

BASSET HOUNDS: A BREED IN REVIEW

JOAN GOLDSTEIN



I reside in Warren, New Jersey. Most of my weekdays I do substitute teaching for Pre-K through Middle School. I have been in dogs more years than I wish to say. Let it suffice to say, more than 50 years and I have been judging since 1991. My original breeds were Whippees and Greyhounds. Along with my late husband, Bob, we established the Gold-Dust line and were quite successful basing our breeding lines on the Mor-Shor Whip-pets and the Windholme Greyhounds.

CELESTE GONZALEZ



Photo ~ Kohler

I live in Thomasville, North Carolina and have been here for the past 10 years. I have lived in various parts of the US based on where my career took me. What do I do outside of dogs? I work in Clinical Research for a large medical device company in Clinical Quality Assurance within the Interventional cardiology/peripheral interventions/structural heart business unit. I am active in procuring dog food for the needy elderly who own a pet dog through DINER (Dogs In Need Eat Right), which then distributes through the existing Meals on Wheels programs in the area. Thanks to generous exhibitors, DINER collects dog food at various dog shows in the central North Carolina region. I've had 41 years in dogs; 41 years in showing; 18 in judging.

SYLVIE MCGEE

I live in Olympia, Washington, about an hour south of Seattle. It's a great location with easy access to shows in Seattle, Portland and to either airport. I love it! I am an independent grant writer, serving a wide variety of human services, housing, health and education agencies. Every day is a different challenge and a different satisfaction! My whole life with dogs, but since 1997 showing, when I was fortunate to get my first show bitch from Bobbi Brandt of Sasquatch Bassets in Alaska. She's been my mentor ever since! And I'm a pretty new judge-started with Bassets in 2012 and now also judge Juniors and Wotki!!g on a number of Hound applications.

RICHARD NANCE



My wife and I live about 45 miles north of Santa Fe, New Mexico. We live at the base of a mountain at an elevation of 6250 feet. We moved here three years ago from the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas area. We enjoy traveling and cruising on the smaller cruise ships. We have had Bassets in our lives for almost 350 years. Showing and Breeding for 20 years and I have been judging for 7 years. I am currently the Judges Education Chair for The Basset Hound Club of America. I have held several positions with our parent club, including president.

ROBERT OPEKA



I live in Oakdale, Pennsylvania—a small town outside of Pittsburgh. I'm a retired x-ray technician and flight attendant. I purchased my first two Basset Hounds in 1975. I continue to breed and show. All of my dogs are breeder-owner handled. I have been judging for 16 years.

HALPYBUS



I live in Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada. Outside of dogs, I am by profession a chartered Professional Accountant. I also have a great interest in classic cars and have a small collection from the 40s through to the early 70s, mostly Fords and Ford Mustangs. I have been in dogs all my life. Although, no longer breeding or showing, we did so for 40 years. Stopped breeding in 2004 and showing in 2011. I have been judging for 23 years.

JOANIE RUSH



I live in Sacramento, California. We are retired and enjoy spending our time with the dogs and our property doing gardening. We each spent years on the board serving the BHC members and our breed. This is our 55th year exhibiting Bassets, we were encouraged by local exhibitors to show our first young bitch who we received from my husband's boss. His wife needed help with the three boys and a Basset while she was

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recuperating from major surgery. Since I was expecting our third child (all under three years old), I thought it best to help with the dog, I soon learned they will like back the kids but not the dog! After our first show we realized if we wanted to remain in the sport we had to find knowledgeable mentors/breeders to help us understand the Basset. We were fortunate when we found a lovely Tarzan Smith (a great friend in Mary Meredith of Arizona, Shortly after acquiring our special boy, we transferred to Ohio and had the help of great mentors and friends in the breed, We met and learned from some of the best in the breed: the Pattersons, Betty Kinslow, the Brandts, Mary Jo Shields, Chris Teeter, the Smiths and the Brauns to name a few, I was approved to judge the Basset Hound in 2007.

