

# Grand Bassett Griffon Vendéen Club of America

2025 EDITION ♦ FALL NEWSLETTER



**SOBA**

*Photo submitted by D. Helle*

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***Have a GRAND Fall Y'all!!!***



# A Message from the President...

Dear GBGVCA Members,

I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful Fall weather and getting ready to gear up once again for the Holidays. As I mentioned in our last newsletter, we have several new (GBGVCA member) contributors who have joined our Newsletter Team providing knowledge and experience of the vast versatility of our noble breed.

I am going to keep my comments brief in this edition to highlight a special event the Board of Directors has recently approved. The GBGVCA Board of Directors has recently approved our participation in the AKC Meet The Breed Event in New York, February of 2026. Following please find an important notice about this upcoming promotional opportunity:

## CALLING ALL NORTHEASTERN GRANDS!!

We need you to Volunteer at AKC Meet the Breeds (MTB) February 7-8, 2026, at Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in NY. Laurie Green is the Coordinator of this MTB Event, and she is in charge of our booth at this fabulous yearly event. We are looking for Club members to bring their Grand (over the age of 4 months) to share and show what fabulous dogs they are.

Over 30,000 people attend this amazing yearly event. If you are interested, your dogs must be very friendly, open to constant petting, touching and having pictures taken. Vaccine records are required by the AKC for every dog in attendance.

<https://www.akc.org/sports/akc-meet-the-breeds/> For all the information you need.

Below is a snapshot of what is provided to a volunteer:

- Digital Exhibitor Entry passes for booth volunteers.
- Five lunch vouchers per day per booth (picked up onsite).
- Exhibitor Lounge with complimentary beverages AM/PM.
- A NYC Exhibitor Guide will be provided that will include all the event logistics: Move in/out, parking, check-in, area hotels, required forms, etc.
- Prepaid Parking available and recommended: <http://bestparking.com/new-york-ny-parking/destinations/javits-center-parking/>
- Move In/Move Out – A temporary parking area will be designated for unloading/loading.

Please contact Laurie Green as quickly as possible if you are interested in joining her at the GRAND Booth!  
[essspringers@gmail.com](mailto:essspringers@gmail.com)

In closing, please join, post and share our new Facebook page which is titled Grand Basset Griffon Vendeen Club of America (GBGVCA). This platform allows us to share with our members and the GBGV community about the events, opportunities and accomplishments in celebration of our GBGV ambassadors.

Stay safe...stay healthy...stay Grand!

*Corey*

Corey Benedict  
GBGVCA President

Please share photos, stories,  
& updates to our email  
[newsletter@gbgv.net](mailto:newsletter@gbgv.net)

## GBGVCA Officers

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## GBGVCA Directors

Tiffany Cannon      Jane Jonas      Laura Offerdahl  
Kitty Steidel      Cindy Wilt





# Rip's GRAND Caribbean Adventures



Hey there! I'm Rip, a handsome Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen living my best life on the tropical island of Utila. My humans just dropped some big news - they're going on a month-long adventure without me! But don't worry about this pup, because I'll be hanging out with Axel and his brother Edwardo.

My humans made friends with Axel, a local who works at The Point restaurant - it's one of our favorite hangouts on the island. He and I already had a test run at this pet-sitting gig when my humans got stuck in La Ceiba after Dad's dental appointment. The ferry didn't come back that night (typical island life, am I right?), but Axel and I had a blast. Well, mostly - I did give him my best sad puppy eyes at first, but he wasn't fooled. Between you and me, I'm already plotting some ways to make this month interesting. There's nothing like a good jungle adventure, and

maybe - just maybe - if Axel forgets that leash, I might take him on one of my famous expeditions. And with two pet sitters? Double the chances for extra treats, if you ask me! A clever GBGV like myself knows how to work the system... 😊

Now, I should probably mention that I'm actually pretty good at training humans. Mom and Dad think they've got me figured out but wait until I show Axel and Edwardo my full repertoire of tricks! There's my classic "*but I haven't eaten in hours*" face (works every time), my "*just one more beach walk*" tail wag, and my personal favorite - the "*surely you didn't mean for me to stay in the yard*" disappearing act. But don't tell my humans about that last one!

I heard Mom telling Dad that they picked Axel because he's "responsible" and "knows all about my shenanigans." Challenge accepted! Though I must admit, that one night when he watched me before, he didn't fall for any of my usual tricks. But that was just one night - this time I've got a whole month to perfect my charm offensive. Plus, with his brother Edwardo in the mix, I've got a whole new audience for my award-winning performances!

My sister Noriega isn't quite as excited about this whole arrangement. She's always been the cautious one in the family - more of a "let's stay close to home" kind of girl. While I'm planning my grand adventures, she's been giving Mom and Dad her worried looks and sticking extra close to their sides. I keep telling her it'll be fun - after all, two pet sitters means double the belly rubs! But she just gives me that look that says, "Not everyone thinks sneaking off to the jungle is a good time, Rip." Maybe I'll have to tone down my mischief-making just a bit... at least until she gets comfortable with our new temporary humans.

