



# About Your New Basset

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## SECTION A – General Information

Name of Basset \_\_\_\_\_ Tag Number \_\_\_\_\_ Adoption Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date (estimate is unknown) \_\_\_\_\_

Crate Trained? YES NO Need to be crated? YES NO House Broken? YES NO

Notes \_\_\_\_\_

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## SECTION B – Background

Please explain the background of this basset \_\_\_\_\_ ANIMAL SHELTER \_\_\_\_\_ OWNER-SURRENDERED \_\_\_\_\_

Notes \_\_\_\_\_

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## SECTION C – Medical

1. Date Spayed / Neutered \_\_\_\_\_ OR Deadline for Spayed / Neutered to be completed \_\_\_\_\_

Vet used to Spayed / Neutered \_\_\_\_\_ Vet's Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Vet's Address \_\_\_\_\_

2. Brand of Heartworm preventative medication given \_\_\_\_\_

Date of LAST Heartworm preventative given \_\_\_\_\_ Date NEXT Heartworm preventative due \_\_\_\_\_

Date next Heartworm test is due \_\_\_\_\_

3. Brand of Flea/Tick preventative medication given \_\_\_\_\_

Date of LAST Flea/Tick preventative given \_\_\_\_\_ Date NEXT Flea/Tick preventative due \_\_\_\_\_

4. Date NEXT Vaccinations or Booster Shots are due \_\_\_\_\_

5. Date of LAST Bordatella (kennel cough) vaccination given \_\_\_\_\_

6. Your Basset recently completes treatments for the following condition(s)

Notes \_\_\_\_\_

7. Other Medical conditions currently being treated or medications currently being administered

Condition	Medication Required	How to Administer <i>(i.e. tablet daily until gone)</i>
a. _____	_____	_____
b. _____	_____	_____
c. _____	_____	_____
d. _____	_____	_____

## SECTION D – Food & Nutrition

1. Type of food currently being given \_\_\_\_\_ WET FOOD    DRY FOOD
2. Quantity at each feeding \_\_\_\_\_
3. Feeding times \_\_\_\_\_ (NOTE: Two feedings per day is recommended)
4. Any special diet notes \_\_\_\_\_

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## SECTION E – Treats & Toys

1. Special treats or favorite toys

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## SECTION F – Obedience Training

1. Has this dog successfully completed obedience training?    YES    NO
2. Commands this Basset knows
- |              |          |             |              |            |
|--------------|----------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| HEEL         | SIT      | STAY        | DOWN         | COME/HERE  |
| LEAVE -IT    | DROP- IT | FETCH       | JUMP         | SPEAK/BARK |
| GO -OUT      | OUT      | GO- OUTSIDE | GO -INSIDE   | NO         |
| KENNEL/CRATE | SHAKE    | GIVE -HUGS  | GIVE -KISSES |            |

Notes \_\_\_\_\_

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## SECTION G – Sleeping

1. Where is the dog used to sleeping? (*Check one*)
- Inside, free roam of house
  - Inside, crated
  - Inside, confined to certain room(s)

Notes \_\_\_\_\_

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## SECTION H – Known Fears

1. Known fears that your Basset has (i.e. storms, loud noises)

Notes \_\_\_\_\_

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## SECTION I – Special Comments or Cautions

1. Any other special comments or cautions about your Basset

Notes \_\_\_\_\_

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## SECTION J – Adjustment Period

Your new Basset will need time and patience to adapt to their new family; usually 2-3 weeks. Until your Basset has completely bonded with you and the new surroundings, they may show some separation anxiety by standing at the door or window, as though “ready to go” or following you closely from room to room. During this adjustment period you may see signs of stress such as panting, pacing, shedding, or a more frequent need to drink or urinate. Many rescue Bassets were strays and used to running free; be careful not to let your Basset off leash near an open door for at least a couple of weeks, since they may try to push past and make an escape (children should be especially careful of this). Give your Basset a place they can get to and be alone if desired; many Bassets like to use their crates. It is completely natural for some Bassets to prefer to sleep in a nearby room by themselves. Do not force your Basset to interact with children or other visitors; respect signals that they prefer to rest or to be alone.

It will help your Basset adapt more quickly if they can count on some routines. Even people appreciate having routines in their lives, especially when faced with the stress of being in a new situation.

### Food Related Routines

- a. Feed the same brand and quantity of dog food
- b. Feed in the same place and at about the same time each morning and night
- c. If you change to a different brand of dog food, do it gradually (mix half new & half regular food for a few days before making a total switch). This will help prevent stomach upset or loose stools

### Sleeping Related Routines

- a. Keep your Basset’s bed in the same place
- b. Go to bed about the same time each night

### Obedience Training Routines

- a. Have regular obedience training sessions at home
- b. Consistently work on simple commands like Come, Sit, Stay, or walking (without tugging) on a leash

### Potty Routines

- a. Dogs usually have to eliminate more frequently if they are under stress (such as being in a new environment).
- b. Allow dog to eliminate first thing in the morning, immediately after playtime, shortly after dinner time, when they first wake up from long naps, and just before bedtime.
- c. Begin by walking your Basset frequently, then at gradually lengthening intervals as your trust level increases and the dog settles into the routine.

