



Every now and then questions arrives about my experiences with Barbet Koi. Interested in issues related to, buying a puppy or which breeder to choose etc. All Questions are very important and show not only an interest but also in healthy responsibility that should be encouraged. There are no stupid questions and all questions seek an answer even those that can not be answered. All questions I can't answer but trying with my best ability to explain why it can't be answered.

/Eva Olsson

Question from a reader: Barbet – something for us?

Hi Eva!

What a nice site and wonderful pictures of you fine Koi! Thought to take this opportunity to ask a little bit more about the breed. We are a big family with children who have long wanted a dog. Only now is it possible for us to receive a dog in the best way. We are choosing between a Softi and a Barbet. I stumbled across an ad on Barbets and immediately fell for their appearance and description! But there will always be questions when reading around various sites. What is your opinion of the suitability of a Barbet in a family with children? Existing grooming, exercise needs, etc? What I've read so it is a good-natured dog who learn well if one's handle is politely but firmly, need of exercise, but how very often / per day / in what form? Very grateful for answers and other input you can provide!

/Kajsa

BARBET

A FRENCH WATERDOG

The French Water Dog – Barbet – a breed that is rarely seen in the dog world. A breed that has had a difficult and checkered history in its struggle and the quest to survive the competition in many different breeds of dogs. But still here he is – A wise and happy friend with an open mind.

The Barbet appearance is the first impression that both rise attention and charm. A lovely, rustic, long-haired, loyal and close friend who it is easy to like. A race that is both clever and easily trained. Their open cheerful mind and not least their great need to willingly cooperate and be close parts on my plus side. It is not for nothing that they called a velcodog. Partly because they want to be close, and partly because they collect assorted debris in their long coat.

Koi does not like when it is shouted too much and too loud – that often can be an everyday family situation. On the other hand, he is very pliable, so hustle and bustle is no barrier if there's a place where he can find peace, rest and se-

curity. Conditions that are important for both children and adults to be aware of. I do not see many children as an obstacle as long as the family respects the dog's needs as well as your dog will learn to respect the family.

Barbet is very responsive and if he gets the routines and rules early in life, it is a very grateful dog, for small and big, to live and develop with. Children are small and a dog that is evolving and growing into itself can easily get carried away and jump to easily tip a small and fragile child who may accidentally get hurt but also in the vice versa. Both children and puppies need a lot of time and attention during their upbringing. If there is time, patience and love, I see no obstacle what so ever to adding a Barbet into a big family.

A JOB READY COMPANION

Koi is alert and eager when we are in training but has unusually ease to relax no matter where we are, as long I am in his presence. A Barbet needs to be stimulated both physically and mentally to be harmonious but all dogs requires that more or less. Barbets end up with my experience in the middle of the scale. My opinion is that there is no need for a two-hour jogging tour and gridded and advanced workouts. This may take place through shorter training phases during the day. Personally I live in a house and my two dogs are allowed to roam free during the day in the garden. A few times a day we do shorter posts for everyday exercise such as sit, down, stay, fetch the ball etc. Once a day Koi and I have a long walk for about an hour and during that time we train a little obedience torque and then it may also be time for a free run with joy and play. We also participate in a training group who train together once a week for about 3 hours.

The breed Barbet was constructed for the purpose of use as a working dog to run and retrieve small game and birds on land as well as in water. Their thick fur coat with undercoat that protected

well for hunting in cold waters was one of several forces. Their fearlessness and zeal in the joy of working did this breed to a functional multi-purpose dog. This is also why some individuals have strong hunting instinct and which therefore require stimulation to work with his natural ability, such as trace or search exercise. These exercises are also excellent training for all dogs and also it gives a good mental stimulation. Barbet is a natural "getter" (retriever). Koi adores his play ball ... and he is tireless in efforts to retrieve a thrown ball or any apport for that matter.

Would there be any day or period with a little less of exercise and training, there is no greater danger when Koi is extremely flexible and some other time there will be more time for him. Just to be flexible and adaptable to different situations is a characteristic of the Barbet. Exterior and character can be read about in the document breed standard. Breed standard indicates the ideal characteristics that are typical of the breed. Remember that dogs are individuals who have their own personal characteristics just like you and I, and in addition there are always exceptions.





