

## Versatility Conformation Certificate

The Basset Hound Club of America (BHCA) Conformation Certificate (CC) is a non-competitive conformation evaluation program for Basset Hounds. An eligible dog will be evaluated and scored on their conformation qualities against the Breed Standard, as opposed to a competitive “dog-to-dog” comparison as in dog show competition. The Conformation Certificate is not a title, but should be considered an accomplishment. Dogs earning the Conformation Certificate (CC) may substitute the CC for the Versatility Certificate Conformation Requirement. The Conformation Certificate (CC) does not contribute points towards the Versatility Certificate.

### Program Overview:

The Conformation Certificate (CC) will be awarded to any eligible Basset Hound that can successfully complete the required evaluations. This program is an enhancement element for the BHCA Versatility Certificate Program. Conformation is a key element in attaining the BHCA Versatility Certificate. The evaluations are not to determine whether the Basset Hound is of championship caliber, but determine if it is an overall good representative of the breed and reflects the qualities of a purebred Basset Hound.

### Eligible Dog (dog is used generically for either dog or bitch):

The dog must be at least (1) one year of age.

The dog must be owned or co-owned by a BHCA member.

The dog must be registered with AKC or have an AKC ILP or PAL registration.

The dog must be spayed or neutered and proof provided with entry form.

The entry form for evaluation will include five color photos of the dog against a plain background: Photos must show each side of the dog in overall profile with dog standing naturally, one from the front, fore chest and front legs visible, one from the rear and one close up of the head in profile. Each photo will have Dog Registration ID visible.

### Evaluation:

#### *Total Categories:*

Dog will be evaluated in the 10 categories as listed in the Basset Hound Breed Standard: General Appearance, Head, Forequarters, Body, Hindquarters, Tail, Size, Gait, Coat, and Color.

#### *Minimum Passing Score:*

Dog must receive a combination of eight (8) good or acceptable check marks to receive a qualifying evaluation. Dog must receive three (3) qualifying evaluations from three (3) different evaluators. At least one (1) of the evaluators must be an AKC approved judge of Basset Hounds.

#### *Breed Disqualifications:*

Dog does not possess any of the disqualifying faults per the breed standard. A dog that receives two evaluations noting the same disqualifying fault will not receive a Conformation Certificate.

#### *Dismissals and other Disqualifications*

Dog will be disqualified for reasons other than disqualifying faults per the breed standard if: Deaf, blind, attacks or attempts to attack any person or any dog in or in the vicinity of the evaluation area. A dog will not earn Conformation Certificate if noted as being deaf or blind by two evaluators. A dog that attacks or attempts to attack any person or any dog will not be allowed any further Conformation Certificate evaluations.

Dog will be dismissed if showing signs of illness, lameness, or exhibiting aggressive behavior. Dogs dismissed for illness or lameness may be reevaluated at a future time. A dog that is noted as displaying aggressive behavior may be reevaluated at a future time, but if so noted a second time, the dog will not earn the Conformation Certificate.

A list of dogs disqualified or dismissed for aggressive behavior will be maintained by the Versatility Chair and list will be provided to the hosting group as part of the event paperwork.

### **Evaluators:**

Evaluator qualifications:

The Versatility Committee Chair will maintain a list of persons who have been approved to serve as Conformation Certificate Evaluators.

The following may apply to be a Conformation Certificate Evaluator: An AKC licensed or permit judge approved to judge Basset Hounds, or any BHCA member who has an approved Evaluator form on file. The minimum qualifications for BHCA member are: a member in good standing of BHCA for five consecutive years including the current year, 10 years' experience in owning, breeding, handling and training Basset Hounds; breeder of at least one litter of Basset Hounds; have owned, handled and titled at least five different Basset Hounds, one of which they have bred or co-bred. At least one of the titles earned must be an AKC Championship.

The person doing evaluations will sign a form attesting to their knowledge and ability to exam the dog according to the breed standard, will be experienced in the use of a wicket, be knowledgeable of the Breed Disqualifications, AKC disqualifications and dismissals. Evaluator should also be willing to provide written comments of each dog evaluated on the evaluation sheet. Evaluator should verbally comment on the dog's attributes as they relate to the Breed standard and be able to answer questions relating to the same while doing the examination.

The evaluator will confirm the dog being evaluated is the dog whose photos were attached to the Evaluation Sheet. Evaluator will have the Basset Hound Breed Standard on hand while doing the evaluation for reference.

### **Evaluation Process:**

*Application to be evaluated:*

Owner will complete application and will provide the required photos. Pre-entry or day of entry will be choice left to the hosting group.