SUSAN SMYTH



I have lived in New Jersey for most of my life and in my current home since 1994. I worked in the field of education for 25 years starting as an elementary teacher, then as a guidance counselor and for the final 10+ years as a Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant

for the Child Study Team. I ended my career as the National Certified Educational Diagnostician in the United States, I was born into dogs, my grandfather had a beagle kennel and was a founding member of the Garden State Beagle Club. As a child, I observed many beagle field trials from horseback and was encouraged to work at the trials. When I was 10 years old I purchased a black and tan standard dachshund and was encouraged to show her by a neighbor who showed whippets. She took me under her wing and thus my dog show life started. I joined our local all-breed kennel club in the 1980s, by then showing anti breeding Basset hounds in the late 1990s. I was encouraged to apply for my judging license.

CLAIRE "KITTY" STEIDEL

[I live in Scottsdale, Arizona with my husband, Chuck, 7 year old Tiger. I am retired, and Gf of Grand Udders (retired)



and I will be in ring when he is fully ready. I do love outside dogs I guess, as I write and read about them, judge them and do presentations on Basset. PBCrVs and GBGY. My husband and I like to travel but often we plan the trips in US, such as Nationals

for three breeds and we travel with our daughter and son-in-law

nationally and internationally. It seems I always have a deadline though, so I am always thinking about how to present a subject, often a subject not scintillating in itself in an interesting way. My articles that I loved writing because I learned something about other animals were the one on Coonhounds, when I delved into the habits of the raccoon, and the article on Elkhounds, when I learned so much about the moose and its environment and made a new friend a moose author in Norway. I have been in dogs since 1961 (with our first Basset. I attended shows for 11 years before embarking on showing. After observing Hisssets for two years, I decided our Basset, though purchased from a well-known breeder, had some good features but was not show quality. I investigated pedigrees and photos and offspring of stud dogs from the pedigree. It was after raising two litters that I felt I had one worthy of the show ring. Primarily, excellent in Bred By for about 15 years. until I was approved for the hound group. I have been judging since 1994. I also bred and showed PBGVs.

DOUGLAS C. TAYLOR

I live in Roeland Park, Kansas, I am a retired Prof of Theatre Technology, most recently at UMKC University. 01 Missouri/ Kansas City. After retirement I do dogs. Been owned by Basset Hounds for 48 years, judging for 26 years and showing my own Bassets for 30 years,

1. Describe the breed in three words.

HT: Heavy boned, long and wrinkled.

CG: Achondroplastic, long, low and doleful.

SM: Substantial, deliberate and sensitive.

NO: Temperament, movement and structure.

R: Three words that come to mind is recognizable.

low-key and patient. The Basset Hound characteristics make the breed very easy to identify. long neck, low to the ground and sad expression, The Hound set is very patient, which makes him a great pet where I have children in the household.

HP: The breed in three words: gentle, willful and determined,

JR: V-shaped front, balanced, deliberate mover.

SNS: Versatile, pack and scent hound eyes, that is more than three words.

CKS: Noble, sturdy and dependable,

Del: Long, low and Hound"

2. What are your "must have" traits in this breed?

JG: Heavy bone, level topline, prominent sternum with well sprung ribbing extending as far back as possible and proper, effortless movement. Right after those must haves, would love to see good wrinkling and long ears set properly on a classic head.

WITH JOAN GOLDSTEIN, CELESTE GOMEZ,
SYLVIE MCGEE, RICHARD NANCE, ROBERT OPEKA,
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CG: **N** Type without exaggeration 2) correct proportions 3) correct shoulder placement, assembly and angulation 4) wrap-around front 5) movement uuu is smooth, powerful and effortless,

SM: **I** Movement; this is a working, hunting breed and without cast movement will both be challenged in the field for obstacles and uneven ground and will tire too soon, 2) Balance: its really ties to movement. as without it, movement will be choppy, inefficient and tiring for the dog. 3) A soft expression. I love to look into the eyes of my Bassetts!

RO: **M**y must have trans are level toplines, sternum, proper shoulder angle and placement. along with a wonderful temperament.

UN: I want to see a level topline, correct front assembly and proper reach and drive,

HL: **P**roper front structure, correct hound coat with some looseness and elasticity, fluid movement, level top line, gentle, determined and a good Yoke.

JR: Proper wrap around front with well-placed shoulders. A balanced dog that is capable of moving with the least effort and covering ground with no clumsiness. This is a dog built for endurance, The Basset is not a head breed, therefore, movement is critical. One can see the proper wrap from on the down and back, including short upper arms, leading to choppy movement.

