

BASENJI OWNERS MANUAL

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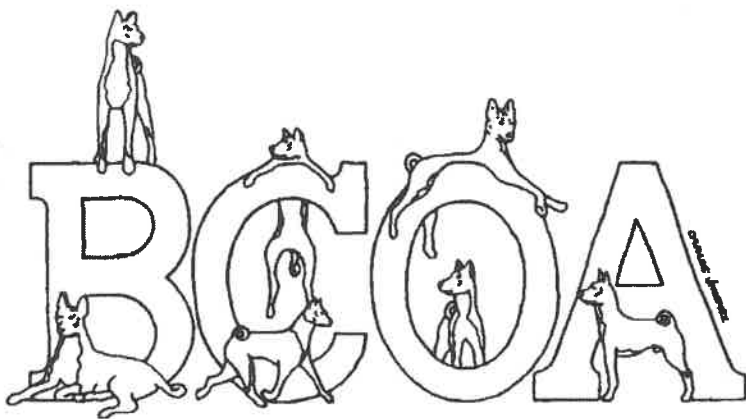


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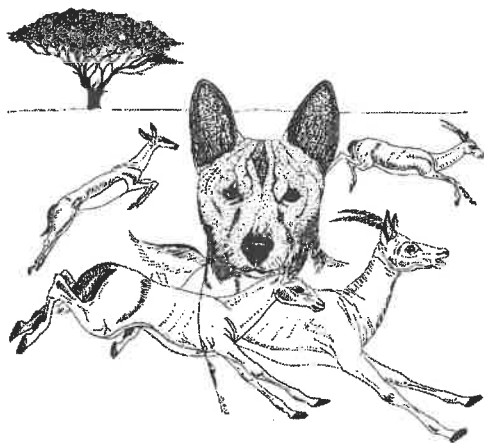


Congratulations on your new Basenji!!!

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.

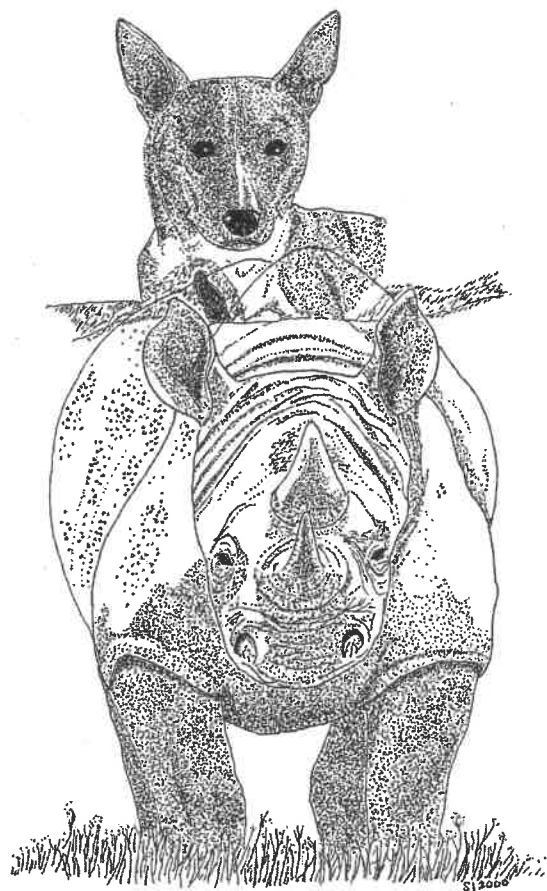
Presently, the primary health concerns in the breed are Fanconi Syndrome (a kidney dystrophy), Progressive Retinal Atrophy, and surprisingly, Hip Dysplasia. A healthy option for a pet not intended for the show ring or breeding is to spay or neuter. Breeding requires a great deal of research, effort and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

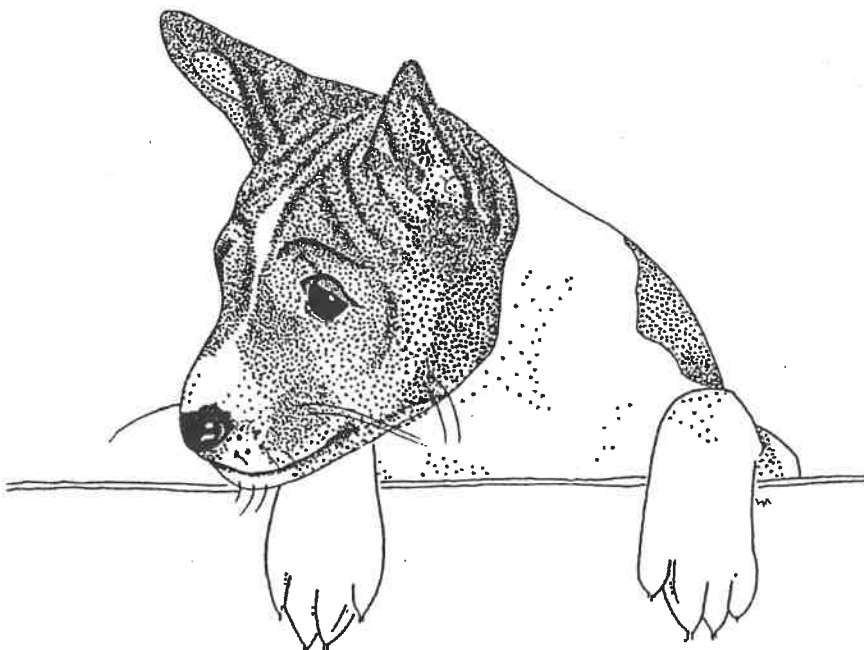


We are concerned for all dogs in general and the welfare of the Basenji in particular. We wish to promote Responsible Pet Ownership through education and support. When you buy a basenji, or any dog, you are making a 10 to 15 year commitment.

You have taken the best first step by buying your puppy from a responsible breeder. This manual is a collection of articles designed to give you, the basenji owner, information and guidelines about the breed, its characteristics, care, and training, as well as information about activities you and your basenji can become involved in.

Raising a puppy to be a valued member of your family is rewarding, but at times can be very challenging and frustrating. If you have any questions or problems concerning your puppy, his behavior, or training, do not hesitate to call your breeder or one of the resource persons your breeder has listed.

Resource people to call if you have any questions or problems



YOUR BASENJI

Name _____

Birth date _____

AKC Registration - _____ *(Complete and send to AKC the blue slip provided by your breeder)*

Puppy immunization record

Type & date _____

6 month parvo & rabies _____

Puppy worming record

Type & date _____

Breeder name _____

Puppy diet _____

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ABOUT YOUR BASENJI

AKC REGISTRATION

The American Kennel Club was founded on September 17, 1884, as an independent, nonprofit organization devoted to the advancement and welfare of purebred dogs. AKC is the principal registry agency for purebred dogs in the United States.

When you buy a dog represented as AKC registrable, you should receive an AKC dog Registration Application form properly filled out by the seller or, a bill of sale listing: the names and registration numbers of the sire and dam, date of birth, breeder and seller, with an agreement to provide the registration paper at a later date. The application, when completed by you and submitted to AKC with the proper fee, will enable you to register the dog. When the application has been processed, you will receive an AKC Registration Certificate. Other conditions and agreement of sale should be in writing, signed by both seller and buyer with a signed copy provided to the buyer.

There is a widely held belief that "AKC" or "AKC papers" and quality are one and the same. This is not

the case. AKC is only a registry body. A registration certificate identifies the dog as the offspring of a known sire and dam, born on a known date. It in no way indicates the quality or state of health of the dog.

Quality in the sense of "show quality" is determined by many factors including the dog's health, physical condition, ability to move and appearance. Breeders breeding show stock are trying to produce animals that closely resemble the description of perfection described in the breed standard. Many people breed their dogs with no concern for the qualitative demands of the breed standard. When this occurs repeatedly over several generations, the animals, while still purebred, can be of extremely low quality.

AKC REGISTRATION, NEW ARRIVALS

In the late 1980's several African Basenji dogs were imported into the United States, 14 of which were accepted into the AKC registry. Some of these were a new "Brindle" or tiger-striped color (black stripes over a red coat). In 1990 the AKC also approved a new Basenji Standard, which among other things, recognizes this new coat color (see Basenji Standard later in this chapter)

This has some historical significance since the AKC rarely opens its studbook. There is much interesting reading to be found about this event in the BCOA & periodicals (See Bibliography). The novice fancier is encouraged to become more informed about the reasons for, and the processes & discussions surrounding this event.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BASENJI

The dogs of the stone age were small foxy fellows, who gathered around the first campfires. As ancient man went from place to place about his business, they followed at a respectful distance... probably attracted by occasional handouts, possibly because they felt an affinity to him. The first dogs, according to paleontologists, were very like basenjis, and there are scientific reasons for supposing that the Basenji was this "Canis Palustris" of prehistoric times.

The Basenji made an appearance in civilization at the dawn of history. Brought down the Nile as tribute by people from Central Africa, he was a palace dog of the pharaohs so long ago that he watched the pyramids being built. Pictured in bas-relief and sculptured in stone as far back as 4000 BC, the Basenji is shown both as a hunter and as a favored house pet lying under



the pharaoh's chair. He was found in Mesopotamia many centuries later. The Metropolitan Museum of Art owns a bronze statue of a man and a Basenji-like dog, including curled tail and wrinkled forehead. This is identified as Babylonian, 1500 BC. Ancient empires, crumbling, disappeared along with the Basenji, and without a trace. Only as recently as the latter half of the 19th Century was he rediscovered in his original habitat -- the headwaters of both the Nile and the Congo -- in the heart of Africa. There, basenjis are still hunting dogs of native tribes, and so necessary are they to the Pygmies that a wife can be purchased for less than a basenji.

English nobility rediscovered these little dogs during their hunting expeditions. For fifty years, the British made many attempts to bring basenjis to England, but they were not successfully acclimated there until 1937. At the same time, a pair was brought to America.



The Basenji does not bark. This unusual characteristic does not seem too unusual when you remember that original canines -- wolves, coyotes, and jackals -- don't bark, either. Since the Basenji is silent on the trail, the Congolese, as did the ancients, required him to wear a hunting bell so they could trail him. Though he doesn't "BOW-WOW-WOW," the Basenji is not mute, and can make all the other sounds dogs make: growls, whines, yips, and howls. He has in addition an unusual sound called a "yodel!" that he uses when he is happy.

Sleek short coat, pricked ears, and a curly tail are Basenji trademarks. Wrinkles appear on the forehead, giving a questioning look; however, he actually knows all the answers. An elegant, deer-like little fellow, he averages 16-17 inches in height at the shoulders and 21 to 25 pounds in weight. Color-coded red, black, black with tan trimming (tricolor) or brindle, he always has white on the feet, chest, and tail tip. Some have more white than others, sometimes with a blaze

on the face, full collar, and full white legs. His short coat is unique in that it has no doggy odor, and he keeps immaculate without being bathed for months.

The Basenji is happy to fit his mood to those he loves -- yet he is a proud dog always, not bowing and scraping. He is a staunch believer in personal and property rights. The silent hunter is also a silent watch dog. A sound outside brings him noiselessly to the door, to await an intruder. He will give the house-breaker a rough time. Owners will testify to his phenomenal intelligence, his inventiveness, his curiosity, and his clownish sense of humor. He is a quiet, satisfied dog when desired. Yet no dog enjoys play more, whether in the home or the field. He will roughhouse and race. However, when his owner is ready to call it quits, the little Basenji is content to lie at the feet of his master just as his forebears did thousands of years ago in the courts of Ancient Egypt, his wrinkled forehead imparting an anxious expression to his face -- the look of one who, having known man from the beginning, is terribly worried about the outcome. *Have fun and enjoy your new pet!*

CHARACTERISTIC BASENJI BEHAVIOR

Hi, my name is Lady. Being a basenji, the EBC asked me to write an article about what basenjis are really like. The first thing you should know is that each one of us has our own personality. Yet, we share many unique characteristics.

You may have read the story about when God created all the animals he had a little piece of each one left over so he put all these pieces in one package and called it a Basenji. That is why at times we have qualities of the dog, cat, fox, deer, horse, mule, gazelle, kangaroo, and unicorn (oh, but you wouldn't know about that one), and any other animal you can think of.

Most of us are pretty smart, although not in the way some humans appreciate. Our unique combination of intelligence & independence makes us a challenge to live with on occasion. When we see an opportunity, we will take advantage of it.

We are known as both sight and scent hounds; however, we can be selectively hard of hearing and blind! We sometimes love to ignore being called.

Some of my favorite pastimes are napping by the heat vent or in front of the fire. Licking my human dry after her bath. I love to roll in hair (preferably freshly shampooed). My greeting to many guests is to climb up beside them and roll in their hair -kind of unnerving to some people.

I like to sing & yodel & dance when my favorite humans visit the house. Raiding the wastebasket,

Shredding Kleenex or unrolling TP down the hall. Rolling on a wet towel or shredded Kleenex. Q-tips are my favorite popsicle! However, a pair of underwear will do nicely for dessert. I like to use my paws to explore & play or to clean my face when dirty.

I love to run free and chase rabbits, squirrels and birds out of my yard, and occasionally, I catch a few.

I like to do my crazy dog routine - this is where I race through the house at full speed, bouncing off the couch, flying off the walls, and across the bed in a big loop over and over until I get tired. Then I will stop, panting with a big smile on my face. "Going on a tear" at the end of my leash, around and around until I fly off the ground.

Cleaning up under the high chair after my kid eats. I clean up under birdcages persistently. Seed shells are almost as good as the actual seeds.

It isn't unusual for me to take an interest in other animals' poop, possibly rolling in it or sampling a taste. I love to nibble rabbit droppings, perhaps in lieu of the actual rabbit, but I hear they say that rabbits can pass parasites to me.

Baby diapers. Oooh do I love baby diapers!!

I heard someone say basenjis like to sleep on the foot of the bed. HA! -I prefer under the covers. If that's not possible, then up by the head of my human. When my master or mistress grabs a quilt or afghan or comfy throw, I run to get under too.

I love to snuggle and be scratched and I am happiest where the action is.

I like to check out the window to see what the weather is like before I go outside in the morning. If it's raining, I'd rather wait hours than to venture out and get my feet wet. I resemble a ballet dancer when in wet grass, yet a few of my kin actually like to swim. Snow can be fun though.

Although I don't normally bark, I can make a wide variety of noises from cute little yodels to loud screams and howls. I can even sound like a little kid crying & screaming. Sometimes my human and neighbors are not very happy with my noisemaking. And do I love to chew! (see chewing section page 20).

Some of my kin have masters who don't permit some of these antics. They hide waste paper baskets and close doors. They have taught my kin to stay off the furniture and to sleep in dog beds or a den at night.

Now that you know me a little better, I hope you'll find my antics endlessly amusing. I try to be entertaining.

...Love, Lady.



BASENJI STANDARD

(AKC approved 1990)

General Appearance - The Basenji is a small, short haired hunting dog from Africa. It is short backed and lightly built, appearing high on the leg compared to its length. The wrinkled head is proudly carried on a well arched neck and the tail is set high and curled. Elegant and graceful, the whole demeanor is one of poise and inquiring alertness. The balanced structure and the smooth musculature enables it to move with ease and agility. The Basenji hunts by both sight and scent. **Characteristics** - The Basenji should not bark but is not mute. The wrinkled forehead, tightly curled tail and swift, effortless gait (resembling a racehorse trotting full out) are typical of the breed. **Faults** - Any departure from the following points must be considered a fault, and the seriousness with which the fault is regarded is to be in exact proportion to its degree.

Size Proportion, Substance - Ideal height for dogs is 17 inches and bitches 16 inches. Dogs 17 inches and bitches 16 inches from front of chest to point of buttocks. Approximate weight for dogs, 24 pounds, and bitches 22 pounds. Lightly built within this height to weight ratio.

Head - The head is proudly carried. **Eyes** - Dark hazel to dark brown, almond shaped, obliquely set and farsighted, rims dark. **Ears** - Small, erect and slightly hooded, of fine texture and set well forward on top of head. The skull is flat, well chiseled and of medium width, tapering toward the eyes. The foreface tapers from eye to muzzle with a perceptible stop. Muzzle shorter than skull, neither coarse nor snipy, but with rounded cushions. Wrinkles appear upon the forehead when ears are erect, and are fine and profuse. Side wrinkles are desirable, but should never be exaggerated into dewlap. Wrinkles are most noticeable in puppies, and because of lack of shadowing, less noticeable in blacks, tricolors and

brindles. **Nose** - Black greatly desired. **Teeth** - Evenly aligned with a scissors bite.

Neck, Topline, Body - Neck of good length, well crested and slightly full at base of throat, well set into shoulders. **Topline** - Back level. **Body** - Balanced with a short back, short coupled and ending in a definite waist. Ribs moderately sprung, deep to elbows and oval. Slight forechest in front of point of shoulder. Chest of medium width. **Tail** is set high on topline, bends acutely forward and lies well curled over either side.

Forequarters - Shoulders moderately laid back. Shoulder blade and upper arm of approximately equal length. Elbows tucked firmly against brisket. Legs straight with clean fine bone, long forearm and well-defined sinews. Pasterns of good length, strong and flexible, **Feet** - Small, oval and compact with thick pads and well arched toes. Dewclaws are usually removed.

Hindquarters - Medium width, strong and muscular, hocks well let down and turned neither in nor out, with long second thighs and moderately bent stifles. **Feet** - Same as in "Forequarters".

Coat and Color - Coat short and fine. Skin very pliant. **Color** - Chestnut red; pure black; tricolor (pure black and chestnut red); or brindle (black stripes on a background of chestnut red); all with white feet, amount of white should never predominate over primary color. Color and markings should be rich, clear and well-defined, with a distinct line of demarcation between the black and red of tricolors and the stripes on brindles.

Gait - Swift, tireless trot. Stride is long, smooth, effortless and the topline remains level. Coming and going, the straight column of bones from shoulder joint to foot and from hip joint to pad remains unbroken, converging toward the centerline under the body. The faster the trot, the greater the convergence.

Temperament - An intelligent, independent, but affectionate and alert breed. Can be aloof with strangers.

