breed an adopted dog — all dogs placed through the group are neutered or spayed.

"We take care of that right away," Phillips said. "Bassetts have large litters — about 10 to 12 — and we would probably end up seeing many more dogs come through our group if we didn't spay and neuter."

Right now, the group has four dogs awaiting adoption. Dogs stay with group members while a home is found but sometimes they never leave — one member in Torrington has 12 pet bassetts.

Placement time varies, but Phillips finds that sometimes when a doggie door closes, another opens.

"We just placed a four-year-old basset whose handicapped owner died," Phillips said. "I had just gotten off the phone when I got a call from another family who wanted a dog for their disabled mother."

It took about 30 minutes to place the dog — who wasn't used to being alone — with an owner who could be with her all day.

The group is always trying to hunt down volunteers — either to keep dogs in their homes, to help place dogs or to help with advertising, marketing and fund-raising.

Once a year, statewide members and owners of adopted dogs meet in Casper for their annual picnic.

"It's a good way to keep in touch with our dogs," Phillips said.

The picnic celebrates the

**'Dogs become victims when people don't want to be bothered.'**

ERIKA PHILLIPS, CASPER BASSET HOUND RESCUE AND ADOPTION

union of dogs with their new families.

At the 1999 picnic, Doofus and Sandy brought their union even closer — dressed in a bow tie and a veil, they exchanged doggie vows.

"It was cute," Pater said of Mr. and Mrs. Doofus Pater's wedding. "The wedding was kind of like having our whole basset family there."

For more information on the Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue and Adoption, see their Web site at ([www.trib.com/\(TILDE\)johnrel](http://www.trib.com/(TILDE)johnrel)) or call 234-5806.





## Maggie & Mollie are newest residents at Bonnie Bluejacket



L. to r., front: Rena Cullers, Mollie, Nellie Wheeler. Back: Frances Huffman, Adeline Ingalls, Vi Jerup, and Wilma Johnson holding Maggie.

by Marlys Good

Two new names have been added to the list of residents at the Bonnie Bluejacket Memorial Nursing Home - they are Maggie (no last name given) and Mollie Bluejacket. The two quickly integrated themselves into the routine at the home, and just as quickly made a place for themselves in the hearts of the other residents.

It's no wonder the residents have become enchanted with the "new kids on the block." Maggie, you see, is a

12-week-old Boston Bull Terrier, while Mollie, the older, ~~12-week-old~~ Basset, came to the home from Casper, through the auspices of the Wyoming Basset Rescue Foundation.

According to Vicki Wright, activities director at BBMNH, "Maggie and Mollie take the residents' minds off of themselves. They have something living, warm, to focus on, and also, most of them had pets before. Even the most despondent people respond to the dogs. We have one who claps her hands, and shows such delight even when she just sees the dogs. There is a lot of therapeutic value to having them here."

Resident Wilma Johnson, who used to train dogs, has "adopted" the Boston Bull. "Wilma is delighted with Maggie and Maggie really loves Wilma," Vicki says. "The two have bonded - very much so. Maggie stays in Wilma's room most of the time and Wilma takes care of her

training and rearing." Maggie does make "guest appearances" from time to time, according to Wright. Laura Riley, Director of Nursing, takes Maggie home with her at night, and will continue to do so until the dog gets better trained and more acclimated to her new home.

Mollie, ~~the~~ is a little more outgoing. "She can be seen following anybody and everybody who goes up and down the halls, either maintenance or activity-related. She acts like she was born, bred and raised here. She doesn't miss a beat," according to Wright. "When Mollie spots a resident, she just lays down, rolls over, and everyone either scratches her with a toe, or bends over to scratch her. Mollie loves it." Wright takes Mollie home with her at night, and takes her back out every morning.

"We have two Bernices, Aagard and Jones, who walk the perimeters here several times a day," Wright said. "When Mollie gets more used to them, and they to her, she can go with them. It will be good exercise for her."

Bonnie Bluejacket Memorial Nursing Home hasn't gone to the dogs - but the residents have fallen in love with them - and life just wouldn't be the same without Maggie and Mollie.





# Group finds homes for hounds

By Pat Blair

Staff reporter

"People have this concept," says Jody Fay. "They think basset hounds are couch potatoes... quiet dogs. And they also think basset aren't very smart."

In fact, she says, "basset are generally too smart for their own good" — which is frequently when Jody, a Sheridan resident, and her friend Linda Phillips of Casper step in. The two women operate Wyoming's Basset Rescue, an organization that does for basset what Greyhound Rescue does for that breed. They find caring homes for dogs who have been abused, abandoned or simply neglected by previous owners.

Just about every breed of dog has its own breed rescue organization, Jody says. To a large degree, this is because people fall in love with a cute puppy without stopping to think about the kind of dog it will become. "Most of the time," she says, "they don't know what they're getting."

Like most breeds of dog, basset hounds aren't for everyone — and a prime requirement for basset owners, says Jody, is a sense of humor. "If you don't have a sense of humor, don't get a basset."

The owners of one basset she knows have had to "childproof" all the cupboards and drawers in their home — and block the refrigerator when they leave the house, because their dog can open that door, too. As to whether basset ever outgrow that "problem stage," Jody says, "This dog is 11 years old."

Basset are independent dogs, she says, "and they probably have the best problem-solving skills of any breed." But it's that independence as much or more than any other factor that contributes to the need for Basset Rescue.

"Basset can be very difficult dogs," Jody says. "People get them as puppies because they're cute, but when they (the puppies) get to be basset, the people don't want them anymore."

Fay has coordinated Basset Rescue in Sheridan for nearly six years now, but her commitment to, and involvement with, dogs goes back to the ranch near Kaycee that she grew up on and the sheepdogs she knew as a child. She and her husband, Clinton, moved to Sheridan some 20-plus years ago, and over the years, Jody was involved in helping find homes for other breeds of dogs.

Her involvement with basset started when she cared for a basset at the Big Horn Animal Clinic where she works part-time. "I liked her so much that I had to get one for myself," Jody says, which led to the acquisition of her own dog, Grace.

In the meantime, employees at Sheridan's Animal Shelter knew Jody was looking for a basset hound, so when one showed up there, they called her. That was after Jody had purchased Grace, so she "made some phone calls," found another home for the dog at the Shelter — and found herself involved in the basset rescue business.

Soon after that, she learned of the Basset Rescue operations in Casper, spearheaded by Phillips, and the two women have worked together over the years to place basset hounds in homes all across the state of Wyoming.

When she began working with Phillips, Jody says, they placed an average of nine to 12 dogs per year. Last year that number jumped. Jody estimates they found homes for somewhere between 25 and 30 dogs, including nine placed in

average of nine to 12 dogs per year. Last year that number jumped. Jody estimates they found homes for somewhere between 25 and 30 dogs, including nine placed in homes here in Sheridan County. "This year, we already have one waiting," Jody says, adding that it's a five-month-old male.

The organization is always in need not only of people willing to provide permanent homes for the dogs but to provide short-term "foster homes" while she and Phillips

Jody and Phillips pay many of the expenses for rescued dogs out of their own pockets — although they are currently seeking membership in the National Basset Hound of America Club Rescue organization. If that membership comes about, Jody says, they will get some financial support from the national group. They also would have access to the "support people" available through the national organization, such as behaviorists.

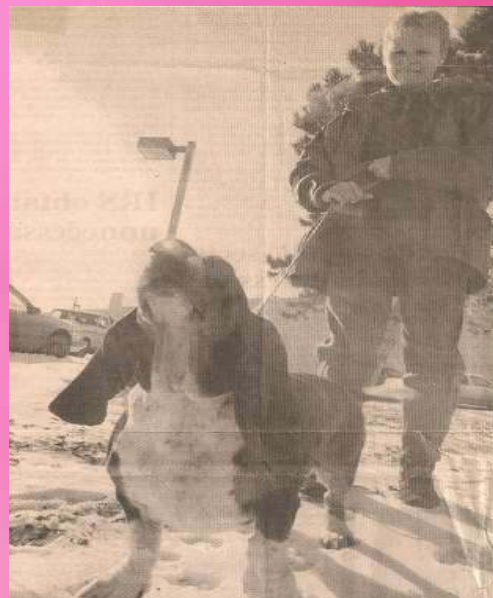
"Re-homed dogs sometimes have problems," Jody says, that need to be worked through by means of behavior modification. However, she adds, in all the time that she had worked with Basset Rescue, "I've only had one dog that didn't work out."