So, here's to a month of island adventures with Axel and Edwardo! I promise to (mostly) behave, keep an eye on my worried sister, and maybe only lead them on one or two jungle expeditions. After all, what's the worst that could happen? Don't answer that, Mom and Dad! But seriously, I know they picked good humans to watch over us, and deep down, I'm pretty sure this is going to be an awesome adventure for everyone involved. Now, if you'll excuse me, I need to go practice my "*just one more treat*" face in the mirror. A GBGV's work is never done!

Until next time, *Rip*





# IN THE RIBBONS



In our introduction article, we mentioned that there are approximately 200 suffix titles available to be earned in AKC! In this issue, and the next several, we will focus specifically on those under the **Companion Events** umbrella. To provide a little history and brief explanation of what those events include:

**OBEDIENCE:** The first Companion Event offered by the American Kennel Club (AKC) for titles was Obedience, which was developed in the 1930s and saw its first licensed trial in 1936. Obedience trials were designed to demonstrate a dog's usefulness as a companion, showcasing well-trained dogs that behave appropriately in various environments and around other dogs. The initial titles earned were the Companion Dog (CD), Companion Dog Excellent (CDX), and Utility Dog (UD) titles, awarded for successfully completing specific skill sets in the Novice, Open, and Utility classes, respectively.

**TRACKING:** The American Kennel Club (AKC) offered its first separate tracking test in 1947. Tracking was previously part of the Utility Dog title. The first test for a specific Tracking Dog (TD) title was held in 1947, and this test was offered as a separate event from the original obedience competition.

- **1937:** The first tracking test was held as part of the Utility Dog title.
- **1947:** Tracking was established as a separate class and title, the Tracking Dog (TD), with the first test awarded that year.

**AGILITY:** The American Kennel Club (AKC) first offered Agility trials in 1994, with the first AKC-licensed agility trial held on August 13, 1994, in Houston, Texas. This marked the official establishment of the sport within the AKC, though the sport itself originated in England in 1978.

**RALLY:** Leading up to its official adoption, the sport was developed from the "doodling" exercises that handlers used to warm up for traditional obedience competitions. AKC staff spent four years refining the rules and exercises before the official 2005 debut,

holding test sessions in their parking lot in Raleigh, North Carolina.

**VERSATILE COMPANION DOG:** The AKC Versatile Companion Dog (VCD) title recognizes dogs that demonstrate talent in multiple disciplines: Obedience, Agility, and Tracking. There are four levels (VCD1 through VCD4), each requiring a specific combination of titles in these three events. For example, a VCD1 requires Novice-level titles in Obedience (CD) and Agility (NA/NAJ) along with a Tracking Dog (TD) title. Each successive title requires an ever-increasing combination of advanced titles in each discipline.

It is also important to note that when dogs achieve ever increasing upper levels of titles in specific events, it's always the last, or highest title that gets noted. Thus, those titles often encompass three or four additional level titles that were required to reach the highest one added to their names.

In Researching the archives for how many titles were earned, in COMPANION EVENTS specifically, by OUR GBGV BREED since 2008, I have come up with an impressive 81 titles in all the four disciplines plus the VCD collective acknowledgement designation (give or take a few for possible lack in record keeping). Agility ranks the highest, but with the fewest people doing, or having done it (with 33 titles). Rally comes in second, but also with THE MOST teams involved (24 titles). Obedience is a dismal third (13 titles), and Tracking is last (7 titles), and the VCD designations: 3 VCD1, followed by just 1 VCD2.

I will interject that Companion Dog Events are the area I dabble in the most. HOWEVER, I will also add that I had never done agility before I had my two



Grands and exactly WHY I started it in my mid 70's, I cannot really explain. Except for the fact I was so astonishingly impressed with what one dog had already done (see the name below!), and that encouraged me to also try it. I mention this to both encourage others to consider Agility, OR ANY OTHER SPORT we have available to us with our dogs, AND to emphasize the fact it gave me deep enjoyment along the way. Plus, it allowed us to achieve that coveted VCD1 title! (So, if I can do it, so can you!)

In recognizing the dogs that compiled the most comprehensive title progression, specifically from the Companion Events, these are the dogs, past and present, that deserve recognition:

Polygor Clancy Eighth Wonder VCD2 BN GN RAE  
MXP MJP2 MJPB NFP T2BP SWN CGCA TKP (aka  
JUNO - Owner/Handler: Megan Esherick)

Sunpowered's And The Crowd Goes Wild CD BN RM  
RAE CAA DCAT SCN RATN CGCA CGCU TKI  
(aka ELLIE – Owners: Lynn Sobin Comstock & Claire  
Stretch – Handlers: Clair Stretch & Cheri White)

Always Sidekick Red Red Wine VCD1 BN RE AXP AJP  
ACT2 TKN (aka EMMETT – Owner/Handler: Jane  
Jonas)