LIVING WITH A BASENJI

SOCIALIZATION

Acquainting your pup with new situations: A young pup is continually learning about his new environment. Every situation in which he is placed, every person he meets, every pleasant or unpleasant incident in his early life can have a long lasting effect on him.



Dogs must be handled by people at an early age if they are to develop into good companions. Dogs that are uncomfortable with humans are difficult to train, often develop into fear biters, adapt poorly with children and may frequently run away. Puppies who have very little early human contact can grow to be extremely shy dogs. Bringing a shy dog out is a difficult, painstaking process that isn't always successful.

Expose your puppy to various types of people, i.e., boys, girls, men, women, youngsters and oldsters.

Expose him to as many new situations as possible, but take care he has a good experience.

Expose your puppy to new terrain (stairs, tall grass, loose sand, gravel, small obstacles, etc.) Always start with a simple problem and gradually make it more difficult, but do not exceed the pup's abilities. Make sure the pup succeeds in the tasks.

Get him used to being in crowds or places where there is a lot of activity. Don't hesitate to use a special treat to distract him.

Accustom your puppy to riding in the car by going for short rides.

Guard against isolating your pup for prolonged periods of time. Digging, chewing and scratching often occur because the pup is kept by himself. Puppies are social animals and need social contact for proper development.

If your pup tends to be somewhat shy, make sure any discipline is not excessive. However, it is very important not to baby a shy pup, as this will only

reinforce his shyness. Encourage him to overcome shyness by going forward, not retreating. Praise and treat him for going forward and making progress.

With your supervision, encourage him to explore his new home. Then take him to your friends' homes. The sooner he checks everything out, the more comfortable he will be. Encourage him to investigate new objects and praise him when he does. However, make sure his first experience isn't frightening. Do not give the puppy the run of the house.

Don't use isolation as a form of discipline. Puppies should be trained to be comfortable when alone.

It isn't necessary to introduce your new pup to everything the first several days. Do it gradually so that he is not overwhelmed. As he learns about new sounds and situations, he will discover that they really won't harm him and will become comfortable when he meets them again.

How to remain the "leader of the pack"



Your basenji, along with all other canines, is a social pack animal. As young puppies, littermates begin interacting socially with each other, exhibiting "pushy" or dominant behavior. After repeated playful fighting, the pups learn when to act pushy and when to back down. Although capable of both behaviors, your pup's natural

tendency is to go as far as possible within his social order—to push his way into a leadership position. It is this tendency you must control early if you want to raise a good family pet. Your puppy will attempt to interact with people just as he did with his littermates. In such interaction or play, you and other family members should assume a leadership role and discourage pushy behavior in the pup.

Recognizing dominant and submissive behavior: Dominant signals and behavior include hackles up, standing up straight and erect during greeting, curling lips to expose teeth, mounting behavior, prolonged direct eye contact, nipping your skin or clothing, or mouthing your hands, resistance to the removal of possessed objects, stealing food in your presence, or snarling and/or growling at people.

Subordinate signals include ears back, head lowered, body lowered and tail down and wagging



vigorously during greeting; lying on side while exposing groin region, ears back and tail tucked under (usually occurs during times of high social tension such as a discipline situation); licking hands or face.

The following are guidelines to insure that you and other family members assume and retain the leadership relationship with your dog. Beginning at an early age will insure that your puppy will learn appropriate behavior quickly and will help eliminate problem behavior later on.

Immediately discourage your pup's pushy behavior toward you or others. Use only enough unpleasant discipline to get the job done. Then follow with plenty of praise.

Be **consistent**. Each and every time the pup displays one of the dominant or pushy signals, you or any other family member should follow through with discipline.

Don't unconsciously encourage him to act pushy. Never roughhouse so that he thinks he's won (or dominated you).

Never chase your dog (Leaders don't chase).

Never discipline your puppy for misbehavior unless you catch him in the act. Use only enough discipline to make him immediately stop what he's doing, then praise him for stopping.

Never allow your puppy to nip or mouth you, even in play. Let the puppy know with the muzzle or neck scruff correction that this behavior is not allowed. (See article on Discipline.)

Being the leader does not mean that you need to be cruel or beat your dog into minding. Your basenji is not dumb. You must earn his respect by becoming a fair, just, and consistent leader.

The following exercises will help you teach your puppy that you are in control of him physically. The pup doesn't learn about social relationships through some intellectual process, but on a physical level. He must learn that you have the power to handle him and that handling doesn't lead to physical harm. Then he can trust you and at the same time is your subordinate.

While seated on the floor, pick up the pup with both hands by holding him underneath his shoulder area so that he is facing you. Hold him at arm's length and look directly into his eye. **Do not be the first to look away.** If he struggles, follow with a raised voice and quick shake. When he is quiet, talk to him in a soft, pleasant voice. Continue your eye contact. Maintain this position for 30 to 90 seconds (vary time). Repeat this exercise until he no longer struggles.

Place the pup on his side on the floor, using one hand to hold him by the neck scruff and stroke his tummy with the other. Talk to him in a soft, pleasant voice when he is quiet. Do not allow him to struggle, nip or mouth your hands. If he tries, raise your voice and shake him firmly by the scruff of the neck, as his mother would do. Praise him lavishly when he stops.

When he's quiet, place your fingers around his muzzle, open his mouth, handle his feet, etc. Praise him for tolerating the handling.

These exercises should be performed regularly during early development and can be started when you first meet the puppy. The more dominant the behavior your puppy demonstrates, the more you should emphasize these exercises.

As your basenji goes through the juvenile stage and moves toward maturity, he may again periodically test your leadership. Most pack members are subordinate. **You will not "break his spirit"** or inhibit his development into a normal, healthy basenji. Rather, you are giving him a defined position in your family, behavior guidelines to follow, and a sense of trust in you, his leader.

DISCIPLINE

Teaching your puppy right from wrong is an important aspect of raising a basenji. People often mistakenly assume that a dog learns about his world much like a child would. But, in fact, he learns differently than a child. He relies more heavily on his hearing and smelling abilities, his more pronounced inherited capabilities and, more important, he does not have a grammatical language. That is why we cannot directly communicate with him as we could a child. We cannot sit down and reason with him and tell him what we expect of him.

A dog learns by doing. His actions produce specific results. If he finds the results pleasing, he will tend to repeat the action. If he finds the results unpleasant, he will tend to not repeat the action that produced them.

There are two techniques used to mold your puppy's behavior which take the above principles into account. You should become familiar with these and use them to your best advantage. These techniques are called *Positive Reinforcement* and *Negative Reinforcement*. Positive Reinforcement is used to establish behavior that the dog would not ordinarily do on his own. Negative Reinforcement is used to discourage behavior that you find unacceptable or undesirable.

Positive Reinforcement includes exuberant, enthusiastic praise, food and treats, or play. The time to use this praise is any time your basenji demonstrates behavior you want to reinforce. Use lots of praise as you physically guide him through the behavior, or as you coax him into the position with food. Also use lots of praise when he does the desired behavior on his own.

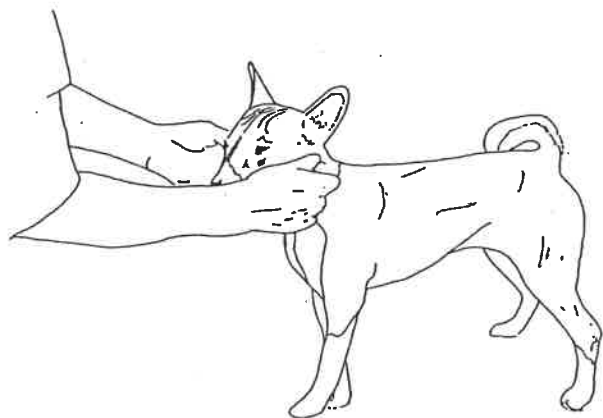
Examples of when to use Positive Reinforcement include: any training such as sit, or down; any dog tricks; teaching your dog to come when called; teaching your dog to stack; going into a crate; relieving himself in the spot you choose; chewing on his own toy; any behavior you want to encourage.

Negative Reinforcement can be Verbal or Physical and should be used to stop any unwanted behavior *as it happens* such as: Relieving in the house; chewing on objects "off limits"; stealing food; jumping up; aggression; getting on furniture; chasing the cat; any behavior you wish to discourage.

A Verbal correction should be spoken loud and as if you really mean it. Try to make a distinction in your voice between your *No!!!* and any other conversation you have with your basenji. In other words, try not to speak in a monotone (in praise and correction) or

direct your correction as a dare or a question (No-o???).

A loud noise may also work to correct the misbehavior. Try slapping your hand down to make a loud noise along with a growly *NO!!* to intimidate your basenji into stopping the behavior. The next type of correction is physical. The muzzle correction is done by firmly grasping his muzzle in your hand (without squeezing) and telling him in no uncertain terms "*No, Bad Dog.*" (Here again, try to sound intimidating.) The neck scruff correction is done by grasping the skin on the back or side of his neck and giving a firm shake (but not enough to lift him off the ground) while again giving the verbal correction.

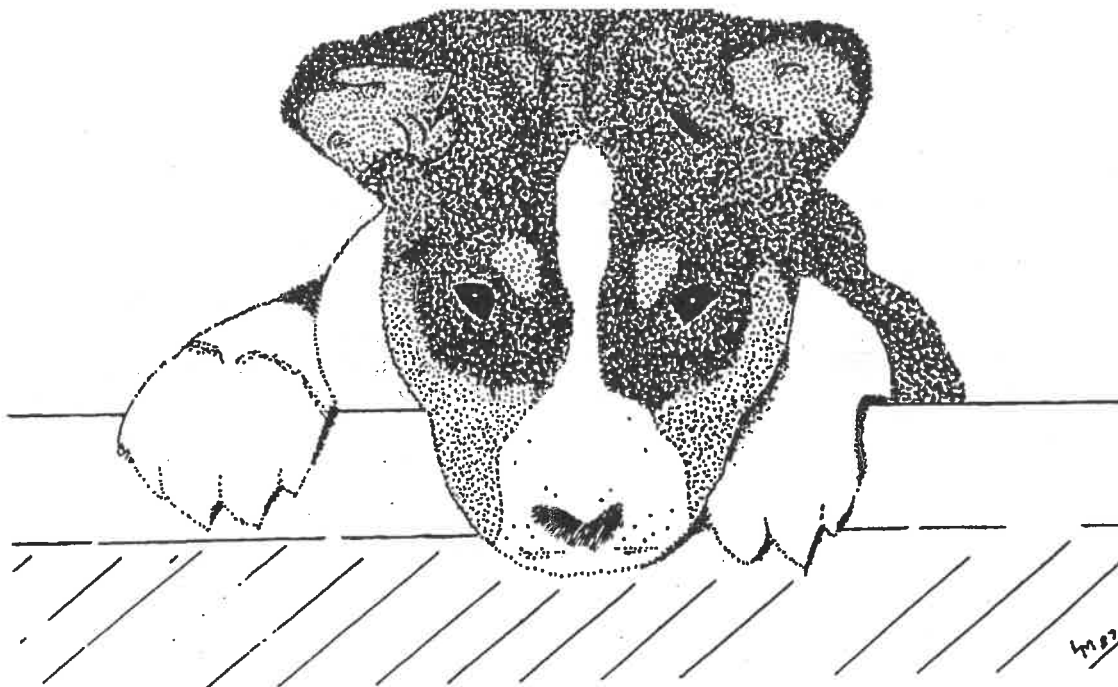


Neck Scruff Correction

These corrections need only last a moment or two. Your dog won't understand a prolonged lecture about how bad he is. Following a correction, give your dog something positive to do so you can praise him. (Be forgiving.)

Another type of correction used when your dog is on the leash is the *Lead Pop*. This is a quick jerk on the lead which tightens the training collar then is immediately released to a slack lead. When done correctly you should hear the "pop" of the collar tightening and pulling on a tight lead. You can use this correction with the commands, "No Sniff," "Leave It," or "No Pulling."

The timing of your praise or correction is important for your dog to make the connection between his behavior and your reaction. Reinforcement (positive or negative) must be during or immediately after the behavior to have the most impact. Reinforcement must be used constantly and consistently during the learning stages. (Even if you have to get up from the couch 10 times in 10 minutes to stop unwanted behavior.) Dogs learn by repetition. Every time you permit an incor-



rect response the dog is learning the incorrect response or learning that he doesn't always have to obey you.

The amount of reinforcement (positive or negative) required for each behavior is gradually diminished as that behavior becomes a conditioned response. The more consistent you are with your reinforcement, the quicker this learning takes place.

Another influence on molding your pup's behavior is Unintentional Training. This takes place when we think we are teaching the dog one thing, but in reality we are giving him a very different message.

For example: Puppy makes a mess in the house, you angrily summon him to you, confront him with the mess and soundly thrash him for having made the mess. The next time you call him he runs and hides behind the couch. The last time he came to you he got in trouble. Taking this one step further, you should never call your dog to you and follow his arrival with anything he perceives as unpleasant. Don't call your dog to you to cut his nails, or give him a pill, without some intervening pleasant experience like a treat and praise.

Roughhousing with your puppy can also lead to unintentional training because it teaches the puppy to assert itself against you, not a desirable result at all.

A more subtle form of unintentional training occurs when we pet the puppy or dog to calm it down from signs of fear or aggression. In either case, petting or stroking the dog while using what is intended to be soothing language such as, "That's all right, you're okay, good dog," will only serve to reinforce and foster the behavior. Examples include growling and snapping at other dogs, fear of strangers, and fear of thunder or firecrackers. A technique recommended for fear during thunderstorms is to say in an excited voice,

"Oh boy! Thunder! Let's go get a Pup Treat" as you race out to the Cookie Jar to dole out the treats. If your dog senses no concern from you over that terrible noise, he will have no reason to be fearful.

"SUPER DOG" REVIEW

This is a review of the system presented in the series *Super dogs are made, not born*, by Joyce O'Kelley, for developing and training puppies from birth. The series appeared in the January through May 1979 issues of *The Basenji*.

If you are interested in more information regarding the concepts the review is based on or more detail in regards to training procedures, those five issues are available for \$9 from Susan Coe. Also, further discussion of the so called "critical periods" of puppy development and the factors that contribute to each puppies individual personalities, can be found in *The art of raising a puppy*, by The Monks of New Skete.

Age: Birth through 3 weeks

Environment: Warmth, food, sleep

Human socialization: None

Canine socialization: Needs mother

Age: 4th week

Environment: Unchanged and unchanging

Human socialization: Gentle handling by humans

Canine socialization: Begins socializing with litter mates

Age: 5th through 7th week

Environment: Introduce household noises and activities

Human socialization: Continue handling and allow some visitors. Provide regular attention away from littermates and mother.

Canine socialization: Begin weaning and feeding from dish, but allow mother access at other times for feeding and disciplining.

Training At 5 TO 7 Weeks:

Housebreaking: Paper training begins with area to be used at reasonable location and well-lined with newspapers (or litter box).

all other training requires frequent, regular, individual training sessions.

Lead Training: Fit with buckle collar and attach short piece of shoe string. String may have to be replaced from time to time as other pups chew it off.

Table Training: Place on table and gently examine and groom the pup (be sure to handle mouth, feet and testicles).

Fetch:

1. Start with whatever the pup is interested in (ball, sock, toy).
2. When chasing after object well, introduce dumbbells (leather, wood, and metal) and cotton gloves.
3. When chasing new items well, encourage the pup to bring the items back to you.
4. Provide a lot of praise.
5. Always stop with the pup still wanting more.

Age: 8th through 12th week

Environment: Introduce to big, wide world to see and smell everything. Avoid frightening new or painful experiences.

Human socialization: Give lots of love and attention from all types and sizes of people.

Canine socialization: Remove from mother. Remove from litter mates or provide rotation system into pairs so that the companion of each pup changes every day.

Training at 8 to 12 weeks:

Housebreaking: Progress to outside housebreaking. Should be able to go all night.

all other training should be daily, individual training sessions out of sight and sound of litter mates and mother and other distractions. use positive, constructive approach. Never use "no" command during training sessions but teach the command and use substitution.

Substitution:

- a) Do not allow unacceptable behavior to be carried through; say "No", substitute a correct behavior and praise. Some substitutions can be toy or chewie for chewing whatever; sit for jumping on people; down position for climbing on furniture.
- b) If more of a correction is required, grasp the pup's muzzle but do not squeeze, say "No", substitute and praise.
- c) Also praise the pup sometimes when he is just being good.
- d) At about 11 weeks the muzzle correction will no longer work. At that time switch to the collar correction - grasp collar, give a small tug upward (do not lift pup's feet of the floor) release, substitute and praise.

Lead Training:

1. Carry pup outside and put down, stand still and follow him about - no tugs, no pulling, nor force.
2. When confident and moving freely about, introduce lead control.
 - a) Very gently give a tug when the pup reaches the end of the leash. As soon as he stops tugging or looks around at you, stop tugging and praise.
 - b) As he learns to stay within the confines of the lead without pulling, begin to shorten the lead by taking up the slack in your hand. Also maneuver the pup to be walking at your left side.
 - c) Praise the pup whenever he is not tugging. Keep training sessions short.
 - d) When he is sitting on command on the table and responding to leash control, put the two together and begin proper heeling exercises.

Sit, Stand, and Down:

1. Five minute session on grooming table.
 - a) Have the pup on the table doing your regular grooming and examination and introduce the sit - insert your right hand with the palm up into his collar on top of his neck with the fingers

pointing to the tail; put left palm on his shoulders and slide it along his back, over his rear and down his legs to the hock where you gently apply pressure while saying "Sit." He will sit on your hand. Remove your left hand and stroke his back gently and give gentle praise to keep him sitting to the count of 12.

