



15 pounds heavier. The AKC Barbet standard calls for somewhat lower height than the FCI and CKC standards but reflects the medium size the breed was always intended to be. According to a survey conducted by the Barbet Club of America, nearly every dog measured fell within the range of the AKC standard.

The coat of the Barbet varies in curl size and density. Coats range from big, open curls that lie relatively close to the body to small, tighter coats with a dense, thick appearance. This is similar to the Portuguese Water Dog, seen in both the curly and wavy coat; however, the Barbet is not divided into coat types and there is no preference given. Show presentation should be neat, clean, free from mats or tangles, curled and retaining a rustic air. While the standard

specifically penalizes excessive sculpting and shaping, it is also incorrect to present the Barbet in a short coat that deletes important elements, especially the head details of beard, ear length, and hair that falls to the bridge of the nose. Hand scissoring a fully brushed out coat is the preferred method for trimming. All coats benefit from a spritzing of water and air drying to define the curls. Learning to work with the variety of coat types is a skill that exhibitors are still developing.

LIVING WITH THE BARBET

Life with a Barbet is a lot of fun! Intelligent, agile and light footed, the Barbet can be trained for nearly every performance event and thoroughly enjoys regular family hikes and travels. Somewhat sensitive and quite devoted,



the Barbet adores his family and is a willing partner with thoughtful training. With a lower intensity level, he is a relaxed household member who does not demand constant attention. Groups of Barbet get along well and enjoy each other's company. Regular grooming and coat care is a must as the non-shedding coat requires removal of dead hair before mats occur.

Moving into the Miscellaneous class has brought a lot of attention to this beautiful breed. With careful selection and stewardship, the Barbet seems poised to become a popular member of the Sporting Group. ■

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

For over forty years, Judy has bred and shown quality horses and dogs at her family's Hickory Tavern Farm in Western Pennsylvania. Involved with Whippets, Pembroke Welsh Corgis, Beardies, English Cocker and Spino-ne, Judy's life has been dominated by Barbet since 2009.

