

The Aims and Objectives

of

***The Association of
Bloodhound Breeders***

(Founded 1897)



www.associationofbloodhoundbreeders.co.uk

The Association was founded at a meeting of Bloodhound owners held on 12th April, 1897. Membership to be open to any persons interested in the promotion of the breeding and training of Bloodhounds, and who have the welfare and improvement of the Breed at heart.

In the first year there were 25 members.

The main objectives of the Association were recorded as:

1. To foster the interests of the Breed generally.
2. To approach Show Committees with the view of obtaining extended classification in the Bloodhound classes.
3. To offer prizes for competition at Shows in addition to those offered by Show Committees.
4. To do everything possible to promote by Trials or otherwise, the training of Bloodhounds to hunt man.

And these objectives remain unchanged over 100 years later.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF BLOODHOUND BREEDERS

COMMITTEE

The affairs of the Association are conducted by a Committee of 11, which includes a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and 7 committee members. Certain of the committee members are responsible for the organisation and running of the Shows and Field Trials, Cup and Trophy records, sales of insignia and other items, and for the magazine.

All Committee Members are subject to a ballot by the membership on a three year rota, one third of the committee to retire annually, but are eligible for re-election. Members can be co-opted onto the Committee when special circumstances exist.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscriptions are fixed by an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting, and are payable on 1st January each year.

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

The committee presents an Annual Report, with Accounts, to the Annual General Meeting, which is held in April each year. After approval by the Members attending the meeting, the Report and Accounts are sent free of charge to all Members.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

It is not necessary to be a Bloodhound Breeder to become a Member; only a genuine love of the Breed is required. A proposer and seconder who are already Members of the Association must sign applications for membership.

All new Members must be approved by the Committee as being desirable persons who have the welfare and improvement of the Breed as their objective.

Application forms for Full Membership, or for Joint Membership (partners not exceeding two in numbers), are available from the Hon Secretary.

When completed, the Application Form together with the appropriate subscription for Full or Joint Membership should be sent to the Hon Secretary of the Association.

A list of principal breeders who are Members of the Association is also available from the Hon Secretary.

SHOWS

The Association organises an Open Show and a Championship Show each year, usually in June and September respectively. These are held under Kennel Club Rules & Regulations and Challenge Certificates are on offer at the Championship Show.

FIELD TRIALS

Every year the Association holds two, four day, Championship Field Trials, one in the Spring and the other in the Autumn.

The locations for these activities vary considerably, and may be anywhere in the UK depending on where land can be made available at the time.

At the Championship Trials there are Novice, Junior, Intermediate and Senior Open Stakes. A Kennel Club Working Trial Certificate is on offer for the winner of the Senior Stake.

There are also three Advanced Limited Stakes, which are held during the Winter months.

Hounds obtaining 1st or 2nd place in the Senior Stake may compete for the Brough Cup on lines 6 hours cold.

The winner of the Brough Cup and hounds awarded Certificates of Merit in that stake, along with Working Trial Champions by invitation, may compete for the Bracken Trophy on lines 12 hours cold.

THE BLOODHOUND

CHARACTERISTICS

Very powerful hounds, adult males weighing over 100lbs when in fair condition, and standing approximately 27" high at the shoulder. Bitches weigh approximately 90lbs and are about 25" high.

Bloodhounds are affectionate, though somewhat reserved at first with strangers. They are, by nature, rather sensitive and are seldom found to be quarrelsome with other dogs. They make very good travellers. They do like to be with a family. Absences, like discipline, should be kept to a minimum.

A well cared for and properly exercised Bloodhound has a life expectancy of 8-10 years though some may exceed this age.

Compared with other dogs Bloodhounds may seem wilful, stubborn and ever disobedient, until it is realised that hounds of this breed have retained the true hound characteristics of hunters, and make their own decisions. Group obedience training, as practised with other breeds, is quite wrong. Simple training to make them acceptable for living with other people is all that can be accepted.

TRAINING

House training may start after weaning as in other breeds.

Bloodhounds while still young should be trained to understand the meaning of the words "NO", "LEAVE" and "SIT" and to come when called by their name. Also, if possible, to walk without pulling too much on the lead. *Harsh* discipline may result in failure and timidity.

Familiarity with farm stock, particularly sheep and cattle, should start at an early age. Exposure to wildlife, hare and pheasant, is also highly desirable. Any sign of rioting (chasing) *any* animals, cars or cyclists should be reprimanded. Praise should be lavish for *good* behaviour.

Over-possessiveness of the owner's car or food should be discouraged.

FEEDING

Their growth rate is enormous. Good wholesome high protein food is therefore essential, particularly during their first year of life. A puppy will normally gain, on average, over a quarter of a pound in weight each day during the first year. Monotonous rations consisting of starch carbohydrates are not suitable. No more food than can be completely eaten in a matter of about a minute should be given. Four meals a day should be given once weaned, reducing to two meals a day at a year old.

GROOMING

Bathing is generally unnecessary. Coats can be kept lustrous and free from smell by occasional combing and brushing. Ears do need some attention and should be cleaned out with dry cotton wool at regular intervals to prevent ear canker developing later in life. Eyes will require an occasional wipe to remove matter that accumulates in the dusty and windy weather, and particularly after sleeping.

TRAVELLING

If started at an early age and comfortably bedded down in the car, bloodhounds make good travellers and will happily spend the night in a closed car. Ventilation should be adjusted to suit weather conditions. No hounds should be left in unattended cars in summer months.

Young hounds may be found to be somewhat timid and frightened of strange noises and people if not accustomed to such surroundings in their puppy days. Experience of new sounds and environment should be introduced progressively. Young hounds should be on a secure lead to instil confidence and security when taken into strange surroundings.

HUNTING

Training to hunt man (the "Clean Boot") may start at the age of 2-3 months. All such training should be in the form of a game that the puppy really enjoys. Information may be found in the Association of Bloodhound Breeders' publications, "Hints on the First Stages in Training of a Bloodhound Puppy to Hunt Man" and "Bloodhounds and Their Training". New owners are made welcome at Training Days held periodically by the Association in open country districts. Working Permits are awarded to indicate the hound has undergone training, can be expected to hunt with some proficiency and is under control and safe with farming stock. The Permit allows the hound to enter Novice Stakes at Championship Field Trials held under Kennel Club Working Trial Rules and Regulations. From that Stake hounds may qualify to enter the higher and more difficult Stakes and eventually the very advanced closed Stakes.

SHOWING

Few bloodhounds really enjoy being taken to dog shows. Training for the Show Ring is needed beforehand so that the hound will run happily and freely on a short lead, and will stand in the correct manner when positioned for the Judge's inspection.

BREEDING

Large litters of 10-12 puppies are not unusual from a young bitch. Before any sale of puppies is considered it is essential that the breeder meets the new owner and fully ascertains something about the home life that the puppy will be going to. Too frequently it has been found that new owners of Bloodhounds tire of them, and later wish to part with them, after finding out too late that the nice little puppy has grown into an exceptionally large animal with an enormous appetite, requires a tremendous amount of exercise, takes up a large space in the house and car, and slobbers a great deal. Only those who appear prepared to dedicate much of their leisure time to their Bloodhound should be considered as being suitable to own one.