- b) Turn collar so the right hand is under the pup's chin with the palm down. Place your left hand just behind the right front leg and say "Stand" as you gently pull forward on the collar and slide the left hand along his tummy until you reach the rear legs. Apply gentle pressure to his tummy if necessary to get him up on his feet. Turn your left hand over and gently stroke his tummy, continue quiet praise and keep him standing to the count of 12.
- c) Repeat sequence several times and if he breaks position at any time, just reposition as before.
- d) Over time, increase the count and decrease the amount of help your hands give.
- e) After several days of Sit/Stand, add the Down. With the pup at your left side, place your left arm over his shoulders and left hand with palm side to back of his leg behind his left front leg. Your right palm goes behind his right front leg, then caress his legs in an up-and-down motion while talking softly (soothingly). When he is mesmerized by the tone of your voice and the gentle stroking relaxes him to the point of collapse, gently slide his feet out from under him. (Do not grab his legs with your thumbs and fingers.) Say in the same voice, "Down". Some pressure can be applied to his shoulders with your left arm if necessary. Continue stroking and talking with him in the down position to the count of 12.
- f) Repeat entire sequence of three exercises, increasing the count and decreasing your help until he is doing them on his own.

2 Introduce nail clipping on table.

Come: Introduce "come" by calling frequently and praising when he responds.

CRATE TRAINING

Any wild canine will secure a small, snugly fitting space to call its own. This space represents security to the dog. In its den it cannot be attacked or bothered, so it is able to relax fully. This instinctive desire for a secure den is the basis of the psychology behind using a crate as a training aid. Once the new basenji owner has overcome his own prejudice against "caging" a pet and accepted the sound reasoning behind crate train-



ing, he and his dog can begin to enjoy the benefits of the marvelous crate.

Most basenji breeders and longtime owners have found that a basenji accustomed to having a crate will seek out the security of his crate when he finds his world being invaded by too much noise, confusion, activity, or attention -- or just plain desires a safe, quiet place to sleep.

For the owner, the crate proves to be an excellent solution to one of the most trying problems to be encountered: how to restrain his puppy or dog from getting into trouble, such as chewing a hole in the new sofa, sampling that pretty green plant growing on the window sill, tearing all the paper off that brand new toilet roll and dragging it all through the house, or "getting even" for being left home when he wanted to go along. Finally, travel is much easier with a dog accustomed to being crated.

1) Traveling is much safer if your dog is accustomed to being crated when traveling in a car. The chance of an accidental escape is greatly reduced at rest stops when passengers get out to stretch their legs. A loose dog in the car may distract the driver or interfere with his ability to drive, possibly resulting in an accident.

2) Many motel owners are more willing to allow you to stay with your dog if he has been taught to stay quietly in his crate.

For most new basenji owners, one of the greatest concerns is "How do I crate train my puppy?"

The first step is to obtain the proper size crate for your dog. You need: (1) A crate that is large enough to allow the grown dog room to stand, turn around, and

stretch out when lying down. (2) Latches on the door that will not come unfastened when leaned on or repeatedly bounced against. (3) The crate must allow for good air circulation, without drafts, and adequate light.

Place the crate in a quiet area of the home that is kept warm (not an unheated porch). Excessive noise or coldness will disturb the otherwise quiet pup. This crate is far more to the pup than you may realize. It's a place to sleep undisturbed, and a place of security when frightened or threatened - a place of his own. He'll hide his favorite toy from you or a morsel of food to eat later. The crate is far more than a device to cage a dog, which many people seem to brand it. The crate should be made as comfortable as possible for your pup. Line it with old sheets, blankets, or towels. Avoid such things as looped nylon carpet or electric blankets. These have continuous fibers or wire your dog may tangle himself in. Avoid toxic items such as rubber backing, or foams which he may swallow. Avoid wool or other similar fabric that may be hyper-allergenic. Pins, buttons, snaps and zippers all should be removed. Don't place anything in the crate that may injure the dog. Basenjis like to shred their bedding then rough it up with their feet.

Your puppy may already have been introduced to his crate by his breeder. He will probably already have taken his naps and slept in it at night. For the new owner who gets a puppy which has not been crate trained, the process may be a little unnerving but is far from impossible.

In the course of crate training your puppy, several things should be done:

1. Prior to crating your puppy for the first time, allow your puppy ample opportunity to investigate and explore the crate. But don't force him.

2. When no one is free to supervise the puppy, it is probably best to crate him if he cannot otherwise be restrained from mischief.

3. Nighttime is usually the most unnerving part of crate training, so here are a few suggestions:

- (a) DO NOT place the crate in someone's bedroom. Instead, find a quiet place where the temperature is moderate, as far from your sleeping quarters as possible. If this place can be darkened, so much the better.

- (b) At bed time after feeding, toileting him, and saying good night to your puppy, place him in his crate, close the latch, turn off any lights if possible, and walk away.

- (c) It is very likely that your puppy will cry and complain very loudly about being left alone. Avoid

returning to his crate to quiet him, and do not take him out. If the crying bothers you, turn up your TV or radio, get ear plugs, or bury your head under the pillow and dream of when this stage is all over, for it will pass. This can last from 1 night to 1 week. The less you give in, the shorter the time.

- (d) With each succeeding night the crying will get less and less. Within a few nights, your puppy will be sleeping peacefully and quietly through the night.

HOUSE TRAINING

House training begins before your puppy even arrives at your home. This training may include staying off furniture, staying out of the living room, but most of all, not to urinate or soil anywhere in the house.

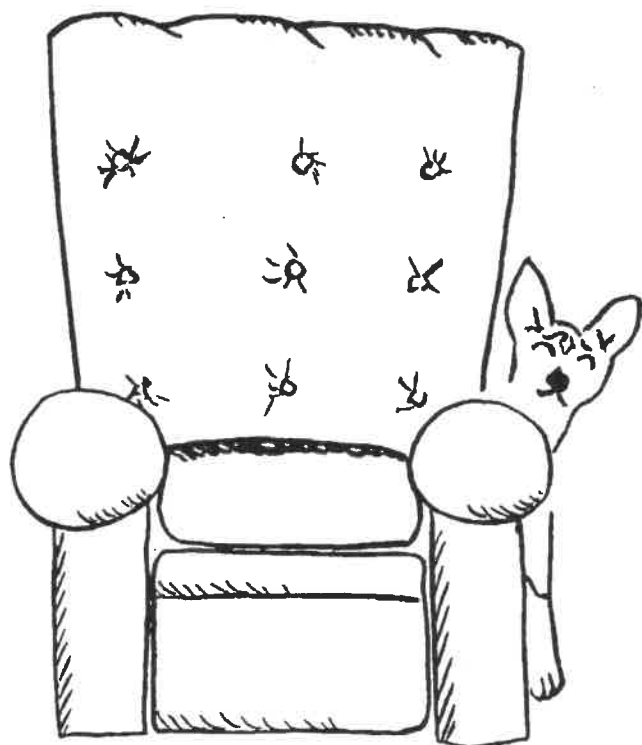
Good sanitary behavior begins as soon as a puppy begins to walk, leaving the nesting area to urinate on newspaper or in a litter box which is placed immediately outside of this area. At the first sign of the inherited sanitary behavior, which all dogs possess, this behavior must be positively reinforced through reward. Do not use negative reinforcement such as disciplinary punishment.

If your puppy comes into your home at less than 12 weeks of age and must be confined for periods of time exceeding four to six hours at a stretch, you will need to make some special provisions such as a litter box lined with newspaper, kitty litter, or a piece of sod. A pup of 6 to 10 weeks of age can't control his bladder very long, and will be forced to use his crate if locked in it. If forced to do this consistently, he may decide that this is acceptable behavior. Place the crate and litter box in a cornered-off area of the kitchen or any other room in which you wish to keep him. An exercise pen is very handy in doing this, but cost may be more than you wish to spend. A large appliance box, such as from a refrigerator, will do. Cut out a side of the top, leaving enough floor space for feeding. Leave as much height on the sides as possible, for basenjis can be very good climbers. Line the bottom of this with a piece of hardboard. A four-by-eight sheet may be used under an exercise pen. This will protect your carpet or vinyl floor. Remember all within this area is fair game for chewing. This includes even your kitchen vinyl floor. As the pup grows and is still too young to be crated over long periods, you may have to buy a top for your exercise pen or extend the side of your cardboard box with additional cardboard and masking tape.

Do not line the entire area with newspapers. Encourage him to use the litter box by waking him up after sleeping and placing him there to urinate. Once the scent is there he will try to make it to that spot

every time, unless it's too unsanitary -then he will seek another spot. Should you have the advantage of being able to take him to a spot to soil every 4 hours or less, you can avoid this special environment and confine him to his crate. Few people have this time available; even nonworkers must get a full night's sleep or leave the home for longer periods.

When you have your puppy out for playtime, take him to his designated spot quite often. Like a young child, he'll put off going till the last minute, then when he becomes excited he will go. It may be on the couch or in your arms. He has no control over this situation, and the fault is yours for not prompting him to eliminate earlier. Confine him to his special environment, unless playing or socializing with him. Make sure he is watched, confined to a certain room, and that his litter box is nearby. A young pup can't be expected to travel more than about ten feet when he gets the urge to go. If that certain spot (litter box) is not around, he will find another. It's very important not to let him have the run of the house because he will establish other spots. Be prepared to pick him up in a hurry should he choose a spot other than the litter box. Rush him to the litter box and place him in it. If he hasn't already relieved himself, praise him for doing so in the litter box. Puppies are eager to please you. Don't



punish him if he happens to miss the box. House training must be done with positive reinforcement

Check with the breeder to determine the method of house training they may have begun. Maintain this method, for a change will only confuse the pup. Pups raised in an environment that is completely covered with newspaper are not paper-trained. A paper-trained pup will seek out the newsprint, rather than the pup that just goes anywhere whenever he wishes. When your puppy reaches the age of 11 weeks, he is capable of sleeping through the night without soiling his crate. He probably will go through a period of adjustment and soiling his crate can be expected even during short periods of crating.

Adjustment depends on how much preparation he has had in crate training and house training. This also may be lengthened by a strong-headed pup who doesn't want to accept the situation. There are two ways to go about this period of adjustment and crate soiling. One is to repeat the environment described for the 6 to 10 week pup at the beginning of this section. Extra care must be taken to prevent escape. The second is to crate him, line his crate with a disposable product such as paper towel, plain bedding paper (purchased from a pet shop), or a supply of washable bedding. Don't use newsprint to line his crate if you are using it for his litter box - this will cause confusion. Remember that this is only temporary. In a week or two he should settle down and sleep through the night. Regardless of which way you go about this adjustment period, he will most likely be quite noisy.

Crating your 11 to 12 week old pup during the day (6 to 8 hours) will require adjustment similar to crating during the night. If possible, start him with his regular rest period, gradually extending its length by one hour a day until the desired duration. No dog can be expected not to soil the crate if not prompted to relieve himself prior to crating. Make sure he does the job. Do not expect more than 8 hours safe crating time from a young dog and no more than 12 hours from an adult. These long periods are quite a demand.

Crate soiling has emotional factors: a pup or adult dog who has controlled himself during a long period may relieve himself due to the excitement of your returning or his morning feeding. Make sure you let him out to an appropriate place to soil as soon as possible, should he exhibit this excited behavior. A dog could also relieve himself out of retaliation toward being crated, if he has not been adjusted to crating during that time of day. In no case should a dog who has soiled his crate be greeted with punishment. This will cause resentment on the part of the dog toward you and/or the crating. He may continue soiling his crate out of retaliation regardless of the punishment. A dog may also soil his crate seeking attention, even though this attention is punishment. Don't make a big

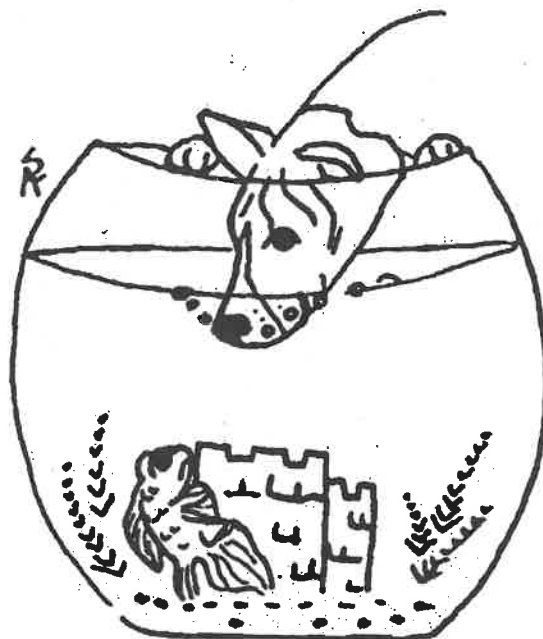
issue of going away or coming home for the dog that is crated. This creates unnecessary anxiety. The less said the better.

Within two weeks of acquiring your pup, he should be settling in with his new home. He should have the litter box mastered and be somewhat crate-trained. The use of the two together teaches him control. You must maintain a regular schedule of feeding, crating, playtime and a certain spot to soil. This consistency is the foundation of all training. Failing to be consistent extends the training time and leads to your own frustration.

When to train your puppy to relieve himself outside instead of inside depends on a number of variables. Don't put a young pup outside until a week after his first series of vaccines -- approximately 8 to 9 weeks of age. There are too many infectious diseases to take any chances. Another factor is the weather. Don't require your young pup to withstand extreme cold or rainy weather in an effort to convert him from the box to outside. This could become a form of negative training: he will soon decide it is more comfortable going inside. You are also taking a chance of him acquiring an infectious disease by stressing his body with weather that could lower his resistance.

Begin converting him to going out as soon as the weather permits and his body has a good resistance to infectious diseases. If you have a covered porch protected from the extreme weather, you may wish to start by having him use the litter box there until milder weather. Place his litter box at the location which you wish him to soil. Take him there when he wakes, prior to crating, after feeding, and during playtime. He will soon learn where his box is. Then allow him to trot along at your side to this spot so you can show him where it is. In a few days he will learn the path to this spot. This will imprint on his mind that he must pass through this door to get to the spot. Remember, if he has not eliminated for 8 hours, the trip to that spot is like the one you have probably gone through when traveling in the car for hours. Though only a few feet to the restroom, it seems like a mile; and when you get there, you don't wish to wait. So make sure the outside door is open as soon as possible, and don't expect him to travel 100 feet to the rear of the yard to relieve himself.

Remove the litter box after he has familiarized himself with this location. Once the scent is there, make sure he uses it consistently. From box to outside should take about two weeks of consistent training. This method of house training is designed to teach your dog to soil in a designated spot, even when outside in the yard. There are other methods of house training in the AKC *The Complete Dog Book* and



other books. Regardless of the method, the key to success is consistency.

Accidents will occur. You should make an analysis of what went wrong. How long has it been since the pup was out, has he been sleeping, has he just eaten? Nine times out of ten you can place the blame on yourself. The pup should not be punished, regardless. An adult may be disciplined if he has been thoroughly trained to know better.

In general, the Basenji is a very clean dog with clean habits. Reinforce these habits with positive reinforcement. Negative reinforcement can create problems. This can be seen in the dog who has been swatted with a rolled up newspaper or magazine. This dog may be vicious to the paperboy or letter carrier who brings these devices of punishment to the house. A dog who is consistently struck with the hand may become hand shy, and will be apt to bite the innocent person who wishes to pet him. Rubbing his nose in it is inhumane and cruel. This dog may have the scent left on his face and won't be able to tell the difference between right and wrong spots to soil. You also can damage the dog's ability to smell. His nose is very sensitive and easily damaged. Shaming the puppy for doing something that occurs naturally will cause the puppy to soil a place when you are not looking or seek a concealed space such as behind the couch. In an extreme case, a puppy will lick up or eat the mess he has made in an attempt to hide it from you. All you have taught him is shame toward what comes naturally; it won't solve the problem. He is not capable of making the connection. Negative reinforcement should be used only when correcting aggressive or disobedient behavior and used in conjunction with positive reinforcement. (See section on Discipline.)

Don't expect the puppy to be totally house-trained until 16 weeks of age. Even at this age, a lot depends on the consistency of your efforts. Persistent crate soiling in the older dog is either emotionally or medically connected. It is possible through poor training to teach a dog this is acceptable. If you have this problem, please contact the breeder or the references listed at the beginning of the manual for possible solutions.

The adult male marking in the house is a territorial and/or sexual behavior. It occurs when the dog picks up the scent or sight of another dog. You must correct this with negative reinforcement and remove the scent. A female in season will cause exceptional problems.

Other aspects of house training may be to stay off the furniture or stay out of bedrooms. If you wish to enforce these, start as soon as you receive the dog. To allow a pup to sit on your lap while on the couch only encourages him to jump up to get to your lap. If he has been allowed in the bedrooms for three months then gets booted out, a basenji will question why and persist in entering. Reward good behavior and discipline "NO" for unwanted behavior.

BASIC TRAINING

As with all canines, certain basic obedience is necessary to develop a good pet/owner relationship. Most young basenjis exhibit similar unruly behavior, such as: rushing the door with the intent of escaping; stealing food from the table or right out of your hand; jumping up on people, tables or forbidden furniture; dragging their owner behind them while on a walk.

The intent of this article is to give you, the master, some guidelines in training your basenji. Though no two basenjis are alike, and training should be tailored to the nature of each individual dog, these guidelines will provide you with the basic knowledge to begin training your basenji.

Consistency is the key to successful training.

Consistently use the same words for commands.

Consistently demand that your dog obey your commands - by either placing or correcting.

Consistently correct your dog each time he makes the mistake. To allow behavior at times but not at other times will only confuse the dog.

Consistently practice the exercises until they are thoroughly learned.



After about five weeks of working an exercise, expect a learning plateau where the dog makes little progress or even regresses. Expect this and do not be discouraged. Continue your training to overcome this plateau.

In order to be fair to your dog, training must always proceed through the stages of: 1. Introduction (guiding and placement); 2. Correction (for not responding); 3. Proofing (introducing distractions and expecting obedience in different situations).

Motivating your basenji to perform the desired exercise uses negative and positive reinforcement, as discussed under discipline. Positive reinforcement should be encouraged to the greatest degree while using negative reinforcement sparingly, only after the dog has thoroughly learned the exercise.

The repetitive use of placement or guidance is called Pattern Training. This technique of guidance/placement and reward is the foundation of teaching a dog a command under most situations.

Maintaining your Basenji's attention during the training session is of the utmost importance. Many different sounds, sights, and scents will distract your dog. Exercises should be taught with as few distractions as possible. Introduce different distractions as a means of proofing a dog that has already learned the exercise. Maintain your dog's attention by talking to him or offering food. The use of "happy talk" & praise during training cannot be emphasized enough.