One reason for the high success rate is the care with which dogs are matched with new owners. Individuals who want to adopt dogs — or provide foster homes — go through a screening process. They are required to provide references, must have fenced yards, must agree to keep the dogs indoors "a good part of the time" and must agree to at least minimal care by a veterinarian. "The dogs have to become part of the family," Jody says, adding, "My sister-in-law says it's easier to get into the CIA than to get one of my dogs."

In return, Basset Rescue provides a continuing support system for the basset owner or foster parent, maintaining contact, helping with training, answering questions and providing support for owners whose dogs do have behavioral problems. The organization's work includes follow-up checks to make sure the dog is fitting in with the family and the family with the dog.

Despite their independence, basset do like people, Jody says. But individuals who want to adopt basset — or any other breed of dog — should do some research so they know what they're getting into. They're active dogs, she says, and an adult basset can range in size from 30 to 80 pounds and live up to 18 years. This is a dog, Jody says, that's going to be with the family for a long time.

There is no middle road among people who own basset, Jody says: "Once you've had a basset, you either want another one — or you never want another basset again." The hallmark of true basset people, she says, is that they want more.





# Ooh, doggies. Do they love their basset hounds

By K.C. COMPTON  
StarTribune staff writer

**C**ASPER — It's tough to plan an obedience event for a bunch of basset hounds. They can't jump worth a darn, they're sit-up-challenged and they can be a trifle, well, obstinate when it comes to resisting commands.

But up in Beartrap Meadow, more than 60 bassets and about 100 of their human companions gathered for just such an event Saturday afternoon. The meadow was full of these low-riders of the canine species, ambling around on leashes, baying loudly at each other, wagging on their ears in the high grass.

The event was the first barbecue and picnic for Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue and Adoption, and members from all over the state brought their pets to the puppy dog picnic. It was a chance to swap basset stories, to trade training secrets ("Be loose stubborn than they are,"), and to put their pets through the paces in such events as the Obstacle Course, the Bowling Contest, the Biscuit Eating Contest and Basset Tricks. The obstacle course was predictably low to the ground. Hula Hoops were lowered for jumping-through-the-hoop, and at the end of the event, every single dog had to be hustled into its owner's car or truck for the trip home.

A howling good time was had by all, but the gathering had a serious purpose as well. According to Sheridan resident Jody Fay, a member of the rescue group, pet shops are full of basset puppies. But so are animal shelters throughout the country — full of abandoned and abused bassets whose owners wanted a puppy but didn't need a dog, or who couldn't deal with



Casper resident Michelle Gabrielson, 21, cheers a skittish basset hound through an obstacle course Saturday at the Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue and Adoption picnic. For more information call Erica Phillips at (307) 234-5607.

the dogs' temperament (which Fay describes as "determined" and others call just plain stubborn).

"The pet shops are full of basset puppies," she said. "They're small and cute, they don't take up much room,

and the mothers produce eight to 16 puppies in a litter. The puppy mills are very cost effective for the breeders, and because of this, they've been overlooked to the point that many of the dogs have spinal problems, crooked

legs, bad eyes or bleeding disorders. "But the very worst problem bassets suffer from is bad homes."

And that's where the Basset Rescue League comes in. Erica Phillips, Casper, started the Wyoming group in

1987. Members of this loosely organized network work with animal shelters throughout the state. When they get a call that a basset has been turned in or captured, the network starts humming as volunteers try to place the hound dog in a foster home until a good, permanent home can be found.

Foster homes and long-term homes are always needed, and, according to Casper resident Norman Fendler, the former often becomes the latter. Fendler, who has served as a foster father, now has four permanent bassets, and wouldn't have any other kind.

Phillips remembers all of the dogs she and others have placed — including the one from Laramie whose body was full of pellets from being shot with a pellet gun, and the one from Casper who had pneumonia and whose eyes were frostbitten from being left outside in the bitter cold — and she said she is grateful for the veterinarians and volunteers throughout the state who've donated time, money and medical services to save the animals.

Organizers hope the picnic will become an annual event and will help raise money and awareness for their cause.

But even such a successful gathering is not without its downside, according to Bonnie Sargent, Casper, who also helped put the picnic together.

After all the dogs had gone home Saturday, Sargent still had work to do.

"We promised the park rangers that we'd go through and clean up after the dogs after the picnic was over. I helped organize, so I have to help clean up," she said with a laugh. "I should be getting a crown for my efforts and what do I get? A pooper scooper."



Mandy Jackson, 10, of Casper, and Abigail take the lead during the Basset Hound Rescue Association Puppy Dog Picnic on Saturday at Beartrap Meadow on Casper Mountain. More than 60 dogs and their owners participated.

## 'To the Dogs'

Photographer Janet A. Headley took a picture at Beartrap Meadow in July that got her into Picture.com's photo contest as a semifinalist. The winners will be chosen this winter.

In the Dogs feature two Basset hounds, Dufus (wearing sunglasses) and Sandy (throwing).

The photo will be published in Picture.com's coffee table book on photography, titled "Life's Gallery."



"The image was a really occurring moment when a young man placed them cool sunglasses on Dufus as I was

just walking past, headed for a cold drink. I had no choice but

to capture that cool Basset Hound," says Headley.





*Into the 2000s....*





# Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue

## CODY-BASED ORGANIZATION HELPING DOGS IN EIGHT STATES

BY MIKE BUEHLER  
Tribune Community Editor

**H**olly Moon adopted her first basset hound from Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue in 2000 because she wanted a companion for a new puppy. Little did the Cody resident know that she would one day become the organization's director.

Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue was founded by Erica Phillips in Casper in 1987. When she decided to retire in 2005, she looked to Moon to continue her work with basset hounds.

"Since my husband and I had been helping with fostering, transporting, that sort of thing, she [Phillips] asked if we would be interested in taking it over," Moon said.

Not only is Moon the Cody-based organization's director, she has continued to adopt basset hounds. She and her husband, Adam, currently are the adoptive parents to two 12-year-old basset males, Oscar and Cooper. The duo makes up the pair the Moons have adopted.

The Moons fostered Oscar after his owner relinquished him in August 2007. Since Oscar has motion sickness and no one stepped forward to adopt him after five months, the Moons did so.

Cooper was originally a Casper shelter dog the organization rescued. After two adoption placements fell through, the Moons adopted him in November 2008.

"Oscar and Cooper have been great rescue, family dogs," Moon said. "We had Cyndi, Toby, Ally and Wilby before them, but all six rescues were [and] are just great. [They have] different personalities — like people [they] can vary."

Oscar had to have been a clown in a former life.

Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue has rescued, fostered and re-homed hundreds of dogs in its existence — roughly two to three dozen of the adorable, long-eared hounds with short legs each year — with a maximum of 62 dogs one year. The organization also has rescued bloodhounds (think bassets with longer legs) since 2014.

"Somebody contacted us about [a bloodhound] that was on one of the Facebook [marketplace] — Powell Valley or something like that — that somebody was giving away in Lovell," Moon said. "And they asked if we'd take them. So it's just like a taller basset."

Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue is not only active throughout Wyoming, but it is also active in all of the bordering states, plus North Dakota — eight states in all.



Holly Moon, director of Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue, gives her basset Oscar (right) a snack while his adopted brother Cooper looks on at her residence on the South Fork. Photo by Mike Buehler.

"It feels good when you find a good family and people that love the dogs as much as we do."

the dogs as much as we do — the volunteers," Moon said. "We have volunteers everywhere."

