



GINGER, CGCA, CGCU, THAD, RATS

HAPPY ST. PATTY'S DAY



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LEKC meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month

@ The Lady Lake Library, W. Guava Street. Board

Meets 6 p.m. General meeting 7:15 p.m. Website:

[www.lekcdogclub.org](http://www.lekcdogclub.org).

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BRAGS: WE'VE GOT LOTS OF BRAGS

**Teddy, Feather, Toby, Lily, Molly**



**Teddy earned his BCAT at MADTA's Fast Cat test. (Sharie Davis)**

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**Feather achieved her FCAT title Sunday in Ocala. She is the first Sheltie to get those 1000 points for the top title. (Sally Hensen)**

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**Toby did a great job Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> at the CFDOC Obedience and Rally trials. He earned his 2nd leg in beginner novice, even with a down stay walk around the ring. His second showing Intermediate Rally, earned his title and a second place. Very proud of the little guy. (Sharie Davis)**



Lily went 2/3 @ LEKC's Scent Work Trial with a 2nd place  
Molly went 2/3 @ LEKC's Scent Work Trial with a 2nd & 4th place. She also participated in CFODC Novice Rally Trial on Sunday. She earned a 1st place with a 99/100.

9Things you don't know About a Breed you've never heard of: The Kooikerhondie



**Jan Reisen January 2018**

This January, the AKC recognized one country's (the Netherlands) favorite little dog: the [Nederlandse Kooikerhondje](#). The name, pronounced "Netherlands-e Coy-ker-hond-tsje" translates roughly to "decoy dog." What does that mean? We're about to tell you.

1. "Decoy dog" refers to the specific job the Kooikerhondje was bred for. Working from enclosures called "eendenkoois" that were built along wetlands and canals, the dog lured ducks into a cage (kooi) for the hunter. The dog would weave in and out of the enclosures, which caught the attention of the ducks.
2. The breed's feathered tail, with its white plume, is quite distinctive, as the dog wags it back and forth. The wagging tail, along with the dog's quick and playful movement, are what attract the ducks.
3. If any of this sounds familiar, perhaps it's because you know a [Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever](#). The Kooikerhondje is believed to be an ancestor of that North American breed.
4. The Kooikerhondje has distinctive ears, with many dogs having black tips on the ears, called earrings.
5. Kooikerhondjes date back at least as far as the 16th century. Anecdotal information says that a Kooikerhondje saved the life of William of Orange by alerting him to an attack by the Spanish. The breed also shows up in paintings by Dutch masters, such as Steen, Rembrandt, and Vermeer.
6. This lovely little spaniel almost became extinct in the 1940s. The breed was preserved and made its comeback through the efforts of a dedicated patron of the breed, Baroness Van Hardenbroek van Ammerstol.
7. Not a duck hunter? The Kooikerhondje may still be for you. He is spirited, easily trained, and loves doing things with his people. He makes an affectionate companion, as long as he gets the physical and mental exercise the breed thrives on.

8. The Kooikerhondje will soon have a wider audience. His very first official "Meet the Breed" appearance will be in February 2018 at the AKC Meet & Compete event on Saturday, Feb. 10.

9. This star athlete will compete at the "Kooiker Coming Out Party" in Louisville, Ky., March 15-18. He's sure to excel at pretty much everything, including rally, agility, dock diving, and conformation.

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## **6 Things You Didn't Know About the Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen**

Katherine Ripley | January 2018



The [Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen](#), or GBGV, is a rare breed in the United States. He is energetic, curious, and always makes his presence known. Here are more interesting facts about the GBGV:

### **1. They Come From France**

If you're familiar with the French language, you may have already figured out that the Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen originated in [France](#). The predecessors of the GBGV — short-legged hunting hounds — appeared at the first dog shows in France in the 1860s. As time went on, French hunting dogs became more and more differentiated, and one of the resulting breeds was the GBGV

### **2. They Were the Poor Man's Hunting Dog**

Because poor huntsmen could not afford horses, they could not keep up with fast, large hounds. While the aristocrats followed their large hunting dogs on horseback, peasants followed [slower dogs](#) on foot. This is why the basset breeds, including the GBGV, were bred to have short legs

### **3. They Hunt In Packs**

Grand Basset Griffon Vendéens typically go hunting in [packs](#), as do [Beagles](#) and foxhounds. GBGVs are scent hounds that track game primarily by using their noses.

#### **4. The GBGV and PBGV Used To Be Interbred**

Grand Basset Griffon Vendéens were used to hunt [wolves and deer](#), while [Petit Basset Griffon Venden](#) were used to hunt rabbit, hare, and sometimes birds. But the PBGV and GBGV did not become [separate breeds](#) until the 1970s. The litters used to be interbred, and the puppies were separated by size. Today, there are other key differences in these two breeds in addition to size. In proportion to their height, the GBGV has a longer muzzle, longer ears, a longer back, and a longer tail.

#### **5. Their Name Is Quite Descriptive**

Let's break down the full [name](#): "Grand" is a French word that means large, so it fits the bigger version of the two Basset Griffon Vendéen breeds. "Basset" means low. "Griffon" is a type of wire coat, and "Vendéen" comes from Vendée, the region of France where the breed originated.