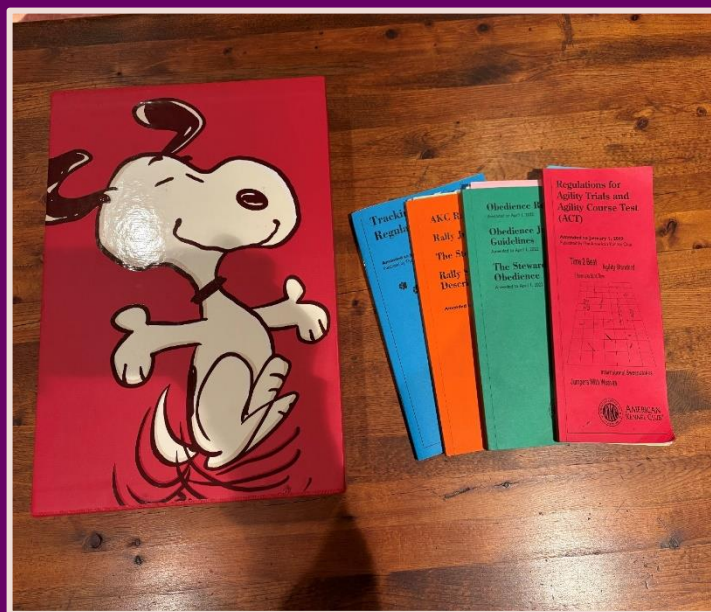
Sidekick's Secret Femme Hors La Loi VCD1 BN RA  
AXP AJP ACT1 TKN FTN ( JOSEY – Owner/Handler:  
Jane Jonas)

All these dogs have some added accomplishments in areas OTHER THAN Companion Events, as well. It is especially important to note that many of our breed have a plethora of titles from the PERFORMANCE EVENTS, as well as from the other various departments in AKC that provide so many options for us and our dogs.

But for this issue, we'll look a little deeper into what you may need to consider trying these events for yourselves, or to go further than the entry level titles.

Happiness is knowing the rules! You can obtain the current rules on the AKC website. Be sure to read it **ALL**. Since so many considerations, and explanations for how each component is judged will be further

explained. Additionally, I would highly recommend first go watch some events and then WORK an event or two to further your comfort zone for entering and exhibiting.



Also take into consideration that all these events, except Tracking, will have some elements of jumping included. Agility is the obvious one, but did you also know that upper-level Obedience also has some jumping. Sometimes while carrying a dumbbell. Even Rally has some minimal jumping.

But fear not. Your dog will not have to leap tall buildings in a single bound! Jump heights are based on individual height at the withers. Additionally, in Obedience, our breed is among those required to only just  $\frac{3}{4}$  their measured heights. As well, both Agility and Obedience also have preferred divisions that may afford an even lower jump height. In all cases, once your high jump height is established, if broad jumps are included, they will be twice the distance of the high jump height. However, to confuse us, even though we are running the same dog, AKC has different jump heights for these three activities, seemingly to confuse us, but it's really in the dog's best interest! Often your dog will jump different heights in each event, depending on where his measurement falls in the jump tables included in the Regulations.

So, let's try to demystify the jump heights for these three events.



**AGILITY:** For agility, the dog requires TWO judges to do a formal measurement, using a wicket, similar to what you see pictured. You will submit those to AKC and receive an official jump card from AKC. Jump heights are bundled into increments of about every 4 inches and the dog will jump the highest measurement to where he stands withing those increments.

BUT...You have the option to run your dog in PREFERRED CLASS, and this will lower his jump height by a full 4 inches. Plus, you will be awarded an additional 5 seconds in the Standard Course Time. Preferred courses are the same as regular courses, but his required jump height is less than if he ran in Regular class. All the GBGV that have earned titles in agility, ran in preferred classes. I'd surely recommend always doing that!

**OBEDIENCE:** For Obedience you will have the advantage of being in one of the approximately 50+ breeds AKC has recognized that is advisable, and allowed, to jump only  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the measurement at the withers. Additionally, you do not need a formal measurement. You can figure out your dog's height and discern his jump height according to the tables provided in the Rule book, and state that on your entry forms. No official measurement is required, but there is an option for a judge to call for a measurement (In all my 30 plus years of doing obedience and then rally events I have never seen a judge request an official measurement). Also, the charts are in increments of 2 inches, so dogs have

very custom level jumps as opposed to having to jump within the broader set of increments that Agility has. ALSO...you have an option to run your dog in PREFERRED Obedience, and that affords an even lower jump height. Preferred level titles also have a somewhat different set of rules that may provide some slightly different requirements for components. So read your rules closely and then decide.

**RALLY:** In Rally your dog will be required to jump either a high jump or broad jump on the course, at the upper-level titling options; but only Once in Advanced, Twice in Excellent, and Once in Masters. Even though there are no breeds afforded the  $\frac{3}{4}$  jump height designation in Rally, this event has requirements that are lower than even those would be in Obedience. The brackets for measurements are broader, thus fewer differences and much lower heights than either Agility, Obedience, or Preferred Obedience!!!! So, you have it relatively smooth sailing for what is required in Rally...YEAH!!!