They're in Wyoming, Delaware, Montana, Idaho, California, Utah and the Dakotas.

With such a wide area to serve, Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue's lifeblood is its volunteers, not all of whom are able to have pets in their homes.

"Really, the whole thing's about volunteers," Moon said. "There's just people that want to transport. They can't maybe foster, or maybe the people that do foster, they eventually adopt some of their fosters (dogs) and then they can't foster anymore because they've got too many dogs."

Moon said Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue goes through a vetting process to make sure their adopters are successful.

"With our adoption process, we go through an application that the people have to fill out," Moon said. "We check their references, we check with their prior veterinarian — just make sure that they're truthful in their application. Once we get

to the point of somebody actually adopting, then we do home visits. Depending upon the location, we can get some people in the area that want to go by the house and make sure the fenced yard is fenced, and that sort of thing."

In addition to rescuing bassets and bloodhounds, Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue hosts an annual picnic, usually at High Smith Park in Cody in June. The organization also does an annual Santa pet photo shoot in early to mid-November in cooperation with Park County Animal Shelter at Tractor Supply in Cody. Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue also has a website ([www.wyomingbassetrescue.com](http://www.wyomingbassetrescue.com)), a Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/wyomingbassetrescue](http://www.facebook.com/wyomingbassetrescue)), a newsletter, and also seeks to educate people about dog rescue.

Judy Landwehr administers the Facebook page, June Elliot runs the website and Michael Ryan is in charge of the newsletter.

Beyond the many dogs Moon has adopted, she said the dogs who have required Wyoming

Basset Hound Rescue to go the rescue route have stood out.

"If any [dogs] stand out, they would be the ones that we had to put more time and money into," Moon said. "We have had our surgery cases because of their already-crooked feet that they can end up with in the front — with their front legs — sometimes due maybe to inbreeding or maybe malnutrition. We've had a couple where we've had to do surgery because they were so deformed that their legs weren't functioning and they really weren't comfortable even standing."

One of those dogs was Nick, who was more or less deserted by his owners in their backyard about five years ago, Moon said. Through he has since passed away, he is still remembered fondly by Moon.

"He needed some surgery for removal of cancer," Moon said. "He ended up being diabetic — but he was just the most mel-low, laid-back, happy dog. [Basset] don't hold grudges. He was just one of those dogs that liked everybody."



Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue has helped hundreds of basset hounds find new homes since its beginning in 1987. Photo by Mike Buehler.





# Basset hound lovers unite in Wyoming

MARTIN KIRSTON  
Chicago Gazette

CODY (AP) — The morning sounded like a good old-fashioned jellibreak, the basset hounds baying with their noses to the ground. For the rest of the morning, floppy ears brushed the summer grass and short-legged dogs frolicked with their owners in an annual spectacle held by the Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue.

Sitting in a straw hat watching his own basset, Blue, mingle with other hounds of limited stature, Roger Bird couldn't help but grin. The basset aficionado is addicted to the breed.

"This is my third one," Bird said, talking in a Southern drawl fitting for a hound dog lover. "They're more laid back and they're not an energetic dog. I'm to the point where I'm not that energetic, either."

The basset has its drawbacks, Bird admitted. They slobber and they shed. They also can be stubborn and difficult to train. They have a hard time getting over logs, though they're skilled at getting under them.

"They'll love you to death," he said. "They're appealing to me."

The Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue, which held its summer picnic over the weekend in Cody, has been in operation since 1987.

The group has since expanded its reach to nearly all surrounding states, including Nebraska and South Dakota, which don't have a basset rescue organization.

Holly Moen has wanted a basset since high school. She got her wish and more when she took over the basset rescue in 2005 after her predecessor retired in Casper.

"It's labor of love," Moen said. "We do it because we like doing it, and it's rewarding when you get a dog adopted, or you see the ones change that were shy. The transformation is rewarding."

Moen does the legwork — checking the background of possible adoptees and writing the organization's newsletter.

But it's the group's core volunteers that make the rescue possible, Moen said. Some volunteers foster dogs awaiting adoption. Others run transports, moving a basset from one place to another.

"We also have an office in Montana right now to help us get our 501(c)(3) status," Moen said. "It's from the Great Pyrenees rescue in Laurel. They just adopted a basset from us, and they're working on their nonprofit status as well."

Allen Moen, Holly's husband, credits his



The Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue has been in operation since 1987. The groups work to help dogs get adopted.

wife for running a tight ship. He said most bassets are acquired from pet owners who give up their animals before a move.

Some also are rescued from shelters that maintain a kill policy. On occasion, strays are taken in. The group averages around 45 rescues a year and works hard at finding their

fluffy friends a safe home.

"We go anywhere from all the surrounding states," Allen said. "When someone calls and says they can't have their basset anymore, Holly starts the phone calls. We have shelters in Cheyenne and Casper, but it's a little more expensive to do it that way."





# The Santa Pet Shoot Has Been a Favorite for More than 20 Years

## Pet pictures with Santa



Saban jumps on Kassandra Sorell while Bella and Bugatti pose with Santa during the annual Santa Pet Photo Shoot on Saturday at Tractor Supply. All proceeds from the event benefit the Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue and the Park County Animal Shelter.

## Paws & claws no worry

### Santa Claus hoofs it to Sunrise for pictures

by D.K. McWilliams

They all came to see Santa Claus. Most of them stood patiently in line. Others could not contain their excitement and tugged at their leashes, barked or flapped their wings.

That was the tail-wagging scene last Saturday at the Third Annual Wyoming Basset Rescue's Pet Photos with Santa at the Sunrise Shopping Center. Santa's lap held dogs, cats, rabbits and ducks. One owner transported two of his horses to have a picture taken with the famous man in red.

Larry Richards had the gratifying honor of portraying Santa. He enjoyed himself so much last year, he could not resist portraying Santa again. Richards was kissed by pup-

pies and Rottweilers. He had his hat nibbled on by a horse, and his beard rearranged by over-anxious dogs of all sizes.

Richards said, "The pets are good about it, and the owners are good about it. Everyone was well behaved."

Besides the two ducks, one with its own matching Santa hat, most of Richards' photos were with dogs. There was one photo where "Santa" was holding three Basset hounds in his lap, two golden retrievers were sitting in front, and a rabbit was on his shoulder, while the family members held the other two rabbits and a cat.

This is the Wyoming Basset Rescue's largest fund-raiser for the year. The group also raffled two prints that were donated by Casper

artist James Reed. This small, but dedicated group, has rescued 23 Basset hounds this year and placed them in loving homes.

Would Richards return next year to repeat his role as Santa Claus? With great exuberance, he replied, "I hope so. Last year, someone brought three boa constrictors. Who knows what they will bring next year."

Anyone wishing to make a donation can send it to Wyoming Basset Rescue, PO Box 2513, Mills, WY 82644.



photo by LUCY M.

Santita Sorell (from left), Holly Hoes and Kaitly Snaps try to get Roadie's attention for a photo during the annual Santa Pet Photo Shoot on Saturday at Tractor Supply. All proceeds from the event benefitted the Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue organization and the Park County Animal Shelter.

## Pics with pets

Nick and Lindsey Crandall and their Miniature Australian shepherd score take photos with Santa Claus.



## Smile for the camera

photos by Gail Bowman



A steady stream of pet owners brought their animals to have pictures taken with a pet-loving Santa Claus, who brought his own two bassets. The Nov. 24 event was a fundraiser for Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue.





*Let's Not Forget  
the Picnics!*





# *Annual Picnic Remains the Highlight of the Year for Basset Lovers*













A close-up photograph of a dog's head and paws resting on a person's arm. The dog has a white face with brown patches and a black nose. Its paws are white with black spots and black claws. The person's arm is light-skinned. The background is dark and out of focus.

