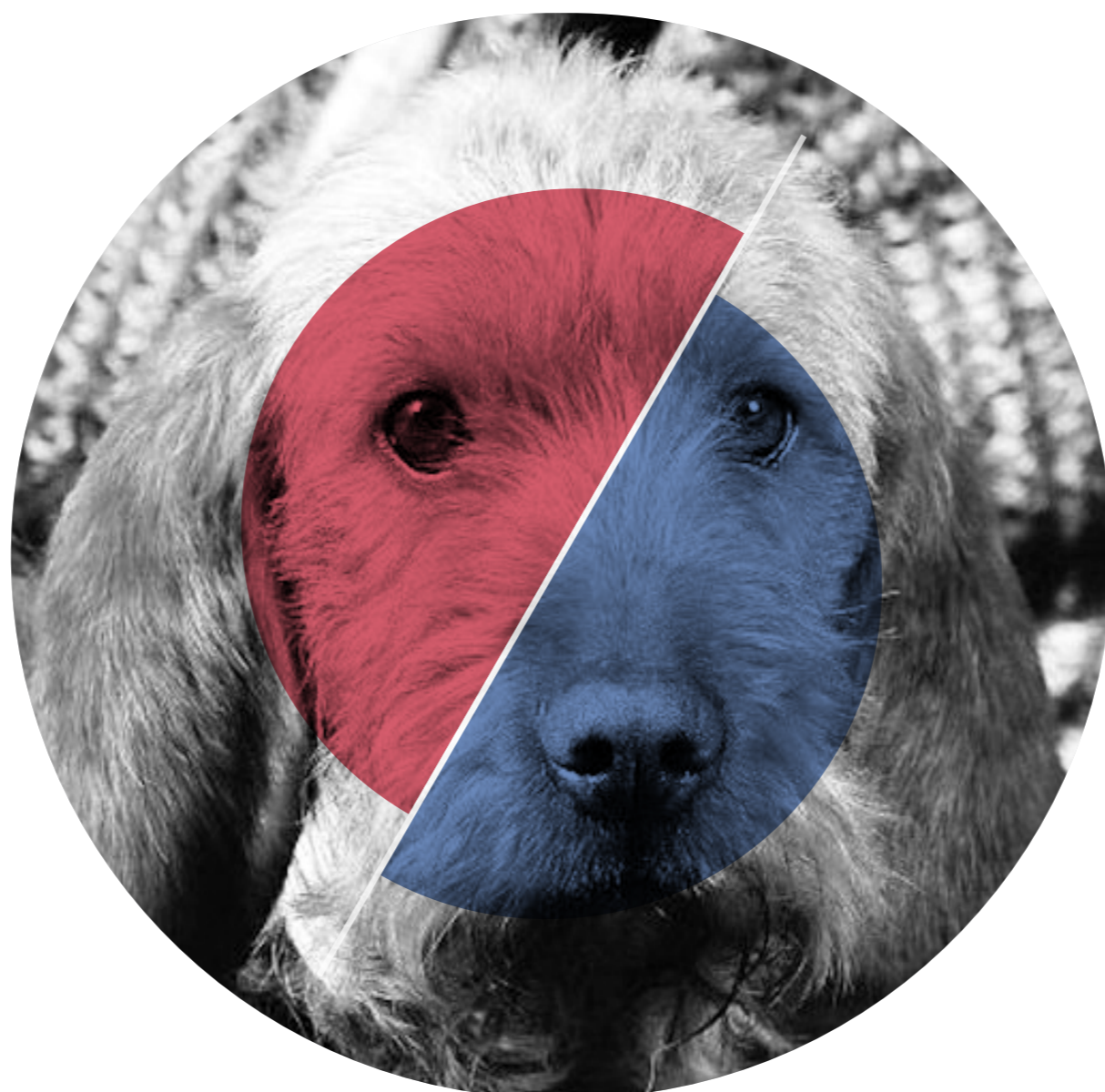
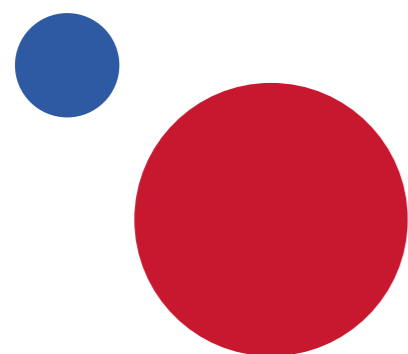

THE BASSET FAUVE DE BRETAGNE

. Standard and comments .