S:\S: Deep muzzle; draped, low set ears: a well arched neck flowing into well laid back, powerful shoulders; a prominent sternum: correct wrap around front construction; length and depth of keel: level hackline including length of rib; well-developed second rib; long, effortless reach and drive.

CKS: Proper character first, balanced angles between front and rear, soundness of mind and body, absolute fitness with movement deuberme and in no sense clumsy (from standard) and that doleful expression.

OCT: A breed specific silhouette, level topline, good tilt: (to get the job done), strong chest and crook of leg and pleasing, Houndy head.

3- *Are there any traits in the breed you fear will become obsolete?*

JG: No, then: life HOI.

CG: Yes, Excessive substance, overly low-stationed dogs and excessive skin. There can be too much of a good thing. The breed has to have sufficient ground clearance to be able to hunt for many hours at a time for several days each week. The breed standard states that, "The

distance from the deepest point of the chest to tilt: ground, while it must be adequate to allow free movement when working in the field, is not be more than one-third the total height at the withers of an adult Basset." Not only is this in keeping with the achondroplastic proportions of the breed, it also allows for a variety of styles that still remain functional. As breeders,

our mission is to follow the breed standard, preserve the breed as effective scent hunters and present only those dogs which are truly exemplary. As judges, our mission is to reward those Bassetts which most closely exemplify the breed standard and are athletic enough to last for many hours in the hunt.

SM: As with any breed, I think we are in cycles. Right now, my perception is that breeders are seeking to overcome loss of hunk and substance in the breed. As a result, they are bringing dogs into breeding programs from bloodlines that can offer that greater substance. However, I fear that in some cases, it may be leading to some dogs becoming over-done and, in some cases, plodding,

R:\: It's not a trait that being exaggerated, but I see more: and more exhibitors racing around the ring with their Bassetts, Speed doesn't mean the dog has good reach and drive, Move the dog at a speed that's still comfortable for him,

HL: I see lines that are overdone-with too much loose skin.

JR: The Basset should not be so high with skin and bone. If it becomes an 80-90 pound dog, not lacking of bone and skin to appear almost dry. Tilt: Basset should be heavily boned, considering he is a hound with adequate skin.

SNS: The Basset hound is supposed to be heavier than bone, size considered, than any other breed of dog.

However, having the heaviest dog in the ring lacking correct Basset hound skeletal construction will not produce the anticipated winning ribbons. Some Bassetts being shown don't have enough shoulder layback, are set too far forward: don't demonstrate effortless reach and drive. Others are high in the rear lacking correct corresponding angles.

The Basset Hound Club of America has a very informative DVD, pocket guide, a recently revised Illustrated Standard and three courses available to judges for free that demonstrate these concerns in specific detail. Please go online to: www.Basset-bhca.org, click on "Education", then click on "Basset Hound University", then click on "Judges School",

CK: Because the Basset, with his short legs, loose skin and long heavy body, exaggeration comes easily. The skin and wrinkle should not be superfluous, not supposed to be draped everywhere: the wrinkle should be evident in the brow when the head is lowered and in the front legs according to standard. Skin should be supple and give without puncture and serious wounds when in the field. Yet we see some breeders selecting for the most of everything - skin, bone and by the pound. Some judges actually put tip the Basset because he is different from straight-legged breeds (they may not know. They) mistakenly think that is type.

OCT: Some are getting too low, too floppy and too straight of front.

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11. Do you think the dogs you see in this breed are better than the ones you first saw?

JG: Definitely better movement. I remember when they could barely get around the ring.

EG: Yes, when I started exhibiting there was less exaggeration of breed type: however, rears and toplines left a bit to be desired. Fronts were all over the place then, as they are today. In general, breeders have greatly improved rears so that the legs move in parallel under the points of the buttocks (the ischial protuberances). Consequently, there has been an improvement in rear angulation, especially second thigh (tibia and fibula) length and angle. Toplines have gotten stronger and more level and are tighter and rounder. The breed as a whole still struggles with incorrect front assemblies: incorrect shoulder layback (blade/scapula) and lay on to the ribcage; incorrect rotation and length of upper arm (humerus); lack of proper wrap-around fronts—beginning with the humerus following the curvature of the ribcage and extending to the forearm (ulna and radius) [the curves medially (toward the midline) so that the wrists (pasterns) are closer together than the elbows; mismatched fronts (forearms are not equally curved medially and/or pasterns are both not equally inclined: a trifle outwards) and lack of prominent sternum.