*Fond Memories*



This coming July, Shirley and I will have been married 49 years. During these years, we've shared life with nine dogs. The second dog that entered our life, while stationed in Augusta, GA, was a standard Dachshund/Basset Hound mix. Benji was an incredible fellow, who won hearts with everyone who saw him.

When he was 14 years old, we bought Popsie, a 10-week-old Basset Hound pup, in 1993. Six months later, Benji died of cancer and eighteen months after that, we bought Suusie, a 10-week-old Basset Hound pup. As it turned out, both Popsie and Suusie were light-weights when compared to following Basset Hounds. Popsie lived to be 13½ years old and Suusie died two years later, at 12½ years old.

We lasted two weeks and then bought Pattie, a 10-week old Basset Hound pup, in October, 2008. While at work, a co-worker pulled up Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue's web site. I was soon receiving WBHR newsletters from Holly. We took Pattie to our first WBHR annual picnic, in June, 2009. At 10 months old, Pattie was the youngest Basset at the picnic.

My wife and I easily decided Pattie needed a buddy. There were, as I recall, 14 Basset Hounds available for adoption in June, 2009. We chose Sophie from a group of photos. We picked her up in Sheridan on the way home to Colorado. Sophie immediately captured our hearts. She was a bit older than Pattie, but those two soon became fast and sure friends.

So we now had two Basset Hounds again, each weighing about a third more than our first two. After three years, we felt the need to adopt Reilly from WBHR. If two Basset Hounds are excellent, three can only be even better. Being Basset Hounds, each shared common Basset traits, physical features, but differed greatly with unique, one-of-a-kind personalities. This is what made each one oh so precious to us.

Of course, all good things must come to an end. So after years of real blessing, death overtook first Sophie, followed within six weeks by Reilly. This left the 'young' one, Pattie, now well over 11 years old. Through a miracle, five days after Reilly died, we were able to adopt Rosie, who was 18 months old at the time. Rosie and Pattie shared 18 months together, Pattie leading and teaching Rosie a great deal.

It was another heartbreaker when Pattie died at 12½ years old. Unusual was the reaction of Rosie, she was quite distraught when she realized Pattie had died. While Rosie wasn't directly adopted through WBHR, it was because of WBHR that paved the way for her adoption. So, because of WBHR, we have been very blessed with three incredible and unique Basset Hounds.

So now both my wife and I are 76 years old and very grateful to have Rosie here daily sharing our lives. Six Basset Hounds, three pups, three adopted. Why Basset Hounds? There is no better, loving, loyal or personable dog that I know of. Our lives have been all the richer because of Basset Hounds and WBHR.

Thank you forever!

*Fred and Shirley Bell*





Congratulations to Wyoming Basset Rescue (WBR) on their 35 years of service! That is a lot of happy basset hounds who have found forever homes through their efforts.

I was lucky enough to grow up in a home that counted the loving basset as the family dog. After all, what would life be like without slobbery kisses and serenading ARROOOOs? And, as an adult, my husband Clayton and I have been blessed by three hounds from WBRH.

Toby, who has sadly crossed the Rainbow Bridge, was quite the character. He always insisted on wearing a bandana, because he knew the ladies loved a sharp dressed man. Emma, is my darling princess. She is easily the most beautiful girl in the land - just ask me for my totally unbiased opinion! And Winner is our youngster. He might be slightly mischievous, you know, kind of like Cujo was slightly grouchy.

Each of our floppy-eared fur babies has brought joy and endless amounts of dog hair into our lives. We have also had the privilege of helping transport other deserving bassets, and a couple of bloodhounds, to their forever homes. All this because of the many efforts of the fine folks at WBRH. Congratulations again to everyone involved in this fabulous organization for 35 years of service.

*Deb and Clayton Black*

Even though I have always thought Bassets were adorable I never thought that Bassets would become such an important part of my life. Their short legs just didn't fit in with our active lifestyle. But Bassie, my first Basset, changed everything.

Twenty-three years ago, when we first moved back to Montana from Oregon, I told an acquaintance that if there was ever a senior dog at our local shelter which needed rescuing, contact us. Two weeks later, I walked into the shelter, which at the time was a high kill shelter, and there was Bassie, an older black and white Basset who was found along Highway 87 north of Billings.

Bassie stole my heart and ever since that day, we have been rescuing seniors and occasionally fostering youngsters both on our own and also through shelters and rescue organizations including Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue. Thanks to Holly, we have been honored to share our lives with Hugo, Daisy, Molly, Dino and Frankie, Brody and Sunny and Gussie.

I can't imagine living without slobber on the walls, the daily "sing-a-longs", socks found out in the yard or the snuggles on the couch.

Thanks WBHR for all the you do!

*Pat and Scott Vandell*





I first became acquainted with Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue when my roommate Linda Heberlein got a basset hound from a pet store in Casper. Longfellow had been kept in a cage for so long that he was beginning to lose the use of his back legs. We decided to get him a companion and contacted WBHR.

We adopted Bascombe, a big raw-boned brown male with a black saddle. He had been relinquished to Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue because he had been adopted to be a companion to a dog that ate rocks and died as a result. Since the first dog had died, they didn't want Bascombe, so he came to live with us and be Longfellow's brother. The two of them bonded immediately and were life-long best buddies.

Bascombe was the hardest dog I ever dealt with! Even though he was such a hard dog to handle, I think he was my favorite basset of all 11 of them that I have owned over the years. Bascombe was notorious about bursting out the front door if it was opened, and taking off. I don't know how many times I ran after him yelling, "If you don't come back here right now, I won't chase after you the next time!"

One time when he escaped, he saw a herd of antelope at the bottom of the hill we lived on. He took off after them, bellowing his fool head off, and raced right into the middle of the herd. I'm sure he expected them to run off in terror of the big, ferocious dog! Instead, several of them came toward him, noses out to sniff him. He tucked his tail between his legs and crept home. From then on, if we saw an antelope while riding with him in my brown Bronco II, we would say, "Bascombe, there's an antelope." He would turn his head away and refuse to look at it. Those antelope had really injured his manly dignity.

Even though Bascombe was such a handful, he was one of the sweetest dogs I have ever known. He would let you put anything on his head, including hats and a bucket! I took him to my fifth grade class at least once each school year, and he had a great time romping with the students. He and Longfellow also entertained groups of students that my roommate and I brought to our home on Friday evenings to walk the dogs out at Edness Kimball Wilkins Park followed by a pizza party at our house. That was the best reward I ever found for rewarding students for good behavior and completing their schoolwork.

Another favorite basset I adopted through WBHR was Pookie. He was a big white male with a brown spot on one side. While I had him, I lived by myself, and he became my constant companion. Pookie loved to sit upright on his hind legs, like a human. He was the only basset hound I ever owned that could sit like that. One of his favorite pastimes was sitting out on my front porch with me during rain and thunderstorms and watching the storms pass by. He never got the least bit nervous about thunder and lightning, no matter how loud it got.

Pookie had a pot-bellied pig sister named Licorice. They were great friends when Licorice was little, but Pookie got to be a little scared of Licorice as the pig grew up and tried asserting herself. I finally ended up keeping Licorice penned in the kitchen with a doggie door out to the back yard, and Pookie in the front of the house with a doggie door into the front lawn.

Pookie lived to a ripe old age of 14, at which time he died of kidney failure. That was a very sad time for me. My last basset hound was Lucy, a very sweet little female that was tan and white. My favorite remembrance of her was when my sister dressed her in a lime green tutu and a boa of the same color. She looked so proud of herself! Lucy and I grew old together. She got to the point where she couldn't make it up on the couch or the bed anymore, and I got to the point where I could no longer get down on the floor, so there really wasn't a good meeting place for us. That really broke my heart as I felt like I couldn't give her the love she needed and deserved.

After she died of old age, I got a Yorkie, which was small enough for me to hold on my lap. That way I would never get in the position that I couldn't give the love that I thought all dogs need. My roommate, Linda, and I used to help transport basset hounds that were going to their forever homes. I so loved doing that! I mostly went along to wrangle the dogs while Linda drove. By that time, I had suffered a stroke and could no longer drive.