HAIRY LURES

A long-haired dog require more care and time than a short-haired one. The coat, or more properly is to say the hair, do not shed and are growing incessantly in length. I brush Koi once a week, sometimes every second and worn peaks I cut with scissors two to three times a year since I belong to those who want a Barbet with long hair coat. Others cut hair by an electric cutter machine at intervals and keep it shorter to facilitate grooming or to personalize the coat for the work the dog has to perform. Puppy coat is usually easy but when puppy coat changes character to the coarser and thicker adult coat with undercoat, which begins and coincides roughly at the same time the dog's enter their sexual maturity, then usually also tangles appear. A process that lasts approximately two years of age when the adult coat is fully developed and is starting to become more manageable. But there are important differences from individual to individual.

It's not fun for either you or your dog to start getting your dog used to brushing when the hair coat is matted. Therefore, ensure that you acustom your puppy very early when brushing and handling to create peaceful and lovely moments together during all future grooming and maintenance in the dog's life. In Barbet there are several different fur because of the breed's checkered history and just this is one of several subjects I would have liked to be more aware of when I was looking for a puppy. What I love about the Barbet is in addition to their good-natured temperament is their natural and rustic look with its long hair in accordance with the breed standard.

In some individuals there are those who have extremely dense and curly coat and thus become difficult to maintain long-haired then coat lightly snarls and it becomes difficult to brush through his dense and tightly knotted curls. Such a coat quality usually means that you need to keep the coat short. There is fur like Koi has, very soft curls that sometimes molds itself in loops but still not as closely linked, making the coat manageable and can thus be kept long-haired, but takes some time. The next variant is the coat that has large airy and open curls and even this coat is friendly to keep in long condition and not so time consuming in grooming. Another additional variant is the coat that is more wavy than curly and fur quality is more soft silky which means easier to groom and the easy one of the different variants to operate in long hair lengths.

Sometimes it is said that Barbet is a hypoallergenic dog but this is neither proven or real. There are currently six known allergens in dogs and probably will with the progress of research prove to be more. These allergens varies more between individuals than between races. Which means I may be allergic to a barbet but not to another one even when they are born in the same litter. Research is at the forefront in this area and today there is the possibility that through testing to produce the known allergen man reacts against to match them with the dog. Happily, it will probably in the future be a vaccine developed that makes fur allergy a memory.

Read more on www.medi-tec.se/



AN EXPLANATORY HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The explanation for the different coat qualities can be found in the breed's history and one of several reasons is that Spanish water dog, Portuguese water dog, Irish water spaniel and Poodle was bred in later to Barbet. In itself nothing remarkable in a breed with a small population where crossings were made to supply fresh blood to prevent disease and reduce the risk of genetic defects. The strange thing in Barbets modern history is that in France during the 1980s reconstruction work were a large proportion of crossings with the poodle and dogs of known and unknown origin. Some of which were carried out with "homemade pedigree" and explains why reality does not always coincide with the official pedigree. A work which in turn has affected not only the coat quality but also the breed's size, character and appearance. Which in turn prompted the change in the breed standard to accommodate the consequences of this reconstruction work. In connection with this the Barbet changed racial group from 7 to racial group 8 (1986). 1980s major remodeling work of the Barbet has a complex background and standing to read more about at <http://frenchwaterdog.org/griffon-barbet/> but also <http://barbet-frenchwaterdog.com/> which also indicate references.

The original barbet often referred to as the "Vieux Barbet" or "Barbet Authentic" and Barbet with roots from the 1980s reconstruction is referred to as "Barbet Modern". Within France breeders of Vieux Barbet received in connection with reconstruction work very hard to register their Barbets which meant that some had to let register their litters abroad. A very complicated situation arose that prevented the breeding work for the few French breeders who put the breed in focus instead of their own interests. In 2000 and forward began breeding between the two distinct variants. Today there are only four living individuals left on the original "Vieux Barbet". Today's protectors of the "Vieux Barbet" works both consciously and selectively to protect and to the extent possible, try to preserve the breed's original appearance, character and features.

