



AMERICAN BRUSSELS GRIFFON ASSOCIATION
(AKC Member Club)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Revised March 2008

Step 1: Membership Applicant(s) Information

Name 1 : _____ Name 2 : _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ 9 Digit Zip Code: _____ - _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____ Work Phone: (_____) _____ FAX: (_____) _____

E-Mail: _____

I give my permission to give my name, address and phone number to those requesting puppy or breed information: _____ YES _____ NO

Step 2: Endorsement of two ABGA members in good standing

ABGA applicants for membership must be endorsed by two Regular and/or Life ABGA members in good standing with the club. The two endorsing members must be from two separate households. Each endorsing member must sign this application and accompany this application with a written statement indicating their sponsorship and knowledge of the applicant(s). **If there is more than one applicant, the endorsement must be for both applicants.** The ABGA board will review these statements.

As an endorsing ABGA member in good standing, I hereby attest to my belief that the applicants(s) will abide by the ABGA Constitution, By-laws and the Guidelines for Responsible Practices (see page 5).

(1) _____ (2) _____
Endorsing signature of ABGA Regular or Life Member Endorsing signature of ABGA Regular or Life Member

Step 3: Select a Membership Class

Before completing Step 3, PLEASE READ PAGE 4 of this application for the definition of each membership classification and requirements.

Regular Memberships are voting memberships

- _____ Regular Single Membership Dues \$ 40.00
\$35 dues + \$5 initiation fee
- _____ Regular Couple Membership Dues \$ 50.00
\$40 dues + \$5/person initiation fee

Associate and Junior Memberships are non-voting memberships

- _____ Associate Domestic Membership Dues \$ _____
\$35 dues + \$5/person initiation fee
- _____ Associate Foreign Membership Dues \$ _____
\$50 dues + \$10/person initiation fee (USA Currency only)
- _____ Junior Membership Dues \$ 10.00
\$10 dues. No initiation fee.

Enclosed is my check **made payable to the ABGA in USA currency** in the amount of \$ _____

Step 4: Signature of ABGA Pledge

If accepted as an ABGA member, I pledge to uphold and preserve the American Brussels Griffon Association, and to uphold the Guidelines for Responsible Practices (see pages 5 & 6) when making decisions for my own Brussels Griffons and the protection and preservation of the Brussels Griffon breed as a whole. If I fail to adhere to this pledge, this may constitute "misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or the Breed" for which I may be subject to disciplinary action as described in the ABGA Constitution and By-Laws.

Signature of ABGA Applicant

Signature of ABGA Applicant

Date

Date

STEP 5: Breed History of Applicant(s)

Please use the following questions as a means of introducing yourself to the ABGA Board and membership. If your answers need more room than provided please attach additional sheet(s).

1. Briefly describe how you became interested in the Brussels Griffon Breed.

2. Who has been your mentor(s) in this breed?

3. How many Brussels Griffons do you presently own/co-own? _____ Please list below their name(s), any titles earned and CERF and/or OFA numbers.

Name	Title(s)	OFA#	CERF#

4. How many litters of Brussels Griffons are you registered as the breeder or co-breeder? _____

5. What other breed(s) of dogs do you own/co-own or breed? Please name the breed(s) and indicate how many dogs of this breed(s) you own.

Breed	Number owned/co-owned

6. Why do you wish to become a member of the ABGA?

7. What do you expect to gain from ABGA membership?

8. What talents, skills or services would you like to contribute to the ABGA should you gain membership?

*****Please complete items 9-11 if you are applying for Regular Membership only*****

9. Please indicate applicant(s) involvement in the AKC and AKC events within the last four years.

10. Indicate the dates that applicant(s) has attended two (2) ABGA National Specialties and/or ABGA supported entries.

(1) _____

(2) _____

11. Please indicate the date applicant(s) attended one ABGA Sanctioned Judges' Education Seminar and the name of the seminar presenter _____

Step 6: Check list for submitting your ABGA membership application

Each applicant must submit the following:

For Regular Membership:

1. Completed ABGA membership application (pages 1 and 2 only).
2. Letters of endorsement from two ABGA members in good standing from two separate households.
3. Check made payable to the ABGA for yearly dues and initiation fees in USA Currency.
4. Copy of at least one Brussels Griffon AKC Registration listing the applicant(s) as an owner.