While you are working with your dog, choose simple brief commands that your dog can learn through repetition. State the command words in a "commanding voice". Do not question or ask the dog (Sit?) or threaten the dog to obey. Only state the command one time. Remember, "Sit, sit" is a "no no". If your dog does not respond on the first command,

think about the reason he is not responding. This reason will dictate your response:

REASON	ACTION
Does not know exercise well	Placement or guidance & praise
Frightened or unsure	Placement or guidance & praise
Distracted	Correction
Feels he has a choice	Correction

You are entitled to correct the dog only if you have spent an adequate amount of time introducing the command words and you have no doubt your dog knows what the command word means.

The jerk release correction is a quick action. You must tighten the collar and then release it very quickly. You should not be jerking and then holding the collar tight with pressure. The jerks should not throw the dog into position. You should guide the dog with light jerks in the correct direction.

In exercises in which the dog is some distance from you, such as OFF, a soda can with a few coins inside can be thrown without harm to the dog or household furnishings. Begin such a correction with "No!". If no response, follow by throwing the can with the intent of startling the dog - not hitting him. The dog should not see you throw the can. It should come as a complete surprise out of nowhere. Follow by a command.

If constantly correcting for the same mistake, escalate the correction. Remember to escalate the praise accordingly.

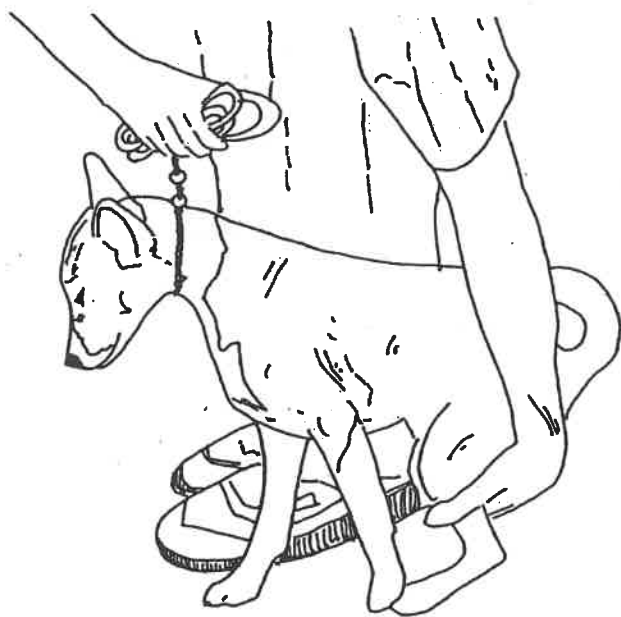
Practice your dog often, working different exercises in sets of three. Finish the training session on a positive note. The last exercise should be one that your dogs knows best and enjoys. Tricks are a nice finish to a training session.

#1 Benji sit.

A: While standing with your dog along your left side, give the command "Benji sit". Pull up on the collar with your right hand while using your left hand to tuck the dog's rear under him. When sit is accomplished praise & release him. After constant repetition, Benji will sit without assistance, anticipating praise and a pup treat.

B: Continue sit exercise now with small distractions and work up to major distractions. When he fails to comply, correct him accordingly.

C: Sits off-leash should be done after mastering on-leash sits. Attach a pull tab to the obedience collar. Use this to correct the dog if necessary as per on-leash training.



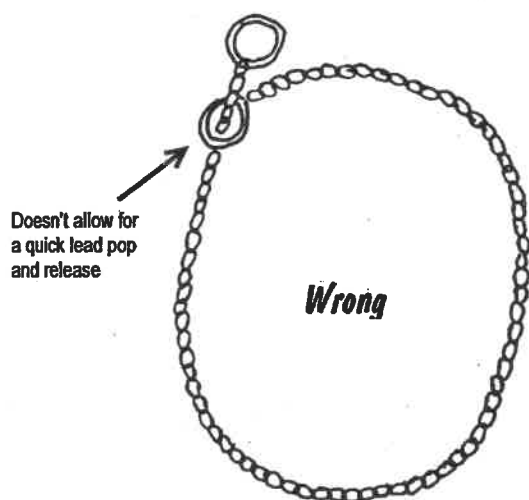
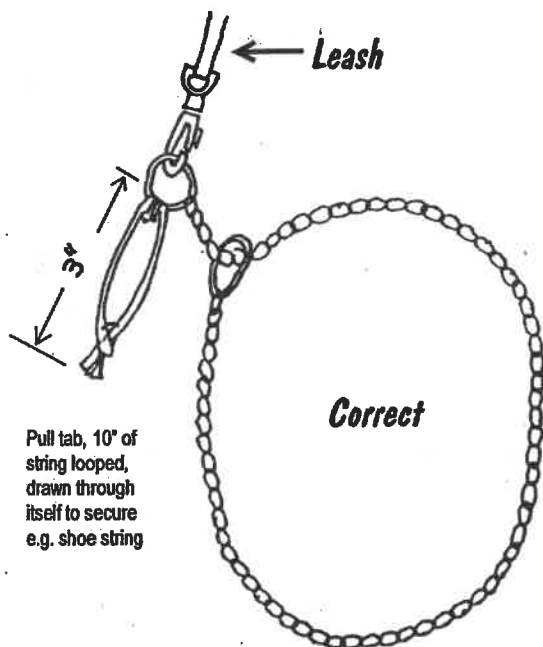
Tuck-sit training

#2 Benji wait

A: The wait command can be given while standing, sitting or lying down. Begin the exercise with no distractions and in a less mobile position. With Benji sitting at your side, on leash, give the command "wait" without moving from his side. Allow 1/2 minute to lapse. Correct him for moving with a lead pop correction and a "no!". Quickly reset him to the wait position while repeating the command "wait". Gradually increase the duration of the "wait" and gradually add distractions.

B: Begin leaving your dog only after he has mastered exercise "A" for 5 minutes or more with some distractions. To begin leaving your dog on wait: While on leash, dog sitting at your side, give the wait command. Now move from your dog's side to directly in front of him standing toe to toe. Correct him for not waiting with a "no!" and a lead pop. Quickly reset him to the same spot where he started and repeat the command "wait". He should now be sitting directly in front of you - waiting. Allow three minutes to lapse. Correct if necessary. Release with "OK" and praise enthusiastically.

C: When the dog is now waiting in front of you on leash consistently for durations of five minutes or more and with some distractions, step back away from him one step. While still holding the leash (correct



him if necessary), return to him in three minutes. Praise and release. Increase the distance gradually one step at a time. You'll have to have a long leash or rope for longer distances. Increase duration and distractions as you go along. Increase the time and amount of distractions before you increase the distance. If your dog is having problems - stay close, correct him before he can get up.

D: Wait while off leash. *Do not begin this exercise until he has mastered on leash waits of 5 minutes at a distance of 24' with distractions.* Give the wait command while on 6' leash, dog sitting by your side, unlatch the leash and walk away to a 6' distance. Attached to his collar should be a short tab. Use this to give him a correction if necessary; always place him

back in the same spot he was told to wait. Return to him, praise and release. Increase distance and distractions as you go along.

E: Repeat the entire series of wait exercises for lying down & standing positions separately.

Your basenji, with practice, should now be willing to wait when told, whether lying down, sitting or standing. Always return to release him; don't call him. Teaching him to come when called requires a different series of exercises, and only after mastering waits.

It's quite likely your dog will realize he is no longer on a leash, maybe as soon as you detach it, and he may jet away. You need to discourage this behavior from the start. Try attaching a very light line to his collar, (such as fishing line) 40 lb test or more, before detaching the leash. Walk away with light line in hand. Benji will find himself still in master's grasp if he tries to jet. It's best to have a glove on the hand holding the fishing line. Should the dog jet, correct by pulling the dog back to the spot where he should have been, grab the pull tab on his collar, and tell him "No!" while giving him a lead pop. Be firm, repeat the command, wait, and walk away. Return and praise.

For best results, teach wait indoors until solid. Then begin outdoors. Remember if he jets outdoors, you may never catch him, so use a light line until fully mastered. If your dog jets outside, most likely, by the time you catch him, he will have forgotten what he was doing. A correction now would serve no purpose. A loose basenji should never be corrected for returning to his master - even though you would like to wring his neck. Praise should be given along with a treat to encourage him returning to you even though you have just spent an hour chasing him around the neighborhood.

#3 Let's go

Taking Benji for a walk should be fun, not an effort. Many basenjis love to pull. Use the command "let's go" when starting your walk. With Benji on a 6' leash, hold the leash to your side. If he pulls, give the command "no pull". Extending your arm forward, quickly let the leash go slack and give a quick snap back, giving a lead pop with enough force to get his attention. Repeat as necessary. Praise him when he maintains a slack leash.

With a little work, Benji should understand "no pull" and be maintaining a slack leash. When he is distracted, sniffing the ground or with another dog, give a "leave it" command; correct if necessary. Now while walking, make an about turn while Benji is looking away and walk away from him. When you get

to the end of the leash and Benji hasn't responded, give him a lead pop while telling him "let's go" simultaneously. Praise him when he responds. Eventually, you won't be walking away from Benji - he'll always be watching you out of the corner of his eye. Praise him for "good let's go".

#4 Leave it

While on leash, with a few small distractions, when the dog's attention is on the distraction (food, other dogs, other people), give the command "leave it". Follow with a lead pop if he fails to comply. Several lead pops may be necessary to discourage very tempting distractions. Praise him once his attention has been diverted by the command. Start with very small distractions working up to larger, more tempting distractions.

Begin off leash correction with a pull tab when he has learned the command on leash. This is probably the most difficult point of training for a basenji, for he is easily distracted by scent, sight, hearing, and taste. Practice this exercise all the time, especially during other training exercises. Use the command for begging, food stealing, pulling on the leash. Don't use the command on a very tempting distraction until he has mastered small distractions. Use it only when you're prepared to enforce it with success.

#5 Benji off

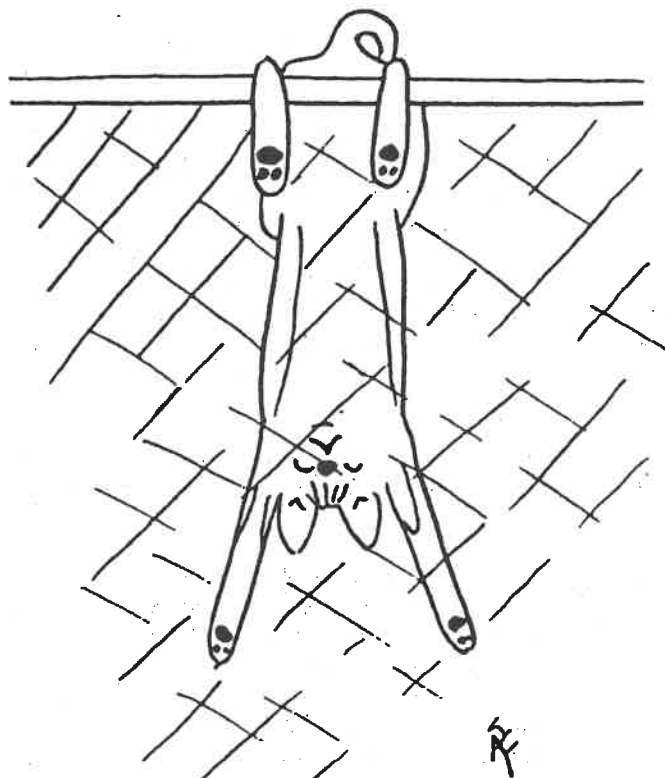
A: When Benji is on something he shouldn't be, give the command "Benji off". Using a leash or a pull tab attached to an obedience collar, give a lead pop if the command isn't followed, directing him off the object.

B: When Benji jumps up on people, use the command "Off". Correct if necessary as per exercise A. Or raise your knee firmly striking the dog in his chest. Be careful to use only enough force to deter the dog without injury.

Always praise the dog for getting off something or someone when commanded regardless if a correction was necessary.

C: If Benji gets off when commanded, but jumps right back up when you are not looking, command "No Benji Off" while giving him a lead pop even though he may have jumped off. Be firm. It may take several tries before he gets the idea. Praise "good off - good Benji" after he has lost interest in the object.

A Secure Yard



The Basenji is a master escape artist. The degree to which one will go to escape varies from basenji to basenji, but most basenjies are quite capable of climbing a chain link fence regardless of the height, can master a standing vertical leap of 3 feet, climb a tree, and can clear tall buildings with a single bound. Should he find no way to go over, he may find a way under. If he doesn't succeed at digging his way out, he may try removing the fencing with his teeth, pulling with unbelievable force, or chewing his way through.

These escape traits are the extremes which a basenji may or may not exhibit. Some basenjies show little or no desire to escape, and are quite content to be confined by a 42 inch high porch railing, even though this would be an easy leap. On the other extreme, others are master escape artists, no matter what is tried.

How can we confine our friend to keep him safely at home? Why not use a chain? The disadvantages prove it to be a poor way of confining your dog, and should be used on a temporary basis only. Twist link chains can be broken, and steel cable can be chewed through. Only a welded link chain secured to a very secure anchor will do. How do we secure this to the dog? No leather or nylon collar will do, as leather stretches and nylon collars can pull apart at the stitching or the D-rings can come apart if not welded. A harness is the most secure way to restrain a dog.

Basenjis like to test their strength against any restraint. "Tying out" creates extra heavy muscle mass and wears off the hairs on the neck, ruining a show dog's career. Also, chains don't keep the stray dogs out, and if a stray should start a fight, the dog on the chain is at an extreme disadvantage. In addition, he may wrap himself up or jump over something and strangle himself to death. This is not an uncommon occurrence among chained dogs of any breed. Never use a choke chain collar to tie out your dog.

What we have left is a beaten up basenji with a harness on a heavy welded link chain secured to the 40 year old maple in the back yard. This may be escape proof, but is it fair to a dog who enjoys running and needs his exercise?

A 4 x 10 foot, fully enclosed dog run is more humane. Even in this limited space, at least the dog can move about freely.

Ideally, the completely fenced yard is best. A 5 or 6 foot fence is a good start. Should the dog find this an easy jump, attach 30 inches of wire game fencing to the top with heavy duty staples, nails, or wire and leave the top loose. This will throw the dog backward and remove any foothold the dog would have for any type of climb or jump other than a full clearing leap. Seven feet would be a very amazing clear leap even for a basenji.

Should your basenji start digging under the fence, place a barricade of large rocks or cement blocks at its base. Another deterrent is to fill the hole with the dog's own 'poop'. For the very determined digger, try mixing the dirt as you refill the hole with generous amounts of Cayenne pepper. This will provide an automatic negative reinforcement for the dog since every time he tries to dig, he starts to sneeze. This has proven very discouraging to persistent diggers.

Install solid latches on gates, up high enough to prevent the dogs from using them. Make sure gates always are closed by using self closures or padlocks. Inspect your fencing daily for possible escape routes he is currently working on, and repair such immediately!

Don't forget to discourage that 2 month old puppy who looks so cute trying to climb her way out of that exercise pen. Escaping behavior begins early and can also be stopped early so you can eliminate much heartache from ever occurring.

If your basenji should get out and run loose, coax him back with some food and make coming back to you a pleasant experience even if you are ready to wring his neck when you finally catch him! Any punishment

used at that point will be associated with coming back to you and not escaping.

Remember, don't take chances. It only takes one escape and you may never see him again. Whether he gets lost or is hit by an automobile, the results are the same.



MICRO CHIPPING

Help! My Dog is Lost!!

Sometime during his life, your dog may turn up lost. Basenjis can run very quickly and be miles away from home in a matter of hours. Most will panic if they become lost and will run. Once they have left their familiar neighborhood behind, they may not be able to find their way home by themselves.

What you can do before your dog is lost. Before this nightmare has a chance to occur, there are some simple steps you can take to aid in finding your dog if he does become lost. First, take photographs of the frontal and side view of your dog. Update these photos as often as necessary, whenever your dog changes his appearance. The photos will be used in fliers.

Secondly, you should check the tags that your dog has on his collar. You should have a personal tag, a city/county identification tag, and a rabies tag. Consider not putting your dog's name on the personal identification tag you buy. If your dog is a real love (and what basenji isn't), having a name to call the dog may bond your dog's finder closer and they may not want to return him. Engrave the word "REWARD" in the space available for a name on your dog's tag. Whenever the information on your dog's tag changes, buy a new tag. Rabies tags commonly have the name of the veterinary hospital that the shot was given at with a phone number and identification number. Many dogs have been traced back to their owners by these tags.

Dogs are often lost without their collars on. For this reason, you should strongly consider a method of identification that is permanently with your dog. There are two options for this: microchip implantation

and tattooing. Both methods have positive and negative points. You may consider having your dog both tattooed and a microchip implanted.

Microchip implantation is a process done at a vet's office. All sorts of valuable or exotic birds and animals are being implanted. A microchip similar in size and shape to a grain of rice is implanted under the skin between your dog's shoulder blades. This chip, which is not noticeable, can be scanned by a specialized reader in a process similar to a cashier scanning the barcodes of your groceries. Microchips have the advantage in the fact that Animal Control is required to scan all incoming animals for microchips but may not check for a tattoo. A distressed dog may not wish to show his tattoo either. One disadvantage of microchips is that the finder of your dog will more than likely need to go to a vet or Animal Control. Microchips will not yield information without a scanner. Scanning equipment is improving as of this writing. There are scanners being developed which scan the entire animal (similar to an airport metal detector); It is not necessary for the operator to know where the chip is located on the animal with these units.

While there is no universal standard for microchip codes, most commercial readers in use today are capable of recognizing the presence of all of the code types (with the possible exception of a code in use in Europe). There are around five different code standards in use. Low cost personal readers will only read one or two codes so if you purchase one of these for use in your kennel, make sure you only implant chips that are compatible with the unit you own. You will find most vets like to stick with a single manufacturer. Companies producing microchips have a 24 hour hotline with which you can register your dog's serial number. Until such time you register the chip in your own name, the vet's name & number will appear in the record. Beginning in 1995, the AKC has also established a microchip hotline.