For illustration of the different jumps my dogs were required to do :



**Emmett** measures 19"  
Regular Agility jumps – 20"  
Preferred Agility jumps – 16"  
Obedience jumps – 14"  
Preferred Obedience jumps – 10"  
Rally jumps – 12"

I jumped him:  
16" Preferred in Agility.  
14" Obedience  
12" Rally





**Josey** measures 16"

Regular Agility jumps – 16"

Preferred Agility jumps – 12"

Obedience also jumps – 12"

Preferred Obedience jumps – 8"

Rally Jumps – 12"

I jumped her:

12" Preferred in Agility

12" Obedience

12" Rally

Whatever you embrace with your Grandies, always remember this is a HOBBY. If it is not fun for the dog it's not worth doing it. Do not compare your dog to any other dog. Each dog, even within the same breed, and even of the same gender, is an individual with different drives, different personalities, different ways to sometimes make you more humble than you had bargained for. You WILL have bumps in the road. But if you approach it with patience and trust, that feedback loop will evolve, and then BOTH of you reach a higher level of bonding and mutual respect. It's all about teamwork and far less about scores.

Ribbons are a thrill to earn, but often they don't come as easily as those "other breeds" seem to earn them. Remember the mantra "The bigger the challenge, the sweeter the Q" .... and to use a passage from one of my Tracking judge friends :

*The words that make up the titles around the dogs' names are the least important part of their meaning. Each title is a visible sign of a relationship between a dog and a human, and of the time they spent together. It represents time devoted to physical care and to exercise, to grooming and to training, and to shared travel and adventure. It represents an understanding between a dog and a human that enables them to work together and to compete as a single unit. It is a visible representation of the animal-human bond that we treasure so dearly. When you see the titles around a dog's name, don't just think, "Oh, that was a show dog." Rather think, "That was a dog who, at some time and some place, was loved."*

*Alicia Keegan, DVM*

In our next newsletter, we will take a closer look at RALLY, and get some insight from the owners who went the distance to RAE and RM. If you are dabbling in Rally, please share photos, and send any questions you'd like to have expounded on so we all can do more with our GBGV's in Companion Events. I, personally, feel Rally is an excellent hobby that develops skills, communication, and provides tools to use in so many OTHER areas we may engage in. Till then....hug your dogs!

*Jane*





# EMERGENCY TUBE ANOTHER VEHICLE PET SAFETY TOOL

*Article shared by MyGBGVLife – Going through life as a French Scent Hound*

We recently added an emergency tube to our vehicle pet safety arsenal. With Mom's health issues two years ago and our tire incident while traveling last February, Mom started to think more about us pups. What would happen to us if there were an accident and Mom was hurt, unconscious, or even worse. It doesn't matter if we are here in town or on a road trip, what would happen to us?

Of course, we always wear our seat belts or are in a Ruffland crate to keep us safe if there is an accident. We wear tags with our name and Mom's phone number, and we are chipped, but what should first responders do with us? There are horror stories of dogs being taken to the pound after an accident where their human was severely injured or killed. Mom wants to do everything she can to keep us safe and get us back to someone who knows us and would care for us. It's not something we like to think about, but it is the responsible thing to do. You never know when something will happen.

The emergency tube is made of PVC pipe and has two end caps that slide on and off but are also snug fitting. These tubes come in different sizes too. We have muzzles and leashes in the back of the car in case of emergency. If we are scared, muzzles may be necessary. All of us have trained wearing one just in case. In our tube we have lots of information, but some people buy larger ones and keep leashes inside them too. What should you put in the tube?



- Pet's name
- Photo of each pet if you travel with more than one
- Age of pet
- Neutered or spayed
- Vaccination record
- Any medication information
- Allergies a pet has
- Name of clinic, vet, and phone number
- Name of one or two people to contact to come and get your pet in an emergency
- Where leashes and muzzles are located in your vehicle

Our emergency tube was on Etsy, but there are other sites online where you can buy them. They come in different sizes, colors and some let you customize the wording on the outside. Where do you keep them in the car? You can attach them to the dog's kennel; we have ours attached to the back of the driver seat. Since we travel alone, as one, two, three, or all four of us, we put all our info into the one tube.

Hopefully no one will ever need to use the tube, but it gives Mom peace of mind because you never know what will happen and when. We are thankful Mom does her best to make sure we are taken care of no matter what.





# The "Scent-sational" GBGV

In this issue, I would like to talk a bit about how one gets started in scent work. Dogs of any age can train and compete as young as six months old. Since scent work is a natural talent for dogs, especially scent hounds, training the basics doesn't take long. The more one practices and competes, the better teams become as the human learns to read and support their dog, and the dog learns to trust their human. One thing I love about scent sports is how quickly a dog grasps the concept and can compete. In scent sports it is really the human that has the most to learn as the dog should be the driver in the sport.



The above photo is Olivia at seven months in a container search at a trial in a greenhouse. Other sports, like agility, take a year or two of training to be able to compete and some parts can't be done until a dog is at least a year old. Dogs must learn to do what the human wants, and it isn't something a dog is born to do. All that takes time.

Scent work, and all the scent sports, are constantly evolving as humans learn more and more about how dogs use their noses to navigate through the world. Miniscule particles fill the air and land on the ground telling a story to a dog's nose of how the scent is

traveling and where the actual source is located. When we begin a search with our dog, we hand them the control and watching them work scent cones and track odor is like painting a beautiful picture with their nose. They show us how their world looks and how they find things in life, not with their eyes, but with their nose. A tin with odor can be right in front of them for the world to see but they will work the scent cone to locate it. The GBGV is definitely not a sight hound! We learn to move our body correctly to support what our dogs are doing, all of which makes a better scent work team, but more importantly, makes the team stronger. My hounds trust me and know it is their search, and I trust them to work hard and find things. The relationship we build is a wonderful thing. It is a privilege to have a canine partner work so hard to find what I am looking for and then to be so proud and happy to show it to me.