SUMMARY

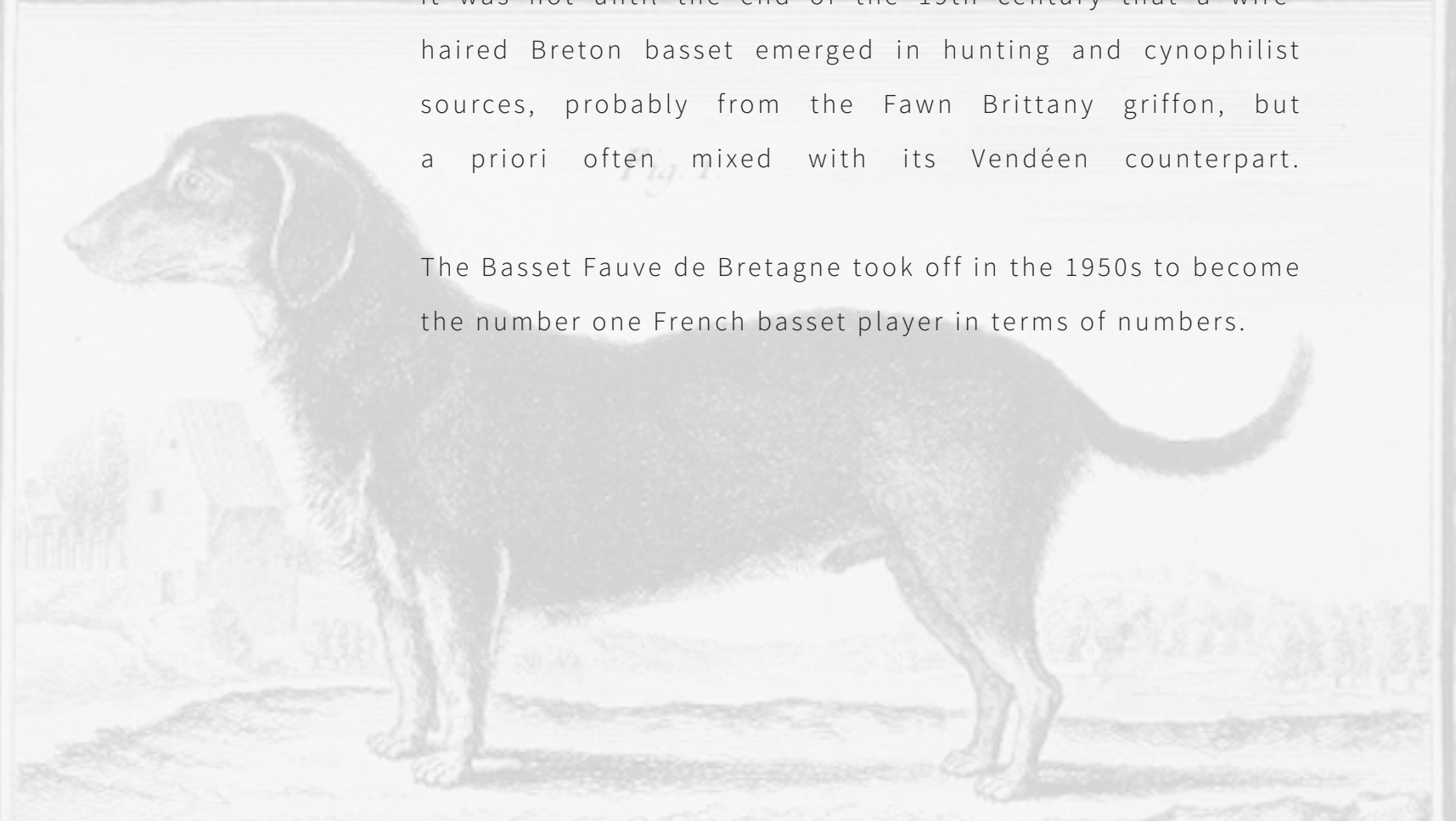
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Brief historical Summary

It was in the 14th century that bassets appeared in French hunting treatises, constituting one of the three scent hound formats, along with large pack hounds and medium-sized “briquets”, then declined in different regional versions.