SM: I have only been judging a few rears, so I think probably not the best source on this question! But looking over the years I've been in Bassets, I think each period of time has a few stand out dogs, like ones we

will be talking about and remembering for many years because of their quality, presence and embodiment of the breed and each period also has some dogs that are solid, good and contribute to bloodlines we can recognize and value. The spectrum in each time frame may vary as breeders adjust their programs and balance out what they are getting in the whelping box, but I don't think overall the breed is better or worse.

RO: I don't set the quality in the ring that there once was.

Our breeders are dwindling, that could be part of it. While exhibiting and judging, I see many mediocre specimens. This, I'm sure, is the result of mediocre being bred with mediocre, which usually equals the same.

RN: I do not think they are better now. Our breed has gone from 20th in popularity to 10th. The number of Bassets being shown are way down. We have lost many long time breeders and others who would not breed any more. I affect the quantity and quality of our breed.

HP: This is a difficult question to answer because there are some "cry nice clogs" out there. But I would have to answer for the most part, no. Many years ago the number of bloodlines was relatively small and well established. As the numbers grew, the genetic pools were diluted and there became too much indiscriminate breeding, i.e. breeding to the winning dog of the day without too much thought

about what it was doing to the line of the breed. Breeders should have a purpose and a plan, knowing how to be tough when grading puppies, allowing only the best ones with the best traits to be shown and bred. What I see and hear breeders saying all or most of the litter is show quality, I just shake my head because rarely would that be the case, so many today do not have a good experienced and relatively unbiased mentor. I think a large number of owners and breeders do not get what the standard describes as correct structure. Education is important and people can learn but having a good eye and good instincts is something that, unfortunately, cannot be easily taught.

JR: I feel we need to improve our fronts, also many in the rings are too straight in rear angulation leading to saggy toplines and high in rear.

SNS: There are Bassets being shown around the country today that are marvelous examples of the breed standard. It was the case many years ago. If you understand and apply the breed standard you will have no difficulty recognizing them. Years ago there were many large show/breeding kennels producing several litters a year from which to make show picks. Times have changed and many of today's breeders produce a litter or two a year, if that. Fewer choices may make it difficult to cull those puppies better suited to pet homes and sometimes a breeding looks great on paper yet doesn't produce the desired results. Changing times have had a positive and negative effect on numbers of quality dogs in the ring, however, it has also opened the door to many possibilities. Instead of being limited by distance to breed to locally available stud dogs today, breeders have the ability to breed to an excellent quality stud anywhere in the world utilizing both fresh chilled and frozen semen. Time, also not limited in time, a stunning deceased specimen may have frozen sperm that remains available for the right outstanding bitch. This option is not inexpensive but has added new dimensions to breeding programs.

CKS: Yes, in some cases. The dogs on the west coast have improved especially in the movement area since moved to Arizona in 1984. They, for the most part, are not so exaggerated. I remember when many in the 80s had so much skin, with ectropion (eyelids rolling out) so much that they collected and the result was infection.

These dogs also had thick skin deep folds in front legs, collecting dirt and moisture that may have developed skin infection. At this same time on the East coast, many dogs had little bone. There were a few breeders both East and West who managed to get the balance of skin and bone correct and produce sound top quality dogs. Their influence lives on both east and west today. Also, the easily accessible health information today has improved the breed.

DCT: There seems to be more average Basset Hounds and fewer outstanding ones. This may be due to the declining numbers of Basset litters and breeders,

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5. *What do you think new judges misunderstand about the breed?*

JG: Proper front construction set well under the dog and tilt importance of correct, long, well sprung hocks.

In addition, fat doesn't equal substance.

CG: Bassetts that look like watermelons on tree stumps are not correct in this breed. This is a hunting breed meant to seem trail small game, usually rabbits, for hours and hours. A dog that minces around the ring without proper build and movement is not a dog that will not last in the hunt or over multiple hunting seasons. Pick the dog that's properly built and displays it with smooth, powerful and effortless movement. That's the dog that is most likely going to efficiently bring the rabbit to gun so the hunter can later enjoy a meal. That dog must also display a proper temperament for the breed in order to be able to hunt with its pack mates and withstand the sound of discharging shotguns. Dogs with their tails down and/or displaying signs of shyness should not be made up to champion level. Also, pitas, "do not lift skirt to check for loose skin on tilt: body" or pull skin over the top of the head to create wrinkles. If you want to set adequate wrinkling, ask the exhibitor to lower the dog's head and the correct wrinkling will fall slightly over the eyes and in front of the ears toward the cheek sides. Please do not penalize a dog that is moving with its head at the level of its back. Correct movement does not change with a lowered head. And, fast movement does not mean correct movement. Economy of motion and movement is essential.