Tattoo is your other option of permanent identification. It is recommended that you tattoo the inside fold of your dog's hind leg. Use your dog's AKC number or, if your dog is not AKC registered, your driver's license number. Make sure that whatever number you use is labeled. It is important to check the tattoo artist's work to ensure long term legibility and having the smallest tattoo possible. Tattoos have the advantage in that they are recognized by anyone. They indicate that you consider your dog valuable. Labs will not purchase tattooed dogs for experimentation. Disadvantages are that tattoos are visible and may be large if not done by an expert. Although your dog's AKC number will never change, other information you may have chosen to tattoo can (phone number, driver's license).

What to do when your dog is lost. There are three steps to take when your dog turns up lost. First, get on the phone - call all the vets in your area, the animal control center, the local human society, and friends to help you with the next step.

Secondly, create a lost dog poster. This poster should include photographs of your dog, your name, phone number, a written description of your dog, and where he was lost. Consider getting color Xeroxes, available at most copy centers, especially for brindles and other dogs that color is a critical identifying feature. Offer a reward; you may get a quicker response if you use the phrase "substantial reward" in your flyer.

These posters should be displayed everywhere. This is where those friends you called come in handy. Plaster them at least at every corner if not on every telephone pole in your community. Give fliers to vets and pet store owners to display. Many grocery stores will also post your notice. Once your dog is found, you must take down all the fliers you have posted.

Finally, advertise in the local paper. Make sure your classified will be with the other lost dog listings. Make your advert short but very clear - most people do not know what a basenji is. Offer a reward as you have in the fliers.

Hopefully, all of the preparation you take will never be necessary and your dog will never be lost. If your dog is lost, remember most dogs are found and with the precautions mentioned above: up-to-date dog tags, tattoos and microchip implantations will aid in the safe return of your dog.

CHEWING

My dog and I were walking down the street one day and passed a lady working in her yard. "Oh, what a pretty basenji", she exclaimed as she came down to visit. "I used to have a basenji, but she chewed everything so bad we had to give her up. We only had her a week!"



Yes, it is true that basenji puppies can be chewing machines. The inherited tendency to investigate the surroundings is very strong in a young dog. Evolution encourages your pups to use their mouths to learn

about their environment, as well as to find additional food sources.

Your success in preventing chewing problems depends on how effectively you can channel your puppy's tendency toward acceptable toys rather than household goods.

One common mistake people frequently make is to provide the pup with old socks or shoes. The puppy, however, cannot distinguish between an old shoe and a good shoe. If he learns that chewing leather is acceptable, then all leather goods become fair game.

Never leave a puppy unattended unless he's restricted to a damage proof area or in a crate. You wouldn't leave a toddler alone-why would you trust a puppy? You know that your basenji will chew on something, so you can't blame him when he does. Your puppy is not purposefully trying to be malicious or destructive. It is his instinct to chew.

It is your fault for giving him the opportunity. Do not punish your puppy when you find a chewed object after the fact. Your puppy's mind probably won't make the connection. (An adult basenji knows better, but not a puppy). All you can do is clean up the mess and resolve to not let it happen again. But, you say, "He looks so guilty when I scold him, he must know what he did wrong." How can you be sure your basenji makes the connection between the mess on the floor and his making the mess? Try this experiment: Drop a piece of tissue on the floor and bring your basenji to it and scold him. He will probably act very guilty, even though he has done nothing wrong. What connection has he made?

Make sure that his acceptable chewing items cannot be swallowed or chewed into splinters. Some suggestions are hard nylon bone, hard rubber toy, Floss Rope, Gumabone, rawhide (when supervised).

When he begins to chew something he shouldn't, correct him with a loud NO and remove the object. Immediately offer him one of his toys, but do not force it into his mouth. Spray or dab the unacceptable items with a preparation that will discourage chewing such as Chew-Stop, Bitter Apple, rubbing alcohol, Tabasco Sauce, or clove oil, then put it into his mouth. Praise him when he spits it out.

Take him to all electrical cords within reach and repeat the procedure. Remember to praise him when he spits out the cord.

You may also wish to try dipping a Q-Tip in one of these substances. Insert the Q-Tip into the unsuspecting puppy's mouth while he is chewing on an unacceptable object. (Don't forewarn him.) Repeated consistently, soon, he'll find his toys are the only safe

ones to chew on. This method doesn't scent the actual objects, making a choice between his toys and forbidden objects based on experience, not by a given scent.

Pick up all potentially harmful objects such as needles, bottle caps, or anything else that could be easily ingested.

Get into the habit of looking for trouble before it occurs.

Basenjis LOVE to get into things such as the garbage and the dirty underwear. They also quickly learn how to open the kitchen cabinets to get to those enticing odors. Recently, I knew a basenji that chewed up a fur jacket. Basenjis have been known to chew such things as pillows, couches, chairs, car seats, quilts, chair and table legs, corners of coffee tables, door jams, rugs, any bedding you put in the crate, curtains, and anything plastic. Basenjis also make great paper shredders and love to tear any piece of Kleenex, cardboard, disposable diaper (new or used), and newspaper into tiny pieces. This chewing behavior, uncontrolled, may result in poisoning or other serious health problems.

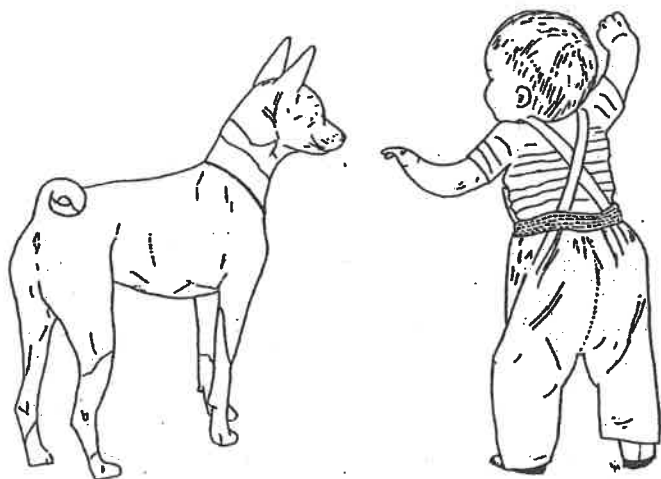
Basenji puppies will chew on anything when given the opportunity. Please take some precautions to help your pup through a troublesome stage of development without harm to himself or to your home. Do both of you a favor and start him out right. Please follow the recommendations of your Breeder, and crate or confine your basenji when you are not there to watch him.

INTRODUCING YOUR NEW BABY TO YOUR BASENJI

One of the best things about Basenjis is that they love babies. One of the worst things about Basenjis is that they love babies.

Since basenjis are extremely social creatures in the sense that they are happiest in a "pack" or family living situation, the addition of a new baby into the household can have all the ramifications (curiosity, jealousy, etc.) that you might experience if your basenji were actually a former only child. Indeed, many couples have a pet "family" before they have a child--and in some ways, basenjis thoroughly prepare you for a terrible two year old. And, like an older child, a basenji will successfully integrate into the new nuclear family with just a little patience on your part.

First, be aware of the sense of excitement pervading your return home from the hospital. You are also carrying a bundle in your arms that smells wonderful and lots of attention is focused on that bundle. There are all sorts of little knitted fuzzy clothes and toys that



go with it. Instead of creating a situation where your basenji will be wild with curiosity and want to jump up, sniff, lick, grab fuzzies, or even nip, why not have someone else carry the baby in so that you can greet your basenji calmly and with a little attention just for him. After all, he's had you all to himself until now, and you have been away for a few days. Next calmly show your basenji the new baby. Let him sniff and satisfy his curiosity about just what that squirming thing is. Give him gentle admonishments of "NO" if he attempts to lick your newborn. You will need to monitor him as he will persist in his attempts to keep this new "puppy" clean and dry.

Be prepared for any number of behavioral reactions from your basenji. He may be aloof and sulky for a few days. He may be your shadow, never leaving your side, even trying to crowd the baby as he attempts to climb onto your lap. He may consider himself the appointed guardian of the new baby, sleeping next to the crib, or lying at your feet when you are holding the baby, and subsequently growling at anyone who approaches or attempts to pick up the child. Since basenjis have an innate instinct for caring for the young, most will tolerate a toddler's rough handling, but be prepared to rescue your basenji from small pinching fingers. A child will need to be periodically rescued from a Basenji's obsessive need to lick and clean any and all body fluids. And, while we're on the subject, to avoid unpleasant discoveries, it is recommended that used diapers be kept well out of the reach of your basenji.

With a little foresight on your part, your basenji and your new baby will share a special friendship in your growing household.

ARE TWO BASENjis BETTER THAN ONE?

This question often arises and is one for lively debate. Of course the right answer is "it depends." There are some rules of thumb. Although often tempting, generally it is not a good idea to acquire two puppies at once. Every basenji puppy needs and deserves your focus and attention during his puppyhood. You will also find that at least a year between puppies allows time and maturity for your puppy to know the rules of your household. It is VERY difficult for novices to train two basenji puppies at once. This is because the relationship between the two puppies (regardless of whether or not they are littermates) will immediately create a greater bond between them than your bond to either of one of them. Expedition Mischief multiplies exponentially with multiple puppies in a non-kennel environment. This can make your home chaos. To quote a long time basenji fancier, "what one doesn't think of, the other one will."

After a year of training, you may find yourself longing for another puppy or a canine camaraderie companion for your Basenji. The interaction between the two can be charming, just plan plenty of time to review your situation and design an appropriate pair. You may want to refer to the breeder of your Original puppy before you make any decisions. Basenjis do have a variety of tolerances to other dogs; someone with a wider frame of reference may be able to help guide you through this planning. Be very honest about your Basenji's attitudes, experiences and exposures to other dogs. Wishful thinking is not appropriate when making such a long term commitment. Generally, the most compatible pairs are of the opposite sex. There are exceptions to this generality, but it usually holds true. Many people have had great success with a pair of bitches, and some had even had success with a pair of males.

The safest thing to do before adopting a second Basenji of the opposite sex is to spay or neuter one of them as soon as possible. Certainly if you have intact dogs of other breeds in your household, you will want to be most cautious. Having intact canines of the opposite sex under the same roof during the bitch's heat cycle is not pleasant in any way. Besides the bitch's discharge, there is howling at all hours of the day and night, unrelenting escape attempts, and a barrage of other unpleasanties.

In addition to the sex of your new Basenji, you will need to think about your desired age difference between the two Basenjis. One theory of some humans is to spread out the ages of their Basenjis so that when the older Basenji passes on (of old age hopefully) that the humans are not without a Basenji

companion. Most Basenjis (who were raised as an "only child") over three years of age are less tolerant of a puppy's behavior than a younger adult. Remember that Junior Basenji will be mouthing and badgering Original Basenji all day and all night long to play for the better part of a year. Young adults still have plenty of energy and willfulness to join in the fun. Basenjis in tandem have their own communication and will become a "pack." You may discover that after a year, Junior becomes the "top dog," or the Original may continue its role as the leader.

When considering a second Basenji, please consider adopting a "rescue" Basenji. The Basenji Club of America has an active network of resource people all over the country helping Basenjis find new homes. There are also purebred dog rescue groups in many municipalities. You may be surprised at the variety of circumstances that force a family to part with their Basenji. Sometimes the owners are going overseas indefinitely, or have moved in with relatives who cannot have a dog, allergies arise....there are as many reasons as there are Basenjis in need of a new home. The organized groups carefully review each potential adoptee, to make sure that it appears to be of balanced temperament and in good health. Check the classified section of your local newspaper, your telephone book, the BCOA, or the Evergreen Basenji Club to help you adopt a rescue Basenji.

When you bring home your "new" Basenji, consider how you will make the introduction to your Original Basenji. The best place to make new friends is on neutral territory. A city park is a great place so long as Junior is properly immunized. (Your garage can work in a pinch.) Make sure that there are two humans at the time of the meeting. Bring the two Basenjis to the site in separate vehicles if possible and don't park within eyesight of each other. Get Original Basenji out of the vehicle on leash, and allow him to relieve himself and to settle. If possible, both people should have some happy interaction with Original before someone fetches Junior. Put treats in your pocket before you bring Junior out on leash. Use a happy voice directed at Original Basenji as Junior comes within sight. ALWAYS make sure that GOOD things happen to Original when Junior is around and appropriate behavior is exhibited. Be prepared for them to sniff all the private parts right away. If either Basenji puts their hackles up, stroke them and comfort them. Keep a good hold on the leashes in case of

emergency. Once play begins, praise them both and verbalize suggestions to Adult Basenji, "should we take Junior home with us?"

If your "new" Basenji is not a puppy, the introductory period may take longer. If they are of the same sex, several "visits" on different days may be necessary before harmony is reached. Be patient.

Remember to offer extra attention to your Original Basenji especially during the first few weeks. Visitors will be lavishing attention on Junior, and you don't want Original Basenji to get jealous. Make a point of making good things happen to Original when Junior is around. You will find that Original will help teach Junior many rules of the house including crate training and outdoor duties. The new "pack" will be charming and fascinating. You too may exclaim, "you can never have just one Basenji!"

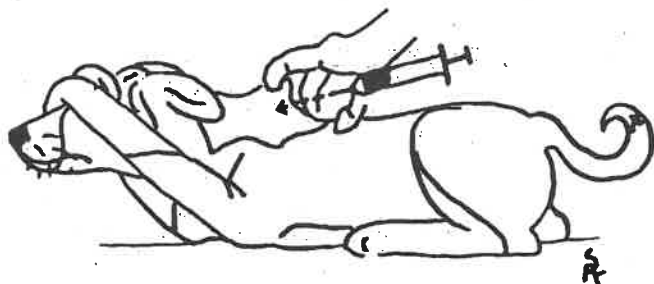


CARING FOR YOUR BASENJI

IMMUNIZATIONS/WORMING

Preventive Immunizations are a vital part of the health care of your puppy. The following serious, often fatal diseases are preventable through early immunization, followed by regular boosters.

Distemper (D): A highly-infectious viral disease of young dogs - often fatal, characterized by



rhinitis and fever.

Hepatitis (H): A viral infection characterized by inflammation of the liver.

Leptospirosis (L): A series of bacterial infections cause by several members of the genus *Leptospira*, involving liver and kidneys.

Parainfluenza (P): and/or **Adenovirus type 2 (A2):** A complex of viral respiratory infections, characterized by bronchitis, including "Kennel Cough".

Parvovirus (PV): A viral infection characterized by severe enteritis with vomiting and bloody diarrhea - often rapidly fatal in young pups.

Coronavirus (CV): Similar to Parvovirus, but somewhat less severe.

Rabies: An always-fatal viral disease of the central nervous system.

When your puppy is born, his own immune system is not fully mature and is not capable of making antibodies against infectious diseases. The pup is afforded some protection at birth and during the early weeks of his life by maternal antibodies acquired from his mother. If she is immune to the various diseases, the pup will acquire immunity from her blood via the placenta, and her milk as he nurses after birth. During the first few weeks of life, as the pup's own immune system develops, the level of maternal antibody falls. At some point in the pup's early life, he will be unprotected and susceptible to the infectious diseases. It is at this point that preventive immunizations must be

begun, to stimulate the pup's own immune system to produce antibodies.

There is a difference of opinion among authorities, veterinarians, and breeders, as to the best time to begin immunization, i.e., vaccination. If begun too early, immunizations may be ineffective for either of two reasons: 1) the pup's own immune system may not yet be mature and capable of making antibodies; 2) maternal antibodies may interfere with the action of the vaccine on the pup's immune system. If begun too late, the pup is left unprotected. Therefore a series of vaccinations is recommended.

Also, during the first few months of life, the pup should be protected from unnecessary exposure to other dogs.

The following schedule of immunizations is a guideline based on a consensus of opinions of vets and breeders. Using this schedule as a guideline, you should consult your breeder and your vet as to what vaccinations your pup has already had, what vaccinations should be given, and on what schedule.

Immunization Schedule

	DHLP-PV or DA 2PL-PV	Parvo	Corona	Rabies
PUPPIES				
6 weeks:*	X		X	
8 weeks:	X		X	
10 weeks:		X	X	
12 weeks:	X		X	
16 weeks:	X			
6 months:		X	X	
6 mo.-1 yr.	check with state laws			X
ADULTS				
yearly booster:	X		X	
every 3 years:				X

** For puppies sold at this age (not recommended), effectiveness of vaccine is questionable*

Parvovirus vaccine may be given in combinations with DHLP OR DA 2PL or given separately on a staggered schedule spaced between the DHLP'S. Parvo vaccine is available either as a killed virus or modified live virus vaccine. There is a difference of opinion among authorities as to the vaccine of choice. The most recent opinion is that the modified live vaccine is both safe and more effective in stimulating antibodies, and is subject to less interference from maternal anti-

bodies, hence affording earlier protection. Again, consult your breeder and vet.

Coronavirus vaccine is the newest of the vaccines, first available in 1985. It is a killed virus vaccine, available separately or in combinations with the other vaccines.

If your pup will be exposed to other dogs at an early age, as at dog shows or in traveling, PV and CV vaccines may be given as early as six weeks of age. If so, at least one dose should be given after ten weeks of age and a booster dose given at six months of age.

Rabies is not endemic in the Seattle area. However, immunization between six months and one year of age is recommended. If your pup is to travel to a rabies area, rabies immunization may be given at four months of age; a booster must then be given at one year and thereafter every three years. Killed rabies vaccine is recommended as safe and effective.

If you will be traveling with your dog to Canada, proof of Rabies vaccination is required to cross the border. For pups too young for a rabies shot, contact the customs office for specific instructions.

Heartworm is a mosquito borne parasite infestation characterized by larvae in the bloodstream which settle out and mature into adult worms in the heart. Treatment of the disease is difficult; either the treatment or the untreated disease may be fatal. There is no immunization for this disease; however, a preventive medication is available. Heartworm is not presently a problem in the Northwestern United States; but if your pup is to travel, or you live in an affected area ask your vet if preventive medication is recommended for your area or where he will be going. Medication must be administered daily for one month before, during and for three months after possible exposure. Be sure to check with your vet early.

The dog must be tested for heartworm before any preventive medication can be given. Failure to do so may be fatal if there is an existing infestation. New medications such as "Heart-Guard" have been developed which only need to be administered monthly. Check with your veterinarian for the availability of these.