Nelson searching a trash bin in the search area at seven months old.

How does one get started in scent work? My top tip would be for people to find a scent work trial in your area and volunteer to help in a few trials. It's much easier to learn how to do something when you have seen how it is done. There are many different



organizations, AKC, NACSW, CPE, and USCSS are just a few of the bigger ones. Trials always need volunteers, and it is a great way to learn throughout your entire nose work career. I am a volunteer coordinator for a club where I am on the trial committee. A few weeks ago, we had a couple volunteers who had never even been to a trial, and some had not yet started nose work training. At the end of the day, they were all absolutely amazed at all the things they learned, and they were so much more excited to get their dogs started.



This photo is of Nelson at six months old, his first AKC Scent Work trial at a school. He did quite well. It is never too early or late to start your dog, or specifically, GBGV, in scent sports as they are born to do this kind of thing. Since I started training my own hounds, the way I learned works best for them we have had so much fun. Mine are introduced to odor at nine weeks old and a couple weeks later they are searching for simple hides in our house. At six months I enter them in their first AKC Scent Work Trials and yes, they earn novice titles. It helps to start them young and always keep it a fun game. Part of sniff sports is learning to work in all sorts of environments. Starting to introduce them to novel places early will build their confidence and make them more successful later. Novice trials have one hide to find in each search. It

sounds simple but wait until you stand there at the start line clueless, and fully dependent on your hound. No home training or class can provide you with that feeling. Your dog also needs to learn you are different in a trial, and they will accept that going forward.



This is Olivia at seven months old at her first AKC Scent Work trial at a camp. She did great and even got High In Trial. As you train and start to compete, you too will learn what works for your dog and what does not. More trials with your dog finding the hides build not only his confidence in himself but also your confidence in your dog.

Most training schools won't start puppies until they are at least six months old. There are multiple training methods out there now. I've tried a few and combined the things that work for GBGV's and that is how my Olivia and Nelson have been trained. I really hope to see more GBGV's get into scent sports. It would be so fun to see another of our noble breed at a trial. If anyone is interested in getting their puppy started super early, contact me and I can help you get started.

*Joy*

[MyGBGVLife@gmail.com](mailto:MyGBGVLife@gmail.com)



**2025 GBGVCA Midwestern Regional  
Specialty, Sweepstakes  
& Junior Showmanship Competition**  
30 August 2025 ~ Lexington, KY





# 2025 GBGVCA Midwestern Regional Specialty & Junior Showmanship Competition

Lexington, KY ~ 30 August 2025 ~ Honorable Judge: Mrs. Neena L. Van Camp

# 2025 GBGVCA Midwestern Regional Sweepstakes

Lexington, KY ~ 30 August 2025 ~ Honorable Judge: Mr. Johnnie M. Roe

## RESULTS

BEST of BREED – BEST JUNIOR HANDLER

**CH SIDEKICK'S COURAGE OF THE NORTH AT CROSSROAD**

*Owned by: A. Lancaster, L. Green, B. Humphrey, J. Garcini*

*Bred by: B. Humphrey, C. Benedict, & C. & P. Wilt*

BEST of OPPOSITE – BEST OWNER/HANDLER – BEST BRED BY EXHIBITOR

BEST VETERAN – BEST VETERAN in SWEEPS

**GCH CH SIDEKICK'S ICE QUEEN AT R-N-B CM**

*Owned by: L. Green, B. Humphrey, & B. Miller*

*Bred by: B. Humphrey, C. Benedict, & L. Offerdahl*

WINNERS DOG – RESERVE BEST JUNIOR HANDLER

**SIDEKICK'S DANCING IN THE RAIN**

*Owned by: B. Humphrey & C. Benedict*

*Bred by: B. Humphrey & C. Benedict*

RESERVE WINNERS BITCH

**ETHOS LOVEFOOL BCAT**

*Owned by: S. Thomas & N. McLean*

*Bred by: N. McLean*

SELECT BITCH – BEST in SWEEPS

**GCH CH ARAGONEZ DU GREFFIER DU ROI**

*Owned by: L. Green, B. Humphrey, J. Garcini & J. Huisman*

*Bred by: J. Huisman*





## Mission Statement....

The Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America Foundation, Inc., was established to protect, support, defend, promote, educate, and preserve the health, breeding, well-being, and integrity of the Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen through the receipt and administration of funds for charitable, scientific, or educational purposes through contributions from the general public.

The Foundation Board is pleased to announce we have two new board members. The first person joining our board since the last newsletter is Susan Thomas.