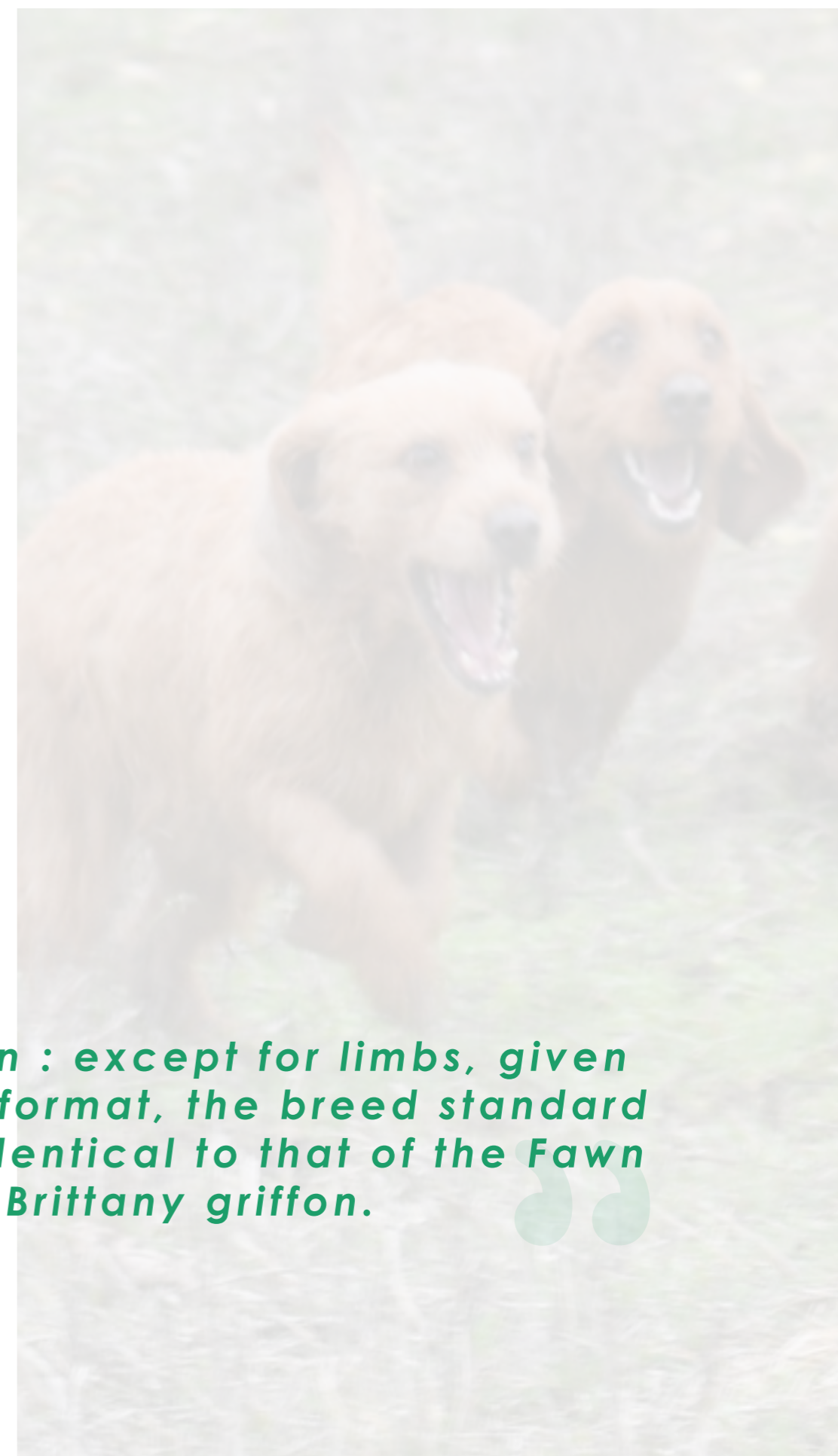
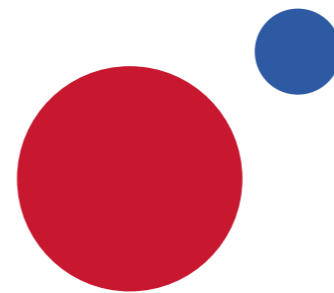
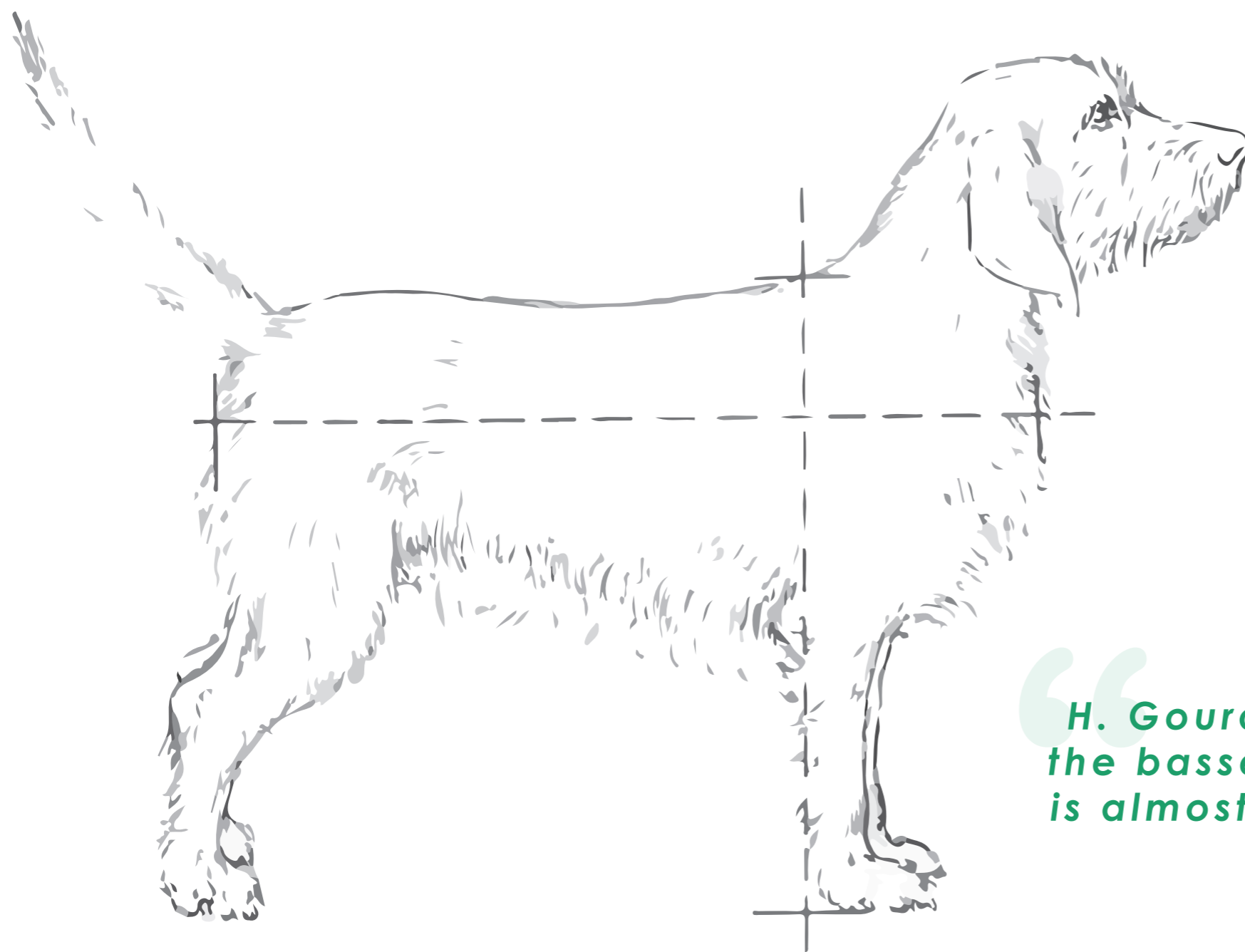
It was not until the end of the 19th century that a wire-haired Breton basset emerged in hunting and cynophilist sources, probably from the Fawn Brittany griffon, but a priori often mixed with its Vendéen counterpart.



