

Excerpt from Chapter 10, BHU Course 101

Basset Hound Owners Guide

Early Warning Symptoms Checklist

Consult with your veterinarian promptly if you find any symptoms listed below

A loss of appetite, trouble eating. Mouth pain, or excessive drooling.

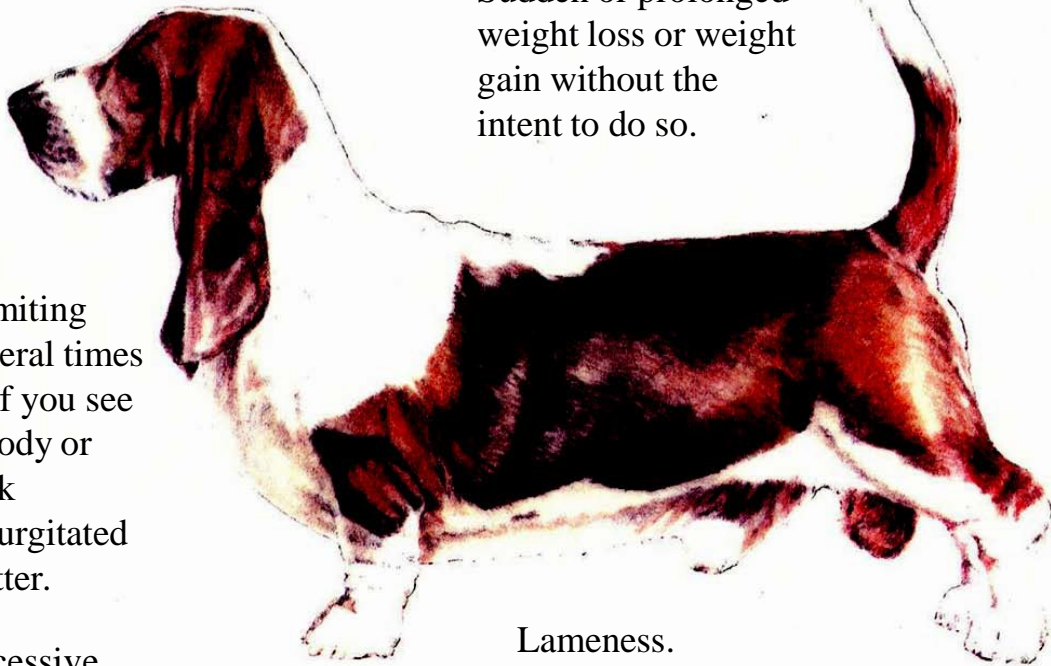
Squinting or discharge from the eyes.

Convulsions or seizures.

Diarrhea for more than a day. If bloody call your vet immediately.

Fever.

Sudden or prolonged weight loss or weight gain without the intent to do so.



Vomiting several times or if you see bloody or dark regurgitated matter.

Excessive water drinking.

Lameness.

Difficult breathing or coughing, or excessive panting.

Excessive scratching of the body. Excessive head shaking or rubbing the ears.

Frequent or strained urination, the inability to urinate, blood in the urine or incontinence.

An Owner's Checklist

Going over your dog regularly can help alert you to any potential problems

Check your dog's body and legs for any unusual lumps and bumps.

Check your dog's eyes. They should be clear and free of discharge.

Your dog's nose should be free of discharge.

Check your dog's coat. It should be clean and shiny. Look for any bald spots or evidence of fleas or ticks.

