



**BASSET HOUND CLUB OF AMERICA
2016 HEALTH SURVEY**



"I need someone well versed in the art of torture—do you know PowerPoint?"

Health Survey Committee



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Goals of the Survey

PRIMARY

- ▶ Determine the overall health status of the breed by asking a broad-based audience of Basset Hound owners about the health condition of their dogs to include all body systems.

SECONDARY

- ▶ Shape medical research priorities for the breed
- ▶ Shape BHCA's Health Policy
- ▶ Shape educational materials for BHCA members and the public at large

Added consideration: A potential means of outreach to bring new members to the BHCA

Survey design based on:

- ▶ Key informant interviews
 - ▶ BHCA members
 - ▶ Basset Hound rescue managers
 - ▶ Pet owners
- ▶ Health conditions surveyed by various parent clubs through the
 - ▶ Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA)
 - ▶ Canine Health Information Center (CHIC)
 - ▶ Their own independent surveys

Implementation Process

- ▶ Mounted the survey on Survey Monkey
- ▶ 37 people pilot tested the survey
- ▶ Made revisions based on feedback from pilot
- ▶ Final survey open from March 28 – May 9.
- ▶ Announced the launch to BHCA members, rescues, and the general public through email, social media, BHCA website, and Tally Ho
- ▶ Weekly reminders during the month of April

Three survey formats

- **Individual dog data** (up to 10 dogs living with the respondent since January 2000)
- **Summary data** (for persons with more than 10 dogs living with the respondent since January 2000)
- **Rescue summary data** (for the years 2012-2015)

Survey Questions

- 161 health conditions were organized in 19 domains such as cancer, eye conditions, cardiac, orthopedic, skin, allergy, and temperament among others.
- Questions also included screening of breeding stock, reproductive disorders and puppy/litter health.
- Context questions included – country of residence, length of Basset ownership, BHCA membership, types of activities in which they participate with their Bassets.

Survey Response

1,027 persons provided health data on over 7,400 dogs, of whom 5,871 were purebred Basset Hounds.

Individual survey 2,222

Summary survey 567

Rescue survey 3,082

Total 5,871 Basset Hounds

Full Report 1

Available on the BHCA website and
on the thumb drive in your hospitality bag

- ▶ Contents:
 - ▶ Brief description of data collection and analysis methods
 - ▶ Tables listing prevalence of all health conditions for
 - ▶ Owner-reported dogs, Daphneyland Rescue (CA), other rescues
 - ▶ BHCA vs. non-BHCA dogs
 - ▶ U.S. – born dogs vs. dogs born elsewhere

Results presented here



2,789 Purebred Basset Hounds
(owner-reported)

More prevalent conditions and those of higher
interest

Cancers

	N*	
Hemangiosarcoma	64	2.3%
Lymphoma	152	5.4%
Mast cell tumor	66	2.4%

* N = the number of dogs identified with the condition out of 2,789 owner-reported purebred Basset Hounds.

Gastrointestinal

	N*	
Bloat with torsion	86	3.1%
Bloat without torsion	50	1.8%

* N = the number of dogs identified with the condition out of 2,789 owner-reported purebred Basset Hounds.

Eye

	N*	
Glaucoma	131	4.7%
Cherry eye	130	4.7%
Senile Cataracts	83	3.0%
Dry eye	179	6.4%
Entropion	83	3.0%

* N = the number of dogs identified with the condition out of 2,789 owner-reported purebred Basset Hounds.

Blood

	N*	
BH Hereditary thrombopathia	6	0.2%
Hemophilia	0	
von Willebrand's disease	3	0.1%

Including 2 affected rescue dogs, out of 5871 Basset Hounds (including rescues) only 11 were identified with bleeding disorders.

* N = the number of dogs identified with the condition out of 2,789 owner-reported purebred Basset Hounds.

Orthopedic/Back

	N*	
Arthritis	364	13.1%
Panosteitis	189	6.8%
Spondylosis	74	2.7%
Down in the rear	147	5.3%
Lameness/limping	207	7.4%

* N = the number of dogs identified with the condition out of 2,789 owner-reported purebred Basset Hounds.

Cardiac

	N*	
Congestive heart failure	68	2.4%
Heart murmur	158	5.7%

* N = the number of dogs identified with the condition out of 2,789 owner-reported purebred Basset Hounds.

Ear and Skin

	N*	
Chronic ear infection	396	14.2%
Staph Infections	116	4.2%
Yeast infections	316	11.3%
Hot spots	367	13.2%
Sebaceous cysts	524	18.8%

* N = the number of dogs identified with the condition out of 2,789 owner-reported purebred Basset Hounds.

Kidney

	N*	
Bladder stones	61	2.2%
Chronic UTI	133	4.8%

* N = the number of dogs identified with the condition out of 2,789 owner-reported purebred Basset Hounds.

Dental

	N*	
Periodontal disease	263	9.4%

* N = the number of dogs identified with the condition out of 2,789 owner-reported purebred Basset Hounds.

Allergy

	N*	
Atopy seasonal	193	6.9%
Flea allergies	106	3.8%
Food allergies	237	8.5%
Topical/contact allergies	158	5.7%

* N = the number of dogs identified with the condition out of 2,789 owner-reported purebred Basset Hounds.

Behavioral

	N*	
Aggressive to dogs in house	149	5.3%
Aggressive with people	79	2.8%
Fear of noise	125	4.5%
Fear of storms	165	5.9%
Separation anxiety	148	5.3%
Shyness	162	5.8%
Reserved	96	3.4%

* N = the number of dogs identified with the condition out of 2,789 owner-reported purebred Basset Hounds.

Future Work

- ▶ Recommending health policy priorities to the BHCA board based on:
 - ▶ Survey results
 - ▶ Consultation with researchers in each health specialty field
 - ▶ Consultation with canine genetic researchers
- ▶ Continuing analyses of these data
 - ▶ More to learn from individual level data
- ▶ Recommending future research priorities and partners
- ▶ Conducting future surveys on narrower topics
- ▶ Assisting with recruitment of study participants for other researchers