The Basset Fauve de Bretagne took off in the 1950s to become the number one French basset player in terms of numbers.

I GENERAL APPEARANCE

- Small, stocky hound, lively, rapid for its size.



H. Gourdon : except for limbs, given the basset format, the breed standard is almost identical to that of the Fawn Brittany griffon.

HEAD

- Skull: rather long.

H. Gourdon : the width of the skull, taken at the level of the temporals and not of the zygomatic arches, is equal to its length. A skull too wide does not deserve the Excellent on dog shows. The skull is also the same length as the muzzle, and their axes are parallel. Il y a quelques années, on voyait dans le cheptel du basset des chanfreins un peu trop courts. A few years ago, we saw in the stock of the basset some muzzles a little too short. The breeders' attention was drawn to this point, which allowed the fault to be corrected.

- Marked occipital protuberance.
- Seen from the front, the skull has the form of a flattened arch and diminishes in width from the rear to the superciliary arches, which are not very prominent.

H. Gourdon : this shape of the skull is an important characteristic of the breed.

- A little more marked than with the griffon fauve de Bretagne.



I FACIAL REGION

- Nose: black or dark brown; well-open nostrils.

H. Gourdon : for the nose, it is black that is sought after. A slightly washed-out color may be allowed; we know, for example, that heat for a bitch can influence pigmentation. In all hunting dogs, well open nostrils are an important criterion related to olfactory performance.

- Muzzle: slightly tapering rather than being perfectly rectangular.

H. Gourdon : seen from above, the muzzle is square. Seen in profile, it is more tapered than square, which does not mean pinched; a pinched muzzle often goes together with an overall lack of bone, but these are rare faults, as the stock is generally well built. In addition, a muzzle that is too short or too long does not deserve the Excellent in dog shows.

- Lips: covering well the lower jaw but without excess. Moustaches only slightly furnished.

H. Gourdon : the basset fauve does not have the drooping lips of some other scent hounds. As for the mustaches, without being as marked as in the Vendéen for example, they must all the same be sufficient. A griffon, by definition, has a mustache!

- The jaws and teeth are strong, meeting in a perfect and even scissors bite. Absence of first premolars is not penalized.

H. Gourdon : the pincer bite is tolerated. In judging, for equal quality, a subject with a scissor bite will be preferred.

- Eyes: neither bulging nor set too deeply in the orbits, dark brown in colour. The conjunctiva is not apparent. The expression is lively.

H. Gourdon : we are careful about the color of the eyes, because not long ago, some griffons had eyes that were too light. The qualification Excellent should not be awarded in this case.

- Ears: finely attached, in line with the eye, just reaching the end of the nose when drawn forward, ending in a point, turned inwards and covered by finer and shorter hair than on the rest of the body.

H. Gourdon : to clarify, the line of the eye is the line that starts from the top of the nose and goes through the center of the eye. The finely attached ears mean that the base of the auricle should not be wide. An attachment too wide usually goes together with a skull too wide and a muzzle too short.

I NECK

- Rather short and well muscled.

H. Gourdon : well muscled at its shoulder attachment, the length of the neck should allow the dog to easily put its nose to the ground. On the throat, the skin is not loose; there should be no dewlap.



BODY

- Back: short for a basset and broad. Never swaybacked.

H. Gourdon : the basset fauve de Bretagne has a shorter back than all the other French bassets. This does not mean very short, however: about thirty years ago, some subjects had a square silhouette, which was not compliant with the standard. A basset should always be longer than it is tall.

