



Is a Rescued Brussels Griffon the Right Breed for You and Your Family?

Griffons are not like other dogs. They are affectionately known as Velcro dogs because they attach themselves to one person in the family, sometimes two, and need to be with that person 24/7.

They want to sleep in bed with you. They follow you from room to room and are never more than 2-3' from you. If you are standing at the sink, you may find your Griff sitting on your feet. When you sit down, your Griff will be in your lap. Can you handle that as part of your life style?

Often Griffons do not do well when left alone, even in the company of other dogs. An ideal situation is someone that works from home, is allowed to take their dogs to work with them, works part time or is retired. This is an ideal breed for empty nesters.

Following, is some information about Brussels Griffons. Please read as much as you can about the breed so you feel confident that this is the right dog for you. This is a life-time commitment for the Griffon and a 12-15 year commitment for the adopter.

Brussels Griffon Temperament and Behavior

- Generally the Griffon is an intelligent, happy, affectionate, adaptable companion who loves his caretakers best and craves their attention.
- It is not unusual for a Griffon to be shy with strangers or new situations, and hang with his owner until he warms to what's new.
- He barks when someone comes to the door or when appropriate.
- He doesn't care for aggressive behavior, and if he can't escape, he'll defend himself.
- It is very possible to find some Griffons who are hyperactive, and on the other end of the scale, some who are very mellow even shy.

- Male or female makes little difference in temperament.
- Because of their small size and complete attachment to their family, Brussels Griffons are strictly house dogs.
- They should always have the opportunity to socialize with their people; otherwise they will become unhappy and withdraw into their shell.
- Griffons are happiest when they can sleep in your bed, follow you throughout your daily activities, and be an integral part of the family.
- Griffons get along well with other pets, and enjoy the companionship of their human and animal family members.
- A word of caution - due to their innate sense of self importance, they are not aware of their small stature. As a result, they will often try to dominate dogs many times their size and could be hurt by a larger pet.
- Griffons lack a homing instinct and because of their sense of self importance may take off to see the world when the opportunity presents itself. A safely fenced yard and no opened doors are a necessity.
- They love to run and play. When playtime is through, they will curl up next to you for a nap, again showing that they are true Velcro dogs.
- A Griffon left alone will devise many ways to amuse themselves, many of which their family may not appreciate. To avoid accidents leaving your Griffon in a crate or confined area is best.
- If he's to be a family dog, everyone must help in care and training. .
- Because of the Griffon's small size and sensitive nature, they are not recommended as pets for small children under five that might be unwittingly rough or even tease the dog.
- Toy dogs are often difficult to house train. Not that it's impossible to have a housetrained Griffon, but often it is you that gets trained. There are books and pamphlets on house training. Be sure you look into the commitment needed for this BEFORE a dog is adopted.
- **The secret to house training is never allowing an accident to happen.** This is best accomplished by keeping your new rescue on a leash tethered to you at all times or in a crate for the first 2 or 3 weeks.
- If you have a house with carpeting or expensive oriental rugs, it would be foolish to allow a Griffon access where a "piddle" would break your heart.

- By keeping your Griffon on a regular schedule, and taking him outside immediately after waking up and after eating, your chances for successful housetraining will be improved.
- The secret to training a Griffon is by making them think it was their idea. They are eager to please but cannot be forced to do anything. You cannot win an argument with a Griffon. They have a long memory and are unforgiving if they have an unpleasant experience.
- Brussels Griffons have a high degree of intelligence coupled with a sensitive nature.

Adopting a Rescued Brussels Griffon

The Griffons in the NBGR program come from all different backgrounds. Some are from shelters, puppy mills and some are owner released.

In most cases they are placed first in foster homes so they can be evaluated and rehabilitated if necessary. They are taken to a vet to be examined and given all the appropriate inoculations. They are tested for heartworms, treated or put on preventatives, microchipped, spayed or neutered. All health issues are addressed.

The foster home will want to know a lot about the potential adopters to ensure that the Griffs are matched with a perfect forever home.

- Every rescued Brussels Griffon is different. What works on one or many, will completely fail on others; the only thing that is consistent is that they will need lots of patience, understanding, love, and probably most importantly, unconditional acceptance of what they are and what their limitations may be.
- Belly bands for the boys and doggy diapers for the girls may be a lifetime necessity for a few special Griffons.
- Rescued Griffons are often fearful because of past abuse or rough handling. They need a gentle touch and soft words to trust fully.
- Once trust is achieved with a rescued Griffon, that person will have a loyal, loving companion for life.
- Adopting a Griffon is like living with a toddler that never grows up. Often they are an accident waiting to happen and each one needs a guardian angel.
- COULD THAT GUARDIAN ANGEL BE YOU?

Check the following websites for additional responsible breed information.

www.brusselsgriffonrescue.org

www.brussels-griffon.info

www.brussels-griffon.net