

experts in their areas of interest, Claudia has drawn upon the talents of the membership for input in an on-going series of home study programs. The correspondence courses are designed to enhance Basset enthusiasts' knowledge of all aspects of the breed, from dealing with a new pet to judging the breed to competing, thus increasing their pleasure in working with the dogs.

Claudia has organized day long educational programs at our Basset National since 1999 and has seen increasing numbers of attendees each year. Beginning with some 40 attendees in '99, today we expect upwards of 100 individuals to come in a day early for the National Specialty Education Day. Furthermore, because there seemed to be keen interest in learning all year long rather than once a year at the National, **Basset Hound University** evolved.

The Set Up

BHU is divided into a system of "schools," each of which is run by one of the three Education Committees within the Basset Hound Club of America: *Member Education*, *Public Education* and *Judges Education*.

Course Design

BHU courses utilize a workbook, and sometimes a seminar and workshop approach. Workbook exercises include easy-to-answer and easy to correct formats such as true and false, fill-in-the-blanks, multiple choice and matching questions. A student can work at his/her own pace at home so there is an emphasis on convenience and making the program work for busy dog people.

Certificates of Completion

Certificates are awarded to anyone successfully completing the workbook exercises in each area: breeding, owning, conformation, judging, and performance, which includes tracking, field trialing, hunting, obedience, rally, agility and versatility. A student sends the completed exercises to a "faculty member" for review.

Completed Courses to Date

To date the following courses have been completed, which means that everything needed for a home study, "do it at your own pace" course are ready to go. In the **School of Breeding**, six courses are offered: (1) Course #301: *ABC's of Dog Breeding*, which presents genetics in a way that anyone can understand, (2) Course # 302: *Practical Canine Anatomy*, (3) Course #104: *Survey of Basset Hound Breed Literature*, (4) Course # 103: *The Basset Hound Standard & Terminology*, (5) Course #101: *Basset Hound Owner's Guide*, and (6) Course #501: *BHCA Judges' Education & D Workbook*. In the **Performance School**, available is Course #401: *Tracking with a Basset Hound* but to be completed are the following courses:

Field Trialing, Hunting, Obedience, Agility, Versatility, CGC, Rally and Therapy Dog. In the **History School**, Course #201: *Basset Hound: A World History* is complete. In the **Junior Showmanship School** two courses are ready: *History of the Basset Hound* and the *Basset Hound Owners Guide* and to be completed is Showing Your Basset Hound. In the **Public Education School**, there is *Course #101: The Basset Hound Owner's Guide* and *Course #102: Basset Hound Coloring and Activities Book*.

And in that category which is always the topic of conversation, the **Judges Education School**, four courses are complete: Course # 501: *BHCA Judges Education CD Workbook*, Course # 103: *The Basset Hound Breed Standard & Terminology*, Course #302: *Practical Canine Anatomy* and Course # 104: *Survey of Basset Hound Breed Literature*. This means that the Workbooks, with photos, graphs, charts and explanations are all available to new and prospective Basset Hound judges.

The Possibility For New Courses

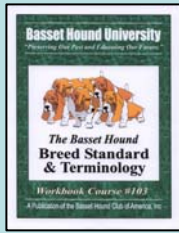
As a Parent Club sees a need for a new course, one may be developed. For example, since the ringside mentorship program is to be expanded, we might develop a course on *Effective Mentoring*. Time alone in a breed does not guarantee a person's ability to be a good mentor. Not everyone is suited to mentor others. One needs to be able to be honest with himself, diplomatic, and totally able to transcend kennel blindness. One needs to be able to know his breed standard thoroughly, know anatomy, be able to use the proper terminology, and be able divorce himself from his own breeding program. This can be a very emotional hurdle to conquer.

The School of Judging

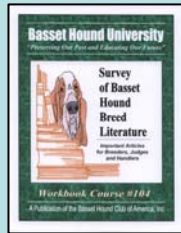
Let's look at one **School** in more detail: **The School of Judging**. It is designed for new and prospective judges of the breed and contains a total of 4 individual courses. Intended to equip judges with breed specific information and practical guidelines on how to prioritize virtues and weakness in the Basset, it covers the unique structure of the achondroplastic Basset Hound while emphasizing the need to evaluate the Basset as a hunting hound, designed for a day's work, whose original purpose was to follow a trail over difficult terrain for many hours at a time. *Course #501: The BHCA Judges' CD Workbook* contains exercises that are designed to help judges learn and remember information contained in the official breed seminar. *Course #103: The Basset Hound Breed Standard & Terminology* will familiarize the judge with the standard, the terminology and the parts of the Basset. *Course #302: Practical Canine Anatomy* discusses key skeletal and surface parts of the dog that judges should know and approaches the topic of canine anatomy from the point of view of evaluating a dog's structural balance based on 4 important elements, which include (1) size, (2) substance, (3) stance and (4) proportions. *Course #104: Survey of the Basset Hound Literature* is a workbook program designed around key interpretative articles on the

Basset Hound University **School of Judging**

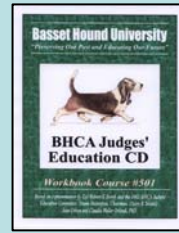
is made up of 4 courses:



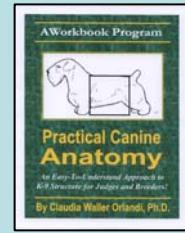
Course #103:
The Basset
Hound
Breed Standard
& Terminology



Course #104:
Survey of
Basset Hound
Breed
Literature



Course #501:
BHCA Judges'
Education CD
Workbook



Course #302:
Practical
Canine
Anatomy

Basset Hound breed written by breeders, judges and canine experts. Too often the wonderful articles printed in club newsletters are buried in those issues. This literature is part of the breed's history as well. A deck of Flashcards is part of the **BHU School of Judging** and is used to reinforce the material in the workbooks.

“Preserving the Past and Educating the Future”

This motto of the **Breed University** program reminds us of the importance of developing interesting ways to help new people learn how to participate in owning, breeding, judging and competing in a particular breed. It also reminds us that it is necessary to preserve the valuable legacies and experiences that are part of every breed's history. Will we remember the valuable lessons that experts in our breed have taught us? Will we forget the informative workshops that have taught us key information about our breed? Will we remember the wonderful dogs and devoted breeders who have influenced the development of our breed? How can we get new people in our breed started off on the right foot? How can we be sure we can guide the future of our breed in the right direction? How can we be sure that this guidance is **on-going and available** for years to come? A **Breed University** can give parent clubs a good start.

The Model

Basset Hound University is designed to be used as a model for any Parent Club wishing to follow the plan. You need only follow the outline of each course and substitute your own breed specific information. If you have any questions or wish to acquire any of the workbooks or guides for your club's use, please contact Claudia Orlandi, PhD at domorlan@gmavt.net. For specific questions or materials regarding the **Judges Education School**, please email me at ksteidel@aol.com