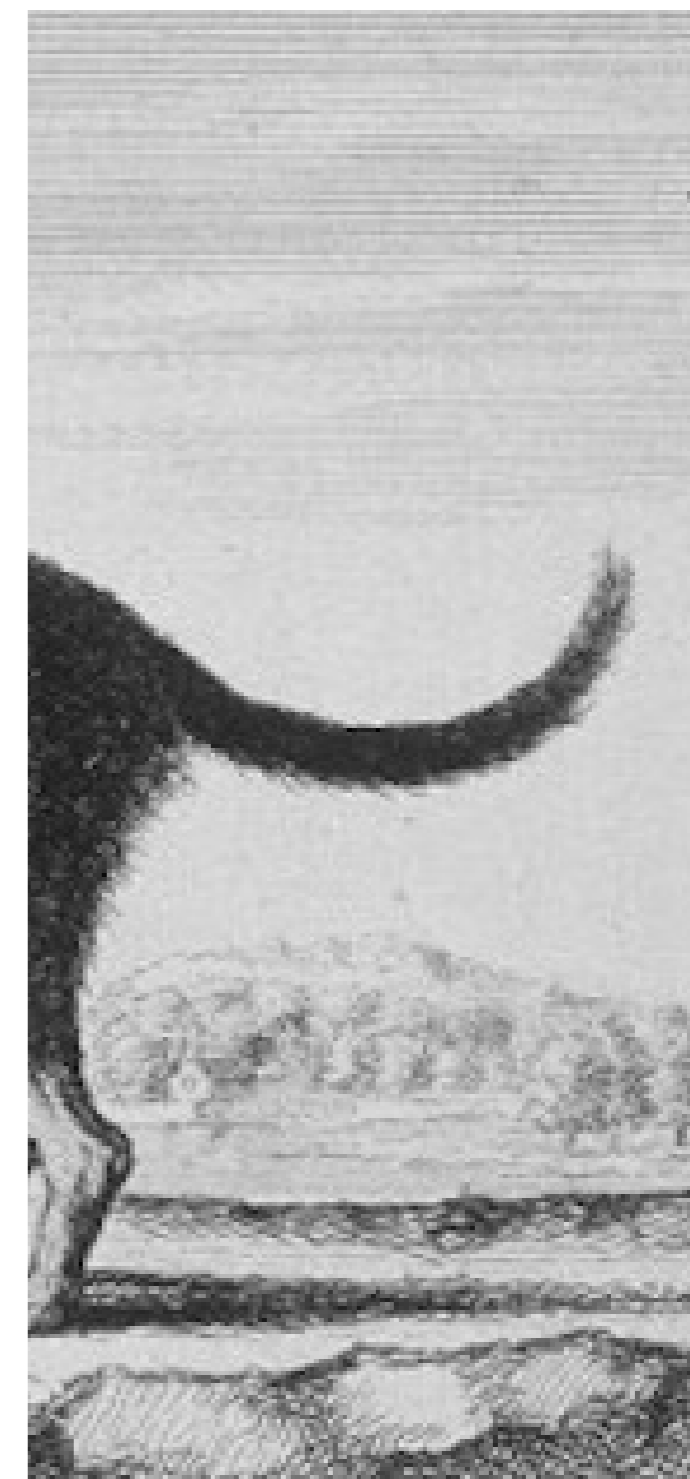
- Loin: Broad and muscular.
- Chest: Deep and broad.
- Ribs: Rather rounded.
- Abdomen: The underline rises only slightly towards the rear.

H. Gourdon : with relatively short back, chest that goes down to the level of the elbow, straight limbs and significantly longer than the artesian basset hound, for example, the construction of the fawn basset allows it to be faster than other bassets. As the depletion of the rabbit has led to its conversion to other game, it was indeed a question of cultivating its liveliness.

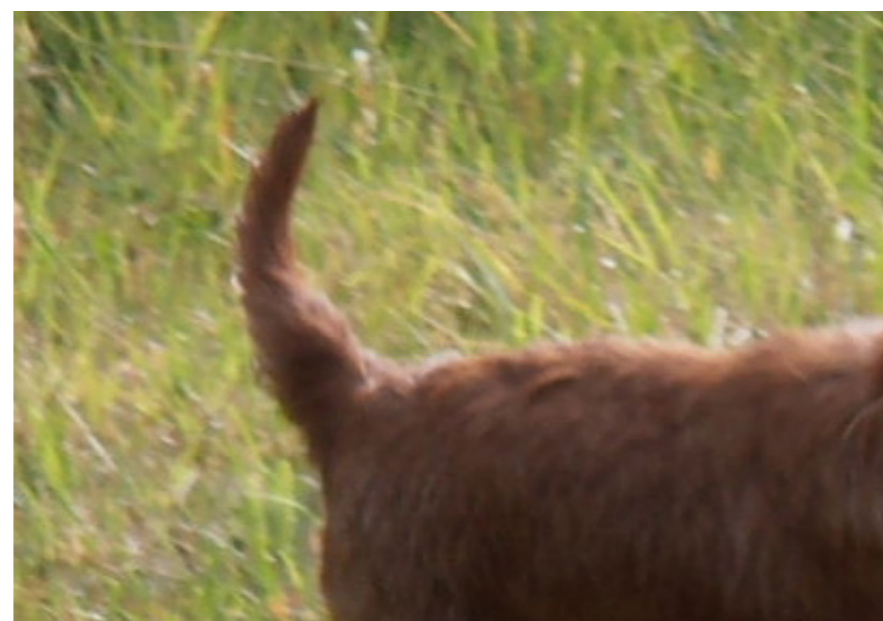


I TAIL

- Carried slightly sickle-fashion, of medium length, large at the base, often bristly and well-tapered at the end.
- In action, the tail is carried above the top line and makes regular movements from side to side.