Susan got her first Grand, Vara, in 2023, training her and showing in Confirmation. Her primary history with the dog world is that of dog sports. For the last 20 years she has been a member of the Carolina Dog Training Club in Greensboro, NC. She has held several positions on the board of the Carolina Dog Training Club and is their current Board President. She is a member of the Furniture City Kennel Club and the Mid-Atlantic Hound Association. She teaches a variety of Obedience classes, has trained in Obedience and Rally, she also placed a CD and RE on her PBGV. In addition, she has placed a FCAT on her mixed breed and a BCAT on her GBGV. Susan also owns and operates her own pet sitting and transport business, On Our Way Pet Care LLC, in the Greensboro, NC area. The Foundation Board is thrilled to have Susan join us and look forward to all the expertise she has to offer.

The second person we are welcoming is Cindy Wilt. We are excited to have Cindy back on board! Cindy, along with her husband Phil, operate Kennel Talus in Mobile, AL. She has been involved with showing and breeding Vendéen hounds since 2007, when she received her first PBGV, Seneca. Cindy has an extensive background in dog sports including competing in Obedience, Agility, Flyball and Confirmation. She served as the Obedience Chairman and trainer for the Lompoc Kennel Club in California from 1987 to 1991 and was a founding member of the Central California Obedience Training Association.

Cindy met her first Grand at a dog show in 2012, Shortly after she and Phil imported a puppy bitch named Sophie from Jolanda Huismann, Kennel Greffier Du Roi, in the Netherlands. Since that time, they have bred and raised Grands that made exceptional family companions, excelled in conformation and performance competition. Kennel Talus strives to produce conformationally correct, healthy and well socialized puppies from health tested parents. Cindy believes the continued success of the breed in the US will be through support and education of future owners and breeders.

Thank you to the Club members who have taken the time to complete the Health Survey. For those who participated, the data reflected that the Thyroid has the most identified problems in our breed. The Foundation Board agrees it looks like a good area for us to direct our interest and possible monetary support for studies.

The Board would like to remind and encourage all club members to complete the health survey on your beloved hounds. Please do not underestimate the importance of this information being captured on the breed; it is vital to breeders and owners alike. Below is the QR code, select "Health Survey" and then "Fill out form", it only takes a few minutes to complete and we need your participation!

## OFFICERS

*Lara Latshaw, President ~ Gretchen Tanenbaum, Vice President  
Julie Hamilton, Secretary ~ Brent Humphrey, Treasurer*

## DIRECTORS

*Laurie Green ~ Gretchen Tanenbaum*

Monetary and like-kind contributions can be made as follows:

*By check, made payable to the GBGVCA Foundation,  
mailed to Brent Humphrey, Treasurer*

*3495 US Hwy 27/441 Fruitland Park, FL 34731*

Through *PayPal* by sending funds to [treasurer@gbgv.net](mailto:treasurer@gbgv.net) noting in the remarks section "FOUNDATION"





# 2025 GBGV AKC Titles of Record

In chronological order by date title earned from January 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025

AKC Title	Registered Name	Owner(s) of Record
Companion Dog	Talus Sidekick Ace Of Hearts CD BN CGCA TKN	Bonnie Alonzo
Champion	CH Sidekick's Red Badge Of Courage	J Briscoe, C Benedict & B Humphrey
Champion	CH Ethos Walking On Air	Nancy E Mclean
FCAT2	Ethos Let's Go Crazy TD FCAT2 SWE SCM SEM SBM RATO CGC TKN	Joy Schneider & Nancy E Mclean
Canine Good Citizen	CH Sidekick's Through The Years CGC TKN	G Tanenbaum, G Tanenbaum & B Humphrey
Trick Dog Novice	CH Sidekick's Through The Years CGC TKN	G Tanenbaum, G Tanenbaum & B Humphrey
Agility Excellent Preferred	Sidekick's Secret Femme Hors La Loi VCD1 BN RA AXP AJP ACT1 TKN	Jane Jonas
Farm Dog Certified	Etho's League Of Her Own! FDC CGCA TKN	N Whobrey, N Mclean & E Whobrey
Farm Dog Certified	Ethos Just Like Heaven FDC BCAT CGC TKN	N Whobrey, N Mclean & E Whobrey
Scent Work Interior Master	Ethos Let's Go Crazy TD FCAT2 SWM RATO CGC TKN	J Schneider & N Mclean
Scent Work Master	Ethos Let's Go Crazy TD FCAT2 SWM RATO CGC TKN	J Schneider & N Mclean
FIT Dog Bronze	Talus Sidekick Ace Of Hearts CD BN CGCA TKN FITB	Bonnie Alonzo
Grand Champion	GCH CH Sidekick's Through The Years CGC TKN	G Tanenbaum, G Tanenbaum & B Humphrey
Farm Dog Certified	Ethos Let's Go Crazy TD FDC FCAT2 SWM RATO CGC TKN ATT	J Schneider & N Mclean
Farm Dog Certified	Ethos Loving The Northland FDC FCAT3 SWD SWM RATO CGC TKN	Joy Schneider
DCAT	GCH CH Sidekick's This Year's Eye Candy DCAT	T Turner & B Humphrey
AKC Temperament Test	Ethos Let's Go Crazy TD FDC FCAT2 SWM RATO CGC TKN ATT	J Schneider & N Mclean
Fetch Novice	Sidekick's Secret Femme Hors La Loi VCD1 BN RA AXP AJP ACT1 TKN FTN	Jane Jonas

## GBGVCA, Inc. Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes ~ 21 May 2025

**Roll Call - Present:** Corey Benedict, Brent Humphrey, Barbara Miller, Cindy Wilt, Jane Jonas, Kitty Steidel, Micky Ford, Tiffany Cannon  
**Excused Absence:** Laura Offerdahl

**Report of the President:** Corey reported that the National in Perry, Ga was fantastic. We had 17 GBGV's entered. The next event is the Bluegrass Classic which starts August 30.

