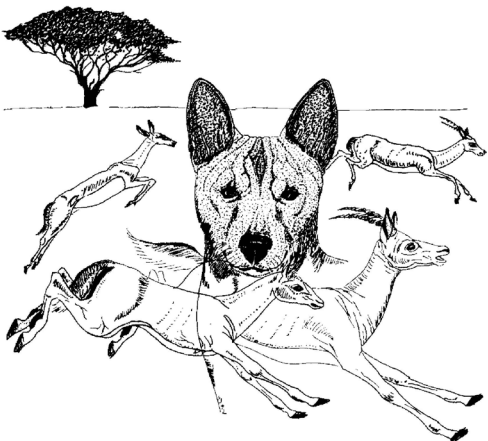


Congratulations on your new Basenji!!!

THE BASENJI

The Basenji, known as the African Barkless Dog, is considered by its devotees as unique to the species. One of the oldest of breeds, Basenji type dogs are depicted on the tombs of the Pharaohs and date back to as early as 3600 B.C. Small and short haired, with a foxy face, worried-looking wrinkled brow, upright ears and tail curled like a doughnut, the Basenji's most unusual characteristic is that it does not bark. He is, however, not mute and, although usually quiet, has a repertoire of sounds that range from a pleased throaty crow to a keening wail when he is lonely or unhappy.

The Basenji is found today in Southern Sudan and in the Democratic Republic of Congo where they live with the natives in remote forests and are used to hunt. Well balanced, graceful and active, the 16- to 17-inch height allows a functional yet sustainable size in an environment devoid of luxury. Basenjies hunt using both sight and scent. Rather than pointing or retrieving, dogs are used to assist beaters in flushing game that is driven into nets strung up against trees.



The coat is smooth and shiny and comes in chestnut, black, brindle, or black and tan all set off with varying amounts of white markings; although, the required white is the chest, four feet, and the tip of the tail.

Another feature that is a boon to pet owners but a cross for breeders is that the females as a general rule have only one heat period a year in the fall. About 90% of the litters are born from October through December.

As a personality, the Basenji is intriguing, engaging and complex. An independent thinker, he is charming as well as trying. Reared with affection as well as discipline, he is a delightful companion. He is active and resourceful at play and cozy and comfortable in repose. He can stand cold temperatures when he is busy, but prefers a warm place out of the rain and weather. As a rule he prefers to be allowed the courtesy of making the first overtures in a friendship. His barklessness is a disadvantage as a guard dog. Although he is exceedingly alert and will let you know that someone or something is outside, anyone on the outside is not apt to know that there is a dog within.

Your Basenji will need plenty of exercise to enable him to develop properly and also to prevent boredom; a bored dog can be a destructive dog! He cannot be allowed to run loose for when he is on the trail of a rabbit or a squirrel, he has no thought for dangers like vehicular traffic. A stout fence or a strong leash will help him lead a happy life. Identifying your Basenji with collar tags in case it is lost is advisable. AKC Companion Animal Recovery (CAR) offers a free dog tag with recovery information and a 24-hour toll-free hotline to help locate owners 7 days a week. For further protection, register your dog's permanent tattoo or microchip with AKC CAR. Call 800-252-7894 or go to www.akccar.org for more information.



From the first days of your partnership, you should firmly but gently insist that the puppy do your bidding. Correction should be immediate, consistent and strict but not harsh. Every Basenji puppy should have a crate. Crate training is essential in house training and can be a haven. It is always the safest place for your Basenji when you are out of the house or busy. Training classes will be an excellent way for you and your Basenji to form a lasting, satisfying bond as he settles into his rightful place in his “pack”—his family.

With proper treatment and diet the Basenji is easily kept in condition for a family pet, show dog or both. His innate cleanliness, lack of doggy odor, short hair and handy size make him a “natural.”

You and your Basenji can enjoy training and/or competition in conformation, obedience, agility, tracking, and lure coursing.

Presently, the primary health concerns in the breed are Fanconi Syndrome (a kidney dystrophy), Progressive Retinal Atrophy, and surprisingly, Hip Dysplasia. A healthy option for a pet not intended for the show ring or breeding is to spay or neuter. Breeding requires a great deal of research, effort and responsibility as well as a lifelong commitment to any individuals produced.

A direct Fanconi Syndrome DNA Test is now available for Basenjis. Learn about the new DNA test for Fanconi Syndrome at www.basenji.org. All breeders are encouraged to test their dogs before breeding. Prospective owners should request proof of DNA Fanconi Syndrome testing before acquiring a Basenji.

Many Basenji owners support health research through the Basenji Health Endowment Fund. The Endowment is a tool for collecting money, and granting it to qualified researchers or research institutions that are working on Basenji-related health issues. Any person, corporation or partnership may contribute to the Endowment. And all of the contributions are tax-deductible. Contributors can deduct the amount of their gifts from their federal tax returns. This incentive helps raise the money that Basenji health research requires. For more information regarding this fund you may visit the BCOA Web site at www.basenji.org/.

The Basenji Club of America is also a supporter of the AKC Canine Health Foundation, and you may visit that Web site at www.akcchf.org. The AKC Canine Health Foundation is a nonprofit charitable organization whose mission is to help dogs live longer, healthier lives. Supporting the AKC Canine Health Foundation will help ensure a healthy future for all dogs. For more information about ongoing health research to help Basenjis, see www.akcchf.org or call toll free 888-682-9696.

Please visit the BCOA Web site for more information:
<http://www.basenji.org>