SJ: I think for judges new to the breed and particularly for non-breeder judges, our correct front is the most difficult to understand. I'm seeing dogs rewarded which lack a proper wrap-around front. That whole assembly, which is quite different in achondroplastic breeds, can be hard to grasp. The other element that I think that people newer to judging tilt breed sometimes have trouble with is seeing past the Basset as a clown to the Basset as a real hunting dog with athletic endurance.

RO: New judges to the breed are doing the best they can. I've mentored many new judges and I'm on the Judges Education Committee of my national club. We're just getting the information out there; however, the quality isn't in the ring.

RN: The placement of the crooked front assembly, also called a wrap-around front, is difficult for many new judges to grasp. The front legs should be under the dog and wrap around the chest.

HP: I think many judges and not just new judges misunderstand front structure and movement where the front is too far forward and the movement is stilted and choppy. Seeing so many poor and average ones can make a good one look so different that it is easy to overlook the good one. A good Basset is so much more than being Showy with loose skin.

JR: The fronts, many will take the time to observe the front, but will not place them with that in mind. A proper front is critical to balance of the dog and movement.

SNS: Judges seem to have difficulty understanding the wrap-around front construction. The BHEA web page provides a mentor list to encourage ringside mentoring for continued studies of (on, true) and movement. This year the BHEA national is in St. Louis, Missouri at Purina Farms, the first week of October. Please consider attending for a few days to thoroughly immerse yourself in studying our breed. You will come away feeling it was well spent instructional time.

CKS: I believe new judges and some veteran judges feel that it is that skin, bone, movement and soundness are not important. With tilt Basset's unusual proportion, soundness and a good structure is even more important. Bassetts are endurance dogs that need to last in the hunt, should expend less energy traversing a rough terrain and getting from point A to B, thus need an effortless motion. Please do not judge by the rill pound or by the wrinkle! The BHEA has wonderful materials to help. One can order online. www.Basset-bhca.org. National is late September in St. Louis, Missouri.

DC: The speed a Basset should be gauged in the ring.

6. *Is there anything else you'd like to mention about the breed?*

JG: This is for handlers: when you holdup the tails on tilt stack, don't push so hard that the dogs actually fold in the middle, destroying a level topline.

CG: Thanks to many dedicated exhibitors on both coasts the Basset is once again improving its numbers of dual champions (bench and field). Improper shoulder angulation (scapula and humerus) and lack of prominent sternum are the drag of the breed and we must be ever vigilant in our breeding (and exhibiting) decisions.

SM: These are such scent-driven dogs! I am always thrilled, as an exhibitor, when judges tell me to let the dog move naturally, which especially at outdoor shows will mostly mean head down. I hope I remember to say that more frequently to the exhibitors in my ring!

RO: The Basset Hound has been my (mil) breed for 42 years. They are wonderful Hounds, very adaptable and very smart. It's been my honor to have 12 champions to my credit. I hope it continues to breed and exhibit these beautiful Hounds for as long as I'm able.

RN: The Basset Hound is characterized by a genetic abnormality known as achondroplasia (dwarfism). This can lead to structural problems in the Basset, including a mismatched front, which is an unequal turnout of the front feet. This is easily seen on the down, back and seeing the front when the dog stops.

HP: We seem to have lost the connection to the old established bloodline that are now gone. The traits and strengths of those bloodlines which were the foundation

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of the breed, to some degree, have now been lost in the mists of time. [I guess it is just a reflection of the instant society and culture we live in. Instant results are not always possible when planning, time and slowly getting the desired result is what it takes. Just ask successful long time breeders with quality in their bloodlines what it took to get there. Instant, unless extremely fortunate or lucky is not really possible. I only hope that those who currently get it can be Influential enough to pass it on to a new generation that will get it too and going forward there are enough of them to strengthen and guide the breed so quality will not be further eroded.