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I really loved being able to play a part in helping basset hounds find loving forever homes. I met so many wonderful people who were willing to take homeless dogs into their families and give them the love they all needed. Sadly, Linda is no longer alive, so I can no longer help transport dogs. Instead, I make dog treat cookbooks for Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue to sell to make a little income. I have made generic ones, with pictures of basset hounds on each recipe page. I have also made ones where the person buying the cookbook wants a picture of their basset(s) on the cover. My favorite one was one where the owners provided enough photos for me to use a photo of their own dog on every page. I have participated in many WBHR activities, both to raise money for the organization, and to celebrate being basset hound owners. I've attended garage sales, photos with Santa, a parade with a basset hound float, and several of the yearly basset hound picnics.



When I first became acquainted with Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue, it was being run by Erika Phillips, out of Casper. After several years, she passed the baton on to Holly Moen, located in Cody. With both of these women, I really enjoyed my time spent doing basset hound activities with them.

I hope to be able to serve WBHR in some capacity for years to come.

*Bonnie Sargent*

I think it's fantastic WBHR has been around that long!!

I found out about the rescue when I was looking for a basset companion for our other basset Tasha. My brother-in-law's Rottweiler was living with us. When he had to leave Tasha was very lonely. I went on the rescue's Facebook page and found Lucy's bio and was drawn to her. She has been a great addition to our home. I have really enjoyed fostering and doing transports over the years.

I really appreciate everything WBHR does for the hounds. I very much believe in adopt don't shop. And I love the picnics! We have made so many wonderful memories and it's nice to see some of the pups we've helped along the way. Like Charlie!!❤️ I think helping Charlie is our best experience. Helping him go from not really being able to walk very well to playing and running around like any other pup.

*Molly Mehtala and Family*

*(Please see 'A Peek Behind the Scenes - Medical Expenses' for details on typical surgical costs.)*





I had always wanted a Basset Hound since Smokey and the Bandit. When I started to have health issues, I needed to have a power wheelchair, and we needed a van to transport it. Somehow, in the process of signing all the papers, this woman's four-month-old male Basset Hound came up. She said that they needed to get a new home for him as her kids weren't playing with him anymore. I know now that was a lie....LOL! I had never heard of Basset Hound Rescue at this time.

We told her that we'd take Boomer. She said that she'd talk to her family. We had him that night. They no longer wanted him because he acted like a four-month-old Basset Hound. Boomer got into EVERYTHING. He was a counter cruiser extraordinaire! Loaves of bread disappeared. He chewed up everything. They gave him the right name, he had a howl that was out of this world.

I knew that when they gave us Boomer that we had been given a precious gift. I started looking up Basset Hounds. That's when I realized the issues with Basset Hounds ending up in rescue. A friend of mine had spoken about wanting to use Boo as a stud. Once I learned about the number of Basset Hounds in rescue, I said no to my friend. She was not happy with me, at all.

I'm really glad that we had Boomer first. We got the best of OEBH (Order of the Evil Basset Hound) from him. All of the things that they tell you to beware of when you get a Basset Hound, he did, and did well. Boomer was cute. That's certainly what kept him alive some days!

The lab that we had passed away. We had been in contact with Jane Denning from Long Ears ranch in Torrington. She had Babe. Babe had been abused, and overbred. Jane told us that if she didn't work out for us, that she would just keep her. Babe came into the house, and ran underneath the desk in the office. I'd lay on the floor with her, pet her, and she'd just shake violently. Eventually, she ran in and jumped on our bed. She then slowly moved closer and closer to the door, on the bed, months and months later, she came in and jumped on the couch. It didn't take her long to find her voice....she had NO problem ordering me around.

We also got Arnie through Jane. Arnie had such a baby face. He was just too cute. Arnie was the first Basset that we lost.

Somewhere in the area of 2011, I became aware of Holly, and WBHR. We decided to foster Harley. My wife really loved him. Not too long after that, my wife and I divorced, and I was left with Babe, Boomer and Harley. Harley acted up, and sadly, I had to return him to WBHR.

Babe needed to have some bumps removed, and I needed help with that. Holly helped me pay for those surgeries.

Then the darkest days came. Boomer had been out at the vets office for a couple of days. He had stopped eating. Then Babe didn't eat. I woke up Nov 6th, and Babe had left for the Bridge during the night. The next morning, Doc called me and said that Boomer was going downhill fast. I wanted to go out and tell Boomer goodbye, but being unable to drive, I didn't want him to suffer. I told Dr James to let him go.

I lost Babe and Boomer within 24 hours. Holly, the Vantassles, and Bob Wirth, along with so many others were here for me. That's the great thing about Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue. If someone needs help, or there is a transport, or a lost Basset Hound, everyone comes together to help however they can. It's as if we are all a family.

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Everyone told me to get a new Basset right away; I just couldn't do it. Finally, I tried fostering with Emma, she was such a sweet, sweet girl. I was using a walker, though, and she wanted to be close to me, and had almost knocked me down. I then found out that a couple in Laramie had a Basset they needed to rehome.

That's how I ended up with Fletcher. A classmate from high school paid the adoption fee for me. Fletcher has been such a sweet, spoiled rotten boy. He knows, just as Boomer did, when I'm not feeling well. He takes pretty good care of me. He's sleeping on the couch right now.

As I close, it would be very hard to put into words how much I appreciate all of you. You've all been such a blessing to me. I haven't made it to a picnic yet, but maybe this year.

Thank you all, for being so kind to me.

*Shannon Gerdel*



Hello, we first became interested in the basset breed about 22 years ago when we adopted a puppy that was half-basset and half-sheltie...we called her our beltie!

We found her to be such a fun (and naughty) dog and it made us start to consider looking into pure bred bassets. After some research we found WBHR, fell INSTANTLY in love with our first basset Sackett, and decided from that point forward we would only adopt the older pups. Next came Susie, who is now 15-ish and still going strong, and last but not least, our sweet foster failure bloodhound Truman, the king of slobber!

We are so grateful to WBHR for entrusting us with the honor of adopting such great dogs and hope you keep it going for another 35 years!



Sincerely,

*Patti and Chris Gross*



John had a Basset named Toby which was the start of this love.

There have been so many adventures in our life with adopting rescues. Our youngest rescue was a 6-month-old and the oldest was a 9-year-old. Even with health issues they keep smiling. They make even the worst days better.



Between 2003 and 2021 we have adopted nine rescues. During this time, we also helped with transports and had a couple of fosters which became foster failures both times.

Currently we have the love of Judge and Ruby.

For the Love of a Basset Hound Rescue.

*Fay and John Pondish*

I was tickled pink when I got my first call to be a Basseger transport driver. I thought the Bassebger designation was so cute. I loved doing three home visits prior to adoptions of your sweet dogs. The best thing of all, however, was getting a basset mix as a granddog.

My daughter and family adopted WBHR's Casino, a really sad history type of dog, and loved him for many years until his death from old age. His life was regal! He was their constant buddy and door watcher, couch potato and chick magnet. When the grandsons brought a date home, Casino got all the attention. He made the basset calendar, which was always stuck to the refrigerator, and he always knew he was a star. A bulldog basset mix is super handsome and he knew it.

Long live WBHR. We love, respect and appreciate you for all you do, Holly.

*Sherry Shillen*



I became involved with WBHR through Molly. I probably remember Dulce most as she was my first foster. They all have been blessings to work with. I am so glad that all of the dogs I either fostered or transferred, were put into a wonderful new home.

Thank you for letting me be a small part of the WBHR family.

*Linda McKinnon*





We had a Basset in Cheyenne. Her name was Snickerdoodle. She did not want to live with us. She wanted to live with the family down the road who had a bunch of little boys. When Frank got transferred, they asked if they could have Snickerdoodle and we said yes. She was so happy to move to their home.