This vital part of your pup's health is entrusted to you, with the advice and assistance of your breeder and your veterinarian. Good luck to you, good health and happiness to your new pup!

A word about worms

Worms are a common nuisance and health problem for basenjis as well as all dogs. Several species of round worms and tape worms are common. Some

breeders prefer routine worming of pups, but others and most vets prefer to have stool specimens checked for the presence of worm ova (eggs) and treat only the affected animals. Check with your breeder to see if your puppy has been wormed, what medication was used, and when. Symptoms of worms, such as weight loss, pot bellies, and shabby coat, often go unnoticed until infestation is heavy. A good suggestion is to take a stool specimen for examination when you take your pup for its first health check and again each year when he goes for his annual vaccinations or sooner if you suspect worms.

You should also watch your dog's stools for tapeworms. Tapeworm ova are often missed on a stool microscopic exam, since they are found inside the worm segments that break off and are passed in the stool. Tapeworm segments are easily seen with the naked eye on the surface of fresh stool or clinging to the anal area. They are whitish, about the size of a grain of rice, and sometimes may be seen moving! If you see tapeworm segments, take your dog to the vet and request the Droncit medication, available in pill or injectable form. This medication is considered safe and more effective than over the counter medications.

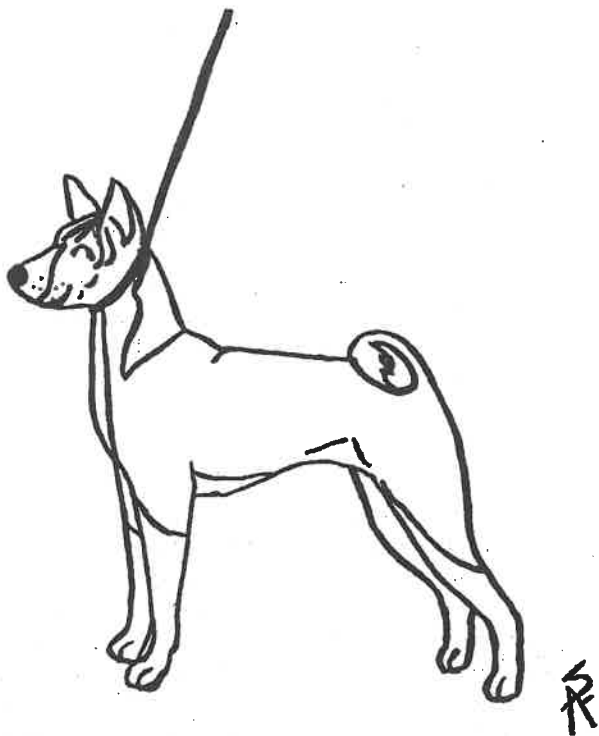
GROOMING

The short sleek coat of the Basenji requires very little grooming to look its best. Your dog will keep himself clean, sometimes even using his tongue much like a cat does.

For that rare bath use a shampoo specifically made for dogs. Keep the water out of his eyes and ears by using a washcloth on his face.

In the spring, your dog may 'blow his coat' or lose his fuzzy undercoat if he has grown one in the winter. You will find his hair will come out easily with a pinch of your fingers. This normal shedding process can be hastened by the use of either a stripping comb, a shedding blade, a rubber curry, or a 'hound glove'. These items can be found at any pet store. Do not use metal combs or brushes with metal pins, as these are too harsh for the short coat and fine skin. Some owners get good results using the edge of a hacksaw blade rubbed along with the grain of the coat to pull out dead hair. Ask your breeder to show you this method of removing the loose dead hair. During most of the year you will notice very little shedding from your dog's coat.

If you are going to show your dog, the amount of grooming required is dependent on your dog's coat. Some dogs may need a bit of trimming to give the tail or fringe along the back of his legs a neater appearance. Ask someone to show you the correct way to do this trimming, if you think your dog needs it, so it will



appear neat and not just hacked away. Most breeders do not trim the whiskers or the hair inside the ears, as these serve as sensory and protective functions necessary for the health of your dog.

There are various sprays and coat conditioners available that, depending on your dog's coat, you may or may not want to try. Consult the AKC rules pertaining to their use for the show ring. Most dogs require only a bath the night before a show.

Your dog's toenails will require an occasional clipping to keep his feet in good health. His dewclaws were removed when he was just a few days old, so he has just 4 toes on each foot. The necessary frequency of cutting is dependent on several factors: rate of growth, amount of exercise on what types of surfaces, and the age of your dog (puppy nails tend to grow faster). The front feet may need cutting more often than the rear feet. It is best to snip off a small amount, more frequently, rather than waiting until the nails are long so that you need to snip off a big chunk.

There are several different types of clippers and grinders available. Their ease of use depends mostly on what you practice and get used to. Clipping nails is not difficult, but does take some practice. If at all possible, avoid taking him to the vet to have it done. Ask your breeder or resource person to show you the correct way to do it.

The first few times you trim your dog's nails he will probably hate it, fighting and struggling to get away. You must be firm in holding the dog, but be careful not to squeeze or pinch his paws. Have another person hold the dog if necessary while you clip; kneel on the

floor with the dog between your knees. Do not allow the dog to struggle and get away. Hold him firmly until you are done with one paw (or one nail if he is really struggling), then set the clipper down and continue to hold him until he is quiet, then release him (with lots of praise). Remember, if he struggles and gets away he will struggle harder the next time. You are the boss and should always win the battle. If he learns that struggling will get him nowhere, he will soon learn to sit quietly while you do the clipping. If you are consistent, even the worst dog will eventually be quiet while you do his nails.

Be very careful not to cut into the 'quick' (the blood and nerve supply to the nail). It is best to snip off a tiny amount of nail and make two snips per nail rather than trying to snip off one big chunk.

BASENJI HEALTH

Our friend the Basenji is a sturdy little breed from Africa, and when compared to other purebred breeds has few health problems. This article is a summary and introduction to some of the more prevalent diseases.

Persistent Pupillary Membrane

Persistent Pupillary Membrane is not life threatening, but should be considered when planning any breeding program.

During fetal development, a fibrovascular tissue, the Pupillary Membrane forms a layer across the front of the eye to form a blood supply to nourish the developing lens. In the normal course of events, this temporary vascular mesoderm regresses and deteriorates and is generally completely gone by the time the puppy is 14 days old.

When the Pupillary Membrane does not deteriorate completely by age 14 days, it is labeled Persistent Pupillary Membrane (PPM). It may persist for several months before disappearing, or the remaining strands may attach to the cornea or lens creating cataracts.

PPMs come in all shapes, sizes, and severities, may be very extensive and visible to the naked eye, or may be very small and require considerable magnification to be seen. As a general rule, the condition does not significantly reduce vision but in extreme cases may cause marked reduction in vision or even blindness. It has been estimated that the majority of basenjis do have PPM to some degree.



There are four levels/degrees of PPM. The least offensive affection is "iris to iris." This means that the PPM strand(s) are attached on each end to the iris, thus not affecting the vision of the hound in any way although apparently the membrane did not detach correctly. Young puppies who are diagnosed as being mildly affected can be tested again at one year of age and perhaps be diagnosed as "clear." This is because the young puppy's membranes may not have had a chance to completely detach before the first exam. PPM that does not clear up by one year of age is not going to. The second level of PPM is "iris to lens;" more often than not, this level of PPM is "permanent" and will not improve to the point of testing "clear." The third level of PPM is "iris to cornea," this can sometimes be seen by the naked eye. It appears to be a light blue iridescent spot on the eyeball. The worst level of PPM is "iris sheets" that literally shield the eye with a light blue cast that can look "pretty" to the novice puppy buyer.

PPM is believed to be an inherited failure of the pupillary membrane to deteriorate at the proper time. The exact mode of inheritance of PPMs has not been determined. Siblings of the same litter may be mildly or severely affected, and mildly affected animals may produce severely afflicted offspring. It is also not

known what effect the pregnant bitch's diet may have on the development of PPM.

Examination for PPMs should be done by a veterinarian ophthalmologist through the use of a 'slit lamp' exam when the puppy is 2-4 months of age.

Coloboma is a depression or perforation in the optic disk which is sometimes associated with PPM. An examination for this condition should be made when checking for PPM.

CERF

When a board certified ophthalmologist performs a "slit lamp" exam on a basenji, the basenji must be at least seven weeks of age. The doctor views each eye, and judges them independently. One eye may be clear, and the other eye may be affected to some degree. Some breeders rate their litters partially on the results of this test; others find it beneficial to track which breedings produce any PPM at any stage. If a puppy or an adult is found to be clear of eye concerns at the time of testing, a board certified ophthalmologist may declare the basenji as phenotypically "clear," and issue a CERF certificate from the Canine Eye Registration Foundation. As of 2002, a basenji having minor (iris to iris) PPM can now receive a CERF. Although this is a distinguished rating, a "CERFed" basenji is not necessarily genetically clear. A CERF rating is valid for one year from the date of the exam.

Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA)

PRA affects the retina, which is the 'picture screen' at the back of the eye. PRA causes the blood vessels of the retina to atrophy and die. When the retina dies, the 'picture screen' no longer functions and the dog becomes blind. This condition is irreversible, and there is no cure. PRA has been found in several different breeds of dogs, and although some breeds vary in the age of onset, they share the same clinical abnormalities and signs (night blindness, progressive loss of day vision, and total blindness). The typical age of onset for PRA has not been established for the Basenji. It has shown up as early as age 3 and as late as age 6. This late onset complicates efforts to breed away from the disease. Testing is done by ophthalmic exam by a Board Certified Ophthalmologist. A dog testing clear of PRA at age 5 or 6 may still develop the disease later on. Ophthalmoscope examinations should be repeated annually. If an abnormality is detected, further testing can confirm or rule out PRA.

The suspected mode of inheritance is through a simple recessive gene (see HA section below). A carrier can be "normal-eyed", but can produce afflicted dogs if bred to another carrier. PRA research is

ongoing and has resulted in positive DNA tests for carrier status in several breeds. The Basenji community is currently working towards a DNA test to identify carrier status in Basenjis. As of this printing, however, the only way to control the incidence of PRA in Basenjis is by *thorough* research of, and high confidence in the pedigrees of the sire and dam so as not to breed possible carriers.

Hemolytic Anemia

Hemolytic Anemia at one time was considered a major threat to the breed but today is rarely seen. This is a real triumph for the breeders who worked so hard to eliminate the disease.

H.A. is a condition in which the red blood cells are destroyed more rapidly than normal. This genetically transmitted disease is caused by a partial lack of a very important enzyme in the red blood cells called Pyruvate Kinase (PK for short). A similar anemia (due to PK deficiency) has been known to occur in man.

Symptoms for the dogs begin very early and owners notice that the affected animals tire easily and sleep a great deal. Most succumb when approximately two years of age.

In the early 1970's, much research into this disease proved that PK deficiency in the Basenji was due to a recessive gene. This means that basenjis could be divided into three categories:

- 1) Those clear of the disease (a dog which has 2 genes for normal PK activity).
- 2) A carrier (a dog which has one gene for normal PK activity and one gene for PK deficiency). This is a healthy animal which will not have HA, which should have normal behavior and activity, and a normal life span.
- 3) An affected dog (a dog which carries two genes for PK deficiency).

The extensive research done at that time led to sensitive testing that could distinguish between the clear, carrier, and affected animals.

Through discriminate breeding practices, avoiding mating a carrier to a carrier, and continued testing over several generations, HA has been drastically reduced. There have been recent reports of HA affected dogs, so testing is still being continued.

Fanconi Syndrome

Fanconi Syndrome is a renal tubular dysfunction that was first reported in the Basenji in 1976, and has

since drawn the interest of researchers due to its similarity to Human Fanconi Disease. It has also been found in several of the other breeds. While Fanconi Syndrome is thought to be at least partially (if not fully) inherited, the mode of inheritance is unknown. Current research is aimed at using DNA to discover the mode of inheritance so the disease can be prevented.

The normal function of the kidney is to "filter" the blood, reclaiming amino acids, salts, and various important chemicals and letting the wastes go into the urine. With Fanconi Syndrome, the cells of the proximal tubule in the kidney do not function properly so those things that should be reclaimed go into the urine. The body thus loses vital constituents needed for normal functions.

Symptoms of this disorder are polydipsia (increased thirst), polyuria (frequent urination), dehydration, weight loss, changes in haircoat, and weakness. These signs can mimic diabetes. However, there are no correspondingly high levels. Many vets have falsely labeled the disorder diabetes, kidney failure or thyroid deficiency due to lack of knowledge of the syndrome. Since Fanconi Syndrome is rare outside basenjis, you should always mention this to the vet when diagnosing a problem. The signs may appear as early as the age of three, but basenjis between the ages of five and eight have shown the highest rate of occurrence. Unfortunately, by this age, the dogs may have passed the condition on to new generations.

While there is yet no cure for Fanconi Syndrome, research does go on. Meanwhile, the prognosis for your affected basenji is good thanks to the "Fanconi Management Protocol for Veterinarians" developed by Dr Steve Gonto of Georgia (see appendix). This involves working with your veterinarian on identifying your dog's metabolic deficiencies and place them on a vitamin, mineral, bicarbonate, replacement regimen, combined with a high protein diet, to make up for the kidney's losses. A Fanconi dog has what is termed medically as 'high output' failure. There is NO problem with toxin build up since the kidney is filtering things OUT just fine. Thus, the treatment for Fanconi involves almost the opposite of 'low output failure'. Fanconi dogs need free access to clean water, high protein diets, and the replacement of whatever electrolytes and bicarbonate they are urinating away, in order to restore a normal blood chemistry and acid base balance. Periodic follow up blood work to measure electrolytes and venous pH will be essential to the maintenance of your affected pet's health. With proper medical management, Fanconi Syndrome does NOT have to be a slowly debilitating, lethal condition and affected dogs may expect an active full life expectancy. The protocol changes infrequently, so please see the appendix to find out if it is current.

IPSID

Case reports of a chronic intractable diarrhea in the Basenji have been discussed in the veterinary literature since the early 1960's. It was called by various names such as Basenji Diarrhea Syndrome, Chronic Intractable Diarrhea, or Malabsorption Syndrome. In the early 1980's the combination of signs and symptoms was labeled Immunoproliferative Small Intestinal Disease (IPSID).

IPSID is a genetically-mediated severely debilitating diarrhea disease of the Basenji. Clinical symptoms can be various -- you may see chronic diarrhea, poor appetite, aversion to food, occasional vomiting, weight loss, wasting, dry coat & skin, hair loss, etc. The disease is characterized by variable age of onset, malabsorption, protein-losing enteropathy, and abnormal immune function.

Most dogs afflicted with this disorder will experience progressive emaciation associated with chronic diarrhea, or a cyclically exacerbating course, characterized by episodes of anorexia and/or diarrhea. Many times it is precipitated by a stressful episode, such as boarding, transport, estrus, pregnancy, major surgery, or even exhibition at dog shows.

An electrophoresis study of the serum (the liquid portion of the blood) shows a marked increase in the gamma globulins and a corresponding decrease in the albumin. These changes noted in the Protein Electrophoresis Test (P.E.T.) have proven to be a useful tool in confirming the diagnosis of IPSID in dogs with some of the symptoms.

Current research is aimed at the effects of diet on the development and course of the disease; treatments with antibiotic and vitamin therapies; and attempts to discover the mode of inheritance.

Pancreatic Enzyme Deficiency

The symptoms of this disorder may appear similar to IPSID. The dog will be unthrifty and appear undernourished. The dog will have frequent copious amounts of loose, fatty appearing stools. The disorder is frequently triggered by a stressful event such as a dog fight or surgery.

Diagnoses can be made by having a stool sample checked for the presence or absence of the pancreatic enzymes. Treatment consists of a combination of an easily digestible diet and supplemental pancreatic enzymes.

Umbilical Hernia



Umbilical Hernia results from failure of the umbilical ring to close after birth allowing protrusion of fatty tissue (belly button). In severe cases, the intestinal lining protrudes which can cause intestinal blockage. In most cases, the umbilical ring will eventually close, leaving a small lump of fatty tissue for a belly button.

Young puppies whose umbilical ring has not closed can benefit from repeatedly reducing the hernia by gently pressing in with your thumb. The pup should always be lifted with a hand under its tummy to support any hernia.

If the hernia itself should appear red or inflamed, seek immediate medical attention. If the hernia should fail to close by one year of age, it should be surgically repaired, and the dog should not be bred. Dogs requiring surgical repair are still eligible to be shown in AKC conformation, and some owners choose to remove the fatty tissue for purely cosmetic reasons.

Hypothyroid

Thyroid deficiency is characterized by a coarse brittle coat, aggressiveness, lethargy, obesity, mental dullness, and irregular heat cycles. Trainers have noted a definite improvement in behavior with dogs which have tested low normal range of thyroid when given a low dose thyroid supplement. Diagnosis requires a thyroid blood test. Basenji bitches who have whelped puppies would benefit from a thyroid blood test before being bred again. A thyroid imbalance often occurs as a result of whelping.

The current threats to the breed are Fanconi Syndrome, PRA and IPSID, as outlined above. Since research into these diseases is ongoing and constantly

changing, specific information about theories and testing studies has not been included in this manual. Contact your breeder to find out what studies may have been done on your puppy and his parents. Your breeder or breed club will be able to provide you with current information on research studies pertaining to these disorders.

If your basenji has any serious health problem, make sure you contact the breeder. Breeders need to be informed of these serious health problems in order to assess breeding programs and to determine where further research is necessary.

CHOOSING A VET

Choosing a vet for your basenji should be taken very seriously, as if it were a family doctor. Misdiagnoses or improper treatment can cause serious problems and expense for you and your basenji.

The breeder of your dog or other basenji breeders may be able to recommend a vet in your area. Ask your prospective vet if he has treated basenjis in the past and if he has any current clients that own a basenji. Ask for references and check on them.

Basenjis don't take kindly to poking and prodding and have gained a reputation of being biters with some vets, especially those who have treated some of the earlier dogs. Your vet should treat your basenji with respect for the dog that he is, exercising cautions, for a basenji will bite when threatened or in pain, as will many other dogs. Overly cautious and fearful vets will be mistrusted by your basenji, and should be avoided.