**Report of the Vice President:** Nothing new to report.

**Report of the Secretary:** The minutes of March 19, 2025, board meeting was circulated to the Board members prior to the meeting for review.

Motion #01-05-25 Brent moved to accept the minutes as circulated. Barb seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Report of the Treasurer:** The report reflected an operating balance of \$6565.08. There is a cash drop due to expenses getting ready for the Specialties. We are waiting for proceeds from National. The club paid for part of Jolanda's expenses to come to the National to judge and give a presentation on the breed. Renewals are in July which will be added to the budget. There is an across-the-board increase in the dues for all members, the increase is \$5 per membership. The increase vote took place during the Annual Meeting. The financial report will be committed to file.

### Committee Reports:

**2025 National/Regional:** The next regional is in Lexington, KY on August 30, 2025.

Applications have been approved, judges are assigned, and contracts were signed today, everything is in place. Neena Van Kamp & Johnie Row will be our judges. The 2026 National will be in Perry, Ga. The Fauve club is bringing a judge from France; we are still hoping to partner with them down the road.

**Foundation:** The foundation has a couple of openings but has decided not to fill them at this time. They are still waiting for the results on the long leg research by the University of Missouri.

**Membership:** The is nothing new to report.

**Newsletter:** Brent is very excited and encouraged about the new columns that will be featured in the Newsletter. Jane's column "In the Ribbons" will be in each edition. Joy Snyder's column The "Scent-sational" GBGV will cover scent work and barn hunt and will be featured quarterly. Both would like to see more people meet and acknowledge the breed.

**Judges Ed:** In late January/early February Kitty will present a seminar in Phoenix, Az comparing PGBVs and GBGVs. Currently, she does not have plans to have dogs at that seminar.

**Health:** The breed survey has been sent out by the Foundation. All members are encouraged to submit it back to the Foundation. It was suggested that the survey be resent to all members, Brent will head this task. In the long leg research project, cheek swabs were taken and sent to the University of Missouri in April, nothing has been reported back.

**Breed Preservation:** At the National Jolanda Huisman gave a great seminar on the breed which will hopefully be posted on our website in the member only section.

**Other:** Nothing to report.

**Unfinished Business:** Nothing to report.

**New Business:** Nothing to report.

**Announcements:** Nothing

Meeting Adjourned at 7:27 pm (EST)

## AKC Canine Health Foundation:

Your organization's 2025 SECOND quarter Donor Advised Fund (DAF) statement with the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) is attached, showing activity through 6/30/2025. Your support of good health for dogs through CHF enables us to work together for research grants that impact better health for dogs.

### Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America Donor Advised Fund

#### 2<sup>ND</sup> Quarter 2025 Statement (1/1/2025 – 6/30/2025)

1/1/2025 Balance	<b>\$1,264.51</b>
Contributions	\$0.00
PPCPP Contribution	\$0.00
Investment Earnings/(Losses)	\$61.15
Research Support*	(\$113.02)
6/30/2024 Balance	<b>\$1,212.64</b>

\*To obtain a history of your organization's research support or to learn about research areas in need of sponsorship, please email [chfgrants@akcchf.org](mailto:chfgrants@akcchf.org).

## GBGVCA, Inc. Committees

**Awards:** Brent Humphrey, Chair; Julie Hamilton, Jackie Briscoe

**Breeder Referral:** Cindy Wilt, Chair; Tiffany Cannon

**Breed Standard:** Corey Benedict; Kitty Steidel

**Breed Preservation:** Gretchen Tanenbaum, Chair;

Rita Day, Laurie Green, Terry Howell

**Companion Events:** Claire Stretch, Chair;

Judy Wickliffe, Jean Finnegan

**Events:** Corey Benedict, Chair; Laurie Green, Joy Schneider

**Health:** TBD, Chair; Brent Humphrey,

Lara Latshaw, Lynn Sobin-Comstock

**Judges Education:** Corey Benedict, Co-Chair; Kitty Steidel, Co-Chair

**Public Education/Meet the Breeds:** Brent Humphrey, Chair

**Membership:** Brent Humphrey, Chair;

Barbara Miller, Lynn Sobin-Comstock

**Newsletter:** Lara Latshaw, Chair; Brent Humphrey, Laura Offerdahl

**Nominating (2026):** Cindy Wilt, Chair

**Policies & Procedures:** Brent Humphrey, Chair;

Kitty Steidel, Laura Offerdahl

**Rescue:** Cindy Wilt, Chair; Deborah Howd

**Website/Social Media:** Terrence Howell, Chair; Lara Latshaw



# 2026 GBGVCA National & Regional Specialties

April 8 – April 11, 2026



**Georgia National Fairgrounds  
& Agriculture Center**

401 Larry Walker Parkway, Perry, GA 31069

In association with the Peach  
Blossom Cluster & The Combined  
Specialty Clubs of Atlanta, Inc.