The photos will be provided to the Evaluator attached to the Evaluation sheet with the Dog's Registration ID #.

*The Evaluation:*

Owners are encouraged to present their own dogs. Professional handlers may present only dogs that they own or co-own.

Each dog will be examined and gaited individually by the evaluator. If multiple evaluators are performing an evaluation; each evaluator will examine, gait and score each dog individually and make written notes on the dog's conformance to the Breed Standard without conferring with any other evaluator. Evaluators will not share score sheets or compare comments. Photos will be transferred to new evaluation sheet prior to being given to next evaluator, at an event using more than one evaluator.

Dog should be clean and brushed but need not be groomed to a show-ring level. Owner should prepare their dog to submit to examination as is done in the show ring but does not need to 'stack' the dog. The examination may be done on a ramp or on the ground. Dog should stand reasonably still and allow evaluator to use hands to examine from head to rear. Owner may request that they show the dog's bite (the alignment of front teeth). The dog should be able to

walk nicely on a loose leash at a brisk pace. The typical show gaiting has the dog moving away from and back to the evaluator and around the area to assess side movement. Dog may carry head low to the ground. Dog will wear any collar acceptable to AKC competitions.

### **Means of Offering Evaluations:**

Conformation Evaluations may be held in conjunction with a Basset Hound specialty show, Basset Hound fun match, BHCA hunting Performance test, Basset Hound field trial, or local Basset Hound club event or meeting. BHCA National and BHCA Regionals should offer a Conformation Certificate Evaluations.

Hosting group will get permission to hold a Conformation Certificate Evaluation event and select evaluators from the approved list. Initial contact for permission is the Versatility Certificate Chairman. If a desired evaluator is not on the list, host will have that person complete evaluator form and it will be returned to the Versatility Certificate Chairman at least two weeks prior to the scheduled Evaluation event. The Versatility Certificate Chairman or person delegated to perform Conformation Certificate oversight functions will provide Evaluation Sheets and completed documents will be returned to the Versatility Certificate Chairman or designee.

Hosting group will charge an entry fee of no more than typical entry fee for a local specialty show. Evaluator(s) typically will not be compensated, but may be compensated no more than one-half the entry fee per dog evaluated. Remainder of entry fee will be retained by the hosting group to offset expenses.

Host will be responsible for providing an AKC wicket, and other supplies such as a ramp, pens and clipboards. Event should be advertised as a special attraction if held with an AKC event, on the BHCA website, Tally-Ho and/or local club website or newsletter publication.

### **Awards**

Qualifying ribbons/rosettes, if offered, are the responsibility of the group hosting the Evaluation. The ribbon (2" x 8" minimum) or rosette will be imprinted the BHCA logo; BHCA Conformation Certificate Qualifier; and will be Gold in color with black lettering. A tag or label on the reverse will be used to insert date, dog's name and evaluator's name.

### **Record keeping**

The Versatility Certificate Chair will be responsible or delegate duties for: record keeping, publication of new Conformation Certificate's earned in Tally Ho and sending Conformation Certificate to dog's owner.

## Evaluation Sheet

Dog's ID #:	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Comments
<b>Photos match dog</b>  Yes      No	Possesses the majority of breed characteristics with no serious faults	Possesses the basic attributes –with faults/or serious faults-but with overall majority breed characteristics	Lacks overall merit and/or structurally unsound. Multiple faults/or serious faults.	Evaluator is encouraged to make comments here.
<b>General Appearance</b> Short-legged, heavier in bone, movement deliberate, temperament mild, capable of great endurance				
<b>Head</b> Large, Well proportioned, Skull, Muzzle, Nose, Teeth, Lips, Dewlap, Neck, Eyes, Ears				
<b>Forequarters</b> Chest, Shoulders, Forelegs, Paw, Toes				
<b>Body</b> Rib, topline				
<b>Hindquarters</b> Full, well rounded, equal to shoulder width, well let-down stifle, hind legs are parallel, hind feet point straight ahead				
<b>Tail</b> Set in continuation of the spine, carried gaily, hair underside coarse				
<b>Size</b> Should not exceed 14 inches				
<b>Gait</b> Smooth, powerful, effortless, holds nose low to ground, hind feet following in line with front feet, hocks well bent				
<b>Coat</b> Hard, smooth, short, all weather, skin loose and elastic				
<b>Color</b> Any recognized hound color				
<b># of items checked</b>				

Initial any of the follow that apply:

Breed Standard Disqualifications:	AKC show disqualifications:	AKC Excusals:
Height of more than 15 inches at the highest point of the shoulder blade	Blind or Deaf	Lameness or Illness
Knuckled over front legs	A dog that attacks any person or dog resulting in an injury	A dog that menaces or threatens or exhibits any sign that it may not be safely approached or examined.
Distinctly long coat		

Evaluator Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Evaluator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## BHCA Conformation Certificate Entry Form

Date of Event: \_\_\_\_\_ Location of Event: \_\_\_\_\_

Entry Fee:                    Spay Neuter proof and required photos must be provided with this entry form.

