

Diet advice for a puppy: from Marianne Nixon's book *The Basset Hound*

The Basset Hound

- *Will someone be at home for most of the day?* Bassets hate being left on their own for long periods of time.
- *Is there an enclosed garden?* The very nature of a Basset is to explore and hunt, so it would be useless to let a Basset pup out into an open-plan garden – the pup certainly wouldn't be there two minutes later!
- *Have you had a Basset Hound before?* I'm always glad if the reply is, 'Yes'.
- *Why do you want a Basset Hound?* If someone is thinking of owning a Basset Hound, they should have checked on the nature and characteristics of their chosen breed.

Paperwork

The breeder, prior to selling a puppy, should always have following available

- The pedigree.
- A feeding chart with a little advice on the breed.
- Any insurance papers for the puppies: I always insure my Basset puppies for the first month.
- The Kennel Club Registration must be included. The breeder can ensure that various endorsements are added to this, such as *Progeny Not Eligible For Registration* or *Not Eligible for the Issue of an Export Pedigree*. I feel that, before selling the puppy, the breeder should point out to the prospective buyer that these endorsements may only be removed by the breeder.

Sample Feeding Chart

[The feeding chart I give to prospective puppy owners]

The Basset Hound for its size has more bone than any other breed. To obtain this heavy bone the sire and dam must come of good, sound, healthy stock, but nature must be assisted by good feeding. The puppy that you have obtained from us has been bred from some of the finest blood lines in England, and from the time the dam was mated, she and her puppies have been fed on good quality meat, biscuits, milk, with calcium and vitamins added.

Food

Brackenacre.....is at present eating four meals per day as follows:

08.00 am	milk meal
12.00 noon	meat meal with vitamins and calcium.
04.00 pm	meat meal
10.00 pm	milk meal

The milk meal consist of:

- 190ml ($\frac{1}{3}$ pint) cow's or goat's milk with two Farley's rusks
- or $\frac{1}{2}$ tin rice pudding + 190ml milk
- or 190ml cow's or goat's milk thickened with Ready Brek

The meat meal consist of:

230g ($\frac{1}{2}$ lb) meat cut into small pieces plus a handful of biscuits. Moisten the whole with gravy made from Bovril or Marmite.

Vitamins and calcium per day:

- 2 Canovel Tablets + 2 Calcidee Tablets }
or 2 Pet Tabs + 2 Calcidee Tablets } From your vet
or SA 37 Powder + Extra Calcium and Vitamin D }

Canoval Tablets and Calcidee Tablets are for animals and are also obtainable from pet shops. A large marrow bone is beneficial for the puppy to chew, but *do not* give small bones. A Basset has a very strong jaw and can easily crunch small bones into splinters.

These meals can continue until the puppy is three months. Then drop one of the milk meals. At nine months the puppy will probably only require one milk meal and one meat meal, and by twelve months 280ml (1/2 pint) milk per day plus 450g (1lb) meat and biscuits should be sufficient.

Do not cut out the puppy's vitamins and calcium until it is at least 18 months to 2 years, and even then you could carry on giving them.

Should you wish to transfer the puppy to an all-in-one food product, start introducing it gradually into the meat meal, reducing the meat and biscuit and increasing the all-in-one product each day. Once the puppy is eating the all-in-one product, cut out all the other food. The instructions on the packet must be adhered to and no extra vitamins or calcium added.

Another product which is good for a Basset is Vetzyme tablets.

Worming and Vaccinations

Brackenacre.....was wormed at the age of six weeks and eight weeks, and should be wormed again at 12 weeks. He/she should also be taken to the veterinary surgeon to be epivaxed (vaccinated) at 12 weeks.

Sleeping Quarters

Brackenacrehas been living with the rest of the litter in a warm room for the last eight weeks, and no doubt it will be very strange for him to be alone with new owners. It will take a few days for him to adjust. He will, of course, miss the warmth and company. It will probably help to put a hot water bottle (well wrapped) in his bed, and a ticking clock seems to comfort a young pup. As he is used to sleeping in a draught-proof box on a blanket, it would help if this practice could be continued. If he has his own bed, kept in the same place, he will soon learn this is his particular corner of the room and will retire to it whenever he wishes to sleep or be quiet.

Exercise

A Basset should *never* be allowed to walk in the street before he has been epivaxed (fully vaccinated) at the age of three months. Also, because of the terrific growth rate of the Basset, he should *not* be taken for any long walks before the age of six months. Playing in the garden and short walks of about 180m (200yd) will be sufficient. *Do not* allow your pup to jump up and down steps or on furniture, as this could easily produce loose shoulders and unsound front.

Training

The Basset takes a long time to learn simple rules of obedience but, once a lesson has been learnt, it will take heaven and earth to remove it from his head, so please be patient and firm.

Grooming

The Basset needs very little grooming; one good brush a day will be enough. A couple of points to watch: if the ears drop in the food, just sponge them with warm water and soap to prevent them from smelling and stop food clogging the ends. Also, keep his nails clipped short.