For Associate Domestic Membership:

1. Completed ABGA membership application (pages 1 and 2 only).
2. Letters of endorsement from two ABGA members in good standing from two separate households.
3. Check made payable to the ABGA for yearly dues and initiation fees in USA Currency.

For Associate Foreign Memberships:

1. Completed ABGA membership application (pages 1 and 2 only).
2. Letters of endorsement from two ABGA members in good standing from two separate households.
3. Check made payable to the ABGA for yearly dues and initiation fees in USA Currency.
4. Letter of good standing from applicant(s) country's National Kennel Club or National Registry.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, the ABGA has a Membership Committee in place to facilitate the membership process. If an applicant has any questions about ABGA membership, please contact the following.

Membership Committee:

Linda Vance – Chair
(info below)

John Constantine
Phone: 215-527-0056
E-Mail: adamisms@hotmail.com

Jim Neposchlan
Phone: 217-546-1504
E-Mail: kpage1@insightbb.com

Please note that once all the membership data is gathered and processed, the name of the applicant(s) is submitted to the Editor of the club newsletters. The name of the applicant(s) and their endorsers will be published in the club newsletter and after a minimum of 30 days has passed since publication, the application is then submitted to the ABGA Board for approval at the Board's next regularly scheduled meeting. Please understand the board meets only a few times per year so the entire membership process can take several months.

Send completed ABGA application to:

Linda G. Vance, ABGA Secretary
P.O. Box 11
Shirley IL 61772-0011
H: 309-828-4311
E-Mail: FistFaces@aol.com

The American Brussels Griffon Association

Classes of Membership

(As defined by ABGA By-Laws, Article I)

Please Note: To be eligible to apply for membership in the ABGA, the applicant must be in good standing with The American Kennel Club and subscribe to the objectives of the ABGA as defined in the ABGA Constitution. All foreigners applying for ABGA membership must be in good standing with the national kennel club of their respective country and provide such in writing.

The following defines the ABGA membership types available to ABGA applicants. Please read this section carefully to determine the membership type that is best for you.

Regular ABGA Membership:

The ABGA provides a regular membership open to all eligible persons who are eighteen years of age and older and are residents of the United States of America. A regular member shall have full privileges of the Club, including the right to vote and serve as an officer, governor and/or on committees. **To apply for regular membership the applicant must meet all of the following requirements at the time of application for membership:**

1. The applicant currently is an owner of record of an AKC registered Brussels Griffon(s).
2. The applicant has been active in AKC recognized events for a minimum period of the past four years.
3. The applicant has attended at least two ABGA national specialties or ABGA supported entries within the past four years.
4. The applicant has attended one ABGA Breed Seminar within the past four years.

The ABGA will offer two types of Regular membership as follows:

1. **Regular Single** – defined as one member who meets the requirements for Regular membership and has one vote. A regular single membership receives one ABGA newsletter.
2. **Regular Couple** – defined as two persons living at the same address who each as a separate entity meet the requirements for regular membership and who each as a separate entity has one vote. A regular couple membership receives one ABGA newsletter.

Associate ABGA Membership:

The ABGA shall provide an Associate membership open to all eligible persons who are eighteen years of age and older. An Associate membership is offered to those who subscribe to the objectives of the ABGA, who show an interest in the breed, who wish to be involved in club activities and who wish to receive the club newsletter. An Associate member shall have full privileges of the club except the right to vote and to serve as an officer, governor or on committees.

The ABGA shall offer two types of Associate Membership as follows:

1. **Associate Domestic** – defined as all eligible persons who are residents of the United States of America.
2. **Associate Foreign** – defined as all eligible persons who reside in a country other than the United States of America and who are in good standing with their respective country's kennel club.