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## SECTION K – Children

It is exciting having a new dog, but be careful your Basset does not get over stimulated during the initial adjustment period. Do not leave your Basset unsupervised with small children (ages 6 and under).

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## SECTION L – Collars

As soon as possible, get an I.D. tag with your name and address. Prong or choker type collars can easily strangle or injure a dog by catching on fences, crates, etc. **Never** leave these types of collars on outside of training sessions.

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## SECTION M – Crates

Suncoast Basset Rescue strongly encourages the use of crates for training puppies and adults. The large 20 X 30 plastic crates are preferable to wire crates because they are escape proof and provide a more den-like “home”. Plastic crates can, however, retain heat and should be placed in an area with moderate temperature, not too hot or cold. Remove all “training” collars before placing your dog in his crate to prevent injury or strangulation.

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## SECTION N – Toys

Make sure your Basset has indestructible or completely edible chew toys, especially if they will be alone for several hours each day. Consult with a reputable pet store or veterinarian about the best kinds of toys to have available. Rawhides can also be choking hazards and should not be used without supervision.

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## SECTION O – Current Pets

**Cats:** If your Basset is not used to living with a cat (or vice versa) it may take several weeks or even months before you can safely leave them alone together. Leave a short leash on your Basset and if they try to chase the cat, give a short jerk on the leash and shout "NO!" It is important to be consistent as you try to correct a powerful chase instinct. Be sure your cats always have a safe escape route and do not leave them alone with the new Basset until you are completely certain their relationship is safe.

**Dogs:** If you have more than one current dog, introduce them one at a time to the new Basset - preferably your most dominant dog first. Both dogs should be on leashes, on neutral ground such as a neighborhood sidewalk or park so your current dog will not feel obliged to protect his/her territory. Do not allow the dogs to rush up to each other with their entire bodies; let only noses touch first and be prepared to separate them quickly if necessary. After the initial sniff session, take both dogs on a walk together. Then let them enter your house together. Your current dog will need more reassurance and praise during this period of adjusting to a newcomer and should be given the benefit of the doubt if a dispute arises. In other words, if the dogs fight, put the new Basset in a 'Time Out'. It is the newly-adopted Basset that must learn to adapt to the current rules of the house. Help your current dog understand they have not been 'replaced' in your heart and home. Do not leave the dogs alone together until you are completely certain their relationship is safe.

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## SECTION P – Training & Safety

As with any new pet's arrival, safety issues cannot be over-stressed - for family members, friends, current pets, and the new Basset. It is best to err on the side of caution until you and your new Basset become completely familiar with each other in all kinds of circumstances.

Introduce your Basset slowly to new people, sights and sounds while observing his/her behavior. This will be your best guide in knowing how quickly or slowly to proceed. Some rescued Bassets (and puppies) have not had a wide range of experiences and most will adjust more easily if they receive plenty of patience, reassurance and praise.

Suncoast Basset Rescue strongly recommends obedience training classes for all new dog owners. These classes can help you learn what to expect from your Basset (and vice versa) in the years ahead, and cover a wide range of topics such as health care, proper feeding, first aid, etc.

Do not let your Basset off leash outside a fenced area. Bassets think with their noses and if they pick up the scent of another animal they will wander away and not find their way back.

Make sure fence gates are locked & secured so your Basset could not be easily stolen from your yard if unattended.

Keep doors and gates latched securely. Use caution when they are opened so the Basset cannot push past. A good practice is to teach your Basset never to go through a door until you give the "magic word."

If you live near water or have a pool, remember that not all Bassets know how to swim and can easily drown. Do not give your Basset access to water while unattended. Install barriers or use other measures to prevent your Basset from falling into the water or through a pool cover. Teach him/her how to get out of the water using the stairs.

Many foods, plants or substances can be harmful or deadly to dogs (such as chocolate, avocado seeds, onions, poultry bones, antifreeze). Check with your veterinarian for a complete list of these toxic items.

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## SECTION Q – If You Adopted a Basset Puppy

**Feeding:** To discourage any food protectiveness or anxiety about eating, once or twice a week pick up the food dish during mealtime, wait a few seconds, then give the food back. Other times just gently pet and praise your puppy once or twice while eating.

**Health:** Puppies' immune systems are very fragile. Until all puppy shots have been completed, avoid public areas where diseases may be present (pet stores, rest areas, parks).

**Housebreaking:** To help your puppy hold his/her bladder until the morning walk, you could discontinue water after 9:00 P.M. but have plenty available at all other times.

**Safety:** Take time to puppy-proof your home, garage, and yard. Put away anything your puppy can reach with paws or teeth. Things like electrical cords on lamps can sometimes be moved around behind a table or chair so the puppy can't get to them as easily.

**Training:** Snapping or being "mouthy" is inappropriate for puppies and adult dogs alike, and should be discouraged at every instance. Help your puppy become accustomed to standing still and being touched so s/he will feel more comfortable at the vet's office or when strangers visit. Gently brush fur, inspect ears, hold each paw and look between the toes where rocks may be stuck, and even check teeth by gently lifting up your puppy's lip and touch his/her teeth, tongue, and gums.