Has this vet studied recent basenji research? If not, provide him with a photocopy of this health section. Its very important your vet be well informed of current health problems. Often, Fanconi Syndrome is misdiagnosed as diabetes, with the dog having a fatal reaction to insulin. Or, on the other side, the vet assumes the anemic dog must have Hemolytic Anemia on the basis that this once was very common with the breed.

A few basenjis are rather sensitive to foreign substances in their systems, such as flea bites, tranquilizers, vaccines etc. The vet should always be prepared to administer an antitoxin or antidote should a reaction occur. He should never use substances that cannot be immediately neutralized. Sedatives and tranquilizers should be given only when absolutely necessary and in small trial dosages. Allergies to flea or other substances resulting in itching/scratching cycles are often treated with steroids, which treats the symptoms and not the underlying problem. This can create additional problems with side effects.

If in doubt with a vet's diagnosis, don't hesitate to ask for a second opinion, or a referral to another vet. Take a serious interest in the care given to your basenji to assure your dog's good health and reasonable vet fees.

One of the best resources you have is your dog's breeder, local basenji club, and the Basenji Club Of America. In general, most basenji breeders are very conscious of their dogs' health, and these organizations have amassed hundreds of years experience in dealing with matters pertaining to the health of the breed.



FEEDING YOUR BASENJI

In addition to a loving home, someone to play with, and a warm dry place to sleep your basenji will need food and water. These necessities, along with a good exercise program, will keep your dog happy and fit for a long healthy life.

Maintain the same type of feed and schedule the breeder or previous owner used. Introduction to a new home is very stressful, especially to puppies, so many times they will refuse to eat for the first 24 hours or so. Avoid adding stress to the situation by changing the type of food or the feeding schedule. Such changes should be made gradually through the duration of a week or more. Stay with a name brand that your breeder or vet recommends. Avoid the generic brands if possible.

A separate feeding dish for each dog is strongly recommended, along with a water bowl large enough to supply all your dogs. Several water bowls may be used around the house and outside, in such places as the kitchen, porch, fenced dog run, and even the bathroom. Many dogs enjoy drinking from the toilet bowl. Drinking from the toilet bowl or any other place where chemicals are added should be strongly discouraged. Though you may not use such chemicals, you are training your dog that this is an acceptable place to

drink. When visiting grandma or even next door, this familiar drinking spot may become a bowl of poison!

Discourage your dog from drinking from puddles that form near driveways and automobiles. Such water may contain oil, gas, detergents, insecticides, or even antifreeze, which has a tempting flavor that dogs like very much. These puddles can be lethal depending on what they contain, and the amount consumed. Do not use insecticides, detergents, paints, or any other chemicals around pet dishes without moving them first and placing them back when the area is safe, with fresh clean water and food. In the majority of poisoning accidents, the owner inadvertently poisons his own dog by using such chemicals around pet dishes.

Pet dishes should be cleaned regularly and made of heavy ceramic or stainless steel, the latter being preferred. Plastic bowls are acceptable, but your basenji may regard these as toys and empty their contents just to be able to carry them off to his favorite chewing spot.



Feeding should be done on a regular time schedule, regardless of the number of feedings per day. This allows the dog's digestive system to establish a biological clock to produce stomach acids, along with periods of rest for the system. This timing is very important in housebreaking because it helps to establish a regular time for elimination. An adult dog should be fed once or twice daily. Puppies under six months of age should be fed three times daily, then twice daily until at least 12 months of age. The amount and schedule should be adjusted to the weight of the dog. Weigh your dog occasionally, to monitor weight gain or loss. Ribs & hip bones should be felt but not seen.

Treats should be given sparingly. Many treats are too rich for the dog's digestive system. Excessive amounts of these treats may cause dietary imbalance, loose stools, and foul smelling flatus. This can lead to

very serious digestive problems such as explosive diarrhea, malnutrition, and stomach ulcers.

Do not give your basenji candies, pastries, cakes, etc. These treats containing complex sugars serve no nutritional value for your dog and may promote many health problems, varying from tooth decay and gum disease to kidney disorders. Two ounces of Chocolate will make a 25 pound dog ill, and 16 ounces can be fatal. Chocolate is very toxic to all animal life. Treat your basenji to scrap meats or commercially prepared treats such as 'Milk Bones', 'Beef Bites', or possibly vegetables and fruits that your dog may take a liking to.

There is no evidence to suggest that the addition of vitamins and minerals in excess of the dog's requirements has any beneficial effect. Do not try to diagnose nutrient deficiency or problems with the dog's utilization of a nutrient. Many nutrient deficiencies or over supplementation of a nutrient may be the cause of that poor coat or weak joint. If you suspect such a problem, consult your vet.

Rawhide is a treat all basenjies enjoy. Many basenjies devour rawhide too much at one time. It can be very dangerous, becoming lodged in the dog's throat. If you do treat your basenji to rawhide, do not leave the dog unattended. Be prepared to use your index and middle fingers to remove any large pieces that may become lodged in his throat. Avoid bleached rawhides which are softer and more quickly devoured. A basenji may try to swallow the stick shapes or small chips whole after only a brief chew, leading to choking or possible puncture of throat, stomach, or intestines. Use large knotted bone shapes and throw out small pieces that they may chew off. Limit the time that your basenji may chew on the rawhide to 30 supervised minutes. Some would chew on rawhide until the entire bone was devoured if given the chance. Excessive rawhide is not good for the diet.

Do not underestimate the strength of a basenji jaw. Fresh bones of any size (even the largest knuckles) are subject to slivering under the basenji jaw. These slivers may puncture the throat, stomach, or intestines, or at least cause great discomfort to your dog. Those bones which have been baked (fired) until rock hard can cause excessive wear on the teeth, or even break a tooth. Many breeders no longer give their basenjies bones or rawhide. If you should treat your basenji to these, use extreme caution. See article on 'chewing'.

Example of a working person puppy schedule

- 6:45 Wake up and potty
- 7:00 Play time, physical exercise
- 7:30 Feeding: allow to eat for 20 minutes

7:50 Potty
8:00 Crate

Saturday and Sunday

12:00 Wake up and potty
12:15 Play time, physical exercise
1:15 Feed light meal: allow 10 minutes to eat
1:25 Potty
1:30 Crate
5:30 Potty
5:45 Play time, physical exercise
6:45 Potty
7:00 Feeding: Allow 20 minutes to eat
7:20 Potty
7:30 Crate
9:30 Potty
9:45 Play time
10:45 Potty
10:50 Feeding: allow 20 minutes to eat
11:10 Potty and crate for the night

FIRST AID

First aid is the immediate treatment prior to seeking professional help. Knowing how and when to apply first aid may save your Basenji's life and reduce expensive emergency care.

First aid begins by buying a good reference book and reading it! Study the methods and techniques of first aid. The "AKC Book of Dogs" has a good section on first aid, and other books are listed in the bibliography. Keep these reference books at a convenient location at all times.

Establish a regular veterinarian as soon as possible - don't wait for your dog's yearly vaccination. If the dog you bought is fully vaccinated, check with your breeder on which vaccines the dog has received and when the next ones are due. You should bring your dog to a reliable veterinarian within 6 weeks of purchasing him, even if only a checkup is in order. An injured dog responds much better when handled by someone he already knows, so don't wait until an



emergency occurs for the doctor to establish a relationship with your basenji.

Heat stroke is very common in today's fast paced society. The number one culprit is the car. Always leave the windows - all windows - down one inch when leaving your pet in the car. It is quite possible for a dog to suffocate in a car even when it is cold outside. When the temperature reaches 60 degrees, park the car in the shade, and pay close attention that the car remains shaded. Check on the dog frequently and give him some water. When the temperature reaches 70 degrees, Do not leave him in the car. Leave him at home on these warm days if he cannot be outside. A car, even with all windows down, can warm up inside to 80 plus degrees. A dog inside a crate can continue to generate this heat to 90 plus degrees through his own body temperature and, not being able to cool himself down, creates a deadly situation of heat stroke.

If you must confine your dog on these warm days, place his well ventilated crate outside in the shade. Check on him frequently and give him water to drink. If the day should warm up to 80 degrees plus in the shade, or if your basenji pants when in shade, do not confine him. He needs as much air ventilation as possible; he may hyperventilate due only to confinement. This is when he's better off left at home in the coolness of your house.

The signs of heat stroke are: lethargy, limpness, heavy panting, hyperventilation, frantic attempts to find shade or escape from confinement. It doesn't take long for heat stroke to become fatal if not treated. Dogs that are dehydrated are far more susceptible to heat stroke. Make sure he has water.

Treatment for heat stroke is simple and must be immediate. Immerse him in water as soon as possible. A mud puddle will do. Roll him in it, wetting his coat and feet; evaporative cooling will do the rest. If there is no water around, spray him down with that cold 6 pack of soda you may have. It's very important to cool him down as soon as possible, any way possible. If the poor dog should be locked in a car, don't hesitate to knock out the window with a rock. No truly responsible pet owner values that window over his pet. Do not throw him into deep water. Many heat stroke victims are on the verge of unconsciousness, and may drown. Once the dog is cooled down, offer him small drinks of water, 1/4 cup approximately for a 25 pound dog, every 15 minutes or so. Do not allow him to drink freely. He may bloat himself, and this can be deadly.

Hypothermia is the reverse of heat stroke, but the treatment is similar. Hypothermia usually strikes the young pup or the weak dog. This occurs when the dog is exposed to sudden extreme cold or prolonged

cold. It is often accompanied by shock. Hypothermia occurs when the body has failed to maintain proper temperature. Signs of hypothermia setting in are exhibited in shivering dogs that are cold to the touch. These dogs will lie tightly curled, attempting to maintain their body temperature. This is followed by lethargic movement and possible unconsciousness. Respiratory and or cardiovascular arrest is soon to follow, resulting in death.

Treatment is simple, but must be immediate. Warm the dog by immersing him in warm water, 85-90 degrees. Do not use hot water, as it will be a shock for the dog. If there is no warm water around, place him next to your skin under heavy clothing. Warm him in any way possible, as soon as possible. Warming should be gradual: avoid heaters and other appliances that will heat him up too fast, creating severe shock. Once warm, the dog should show motion responses. Rub down the dog with a dry towel to generate friction heat after first warming him with water or your body heat. Don't rub too hard, for cold blood vessels are easily damaged. Any dog which has experienced heat stroke or hypothermia should be taken to a vet as soon as possible after first aid is given.

Accidents. The #1 cause of basenji deaths is the auto. Basenjis have no regard for the moving auto, and those who have attempted to teach them respect usually end up with fatal results. Don't let your dog run loose.

If your dog gets hit by a car, don't panic! Quick, decisive action is necessary to prevent further injury. If the dog is still on his feet and moving around, approach him with extreme care. Call him by name, but most likely he will not recognize you due to the shock of the accident or the pain he's now suffering. Be ready to wrap a shirt, towel, or anything around his jaw to prevent him from biting. He may even bite himself in the confusion.

Once subdued, reassure him he's okay. To avoid possible further injury, place a board, jacket, blanket, or anything similar under him, lifting him in it by the 4 corners. Get help to carry him, if possible. Be very careful to not move him more than necessary. Keep him calm by talking to him. Don't allow him to thrash around, and get him to a vet as soon as possible. Unless there is massive bleeding, or getting him to a vet will take too much time, do not try to treat his injuries; leave this to the professionals.

Keep a first aid manual and kit around your house, and bring them along when traveling with your dog.

Treat the dog only for those injuries which can't wait for the care of a veterinarian. Write down the name of your vet, his phone number and address. Also include an emergency center phone number and

address to refer to when your vet may be closed. Keep this in your first aid kit and by your phone. In the confusion, this information is easily forgotten.

POISONING

You must protect your basenji against accidental poisoning much as you would a child. Before bringing your basenji home, take a tour of your house and garage, and poison-proof by storing all potential poisons, such as cleaning chemicals, rat poisons, etc., in locked childproof cupboards or on too-high-to-reach shelves or cupboards. Remember, basenjis love to drink from the toilet, so don't use bowl cleaning chemicals.

Basenjis also love to lick their paws, so anything they walk through could be potentially toxic (slug bait, antifreeze, etc.). Chocolate is toxic to dogs and should not be fed. Also, Acetaminophen (Tylenol, Anacin 3) and Ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil) are toxic to dogs and should not be given. Aspirin is OK, but you should check with your vet before administering any medication to your dog.

A large number of plants, including many common house and garden plants are toxic to dogs as well as humans. The list is far too long to include here. A good suggestion is to request a list of toxic plants from your local poison control center, or from your vet, or consult a good veterinary manual. Basenjis are "grazers" so you will need to supervise and make sure your basenji does not nibble the house or garden plants. Decorative plants can be placed in hanging baskets or on high shelves. A fenced play-run area with no plants is a good idea for your basenji. Exercise close supervision on outings.

If you suspect your basenji may have ingested a poisonous plant or substance, try to keep him quiet and get to your vet immediately.

UNDESIRABLE CHEWING AND POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES

Veteran basenji owners are fully aware of the notorious habit of chewing on attractive parts of reachable objects or anything unattached. The occasional eaten pen, pencil, clothing, soft dog bed or crate edges often seem to have no harmful effects. One owner's favorite remark, "It all comes out in the end," is always good for a laugh, and most basenji owners have tales of colorful fecal deposits. Many ingested objects are vomited before they have a chance to reach the intestines.

But for one puppy, eating what he shouldn't had more drastic effects. The little fellow slept well during

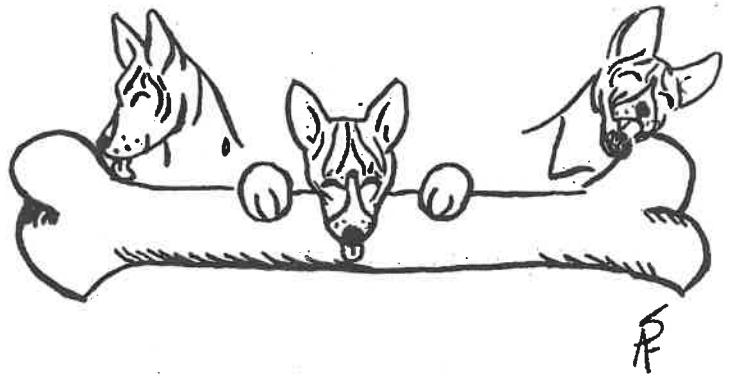
the drive home from a dog show and had a good nap upon arrival. He wanted and ate dinner, but lost that later in the evening. He started acting as if he needed to relieve his bowels, but was unsuccessful. Morning brought a trip to the vet. He had no temperature. A day of barium X-rays revealed a slow intestinal track, but an open one. But by now the puppy was in obvious pain, experiencing continual intestinal cramping, and still unable to relieve himself.

Late that night, his surgery began. During a 3 hour surgery, a one foot section of his intestines was removed, as well as another 6 inch section further along. How could this have happened?

After trying different scatter rugs or floor mats in the kitchen, where the puppies spent the majority of their time, the puppy's owners (basenji owners and breeders with 13 years of experience) were using rubber-backed mats of supposedly tightly woven rug fibers. Oh sure, they nibbled the edges, but they never tore off large hunks of the rugs. However, these tiny pieces of backing with connected, running fibers had slowing collected in intestinal pockets and attracted even more "debris" - various little pieces of nonfood items. All this time, the intestines were continually trying to dissolve and pass this foreign material. Result -breakdown of tissue.

It was uncertain whether the puppy could survive the shock of the operation even though he had survived the actual surgery. The three hours following surgery were as tense as the three in surgery. His owner worked for her vet, and was able to be there when he awoke and help him through the shock period. He had one of the best vets in the area. His knowledge and expertise were the principal reasons this puppy survived.

Throughout the healing process, the puppy was in periodic pain; at first the pain was constant. At the beginning of his recovery, he did not want to eat -- when he was finally off IV's and allowed to eat normally. He lost drastic amounts of weight. He progressed from mushy special diets to quality canned food to thoroughly dissolved dry food mixed with canned. He ate tiny, frequent meals. Each meal was followed by severe intestinal cramps and pain, as his shortened intestines tried to do their job. There were months of virtually sleepless nights, for the puppy and his humans. Specific exercises were a must in order to prevent adhesions, stimulate blood flow, and encourage healing. But finally one night he was sleeping a little easier, and one day he tried to play with his active, joyful sisters. No one knew if he would ever really be "normal" again, or if this was "as good as it gets", but 8 months after the surgery, his people could see that the days of pain and stress were fewer than those without it.



But it wasn't all downhill from the surgery - you see, this fellow was still a basenji. As his health improved, so did his appetite, and his normal chewing habits. His area was made even more "chew-proof" than that of the other puppies, and someone was always delegated to watch "Boo-Boo", as he became known. One day, he and his mother destroyed the hard plastic base of a soft dog bed. That time he got medication that caused him to vomit and thus get rid of anything that might be in his stomach before it could reach his intestines. It is hard to believe, but 3 weeks later he was still occasionally vomiting pieces of plastic.

"Boo-Boo" was a sweet, gentle, lovable and loving puppy before all this happened. Remarkably, he is still pretty much the same puppy. He is more defensive with his peers than the others are. He expects preferential treatment from humans, because he had so much attention for so long. He and his people are all working on this. During "Boo-Boo's" illness, he would be crated to get over his occasional snits or panics. The door of the crate is left open when it's not in use, and now when "Boo-Boo" throws a tantrum, he runs into the crate where he can scream or fuss without harm or punishment. Sometimes his owners remind him, by saying "Boo-Boo, go crate yourself." He does.

Some people will wonder why he wasn't just "put down". This kind of decision is seldom as easy as it looks to an outsider. There was no way of knowing up front the severity of his problem, and the length and difficulty of his recovery. Would they go through it again? YES! His life and his safety were their responsibility, and he did survive. He is a marvelous little fellow. It was fun to see him experience his first Christmas, a year late, and to watch him learn to play -- free of pain. ["Boo-Boo" has since earned a Junior Courser title in lure coursing. Though he's not fast, he enjoys being able to run free and chase the "bunny"].