Junior ABGA Membership:

The ABGA shall provide a Junior membership open to all eligible persons who are ten years of age and under eighteen years of age, who are a resident of the United States of America and who subscribe to the objectives of the ABGA. A Junior member shall have full privileges of the club except the right to vote or to serve as an officer, governor or on committees. Junior members can apply for another class of membership upon reaching age eighteen.



American Brussels Griffon Association

Guidelines for Responsible Practices (Revised 1999)

WHY HAVE GUIDELINES FOR RESPONSIBLE PRACTICES?

The American Brussels Griffon Club (ABGA), Parent Club for the breed, bears the responsibility of the guardian of the standard, chief welfare advocate of the Brussels Griffon and leader in improving breed health and controlling overpopulation. This responsibility calls for the establishment of standards or responsible practices which insure the lifelong well-being for the Brussels Griffon breed.

PURPOSE OF THE GUIDELINES FOR RESPONSIBLE PRACTICES

The purpose of the Guidelines for Responsible Practices is to set forth principals for ABGA members to use as a guide when confronted with decisions and courses of action that will impact on the lifetime well-being of our own Brussels Griffons, and the preservation and improvement of the breed as a whole.

ABGA MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

1. Each member must be in good standing with the American Kennel Club (AKC).
2. Each member must agree to abide by the ABGA Constitution and By-laws, and uphold the Guidelines of Responsible Practices as pledged when signing the membership application.
3. Each prospective member must be sponsored by two current ABGA members who know the individual and will attest to his/her knowledge and dedication to the breed, and his/her willingness to uphold the precepts of the ABGA.

Guidelines for Responsible Breeding Practices

1. Each breeder will agree to have a lifelong obligation (regarding the well-being) to every puppy produced through their breeding efforts by offering to take back or help to re-home any Griffon of their breeding.
2. When planning their breeding program each breeder will only consider using mature, healthy dams and sires that possess breed type as set forth in the breed standard; and are temperamentally and physically sound with no known or suspected inheritable defects or diseases as determined by appropriate screening protocols.
3. No breeder will breed a bitch before her second season.
4. Each member will raise puppies in a healthy environment with socialization and training pertinent to the puppies' developmental stages as well as provide appropriate inoculations and all other appropriate veterinary care.
5. No member will offer stud service to USDA license holders, brokers, agents who resell dogs, pet shops or bitches who have not been properly screened for health disorders.

Guidelines for Responsible Placement Practices

1. Each prospective buyer will be carefully screened with the intent of placing the puppy in a permanent home never selling to USDA license holders, brokers, pet shops or agents who resell dogs. The breeder will be prepared to keep every puppy for as long as it takes to find the right home.
2. No breeder will agree to transfer or release a puppy before the age of 12 weeks.
3. Each breeder will supply each purchaser with an (1) AKC registration application certificate, (2) complete medical records which show the Griffon's health status as determined by a veterinary exam, (3) diet information and (4) care and maintenance information. The breeder/seller will be available to assist in any way to promote the successful transfer and on-going adjustment of the puppy (or older dog) in the new home.
4. Each breeder will insure that Griffons, sold as **pets**, are not used in breeding by registering them using the AKC limited registration. If an intact **pet** is sold, the breeder will use a written agreement requiring the new owner to spay or neuter their pet at an appropriate age as recommended by the new owner's veterinarian.

RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP PRACTICES

1. Each member will provide proper care for their own animal(s) including, but not limited to, proper living conditions, proper grooming, nutrition, veterinary health care, socialization, training and exercise.

RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR PROMOTING THE SPORT OF PURE BRED DOGS

1. Each member will at all times, while at dog shows, in the show ring, or traveling and staying at hotels or motels conduct themselves in such a manner as to reflect positively on the sport, particularly as it relates to the Brussels Griffon.
2. Each member who is an experienced owner, breeder and/or exhibitor should willingly mentor novice owners, exhibitors and/or breeders offering advice, constructive criticism or assistance with problems when requested to do so.

These guidelines were developed in 1999 by the Code of Ethics Committee appointed by then ABGA President, Terry Smith, using input from both ABGA Board Members as well as the Collection of Parent Club Codes of Ethics compiled by the American Kennel Club Delegates' Standing Committee on Parent Clubs.