SNS: This breed continues to be a primarily owner-handled breed. Basset hound owner/exhibitors are very social, just like their pack hounds and enjoy the camaraderie at conformation/performance events. Some Basset exhibitors participate to support their club event. Although this can make for challenging judging, many of these exhibitors are very dedicated dub workers. If asked to explain your placements, please be kind and make this a positive educational experience instead of only focusing on negatives. Basset Hound owners, just like the sweet demeanor of our hounds, are friendly and welcoming. We encourage anyone interested in our hounds to [join a regional Basset hound dub. You do not need to own a Basset to be welcomed as a member.

DeT: It is a funny, loving and demanding breed, not for the super neat. You discuss things with a Basset, not order.

7. And, for a bit of humor: What~ thefunnest thit~g you've ever experienced at a dog show?

JG: During Junior Handling judging, I asked a young man to show me his dog's bite. His reply, "Oh, he doesn't do that anymore I "

CG: The one that is most prominent in my mind and which cracks me up to this day, is the first time I walked in the ring with a Basset ("Jolly" in 197; Greater Miami Dog Club, then held at the old Dinner Key Auditorium in Coconut Grove, Florida, under Edith Nash Hellerman).

I didn't have a show lead, so I bought an inexpensive white toy lead at one of the on-site vendors. I proceeded as the sole entry in a 6,9 month puppy dog class and walked in the ring with the lead in my right hand and my dog's nose on the ground. Mrs. Hellerman was so kind. She stopped me as I walked in, put the lead in my left hand, and proceeded to guide me through the rest of the examand gaiting. What did I know? Horses were shown in halter classes with the handler on the horse's left and the lead in the right hand! At least someone told me to put my dog on my left before Walking into the ring!

SM: When I was pretty new to showing, I attended a show where Bassets were being judged by Peg Walton of Lyn-Mar Acres. She was a legend to me, having read about her dogs and her career breeding beautiful Bassets who appeared in many pedigrees. Including

the pedigree of the dog I owned-a few generations back. This was before I really understood how many dogs are related through pedigree as you move back through the generations. You can see where this is going, I'm sure. She handed me the first place ribbon in our class and I immediately gushed forth with my gratitude and excitement at meeting her, including how exciting it was to show her a dog (that came down from her very own lines. In my novice enthusiasm I completely forgot that the judging wasn't done! She ushered me out of the ring, and of course in the pause before I had to come back in for winners, I realized my error. After she handed me the Winner's Dog ribbon, I started to apologize, but she cut me off saying, "My dear, if by now I don't know what I like and don't in a Basset, I never will." I still laugh at my own faux pas!

HP: Over the years there are many humorous incidents. There are far too many for just one to be the funniest, but I do remember this one and it was on me. Funny and embarrassing, I guess, is the best way to describe it. I was showing one of our beautiful multi Best in Show and spectatry Winning bitches at an outdoor show. When the judge pointed to us for Best in Show, there seemed to be as much laughter as cheering and for good reason. I soon realized that at some point when I knelt down and got up that I must have blown the backend seam out of my trousers. Running around the ring must have been quite a sight to see. Fortunately, my tighty whities that hung out were just that,

JR: I guess I have to laugh at myself, I tell this story to new exhibitors who are nervous. At my first show, I had asked those who had encouraged me to enter what should I wear. Someone said dress, "Dress like you are going to church!" With heels on my feet, I tried to keep up with an untrained bitch-and I am still here!

SNS: I was judging at a national specialty and was particularly focused in judging a large class. A friend slipped into the ring with a large sUlified dog and proceeded to stack it to be examined! Everyone inside and outside the ring was laughing. I did a quick examination and directed her to move on the diagonal. We all clapped and laughed; her antics eased the tension [eltat a national where many of the entries were outstanding examples of the breed!

DCT: My Basset, when running in an outdoor Agility Trial, discovered a gopher hole and spent the rest of her time baying and digging for the gopher instead of finishing the course. Or at a show I was exhibiting at, a Basset bitch being shown by a female exhibitor, at the end of the down and back she reached up under her mistress's skirt and pulled down her hill-slip to the floor. The woman stepped out of it, leaving it on the matting and continued to the end of the line. The judge, with as much dignity as possible, picked it up, walked across the ring, handed it back to her and gave her first place .•