These two factions within the Barbet is a delicate topic often avoided by the establishment of Barbet world. While this is a lesson that come to my knowledge long after buying a puppy. Yet it is a fact that I think is important to be aware of when the important puppy purchase should be planned. If we do not know the breed and its history, it is difficult to know in advance what

questions to ask and what decisions to take. The large variation between individuals of the breed has its natural explanation in the breed's history. The more we know about the breed the better and conscious questions can be asked when buying a puppy. We all like different. Some prefer some type a second one another and for another third it may not even matter. Facts and experience helps to form your own opinion and take an informed and individual decision with respect to its own position in the choice of puppy and future companion.

Another myth within Barbet world is that the breed is ancient because it is early mentioned and pictured in the 1500s literature. The word Barbet used at this point to describe an appearance and not for describing a specific breed. The appearance of a shaggy dog with long hair and beard, from a small bichon type (petit barbet) to a larger water dog type (grand barbet) all was named jointly as barbet in ancient France. Construction of a breed began much later and the breed Barbet took shape during the 1800s second half to get his first breed standard written in 1886. Roughly contemporary with poodle. So although

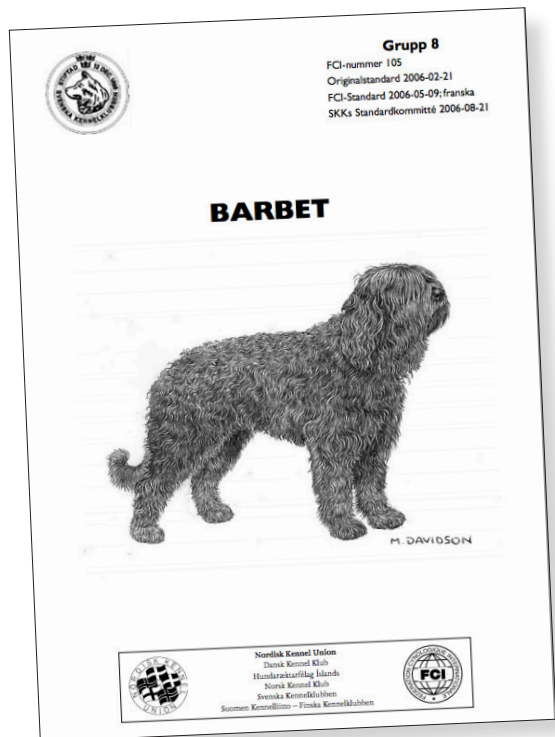
this can be a myth replaced with facts. The breed Barbet is not the ancestor of the poodle when both are two separate and distinct breeds that approximately was constructed at the same time. Barbet is based on a robust Barbet griffon type and Poodle originated in the more elegant type of Buffon Barbet. Both Barbet and Poodle have in all probability a common historical and denominator in the same water dog type that for a long time came to be developed in several different directions depending on which country, area and culture where it finally came to end up and shaped for their respective duties. All of today's breeds have an old legacy from one of our original and different dog types. Standardization and registration of specific breeds took start when in different countries' Kennel Clubs begin to be established around the late 1800s.

If you have any interest to immerse yourself in the history of the Barbet, there are several references and moreover old material in the form of images, documents and magazines in the original, to be found in the reference library at <http://frenchwaterdog.org/historical-references/barber-sourcespre1880/>



COUNSEL AND ADVICE

- **Read the breed** standard and the document called RAS and available for download at www.skk.se. Look at many pictures of different varieties and decide your own favorite. Visit Dogshows where Barbet is shown or ask the breeder if they can suggest someone close who has a Barbet that You can meet.



