

If I could choose any AKC pure-bred breed of dog, I would choose a basset hound. I would choose a basset hound because they are very cuddly, and whenever you are sad, all you have to do is look at your basset hound and you'll feel better, because they always look so concerned for you and they are very caring too. It makes you want to just hug them and never let them go. Also, their howl is so funny it might make you feel better to hear it. I have a basset hound named Otis and he is the saddest looking basset hound, but when I look at him, I see the happiest basset hound ever! Whenever I'm sad and Otis is around he is very caring and sensitive and comes over to me to make sure that I am ok. It's almost as if they have a 7th scent that allows them to be able to tell if you are happy and need to cuddle or if you are sad and you need a friend— a dog friend, that is.

Basset hounds are also **VERY** friendly because whenever I am walking Otis and he sees another dog, he immediately wants to go over to it and sniff it and play-bark at it. Or if he sees a person walking he will also try to say hi to them too.

Even though they are very smelly, you learn to overlook their hound stench because of their awesome, silly, gentle nature. Also, another good thing about basset hounds is if there is any food on the ground, or you dropped some food on the ground, you don't have to clean it up, they will make sure that that food is cleaned of the ground, immediately!

Basset hounds are also **VERY LAZY** so if you are not that active of a person and don't go on a lot of walks, all you have to do is have a fence or a leash in your backyard so they can run around or sleep in the sun and they will not get away. If you do want to take them on a walk they are good for shorter walks, especially when they are older, but when they are young, you can take them on pretty long-ish walks. However, walks take a lot longer than other dog breeds because they like to sniff everything. When I say everything I mean **EVERYTHING!** Grass, trees, fences,

sticks, mailboxes, and who could forget the fire hydrants. Even though basset hounds are very lazy, a busy day for a basset hound would usually include a short walk, maybe a car ride, and eating. It's very exhausting.

If you ever have any company coming over you don't have to wait around by the door wondering when they will be there, all you have to do is just have your basset around and as soon as they come pulling up by your house your basset hound will tell you when they are there, especially when they have a dog. Also, if your doorbell isn't working and your basset hound is around, no worries because your basset will be the doorbell.

Although the basset hounds are very slobbery, their drool is full of lots of love. It's especially funny when they shake and it flies all around them. Another good thing about basset hounds is they don't shed a lot, so if you don't like dogs that shed a lot you can get a basset hound because they barely shed at all. Finally, basset hounds don't really make good "catch with the ball" dogs or "chase the dog" dogs, but they do make very great cuddle buddies. That is why I would pick a basset hound.

~Phaedra Rogers Schmirler