#### **6. They Only Recently Came to the U.S.**

The first GBGV came to the U.S. in [1990](#), and the first litter was born in 1994. They remain few in number in the U.S. today.

The Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen is one of the newest breeds to join the AKC. They received official recognition into the [Hound Group](#) on Jan. 1, 2018.

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### **Are Dogs Really Smarter Than Cats?**

Stephanie Gibeault, MSc, CPDT | January 23, 2018

Dog people and cat people have an age-old debate about which animal makes a better pet. Dog owners brag about [canine intelligence](#), and cat lovers reply that cats are as just smart as dogs, they simply can't be bothered to obey. Well, new research published in the journal [Frontiers in Neuroanatomy](#) seems to support the argument that dogs might actually be smarter than cats.

Débora Jardim-Messeder and her colleagues looked at the brains of animals in the order Carnivora, a group of mammals that contains bears, seals, and raccoons, as well as our domesticated cats and dogs. The purpose of the study was to explore the link between brain size and the number of neurons (specialized cells that transmit information) in the brain. If brain size is equal in different animals, the higher the number of neurons, the more densely packed those neurons are.

The researchers were particularly interested in the cerebral cortex – the part of the brain linked with intelligence - because it controls complex thought processes such as decision-making and planning. The more densely packed the neurons are in a species' cerebral cortex, the more intelligent that species is considered to be. For example, primates, renowned for their smarts, have brains with very dense neurons.

Eight species of Carnivora were included in the study, with one or two sample animals from each species. The one domestic cat and the two dogs (one [Golden Retriever](#) and one dog of unspecified [breed](#)) used by the researchers died of natural causes, and their bodies were donated to science. Images were made of the structure of each animal's brain, and the brain's weight was measured for purposes of size comparison. Then, to determine the exact number of neurons, each brain was dissolved, and the number of cells in a sample of the resulting liquid was counted under a microscope. This sample count was used to estimate the number of cells in the complete brain. Results showed that the dogs, having larger brains to begin with, had more than twice as many neurons in their cerebral cortex as the domestic cat, with around 530 million cortical neurons to the cat's 250 million. (For comparison, there are billions of neurons in the human brain.) Because the brain relies on neurons to process information, the more neurons an animal has in its cerebral cortex, the more information it can process, and the richer its mental capabilities likely are. This means that dogs have the potential for more complex and flexible behavior than cats.

But it wasn't simply a case of the dog having a bigger brain than the cat. The Golden Retriever's brain, in particular, had even more cortical neurons than the African lion and brown bear also included in the study, even though the lion and bear had far larger cerebral cortices than the dog. In other words, the dog packed more neurons into a smaller space. It seems that thousands of years of [living domestically](#) with humans hasn't hurt our canine companion's intelligence.

Before dog people start saying, "I told you so," to their cat-loving friends, it's important to keep in mind that the researchers looked at a very small sample size. There was only one cat and two dogs in the study. However, it's almost certain that the trend would stay the same, even with more animals included. The neuron counts were too far apart to simply be a case of individual variation.

More importantly, the scientists didn't test the intelligence of living dogs and cats with animal IQ tests or even observe the animals' behavior. The results are based on brain cells alone. So, although dogs have greater potential than cats, we have no proof they are using their brains' full capabilities. In truth, there is no better animal at being a cat than a cat, and nothing can be a dog quite as well as a dog. And as for which one makes the better pet? It all depends on who you ask.

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### **When your dog is afraid of men (Cesar's Way)**

One of the common fears people report their dogs having is of men in general. This seems ironic given that dogs are known as "man's best friend," but if there's one class of people that some dogs seem to fear, it would be men. So why is this?

There's an old saying—a dog that's been burned is afraid of a cold stove—and there's some truth in it. Because dogs live by their instincts, it can take as little as one bad experience with something to make a dog forever fearful of anything similar.

While it's a bad thing when humans do it, dogs do generalize. So, for example, if a broom falls over and almost hits a puppy, this can lead to an adult dog that's afraid of anything that looks like a stick.

However, the vast majority of men do not go around randomly scaring dogs. So why is this such a common fear?

### **Why dogs might fear men**

Although behaviorists have studied the issue, there's no clear reason why dogs would naturally be more afraid of men than they are of women, but there are some possibilities, the most likely of which is that the dog was not exposed to or [socialized](#) with enough men while she was a puppy, so they are still unusual to her.

First men are generally bigger and louder than women, with deeper voices. To a dog, big and loud are both threats, so they would naturally tend to shy away from this energy.

Another possibility is that men's and women's scents are very different to a dog, due to both hormones and different kinds of fragrances in personal care products. In the dog world, puppies are raised by their mothers and the father is rarely even around. Therefore, the female smell of estrogen is something that puppies are exposed to from an early age, and this smell is also associated with their first food source — nursing. Their mother's scent equals safety.