- What qualities are important to you in your next companion and family member?
- What should the dog be used for? Areas of interest such as show, breeding, hunting, sport, companionship, etc.
- Study both parent animals exterior and mentality. Ask the owners about its nature, function, health and awareness of possible diseases.
- Study results from the hip and elbows, eye status, inbreeding coefficient. The coefficient is a way to calculate the risk of any heritable diseases relationship by the dogs. SKC recommends an inbreeding below 6.25%, calculated over five generations. In Barbet it has earlier in Sweden been higher but below 10% just because the population is so limited, which led to a greater kinship between today's limited population which thus becomes higher than for a race with

a large population. The coefficient should be kept low and will be calculated over so many generations as possible when the value rash is affected by the number of generations (number of individuals) that the calculation is based. An inbreeding of 0% means that the kinship completely missing and that is a result for example when two different breeds are crossed.

- Mentality is very important! A completed MH or BPH-test (two types of mental test) is always a strength, if not exactly, but a good guide to give a description of the parent animals behavior in different situations. In particular, if you do not have the opportunity to meet with the parents to form your own opinion.
 - Can learning and training ability be substantiated in parent dogs? How do they work with other dogs and people.
 - Are you more interested? Studying the results of any previous litters from parents and their relatives. Maybe also look at the litters born outside Sweden as a viable option. Even then import rules hampered considerably by increasing requirements for imports from abroad both within and outside the EU. From 29 December 2014, imports can take place no earlier than when the puppy is four months old but despite this might still be an option to find the puppy of your dream.
 - Do not be afraid to choose a puppy from a parental combination that is less frequent and especially if you have plans in the future to use your Barbet for breeding. This is to avoid any blood line to become too represented. Odd combinations helps to increase the breed diversity. A overrepresented bloodline may complicate future breeding work then it becomes difficult to find good breeding combinations. It can also pose a serious threat for a small restricted population if in the future it would prove to be a negative and hereditary defect of a line that is too eloquent.
- The more prepared and better well-informed you are about the breed the greater your chances is in finding the right breeder and the right puppy. Being aware of the historical background of the breed increases understanding of today's diverse Barbet. Thorough conscious and deliberate choices give the opportunity to influence both the breed and your next dog ownership.



I never recommend a breeder. To that question I always answer that it is an individual decision to be taken by the respective buyers. Call or email several breeders, ask many questions. Consider and summarize the answers and personal contact. A breeder who speak bad of another breeder is a warning bell. A serious, sincere and responsible breeder will discuss and talk about things the breeder knows best. Their own breeding strategy and goal of their own breeding – not others! The contact with the breeder is important but not decisive ... it's with the puppy you will share life not the breeder. It is advantageous if the contact is good and trustful because the breeder will be your contact person throughout the dog's life at questions, concerns and potential problems. For the breeder it is important to monitor your puppy to adult and throughout its life both of consideration but also to evaluate their own breeding program.

MORE HINTS AND TIPS

Would you like a Barbet to be held long-haired, carefully study coat quality within both parents, if both have hard and dense knots and very curly fur the chance to get a barbet with a longhair fur is less favorable. The breeder has extensive knowledge and can already in the newborn pup see if it will be a very curly coat or a larger curly / wavy variation. Although it can not be deduced exactly how the adult coat structure and texture will develop so is it possible to distinguish them broadly. To study the tail of the parent animals also gives an indication of origin. Is it a tail curved over the back like a Portuguese Water Dog or at the clock "half-two" position that resembles the poodle. The tail of the Barbet is to be set on low, it should be long and held down and ending with a slightly curved hook in resting position. The operating

and standby mode is a higher tail set and then over the withers but not curled over the back.

An international database of registered barbeter available on <http://pawpeds.com/db/?p=bar&date=iso> where you can search the parents' respective kennel name and find its official pedigree, find information about offspring and make test matings. During click the "foundation" you can deduce their origin. Koi have a sire line that ends in poodle and a dam line that ends with Vieux Barbet. Pawpeds is an asset if you want to do a test mating between two individuals but also if you are a fan of your dog's origin and want to get a rough overview of the dog's background.

