

BASSET HOUND RESCUE OF GEORGIA, Inc.
DISCLOSURE FORM

BHRG Dog Name _____ **Rescue I.D. No.** _____

Responsible Basset Hound ownership requires a commitment in TIME, ENERGY and MONEY. Your Basset Hound has certain veterinary, grooming, nutritional, training and exercise needs. The following information discloses what is considered to be responsible, committed basset ownership:

* **Veterinary** - As a minimum, the Basset Hound will require annual visits to the vet for a checkup and shots. The check up should include an examination of the ears, teeth, heart, and anal glands, and a check for heartworms and intestinal worms. A stool sample is necessary to check for intestinal worms, and the vet will take a blood sample to check for heartworms. Heartworm disease is deadly! If the Basset Hound should have heartworms, you are facing a life-threatening situation. Treatment for heartworms will cost you several hundred dollars. Therefore, keep the Basset Hound on heartworm preventative. This requires giving the dog a pill once a month to prevent the disease. During the course of ownership, there may be other veterinary procedures such as dental cleaning and extractions. Depending on where you live veterinary costs can vary greatly. Expect to pay anywhere from \$100 to \$200 per year FOR ROUTINE VETERINARY CARE. Additional visits to the vet for non-routine procedures/visits could cost \$100 per visit. Dental work requires putting the dog under anesthesia and can cost \$150 or more.

* **Grooming** - Routine grooming of the Basset Hound can help keep veterinary costs to a minimum. A Basset Hound requires once a week cleaning of ears and teeth to prevent ear infections and dental problems. Unless you exercise your basset daily on concrete sidewalks, clipping toenails should be done every 7 to 10 days. Frequent brushing will decrease shedding. Daily grooming will also help in the early detection of fleas. There are many new products on the market that make flea prevention easy. Many dogs today are allergic to fleas, which leads severe skin dermatitis. Failure to do these simple things can lead to higher veterinary costs. Grooming supplies - brushes, ear wash, toothpaste, (You can not use human toothpaste on a dog. Buy only toothpaste especially formulated for dogs at a pet store or from a vet.) flea combs, nail clippers, etc., will cost approximately \$100.

* **Nutrition** - Adult Basset Hounds generally eat between 2 and 4 cups of food a day. Basset Hounds have a tendency to get fat, partly because their "sad" look lends their owners to "take pity on them" and give them more food than they require. Overeating is dangerous to all dogs, and can lead to back and heart problems. Feed a well-balanced name brand dry food supplemented with a quality canned food and/or other supplements. Grocery store or generic brand dog foods should not be used. Avoid soft mushy treats as they can contribute to teeth decay and gum disease. Hard biscuits make the best treats. Food for a Basset Hound will cost approximately \$20 per month.

* **Training** - All dogs, including the Basset Hound benefit from being taught a few basic commands (e.g., sit, down, stay, come, and off). The Basset and owner will benefit from a basic obedience class. BHRG highly recommends that the new first time Basset owner take a basic obedience course. The cost in this area is approximately \$100 for 10 classes.

* **Exercise** - Despite their lazy reputations, the Basset Hound requires exercise. All Basset Hounds love a walk, as they are by nature explorers and enjoy "checking" out the neighborhood. A Basset Hound without sufficient exercise will become a nuisance due to boredom. Ninety percent of all behavior problems can be attributed to lack of exercise. The exercise requirements of a Basset Hound vary. Some Basset Hounds are more high-energy than others, and a fenced yard will not suffice. A fenced yard is not a substitute for daily exercise. A daily walk of approximately 20 minutes is the average requirement. More is better.

* **Other Stuff** - The Basset Hound will require a collar, leashes and leads, tags, crate or bed, toys, bowls, etc. Expect to pay approximately \$100 to "outfit" your home for a dog. If you use a crate for your basset hound, you can expect to pay between \$50 and \$100 for one.

I have read the above and understand the responsibility and commitment associated with owning a Basset Hound. I'm prepared to be a responsible Basset Hound owner.

Sign: _____ **Date:** _____

BHRG highly recommends the following books to read:

The Basset Hound (An Owners Guide to) by Barbara Wicklund.
The Dog Who Loved Too Much, by Dr. Nicholas Dodman.
Second Hand Dog, by Carol Benjamin.
Surviving Your Dog's Adolescence, by Carol Benjamin.
Canine Good Citizen, Every Dog Can Be One, by Jack and Wendy Volhard.
The Adoption Option, by Eliza Rubenstein and Shari Kalina.
Good Owners, Great Dogs, by B. Kilcommons and P. Kunkel.