Another difference is the way men and women react to dogs and puppies. Women tend to approach a dog in a very nurturing and comforting way. Meanwhile, men tend to approach a new dog in a more assertive but playful way.

You've probably seen a full-grown adult male drop to the floor and try to initiate play with a new dog the way another dog would—with a bow and enthusiastic energy. The problem is that the average adult male is bigger than most adult dogs, so even though the approach is friendly, the appearance can be threatening. Meanwhile, instead of initiating play, women often offer an invitation, so the dogs don't feel threatened.

But, the final answer is this: scientifically, we really don't know why dogs tend to be more afraid of men than women, and everything is still conjecture.

None of which is helpful, of course, if your dog is afraid of men...

### **But my dog is afraid of men, so now what?**

Regardless of the cause, there are definite steps you can take to cure your dog's fear of men. Keep in mind that rehabilitating a fearful dog can be a more difficult process than rehabilitating an aggressive dog. But the good news is that it can be done. Here's how to proceed.

#### **1. Determine whether it's all men or just some attributes**

While it may seem that a dog is afraid of all men, this might not be the case, so you need

to figure out the exact cause of the fear first. It could be that your dog is only afraid of men with beards, or men in hats, or men in uniform. It could only be men over a certain height, men with deep voices or, unfortunately, men of a certain ethnic group.

The important part is that you need to forget the general labels and find the specific. This will require assistance from friends, and trial and error. For example, a rescue dog that was picked up off the streets by animal control may not actually be afraid of men, but afraid of people in uniforms — it just so happens that there are often more men in uniform than women.

Once you've determined whether it's all men or just one very specific subset, it's time to begin the rehabilitation. One thing to keep in mind, though: if your dog is expressing her fear through aggression, start by consulting with a professional trainer.

## 2. **Enlist friends and extinguish the fear**

The best way to help extinguish a dog's fear is through exposure to the fearful thing and a lot of positive reinforcement. In order to do this, you'll need a few strange—to your dog—men to help you, and the scary props, like uniforms or hats. If appropriate to your dog's situation, enlist a bearded friend or two as well.

Start with one man your dog hasn't met before, then allow your dog to approach him on her own terms. He should practice no touch, no talk, no eye contact and also have a few of your dog's favorite treats. Your friend will start by tossing a treat past your dog, so she has to move away from him to get it. Meanwhile, he then tosses three more treats down between him and her, which should draw her closer to his space.

The idea is to allow your dog's curiosity to get the better of her fear, then give her nothing to be afraid of during the encounter. Once she isn't flinching or jumping away when the man moves, then he can give her the treat himself while still not engaging her with touch, talk, or eye contact.

Eventually, you should be able to progress to the point that one of your male helpers can take the leash when your dog goes for a walk and then prepare and give your dog her food afterwards. This will further associate the formerly scary person with good things.

Rehabilitating a fearful dog can take time, so you'll have to repeat this exercise not only with different men, but in different locations—ridding your dog of his fear of men at home won't necessarily solve the problem when he's on the walk or in the dog park.

## 3. **Make yourself a distraction**

Train your dog to look at you on command and you'll have a way to turn her attention away from a fearful stimulus. This command may be referred to as "[Look at me](#)" or "[Watch me](#)." There are [several methods](#) to teach it and, as with all dog training, you can use whatever word or phrase works for you.

## 4. **Check your reaction**

Since dogs pick up on our energy and emotions, it is possible that he's learned his fear of

men or specific types of men from you. If he still seems to be showing fear despite the methods above, then pay attention to how you react to strange men. For example, do you feel nervous when you see a policeman or anxious when you see a delivery man? Do you become angry when you see a man who resembles your ex or a former boss you didn't like?

These reactions are out of the norm to your dog and are telling him, "Hey, there's something to watch out for here." Dogs reflect our energy — so make sure you're not accidentally telling your dog to be afraid of that man walking down the street!

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### **Dog keeps rabid raccoon from attacking kids, dad says**

(Jason Ruitter-Orlando Sentinel)

Elvin Rodriguez's 9 and 10 year old sons were playing basketball at dusk on the driveway at their Tavares home when a nocturnal creature slipped through the fence. After it began chasing the boys, a 6 year old boxer named Macho, came to their defense.

"I think he (Macho) knew, I think he heard the kids yelling and carry on, and he just jumped right in," Rodriguez 34, a Lake County Jail correctional officer, said Wednesday. Macho fought with the raccoon before Rodriguez, who grabbed his personal handgun, was "able to call him off" from the battle that left the dog with scratches around his eyes and ears. "Then it stopped for a minute, and hissed, and I was able to shoot it."

The raccoon tested positive for rabies after the March 13 incident, marking the fourth time in seven months a rabid animal has threatened Lake County residents.

"It didn't sink in until afterwards: I was just trying to make sure the kids were OK," Rodriguez said. "It (rabies) can be very serious."

Macho is quarantined on Rodriguez's property until April 27. He's been given vaccine shots and antibiotics and Lake County deputy sheriffs will make weekly checks to see if he's developed signs of rabies, such as aggressive behavior or extreme salivation.

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