H. Gourdon : the tail is not “gaily”, which would be unsuitable for the dog to move through vegetation. It is not carried vertically or completely horizontally, but in between, and slightly sickle-fashion, without leaning backwards.



• FOREQUARTERS

- Good bone.
- Shoulder: oblique and well set on the thorax.
- Elbow: in the line with the body.
- Forearm: vertical or curving slightly in (which is not to be sought after).
- Metacarpus (Pastern): seen in profile, somewhat oblique. Seen from the front, in the axis of the body or slanting slightly out (which is not to be sought after).
- Forefeet: compact with the toes tight together, arched. The pads are hard.

• HINDQUARTERS

- Well muscled. The limbs are well poised. Seen from behind, the rear limbs are parallel, neither close nor wide.

H. Gourdon : we sometimes see bassets with their feet touching when walking, because the hindlegs are not vertical enough. This fault must be eliminated.

- Thigh: long and well muscled.
- Hock: well let down and moderately bent.
- Metatarsus (rear pastern): vertical.
- Hind feet: compact with the toes tight together, arched. The pads are hard.

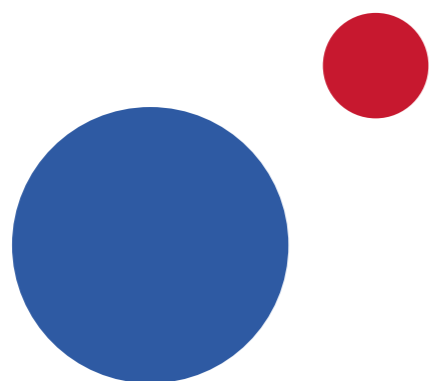
H. Gourdon : the selection tended to straighten the forelimbs more and more. Nowadays, they are straight, even if the wrist will always remain a little marked, and we tolerate toeing out less and less. Subjects with twisted forequarters have become extremely rare.

MOVEMENT/GAIT

- Supple and even, never bouncy.

HEIGHT

- Males and females: 32 cm minimum, 38 cm maximum.
- Tolerance of 2 cm for exceptional specimens.



COAT

- Hair: coat very rough, harsh, rather short, never woolly or curly. The face shouldn't be too bushy.

H. Gourdon : « the hair should not have the length of that of the Nivernais griffon, for example; we must be able to distinguish the contours of the head. The fawn griffon must not be groomed. A good brush is enough. To present a subject on dog show, it is not necessary to epilate its rough covering hair, which is an important breed criterion.



- Colour: fawn coloured, from golden wheaten to red brick in hue. A few black hairs dispersed on the back and ears are tolerated. Occasionally the presence of a small white star on the chest, something not sought after.

H. Gourdon : 30 or 40 years ago, the red was favoured in dogs shows, considering that it was more aesthetic. But there is no preference to be had in this range, which goes from golden wheaten to red, as long as the nose, mucous membranes and iris are well pigmented. As for the white, which comes from an old crossing with the Vendéen, it was previously seen on the chest, forequarters, hindquarters and feet. Selection removed it, except for the white star on the chest: it does not prevent the Excellent qualification, as long as it is really small, but we have prohibited it for the last four of the best subjects in special, regional and national breeding shows. We therefore see fewer subjects with the white star.

FAULTS:

A FEW IMPORTANT POINTS

- Behaviour: timid.
- Wide, flat skull.
- Superciliary arches too prominent.
- Short or pointed muzzle. Heavy and pendulous upper lips.
- Eyes: light.
- Ears: flat and large.
- Frail in appearance.
- Topline: too tucked up.
- Tail: out of line.
- Coat: sparse, smooth, fine, soft.

FAULTS:

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Jaws/Teeth: overshot or undershot.
- Eyes: overly light.
- Pigmentation: totally or partially unpigmented areas on the nose or the edges of eyelids or lips.
- Tail: kinked.
- Forequarters: excessive crook.
- Presence of dewclaws
- Long, woolly coat.



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