



AMERICAN BRUSSELS GRIFFON ASSOCIATION Inc.
(AKC Member Club)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Revised April 2010

Step 1: Membership Applicant(s) Information

Name 1: _____ Name 2: _____

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

Home/Cell Phone: (____) _____ Work/Cell 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 applicant(s) will abide by the ABGA Constitution, By-Laws and has read and understood the Code of Ethics (see pages 5 & 6).

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

(2) _____
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 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 read and understand the Code of Ethics (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 & Date

Signature of ABGA Applicant & Date

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 (an) 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/these 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 with the last four years. _____

10. Indicate the date(s) 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.

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

Membership Review Committee

Linda Vance ~ Chair
(info below)

Liz Harris
Phone: 734-330-6951

Jim Neposchlan
Phone: 217-546-1504

E-Mail: wintergriffs@comcast.net

E-Mail: kenpage1@comcast.net

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 newsletter. 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

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

CODE OF ETHICS

This Code of Ethics is a guideline for how American Brussels Griffon Association (ABGA) members conduct themselves as they pursue their hobby of owning, showing and breeding Brussels Griffons. The purpose is not to punish a member for his/her conduct, but to point the way toward responsible, caring ownership, exhibiting and breeding. Membership in the ABGA requires acceptance of and adherence to these guidelines.

Responsible Breeding Practices

1. Each member's breeding program shall strive to conform to the approved Brussels Griffon breed standard to improve progeny and minimize faults.
2. Each member who conducts a breeding program agrees to have an obligation for the well-being of every puppy produced. This obligation shall include offering to take back or help place into a new home any Griffons of their breeding found to be in inappropriate living conditions or if the new owner is no longer able to keep the dog.
3. When planning a breeding program each member will only consider using mature, healthy dams and sires that possess breed type as set forth in the standard, and that are temperamentally and physically sound, with no known or suspected serious inheritable defects or diseases as determined by appropriate screening protocols.
4. No breeder will breed a bitch before her second season or before she is 18 months old, nor shall she be bred after her 8th birthday.
5. It is recommended that each sire and dam be screened and certified free from hereditary eye defects and patellar luxation prior to breeding. This includes annual Canine Eye Registration Foundation (CERF) evaluation and certification for eye defects as long as the dog is being bred and Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) evaluation and certification for patellar luxation once after the age of two. Certificates of CERF and OFA of the sire and dam should be made available to puppy buyers.
6. Each member will raise puppies in a healthy environment with socialization and training pertinent to the puppies' developmental stages and will provide appropriate inoculations and all other appropriate veterinary care.
7. No member will offer stud service to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) license holders, brokers, agents who resell dogs, pet shops or bitches who have not been properly screened for health disorders.
8. Members shall be familiar with American Kennel Club (AKC) rules concerning record keeping, registration, sale and transfer of dogs, and shall abide by these rules.

Responsible Placement Practices

1. Each prospective buyer will be carefully screened with the intent of placing the puppy in a permanent home. Members shall never sell a Griffon to USDA license holders, brokers, pet shops, or agents who resell dogs. The member will be prepared to keep every puppy for as long as it takes to find the right home.
2. No member will agree to transfer or release a puppy before the age of 12 weeks. New owners should be advised that at any time in the future the owner is unable to keep the dog, the owner is to contact the member and the member will have the responsibility to either take the dog back or find it a new home.
3. Each member will supply each purchaser with the following:
 - AKC registration application certificate
 - Complete medical records which show the Griffon's health status as determined by a veterinary exam
 - Feeding and diet information

- Care and maintenance information
- Share health testing results of sire and dam (CERF, OFA etc.)

The member 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 member will ensure that Griffons sold as pets are not used in breeding by registering them using the AKC limited registration and/or by age-appropriate spaying or neutering at the earliest possible age as recommended by the veterinarian. If an intact pet is sold, the member will use a written agreement requiring the new owner to spay or neuter the pet at an appropriate age as recommended by the new owner's veterinarian.

Responsible Ownership Practices

1. Each member will provide care for their own Griffon(s) including, but not limited to proper living conditions, proper grooming, nutrition, veterinary health care, socialization, training and exercise.
2. Members are encouraged to participate in the AKC Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) program for the Brussels Griffon.
3. Members are encouraged to conduct additional health tests for suspected health conditions such as thyroid abnormalities, hip dysplasia, progressive retinal atrophy (PRA), and syringomyelia (SM) for potential sires and dams.
4. All members are encouraged to support and encourage research activities designed to improve the health and welfare of Brussels Griffons.

Responsible Behavior Promoting the Sport of Purebred 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.
3. Each member of ABGA signs a pledge statement as part of the Membership Application process agreeing to abide by the Code of Ethics set forth by the club.
4. The ABGA "Code of Ethics" document as well as each Member of ABGA is subject to the governing documents (i.e.- Constitution & By-Laws) of the ABGA and AKC.

Approved by the ABGA Membership – January 2010

The Code of Ethics is a revision of "Guidelines for Responsible Practice," originally developed and adopted in 1999. It was revised and renamed in 2010 by the ABGA Code of Ethics Committee (Chairperson: Meg Prior, Anne Catterson, Mark Grigalunas, Jeff Kestner and Pam Waldron).

The revisions are a result of AKC recommendations. The ABGA Code of Ethics Committee recommends periodic review and revisions to this Code of Ethics document as necessary to reflect the current issues surrounding the sport of dogs, breeding for health, pet welfare and animal rights.