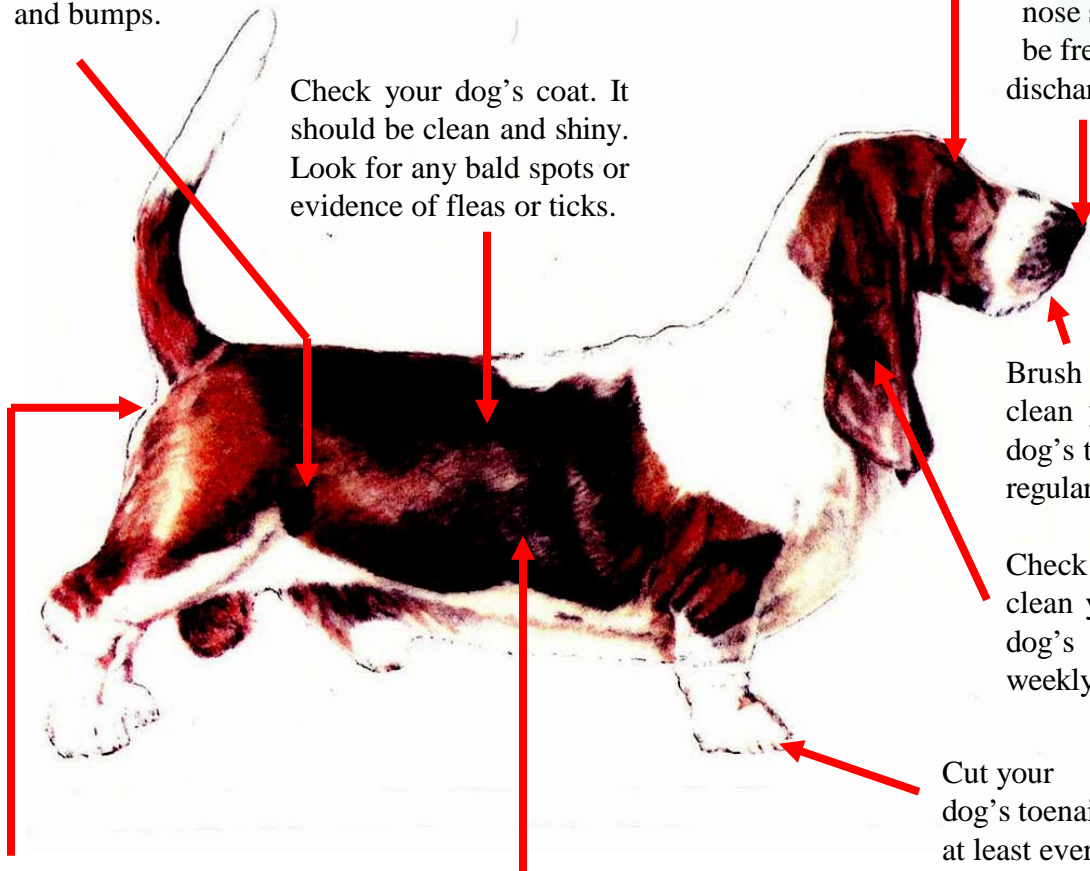
Brush and clean your dog's teeth regularly.

Check and clean your dog's ears weekly.

Cut your dog's toenails at least every two weeks.

Check your dog's anal sacs and rectal area. It should be clean and not irritated.

Make sure you can feel your dog's ribs under the skin. If you can't feel them easily, he is too fat.



Preventative Health Measures that Owners Can Take

- ✓ Buy a Basset Hound from a reputable breeder who will stand behind the health of his/her dog. If you adopt from a rescue group, discuss the health issues which may or may not affect your new hound. Pet store and puppy mill Bassets are more susceptible to numerous health problems and genetic defects.
- ✓ Don't overfeed your Basset. Obesity is harmful to your Basset Hound's heart, spine and joints.
- ✓ Religiously clean your Basset's ears once a week.
- ✓ Trim toenails at least once every ten days to two weeks.
- ✓ Check for impacted anal glands.
- ✓ Brush teeth regularly.
- ✓ Depending on the part of the country you call home, or where you and your pet travel, give your Basset regular heartworm medication and check for fleas and ticks.
- ✓ Immunize your Basset for preventable diseases. Follow your veterinarian's recommendations for your dog.
- ✓ Do not let puppies climb long flights of stairs or jump off objects such as beds, couches or porches, especially before one year of age. Be aware that both adult and puppy Bassets may be susceptible to injury by jumping from high places.
- ✓ A Basset is safest in a secure, fenced area.
- ✓ Make sure you continually "puppy proof" your home to keep your pet safe from toxic substances.
- ✓ If there is any sign of a medical problem, contact your veterinarian immediately.

BEWARE of Unprofessional Advice

Your veterinarian should be consulted when your Basset becomes ill. NEVER medicate your dog without the advice of a veterinarian. Don't try home remedies, remedies from the neighbor, internet chat rooms, etc. Don't use human prescription or nonprescription medicines without the advice of a veterinarian. Even over the counter medicines can be deadly. For example, acetaminophen can cause liver failure in dogs.

Recognizing when your Basset is “not quite right”

It is your responsibility to monitor your hound's general condition and learn the importance of recognizing when he is feeling a bit off. While you don't want to assume a loss of appetite is an emergency, in some cases it may be. Because your Basset can't “tell” you when he is ill, watch for any changes in behavior such as loss or increase of appetite, restlessness, an unwillingness to move or exercise as usual and withdrawal or depression.

Delays in obtaining necessary treatment can have tragic results for your Basset. Since your dog cannot speak, it is important that you be able to describe his symptoms as accurately as possible.

If you believe that your hound is not well, check his vital signs, especially his temperature.

VITAL SIGNS FOR YOUR ADULT BASSET

These values are considered the norm for a healthy adult dog at rest. You should know what is normal for your dog. Your veterinarian will be happy to show you how to monitor these signs. Rates and temperatures vary on puppies.

Temperature	101-102.2 Fahrenheit	Use a rectal or digital thermometer with a dab of Vaseline on the tip. Insert it carefully into the rectum. Read after 2 minutes.
Pulse	70-130 beats/minute	Place your fingers just inside the elbow and gently press.
Respiration	10-30 breaths/minute	Watch for movement of the chest.