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## Show Committee

Barbara Miller, 2026 Show Chair, [bmiller4740@centurylink.net](mailto:bmiller4740@centurylink.net)

Brent Humphrey, 2026 Show Secretary/Hospitality Chair, [bhumphrey@bairdcorp.com](mailto:bhumphrey@bairdcorp.com)

Shari Green, 2026 Trophy Chairs, [luvofaspringer@gmail.com](mailto:luvofaspringer@gmail.com)

Julie Hamilton, 2026 Silent Auction Chairs, [julie.hamilton365@gmail.com](mailto:julie.hamilton365@gmail.com)

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## Judges

**Mrs. Linda Riedel - Regional Conformation (April 10, 2026)**

**Mrs. Robin MacFarland – Regional Sweepstakes & Veteran Sweepstakes (April 10, 2026)**

**Dr. Andrea Bradford - National Conformation (April 11, 2026)**

**Mr. Kent MacFarland – National Sweepstakes & Veteran Sweepstakes (April 11, 2026)**

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## Host Hotel

**Hilton Garden Inn – Perry, GA**

112 Hampton Court, Perry, GA 31069

Our previous host hotel, Hampton Inn, in Perry, GA, is moving into their new hotel at the same address. Hotel room rate is \$149.00 plus tax. There is a pet fee of \$50.00 for up to 2 dogs. Reservations need to be made through the hotel at 478-313-1651, use **Booking Code: GBG** when you make the reservation. The hotel is located less than 3 miles from the Georgia National Fairgrounds & Agriculture Center. The new hotel will have enhanced amenities including an onsite restaurant.

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## RV Parking

RV reservations can be made through the **Georgia National Fairgrounds & Agricenter** online at the GNFA website, [www.gnfa.com](http://www.gnfa.com). No mail in reservations will be accepted. RV reservation fees will be processed in full at time of reservation. Advance reservation is strongly advised. Limited spaces may be available during the show. If spaces are available, fees must be paid in cash at the gate. Limited 50-amp circuits are available.



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## Designated Grooming

A designated grooming area has been assigned for the **GBGVCA** exhibitors. Enter EAST GATE to unload for grooming in the Sheep Barn. There will be 24-hour security. Please review the following guidelines requested by the All-Breed Cluster:

Crates must be stacked – name & local contact required on all crates  
No living rooms. No rugs. No Lounge Chairs  
No strollers in exhibitor buildings

One X-pen per four dogs  
NO SOFT SIDED CRATES IN GROOMING AREA.  
Dog bathing facilities with hot & cold water provided

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## GBGVCA Annual Awards Reception & Silent Auction

Please join us for the **GBGVCA Annual Awards Reception & Silent Auction** on Friday evening, April 10, 2026, at 7:00 PM in association with the 2026 GBGVCA National and Regional Specialties. We invite you, along with your friends and family, to join us for a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our noble hounds, acknowledge GRAND accomplishments, and show support to our parent club and foundation.

***FURTHER DETAILS TO FOLLOW SOON WITH LOCATION, COST AND PAYMENT INFORMATION***

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## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS *(Tentative)*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026

**Atlanta Kennel Club All Breed Show**

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026

**Valdosta Kennel Club All Breed Show**

**GBGVCA Welcome Party - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026

**Valdosta Kennel Club All Breed Show**

**2026 GBGVCA REGIONAL SPECIALTY:** The Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America, Inc. will host a concurrent specialty, in conjunction with the **Valdosta Kennel Club**, for Conformation as their Regional Specialty

**2026 GBGVCA REGIONAL SWEEPSTAKES & VETERAN SWEEPSTAKES:** The Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America, Inc. will host Sweepstakes and Veteran Sweepstakes, in conjunction with the **Valdosta Kennel Club** as follows. Sweepstakes is open to dogs and bitches, 6 months & under 18 months. Dogs shown in Sweepstakes must also be entered in one of the regular classes at the regular entry fee and on the regular entry form. Veteran Sweepstakes is open to dogs and bitches 7 years & older. Dogs shown in Veteran Sweepstakes need not be entered in one of the regular classes at the regular entry fee.

**GBGVCA ANNUAL AWARDS RECEPTION & SILENT AUCTION – 7:00 PM**

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026

**Atlanta Kennel Club All Breed Show**

**2026 GBGVCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY:** The Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America, Inc. will host a concurrent specialty, in conjunction with the **Atlanta Kennel Club** for Conformation

**2026 GBGVCA NATIONAL SWEEPSTAKES & VETERAN SWEEPSTAKES:** The Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America, Inc. will host Sweepstakes and Veteran Sweepstakes, in conjunction with the **Atlanta Kennel Club** as follows. Sweepstakes is open to dogs and bitches, 6 months & under 18 months. Dogs shown in Sweepstakes must also be entered in one of the regular classes at the regular entry fee and on the regular entry form. Veteran Sweepstakes is open to dogs and bitches 7 years & older. Dogs shown in Veteran Sweepstakes need not be entered in one of the regular classes at the regular entry fee.