Dog's Registered Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex:    Male    Female            Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ AKC Reg #, ILP#, PAL# \_\_\_\_\_

Breeder:

Sire

Dam

Owner

Owner's address

City, State, Zip

I certify that I am the actual owner/co-owner of the dog, and a member in good standing of the Basset Hound Club of America (BHCA). In consideration of acceptance of the entry, I agree to abide by the regulations of the BHCA governing this event, and by any additional rules and regulations appearing in the announcement or premium list for this event, and further agree to be bound by the Agreement printed on the reverse or opposite side of this entry form. I certify and represent that the dog entered is not a hazard to persons or to other dogs. This entry is submitted for acceptance on the foregoing representation and agreement.

Signature of Owner or authorized Agent

Phone number

Email Address:

## **Conformation Certificate Entry Form Agreement \***

I agree that the club or host holding this event has the right to refuse this entry for cause which the club or host shall deem sufficient. In consideration of the acceptance of this entry and of the holding of this event and of the opportunity to have the dog evaluated. I agree to hold BHCA, the club or host, their respective members, directors, officers, agents secretaries, committee members, evaluators and the owner/lessor of the premises, and any provider of services at the event (and any agents, volunteers or employees of the same) (the "Released Parties"), all harmless from any claim, loss or injury which is alleged to be caused directly or indirectly to any person, dog by the act of this dog, or its owner or agent, while in or about the event premises or grounds or near any entrances thereto; and I personally assume all responsibility and liability for any such loss or claim; and I further agree to hold all of the Released Parties from any claim, loss, injury or damage to the dog or its handler, owner or agent.

I acknowledge that any evaluation, measurement or comment, whether written or oral, made at this event regarding the dog is not binding upon, and does not affect in any manner, the dog's qualifications at licensed dog shows sponsored by AKC or any other entity licensed to offer conformation shows or performance events for dogs.

I hereby assume the sole responsibility for and agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless all of the Released Parties from any and all loss, cost and expense (including legal fees) by reason of the liability imposed by law upon the Released parties for damage because of bodily injuries, including death, sustained by any person or dog, including the undersigned, or on account of damage to property, arising out of or in connection with my participation in this event however such injuries, death or property damage may occur or be caused, and whether or not the same may be caused or may have been alleged to be caused by the negligence of the Released Parties.

I agree that any cause of action, controversy or claim arising out of or related to the entry, exhibition or attendance at this event between myself, the Club or Host or BHCA, as to the construction, interpretation and effect of this agreement shall be settled by arbitration pursuant to the applicable rules of the American Arbitration Association, provided, however, that all applicable rules and procedures of the BHCA must first be followed as set forth in the bylaws of the BHCA.

\*this page must be either on the reverse or attached to BHCA Conformation Certificate Entry Form

**Basset Hound Club of America  
Conformation Certificate Evaluator Application**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the information requested below. Please attach or put on reverse additional information as needed.

**AKC Basset Hound Conformation Judge**

I have been approved by AKC to judge Basset Hounds since: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge # \_\_\_\_\_

My original breed is: \_\_\_\_\_

**BHCA Member**

I am a member in good standing of BHCA since \_\_\_\_\_.

I have owned basset hounds since \_\_\_\_\_.

I have bred at least one litter of Basset Hounds:

Year

Sire

Dam

I have owned, handled, trained and titled at least five Basset Hounds including one that I have bred or co/bred:  
Please list and include AKC # and Registered name and titles earned.

**AKC Judge and/or BHCA Member**

Please provide a brief biography of your involvement with Basset Hounds and/or AKC conformation.

**Certification**

I have read and I understand the latest revision of the BHCA Conformation Certificate instructions for Evaluators. I am willing to evaluate each participant impartially against the AKC Breed Standard and I am willing to provide a written assessment of the qualities of each dog I evaluate using the evaluation sheets provided by BHCA and abide by the guidelines established. I am also willing to provide a brief verbal critique of the dog to each handler/owner. I understand that all information regarding individual dogs presented to me shall be kept confidential, sharing it only with the owner or handler of said dog and within the structure of the program. I am familiar and comfortable with the use of a wicket.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_