We did not have another Basset until 1995. Our daughter Tenille saw an ad in the paper for a Basset that needed a home. It was posted by Jody Fay who at that time was a Basset rescue person. We called about the dog. This dog was an owner surrender and had a long list of issues. She did not like stairs, rides in the car, did not like men, did not like kids and did not like to go camping. We thought it was worth a try so she came to stay for a trial visit.

When Jody dropped her off Frank was out of town for two weeks for training in Cheyenne. We did not tell him we had the new dog. When Frank came home Bessie was so thrilled. She practically turned herself inside out. Bessie Rebecca Basset did not live up to any of her issues. She loved kids, had no problem with the stairs, and she loved all the men in our neighborhood. She would watch at the front window for the nextdoor neighbor to come home from work. Then she would run whimpering through the house to meet him at the fence for her piece of bologna. He bought a pack every week just for her. She loved to play grab butt. Frank would sit on the floor and she would run at him, as she went passed, he would grab her butt. She just tucked her tail, shifted into a higher gear and took off back down the hall. She did catch his nose one time with her fang and he still has the scar.

Halloween was her favorite holiday. We lived in the North Heights area at the time and would have from 100-400 trick or treaters depending on the weather. Bessie greeted every one of them at the door. We had to put a baby gate across the door to keep her from going with all the visitors.

Bessie had chronic ear infections. We used up many tubes of Otomax. Finally Dr. Pilch offered a surgical option of opening up her external ear canals and letting more air into her ears. That worked and she never had another ear infection. At the age of 12 she developed cancer, that was 2007. Frank was ready to retire at the end of 2007 and we were moving to Ohio. Dr. Pelissier checked over Bessie and felt she could make the move with us. December 30, 2007 Bessie loaded up in the back seat of our truck and headed to Ohio.

She loved the trip. She always loved to travel. She would stand on the back seat with her front feet on the jockey box between the front seats. She lived in Ohio for 5 days. She pulled an eye of round roast off the counter at my mother's home and ate the entire thing.

She damaged her pancreas and liver so badly that there was nothing to be done to save her. She was so special and contributed so much to our lives. We also had Great Danes and she ruled over them.

We did not have another Basset until Phoebe joined us about 2012. She was a member of Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue. We saw her in the newsletter. She was a senior dog. John and Marilyn Zilinski were traveling east to visit family and if we would meet them in Ohio, they would bring Phoebe with their Basset. We met them and Phoebe came to join us. She did not live with us long as she had a horrible congestive heart condition. She was so sweet and quiet. She tried to chase after the Great Dane but her heart was too bad. She spent lots of time sun bathing and soaking her old bones. She disappeared and I had to search for her. She was out under a tree in the backyard struggling to breathe. We lived across the road from the veterinarian. I got her to the vet quickly but she was in severe heart failure.

Our next Basset was from Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue. She joined us about 2017. Daisy had been with Rescue for some time as she was a senior dog. We adopted her and picked her up when we came to

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Wyoming to see our new granddaughter. She was an ambassador on the trip back to Ohio. She made friends every time we stopped. She loved every person we met. She joined two Great Danes in Ohio. She ruled them. She would chase after them all over the yard. She did think that chickens were for her entertainment and were a lot of fun to kill.

One of the three dogs managed to eat my needle holder. The needle holder was one of those red "tomatoes" that is filled with sawdust and you store your hand sewing needles in it. Mine was quite full of needles. Since I had no clue who ate it, all three went to the vet for x-rays to make sure there were no needles in their bellies. Dr Clayton came out with a very serious look on his face. It was not needles, it was the largest enlarged heart he had ever seen in Daisy. She was with us for a few more months after that episode. She would run out in the yard and then not be able to make it back to the house. I would just go sit with her until she caught her breath. We tried to teach her to ride in the bucket on the tractor but she insisted on chasing after the Great Danes. When it was time to euthanize her, we had to put one of the Danes down at the same time. We made the decision to take them to the vet together since they had played so well together. That was so hard to do but I like to think of them walking across the Rainbow Bridge together.

January 2022 Lucy joined us. She also was from Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue. She was an owner surrender. Lucy developed a massive Staph infection in the skin under her neck. She was quite sick for several days until the antibiotics kicked in. She is now quite the character. She thinks she needs a biscuit every time she goes outside. She loves to ride in the car. She thinks granddaughters are super and are here only to pet her. She shares the beds with a Great Dane as all of our Bassets have. Beds in our house are crib mattresses with a dog bed on top of them. Great Danes have a thing about comfort and Bassets enjoy sharing those beds. She also rules the Dane. Does not matter which dog goes out the door first, they stop and wait for the other one. We have an outdoor cat named Bob. He has the Dane so intimidated that she will not go out the door if he is on the deck. Lucy just goes out and gives him a good sniff. He does not bat her but he bats Helga every chance he gets. Quite the comedy routine.

*Christine and Frank Castle*



*Pat Vandell  
with Dino and Frankie*





## *The Road to Porter*

Christmas 2009 came with no Basset Hound in the house, not good, not good at all. I had been following the WBHR website for about two weeks, when there should appear a Basset mix available at the Jackson Teton Animal Shelter. He called himself, Porter. He called to me.

WBHR had not had a chance to get Porter fostered, a good New Year's sign for me. I contacted Cory at the Animal Shelter. "He's really, really a sweet guy! Though, he's a bit overweight. Um, we nicknamed him Portly Porter. And yes, we're open on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Come get him."

Now driving from Edgemont, South Dakota to Jackson, Wyoming in the deepest part of winter didn't appeal to me, fair weather driver that I am.....but seeing Porter's pictures I overcame my qualms. I pulled out of the driveway on a below zero morning and headed for a night stay at Riverton. No problems with the snow on the first day, though winter showed its force with -10 in Riverton that night, which more than knocked on the door of the Motel 6, since there was almost an inch gap between the bottom of the door and the cement. What are motel towels for, right? Yeah, plugged that crack quickly.



The next day brought nice sun to Riverton. Too bad the same couldn't be said for Jackson. From the Continental Divide to Jackson, snow and blowing snow tempered some of my enthusiasm. And yet, driving the inclined drive to the parking lot of the Jackson/Teton Animal Shelter brought into view the outdoor runs. One dog, one very happy and barking greeting dog knew me just as I knew him. Porter's barking brought another dozen canines outside, but with a short greeting between us, Porter scampered inside, where I found him in the lobby. Porter knew! And yes, Porter was portly.

We took a short walk in the falling snow and then the time came for winter driving to Riverton. At the continental divide Porter bounded through six feet of snow having a blast and sharing his fun with me. Porter and I had great walking in Riverton. We both knew we were pards! I've never had a Basset so attached to a person. Porter's personality bubbled with verve and eager friendship.

Porter only made the trip to one WBHR picnic – Casper 2010. (And by June 2010,

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Porter had lost 20 pounds morphing into a lean racing machine.) But through the kind words of Michael and Holly, Porter came to be known by many in the WBHR fraternity.

Porter's big gift to me got better when Porter met Karen three years after he came into my home. Porter knew Karen was made for him, just as he was made for Karen. Through the magic of Porter Basset love, Karen shared her love with Porter and me. How good can it be? As for Porter he had two people to favor with his magnificent devotion.

After Porter crossed the Rainbow Bridge in 2017, I have thought often of that magical day in 2009 between Christmas and the New Year when WBHR's website led me to Porter.

Thank you!

*John Minium and Karen Parker*

My name is Jane Elliott. I am the current board secretary for Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue and I started volunteering in 1999. In the summer of that year, while living in Casper, we adopted a basset mix puppy from WBHR and that was my introduction to the organization. Later that year I began doing website design work and I reached out to Erika Phillips about developing a website for WBHR.

It was a win/win for both WBR and myself and was a great opportunity for me to increase my web design skills, while giving the organization an internet presence during a time when not a lot of rescues had their own sites yet. From there I also started helping out with producing WBHR's newsletter and then became a foster home as well.