Foundationanalys för Abyfjordens Clyde jr., M, black/white, 2012-03-20, SE/			
Varning! Analysens tillförlitlighet är bara 0,0% (100,0% kunde ej följas till foundation). Verkligt resultat kan vara 100,0% högre.			
Hunder som ej kunde följas till foundation			
Lark (ATI)	origin unknown	1975-01-05	13,3%
Kilms (ATI)	origin unknown	1973-07-01	11,1%
Sicamore (ATI)	origin unknown	1981-08-15	11,6%
S/Gandaz (ATI)	origin unknown		10,3%
Finebear/Dolly (ATI)	origin unknown	1966-06-21	9,52%
Slackky (ATI)	origin unknown	1968-03-01	9,52%
SE/SA (ATI)	black	1992-12-16	7,81%
Blacky (ATI)	black Poodle	1986-12-10	6,25%
Noé (ATI)	origin unknown	1977-04-01	4,39%
de l'Arme du Prince des Hortillons Lédin	Poodle		3,91%
Chânel fer un Fibuste noire (ATI)			3,12%
MDiane (ATI)	origin unknown		1,46%
Ethel (ATI)	origin unknown	1979-04-23	1,25%
du Poème du Rhône Valher	Poodle		0,977%
du Haut-Francis L'Arten	Poodle		0,977%
von Gilschenssen Ade	Poodle		0,488%
Ju-Ki Black Game of Chance	Poodle		0,488%
von der Gilschenssen Burma	Poodle		0,488%
Waxliffe Timoteo	Poodle		0,488%
Ablete Naimine	Poodle		0,488%
Dassin's Broadway Joe	Poodle		0,488%
Stylistica Emerald of Jewel	Poodle		0,488%
Ablete Lustig of Geneva	Poodle		0,488%

Official results such as the hip and elbow, merit in the form of shows and competition as well as information about BPH / MH and pedigree can be found in the Kennel Club searchable database of all registered breeds in Sweden. www.skk.se

Hundinformation			
Hund:	SE23367/2012	Abyfjordens Clyde Jr	Födelsedatum: 2012-03-20
Ras:	Barbet		
Kön:	H	Tatuering/lång-ID:	
Storlek:		Chip-nr:	96600000197833
Härlag:		Far:	S89210/2007 Cooper De La Serve De La Chap
Färg:	svart & vit	Mor:	S48291/2009 Clayhill Eponine
Titlar Agare Veterinär Tävling Uppfödare Kullsyskon Avkommer Stamtavla			
Kullsyskon			Kennel: ABYFJORDENS
Regnr	Namn	Kön	
SE23364/2012	Abyfjordens Cora	T	
SE23365/2012	Abyfjordens Corina	T	
SE23366/2012	Abyfjordens Cornelia	T	
SE23368/2012	Abyfjordens Clemens	H	
SE23369/2012	Abyfjordens Casper	H	

Swedish breeders and their planned and litters available on www.barbet.se Planned and litters and breeders in Europe, the US and Canada can be found on <http://www.barbet-international.com/welpen/>. Breeders who cares for Viueux Barbet can be found on <http://frenchwaterdog.org/>.



EACH INDIVIDUAL IS UNIQUE AND VALUABLE

Buying a puppy is to buy a unique life and a life shaped by heredity and environment, not forgetting life chance lottery. There are never any guarantees that life will turn out to be long, healthy, happy and as planned as we read and dream of. Reality tends to be far from both dream and desire. The optimal and perfect individual is only available on paper of perfection and never in real life. We have all our good and less good qualities and if we are well prepared through knowledge and experience that made us aware of life's circumstances and reality is the end result optimistic and can far exceed both the desire and dream. The dog of your own is at all times always the best and perfect one just because it is our!

The dog World, like the great World we All share in common, is full and sometimes thoroughly intoxicated with different opinions and beliefs. Some are large and airy other small and cramped, a few more straight and meaningful, a fourth lurches and is difficult to understand. So ponder them freely but let your own conviction be decisive. It is you and your family who will find the puppy that suits you. You should take a large and own decision on a close companion and friend who will be with you for many wonderful and eventful years ahead.

Good luck in planning and in the search for your very own heart and unique puppy!