Over the past 23 years I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Erika and Holly and have been very inspired by the dedication both of them have given WBHR and all the dogs they have helped. Being able to use the skills that I have to give back a little bit has been so worthwhile for myself and I'm happy that I am a part of this wonderful organization.

*Jane Elliott*

*(That's Jane on the left with her "designated driver!")*





*A Peek behind the Scenes*



# *Adoption Program*



WBHR takes special care to insure that any dogs adopted go to caring homes; it is not like an animal shelter where all too often individuals simply visit a facility, pick a dog and go home.

There are several key steps in being accepted for adoption consideration. Some of the major components in being approved by WBHR include:

- 1) Expressing an interest in an adoptable dog and making a direct personal contact with the Executive Director and establishing a mutual rapport.
- 2) Completion of information materials which include family particulars and appropriate areas available for the dog which means a mandatory adequately fenced yard.
- 3) Interview with a WBHR representative.
- 4) Site inspection by a WBHR representative.
- 5) Signing appropriate legal adoption paperwork which includes repossession of the dog if any policy violations are brought to the attention of the WBHR.

Payment of a modest adoption fee may or may not be requested depending upon circumstances. If adoption requires transporting the dog to the adopters all such costs are borne by WBHR as will all necessary medical expenses associated with providing the adopters with a healthy pet.

The WBHR adoption process may seem overly cautious, but past experiences have readily confirmed the necessity to perform due diligence in placing dogs; health, safety and well-being are paramount.

## **Forever Friends**

Sadly, not all of the bassets in our rescue program can easily be placed due to age, medical conditions, behavior issues and the like. Typically, these are senior or ill dogs that are just looking for a warm, loving place to rest out their final days.

As a result, these dogs will most likely spend the rest of their lives in a series of foster homes and kenneling and miss the joy of true love and affection. So, in true “rescue fashion”, WBHR extends a special helping hand to those willing to open their hearts and homes to these “unadoptable” bassets.

Under the ‘Forever Friend’ program, qualified individuals or families may foster one (or more!) of these bassets with WBHR providing the necessary financial assistance to cover medical bills, special needs, etc. WBHR can even offer assistance with food expenses upon request.





# *Foster Home and Hound Hero Programs*

WBHR is fortunate to have a corps of dedicated supporters who readily open their homes on a routine basis for foster care of dogs brought into the program. The organization has no facility of its own to house dogs so it relies solely on the good graces of its supporters to host dogs while they undergo any necessary medical treatments and/or are simply awaiting adoption to a forever home.

The WBHR foster home system is primarily within Wyoming, but host families are also located in Montana, Idaho and South Dakota and short-stay homes encompass another handful of states and Canada.

Funds are available through the WBHR's "Hound Hero" program, but the majority of foster families opt not to apply for assistance, but bear food expenses on their own as well as any miscellaneous expenses such as those travel-related (vet visits, etc.). Major expenses such as surgeries, dental work, etc. are paid directly by the WBHR.

Foster families and their homes/facilities are carefully vetted just as if they were adoption candidates. Typically, though, foster families tend to have already adopted from the organization and/or are involved in the transportation program. In fact, it is not uncommon for a foster family to wind up adopting the dog.

Not only do foster homes provide much-needed housing, but they are a key factor in assessing the dogs in terms of demeanor, ability to adapt to a family setting, interaction with children and/or other household pets, etc. These details become crucial in determining the right fit in terms of the dog and its potential new family.

Since the WBHR sees a predominance of senior dogs (a priority for the organization) this evaluation period is doubly crucial as every possible step is taken to insure the dog is placed with its final owner.

Not everyone is meant to be a dog/pet owner; indeed, one prime example is a dog which came into the program having been in eight different homes in less than three years with every move having been through no fault of the dog (neglectful owners, unruly children, financial circumstances, moving, etc.). Happily, the dog immediately found its forever home once it joined WBHR and is ensconced in a warm and loving home.

## **Hound Hero**

Donations to this program generally come from individuals who wish to support the WBHR, but cannot maintain a basset themselves. Funds go towards an eclectic range of expenses, but are mostly applied to aiding the foster program or individuals in need of financial assistance.





# *Medical Expenses*

The WBHR organization maintains a policy of not releasing any dogs brought into the program to adopters until any medical conditions in the pet have been addressed. As such, even with discounts and gratis services, veterinary care consumes a large portion of each year's expenses.

Generally speaking, WBHR looks at a minimum yearly expense in this area of between \$5,000-10,000 with some procedures in recent years approaching \$5,000 apiece.

Examples and common procedures over the past 10 years have been:

## **Leg Surgery**

Basset hounds tend to be prone to bowed legs which can be noticeable and corrected at a very early age or the basset can develop the condition during its first few years.

These surgeries average in the range of approximately \$3,500-5,000 depending upon the age of the dog, one or two legs needing treatment and whether it is a basic case of bowed legs or if severe turning and twisting is involved.

In some instances, surgery will require metal pins or even steel rods to correct problems much like similar procedures in humans. The healing is a little longer and incisions tend to be longer and more complicated thus increasing expenses.

Typical specific leg surgeries on behalf of the WBHR cost \$4,100 for two front legs and \$3,600 for a steel pin....with a discount.

## **Eye Surgery**

Although, thankfully, not as common as leg surgery, bassets are susceptible to a variety of eye problems especially glaucoma and damage to the eye due to its low height and penchant for traveling nose-to-the-

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ground and not being fully cognizant of their approaching and immediate surroundings. Sadly, it is not uncommon for veterinarians to remove an eye completely.

Post-op care is critical and dogs either must wear the Elizabethan Collar or a new style guard which offers greater flexibility as it is especially geared to shield pawing at the eye.

Typical eye surgery expenses run in the range of approximately \$1,200-1,500 depending upon the complexity and \$3,000-upwards for both eyes.

### Cancer

For reasons as yet not fully understood, basset hounds develop various cancers at a higher rate than most breeds of dog. Of particular note is lymphoma cancer which is one of the leading causes of death within WBHR.

The disease originates in white blood cells and can develop in almost any tissue especially lymph nodes. At the highest risk in this category are basset hounds along with boxers, mastiffs, St. Bernards, Scottish terriers, Airedales and bulldogs.

Expenses for cancer treatment vary tremendously based upon a myriad of factors such as type of cancer, location, severity, etc. The WBHR has special internal funding sources dedicated strictly to major medical situations which require periodic replenishing via fund-raising activities, grants et al.



# Transportation Program

The WBHR maintains a comprehensive transportation program to not only bring dogs into the program and place them in a foster home, but also to eventually move dogs on to their forever home.

Individuals, for the most part, donate their time and associated expenses although occasionally some expenses are reimbursed by the organization.

Transportation generally involves movement within the state of Wyoming and usually does not exceed about 200 miles. Movement is coordinated by WBHR and invariably involves a relay system with drivers volunteering for various legs of the journey and passing along the dog at designated points along the master route.

Individuals in the program genuinely have the best interests of the dogs at heart and one specific member/volunteer, Roger Byrd, became so dedicated after adopting "Blue" that he became a regular transporter and even tongue-in-cheek gave his efforts a name: Mr. Blue's Transport Service.

The vast majority of transportation ventures tend to be across the northern sector of the country: Idaho, Montana, South Dakota and Wyoming as well as into the adjoining Canadian provinces of Alberta and British Columbia. "Toby" and "Daisy", for example, traveled 1,278 and 1,054 miles, respectively to get from Casper to British Columbia

While the shortest distance between two points may very well be a straight line in the case of travel involving areas of western Wyoming a circuitous route is sometimes required. For example, in recent years "Gypsy" traveled from Chubbuck, Idaho, to Billings by dipping down into western Wyoming before shooting up to Montana.

Similarly, "Charlie" back in 2016 traveled just over 1,000 miles from eastern Idaho to Rapid City by having to head southeast into Wyoming before heading northeast to South Dakota.







Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue is honored to be the recipient of the 'Sandra Adams Fund for Emergencies' (SAFE).

The fund was established in February, 2013, by Sandra's soulmate, Barry Snyder, to honor her memory and the couple's devotion to bassetts in need. The two edited and produced the WBHR newsletter for several years and together were instrumental in the initial success and growth of the organization.

The WBHR administers the fund with finances being devoted solely to emergency needs for bassetts requiring correction of major health issues. Barry has graciously stipulated that the corpus of the fund will not be maintained at a level of less than \$1,000.

## *Sandra Adams Fund for Emergencies*

## *Blue Basset Critical Care Fund*



The 'Blue Basset Critical Care Fund' was established in October 2019 thanks to a generous grant of \$3,000 from Blue Federal Credit Union in Cheyenne.

The WBHR organization maintains a policy of not releasing any dogs brought into the program to adopters until any medical conditions in the pet have been addressed. As such, even with discounts and gratis services, veterinary care consumes a large portion of each year's expenses. Generally speaking, WBHR looks at a minimum yearly expense in this area of between \$5,000-10,000 with some procedures in recent years approaching \$5,000 apiece.

## *Special Funds*



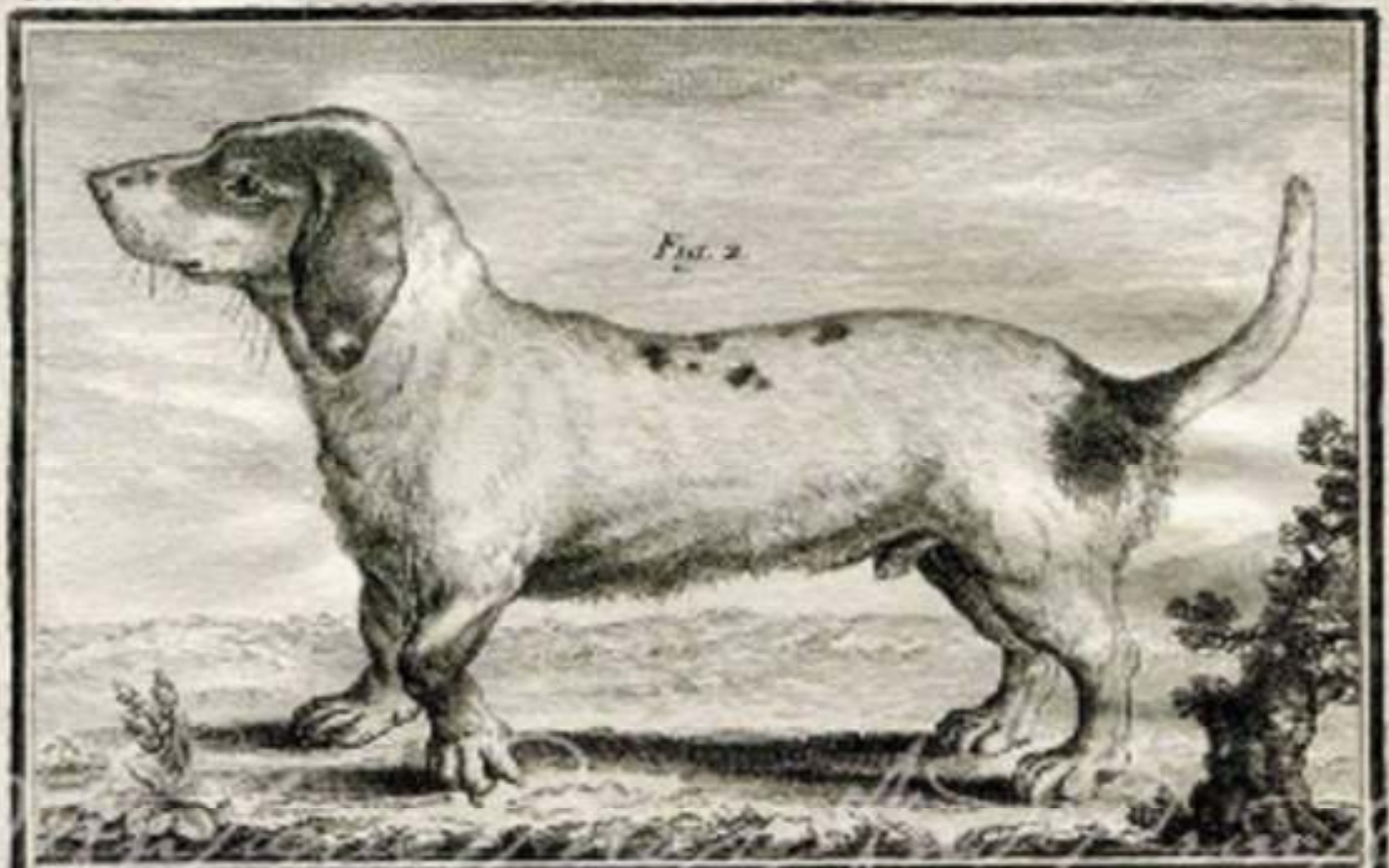


# History of the Basset Hound

Page 5.

LE BASSET A JAMBES TORSSES.

Pl. XXIV. Page 5.



Am. P. B. 1800

LE BASSET A JAMBES DROITES.

G. B. 1800



*It might be worthwhile to take a quick look at the history of our beloved Basset Hound as provided by WBHR Executive Director Holly Moen.*

The Basset Hound's origin is said by some to be from the United Kingdom, though its name is derived from the French word *bas*, meaning 'low' and the suffix *-et* added together meaning 'rather low'. The modern Basset Hounds are said to have descended from French dogs that were bred in Great Britain in the late 1800s, although the first mention of a "Basset" dog appeared in *La Venere*, an illustrated hunting text written in 1585. Those dogs were used to hunt foxes and badgers.

The Basset-type hound is believed to have originated as a mutation in litters of Norman Stagounds. They are a scent hound who were originally bred for the purpose of hunting hare. The Basset Hound sense of smell is second only to the Bloodhound. Basset-type



Basset Artesien Normand

Lane, who developed a more spectacular type with crooked front legs. These bassets were known as Basset Normand. These two developed breeds were bred together to create the original Basset Artesien Normand.

The French Basset Hounds were being imported into England as early as 1870, some of these were certainly the Basset Artesien Normand hounds. By the 1880s, linebreeding had thrown back to a different, heavier type.

Everett Millais is considered to be the father of the modern Basset Hound. In England the 1890s, he bred one of the heavier type Basset Hounds, Nicholas, to a Bloodhound, via artificial insemination, in order to create a heavier Basset Hound. The pups were refined with French and English Basset Hounds.

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The first breed standard, for what is now known as the Basset Hound, was made in Great Britain at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and this standard was later updated in 2010.

The Basset Hound was recognized as a breed by the AKC in 1885. On February 27, 1928, *Time* magazine featured a Basset Hound on the front cover. The story in that issue was about the 52<sup>nd</sup> annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show at Madison Square Garden, as if observed by a Basset Hound puppy.

Cartoons have featured Bassets over the years, such as *Droopy* and *Fred Basset*. Also, several Bassets have appeared in animated Disney films. Basset Hounds have appeared in *Smokey and the Bandit*, *The Dukes of Hazzard*, the series *Footloose*, *The Great Mouse Detective*, *The Princess and the Frog*, just to name a few.

In 1972, in the *Columbo* television series, Columbo had a Basset Hound named Dog. And of course, we all know of *Hush Puppies* brand shoes, which features a Basset Hound. His real name was Jason and because of Jason, Basset Hounds are sometimes referred to as 'hush puppies'. Even the *Maytag Man* had a Basset Hound for a companion in advertisements.

The Basset Hound currently ranks 39 out of 200 breeds for popularity, by the AKC. The AKC standard lists Basset Hound traits which include a life expectancy of 12-13 years, with a weight range of 45-75 pounds, with males being 55-75 pounds and females 45-65 pounds. The average height of a Basset Hound is 11" to 15".