The vet who treated him said this puppy's experience was the worst of its type he had seen. This trait and problem are not specific to our breed, and a simple operation is usually sufficient to remove the ingested object. Usually the stories are humorous, and the solutions relatively simple, although expensive.

Why go through such an ordeal, however, if you can prevent it? Learn from this owner's experience: Keep toddler toys away from dogs. They are small, often smell good and are too often within the dog's reach. Keep an eye on your dog. A quiet basenji is not necessarily a sleeping basenji. Pick up around your house. Control and restrict your dog's activity area. He doesn't need the run of the entire house. Usually, he wants to be with you anyway. He's an intelligent, inquisitive, active, agile, healthy animal. That's why we love our breed, isn't it? Protect him... and while you're at it, you'll preserve your belongings. Not such a bad deal!

PREVENTIVE BREEDING

The female Basenji's estrus cycle is very unique in that the majority of females have but one 'season' per year. A few basenji bitches will have more than one season a year, but this usually occurs when the basenji has been raised with other breeds having two or more cycles a year. Also unique is the uncanny timing that the basenji exhibits, with the majority coming into season in late summer to early fall. You'll probably notice your dog was born in the month of November, December, or January. By subtracting the 63 day (plus or minus 2 days) gestation you can determine the time of year the dam of your dog was mated. Odds are that your bitch will continue this inherited pattern.

A puppy bitch's first season can occur as early as six months of age or as late as a year. No basenji should be bred on the first season. They are not mentally or physically mature enough to cope with the stress of having puppies or even the stress of mating. Some puppies will exhibit a false cycle at sexual development to be followed up with a fertile season in a few months.

Signs of your basenji being in season are, in varying degrees, mood changes, flirting with males, swelling of the vulva, vaginal discharge: beginning dark red, and the bitch repeatedly cleaning the area. It is quite possible that a basenji with a strong instinct to keep herself clean, along with a very little swelling and discharge, could complete her cycle without you knowing it. Talk to your dog's breeder about these possibilities, as such behavior is usually exhibited in your dog's ancestors.

False pregnancies are a common phenomenon among basenjis. Due to hormonal changes, she may exhibit weight gain, mild breast swelling, and nesting behavior. No treatment is generally needed for a false pregnancy unless there is actual milk production.

Preventive breeding may be accomplished in many ways. These include surgical spaying or neutering, drug contraceptives for either sex, and isolation. Sur-



gical spaying or neutering is the best way to prevent unwanted pups. Spaying the female is the removal of the ovaries. The uterus should also be removed to prevent possible infection later on. Neutering is the removal of both the male dog's testicles. Dogs with one or both of the testes undescended should be neutered. This is a serious fault that you should not allow the male dog to pass to future generations. Removal of the recessed testicle is necessary to complete the neutering and to assure the dog's good health. Cutting of the tubes (vasectomy) is effective but does not have any health or behavioral benefits and is not recommended.

"When should I have my dog fixed?" This is a subject of a lot of opinion. Puppies that have not sexually matured may be 'fixed' to eliminate some of the bad habits of an adult dog, such as marking, roaming, and fighting. This is not always the case in an inherently dominant dog, (referred to as 'ALPHA' male), which may continue to display these behavior traits, even though neutered.

A personality change occurs when a female has her first season or when a male becomes sexually active. It is not necessary for a dog to go through this personality change to become the so called 'complete dog'. If you are pleased with the personality of your dog prior to sexual maturity, why take a chance on an unpredictable personality change? This likewise applies to the old fable that a female should have a litter of pups prior to being 'fixed', to make her that 'complete dog'. There is no doubt that a dog's personality changes during these stages but the change is not always for the better. A female may become protective of her home after she has experienced having pups or your male may find roaming sexually satisfying.

Spaying and neutering are permanent and irreversible. Before spaying or neutering, make sure it is in accord with any conditions the breeder may have placed on the sale of the dog. Altered dogs cannot be exhibited in conformation at AKC dog shows. The American Sighthound Field Association and the AKC

tracking and obedience trials do permit altered dogs to compete.

If you find spaying or neutering not practical, due to future breeding prospects or a conformation show career, there are two other means to prevent breeding. There is an oral contraceptive drug currently available on the market for both sexes. Discuss possible side effects with your veterinarian.

The most widely used method to prevent mating when spaying is not practical is confinement and isolation for the female when in season. Females in season require extra care in confinement and must be isolated from all males. Your backyard will not be safe for her unless you have the ultimate fence. Remember, you are now trying to keep other dogs out, and all the dogs in the neighborhood have probably picked up her scent. Their ability to get in may be far greater than your basenji's ability to get out.

If you don't have a fully enclosed dog run or that ultimate fence, walk your bitch on a leash (even if it is in your back yard). Be prepared to pick her up should another dog approach her. It only takes seconds for a mating to take place, and a tie is not necessary for conception to take place.

Avoid walking her around the neighborhood. She will mark everything in sight, laying down a scent to attract all males. You just might have a few dogs maintaining a 24 hours vigil at your doorstep. Don't be surprised if one tries to sneak in when the door is opened.

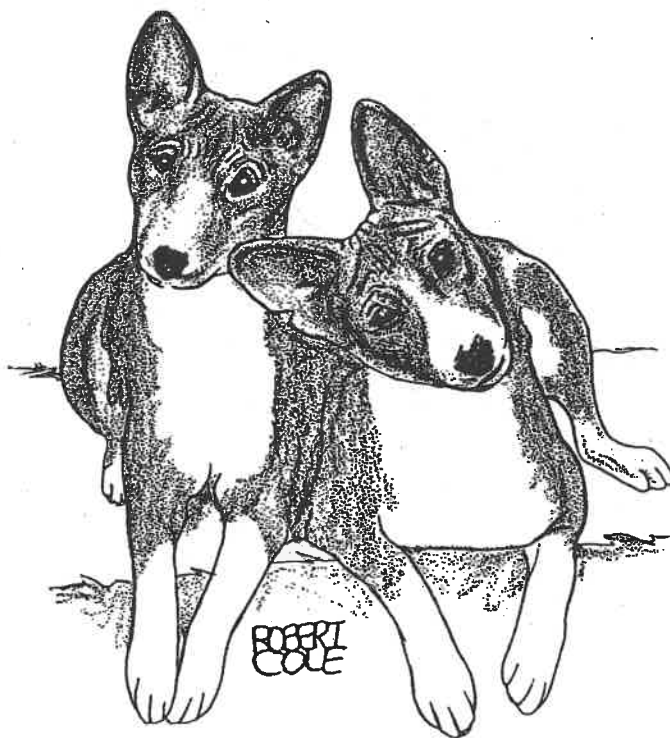
The basenji estrus cycle occurs over a 30 day period, beginning with first signs of discharge, appearing dark red in color. Over approximately 14 days, this discharge will change, becoming bright red,

eventually becoming a translucent red/clear. Many new dog owners associate this red discharge as the season and once it disappears the season is over. This concept of a season is far from the truth. Upon approximately the 14th day, with an indication of clear discharge, the dog is at its most fertile period. Most breedings take place between the 14th to the 20th day, but may occur as early as the 9th day and as late as the 27th day.

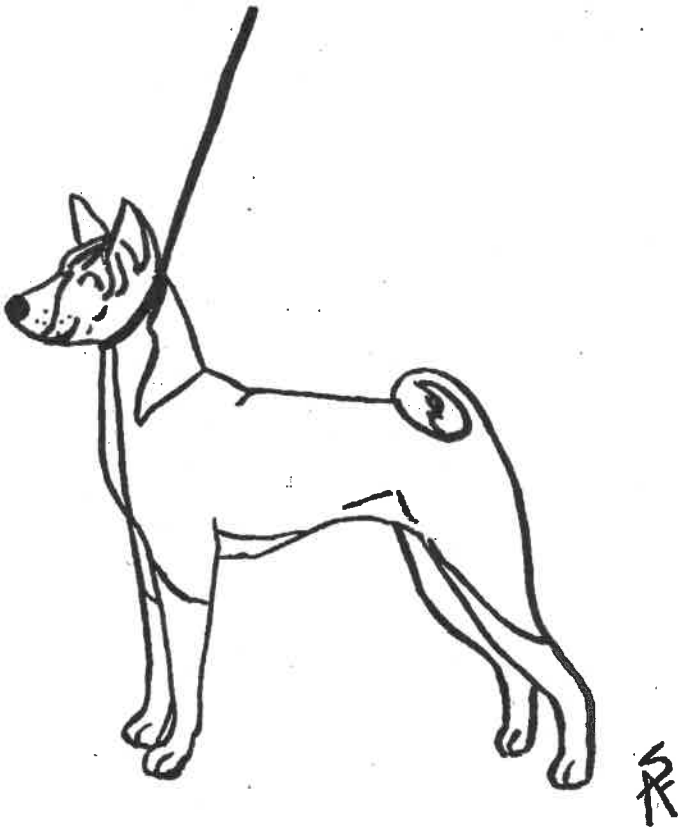
It may be difficult to be sure of the first day of the season. Do not try to count off 9 days before isolating her. Isolate on the first sign for 30 days. If the season does not follow the pattern started, it may have been interrupted by a trauma or stress, such as shipping, which can extend the cycle. Cycles that are interrupted fall off prematurely, but may continue to peak once the stress or trauma has passed, extending it beyond 30 days. If you feel this may have occurred, have the bitch examined by a vet. A vet will be able to determine by doing a smear if the cycle has finished. It is a minor cost compared to problems of an unwanted litter. Any time a season extends beyond 30 days, have your bitch examined by a vet to assure the health of the dog.

If you are placed in the position of expecting an unwanted litter, there are termination drugs a vet can administer. These must be given as soon as possible - hopefully within 24 hours after the mating occurs. Talk to your vet about the use of these drugs. There are many possible side affects. Drugs are not 100 percent effective, with litters born regardless of their use.

Should you find your basenji expecting an unwanted litter, talk to your dog breeder or the reference listed at the beginning of this manual. Decisions on the future of the pups are a matter of ethics.



BASENJI ACTIVITIES



SHOWING YOUR BASENJI IN CONFORMATION

Basenjies don't all look alike, and individual breeders have their own idea of the ideal conformation to the standard of the breed. What is "pet quality" in one person's backyard is "show quality" in another's. Interpretation of the standard varies greatly. You enter a show for one judge's opinion, and if you don't like what he/she does, don't enter under said judge again. Most exhibitors are willing to give a judge a second chance, but not all. It's a good idea to keep a record of what each judge does for each of your dogs as well as the type of dog that they seem to like.

The breeder you got your puppy from usually can supply you with the names and addresses of the dog show superintendents who are in your local area. These superintendents supply the premium lists, with entry blanks, for shows. If you need assistance in filling out your entry blanks, ask your breeder or local club member.

Handling classes and fun matches are the best methods for preparing you and your puppy for show-

ing. Do not enter an all breed AKC licensed show "cold turkey"! If your puppy's breeder cannot help you, contact someone via your veterinarian. Any of these should be able to direct you to someone who breeds and shows show dogs (any breed will do) for information. When you have found a handling class, you can get input on handling and training techniques, proper show leads, grooming tips, as well as pre-show experience for you and your puppy.

Above all, aim at having a good time at the dog show. Don't expect all the other exhibitors to be overly friendly and show the same pride and interest in your puppy that you have. A lot of exhibitors are uptight before judging, concentrating on their own dog, and watching the judge's ring procedure with the dogs already in the ring. After judging is the time for chit-chat, griping, and congratulating the winners.

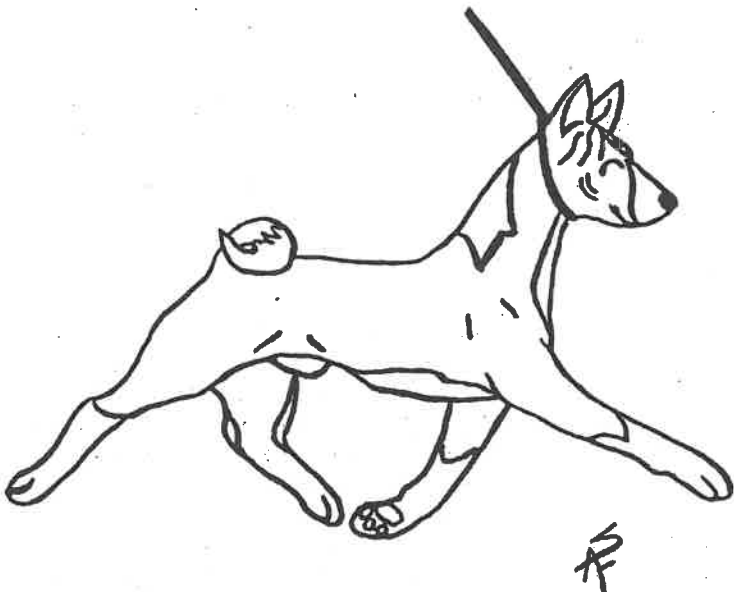
Earning a Championship otherwise known as "FINISHING"

A dog or bitch must accumulate a total of 15 points to become an AKC Champion of Record. These points are earned at AKC- licensed shows by going "Winners Dog" or "Winners Bitch". The number of points earned at any given show is dependent upon the number of dogs competing. The total of 15 points must include at least two "majors", which are 3, 4, or 5 point wins, and these major wins must be under two different judges. A dog or bitch which completes its championship will be so notified by AKC in the form of a Championship Certificate, and will be entitled to use the designation Champion ("Ch.") before its registered name.

SHOW TRAINING

Begin training your puppy as soon as he's settled into your home. Begin standing exercises by placing your hand under his chin. Tell him to "stand stay". Hold the pose for a moment, then release with praise, "such a good dog". Don't be concerned about foot placement or the like - to get a basenji pup to stand motionless even for a moment is quite an accomplishment. Make it.

fun, no corrections with a young dog. You want to maintain a happy "I enjoy this" attitude. As time goes by, increase the durations, but not too long. Touch his feet, tail, topline, go over his entire body.



Begin examining his teeth by lifting the upper lip at the front of the jaw, approaching his face from the side. Once he is performing this freely, move your hand over his head. Many basenjis object to having a hand over the head. It's important to train your puppy to accept this, for it will happen in the ring. In attempting to examine your Basenji's teeth, you'll probably find controlling his head without a collar quite a challenge.

Take a soft nylon choke collar or loop show lead, and place it under his chin right behind the ears where the head meets the neck. Hold this in a loop fashion, with enough slack in the loop to grasp it with your fingers. Don't strangle the dog, the intent is control of the head. Practice getting you and your puppy used to the collar placement by doing stand-stays before doing examinations of the body or teeth.

Remember to keep the lessons very short and have lots of fun. There are no wrongs here. Don't bore or frustrate your puppy. Practice on the floor, grass yard, and on stable tables at eye level such as the kitchen table or a picnic table outside. Place a carpet, mat or towel on slippery surfaces. A table in your yard for your basenji to perch on can be a great asset. Basenjis love to perch, standing or sitting and it is easy to encourage. Make sure the table is stable and solid.

Use food to reward the dog for being able to place the feet or hold longer poses, but only give bait to your basenji when his ears are up. There's a very fine art to baiting a dog for expression and alert poses. It's best to seek handling training to learn the baiting techniques. This is not a must requirement of home training for a puppy.

The final achievement is to be able to place your puppy in a four point stance, with his rear feet set slightly wider than the front, and hocks perpendicular to the surface. This is the portion of the rear leg just above the foot. Front feet should be set directly below the shoulder, perpendicular to the surface. Set the front

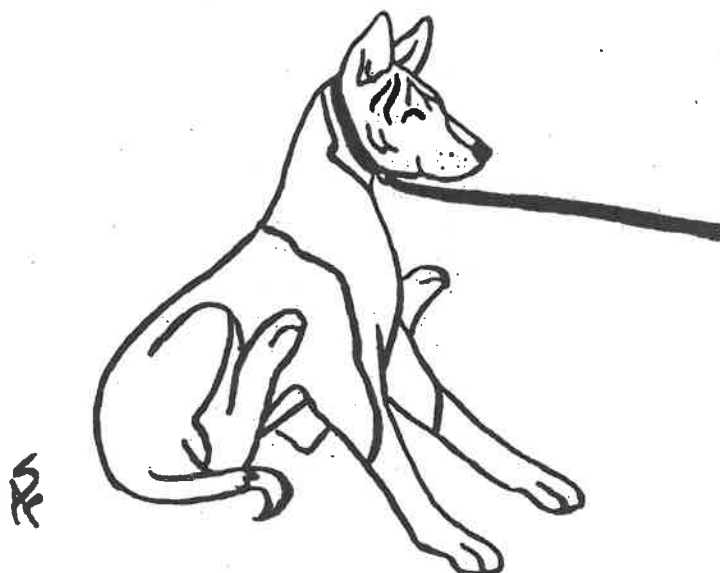
feet to a width identical to the width of the chest. Now, holding this pose, examine the body & teeth.

Take your time, don't rush, even the most amiable puppy might take six or more months to achieve perfection. Puppies in shows aren't expected to be perfect in this training. Even some young adults haven't mastered the standing pose & examination yet.

Leash training for show begins with a good leash, referred to as a lead. Many types of show leads are available. Recommended for puppy training is a 1/4" diameter soft nylon choke with a fine 4' long lead (nylon, Cordahide, 3/16" fine leather). These leads should only be used for show, and should be different in feel & weight than ones used for everyday walking.

Begin by walking your dog slowly to one side or the other. Coax him along with bait, call his name ("puppy, puppy" etc.). Be gentle - don't drag him. Keep the lead taut, by gathering the remaining slack in your hand. The leash should be taut enough so the pup can't put his nose to the ground. Use bait to help keep his head up and looking forward. Move him slowly up and down a sidewalk or yard. In this exercise, pattern training is established. This is where differences in a show lead and your general walking leash play a role. After pattern training a while, your puppy will recognize the differences in these two leads. He will know what your expectations of him are when a show lead is on. The showing of a dog's movement is done in trotting gait. Practice controlling this gait at a slow speed, maintaining a straight line for both you and the dog. Sidewalk lines and parking lot stripes are very helpful. Dogs are usually gaited off your left side, but you may be required to move him on your right in some situations, so practice both.

As your puppy gets older and is easily lead. You may wish to use a fine jewelry link choke instead of



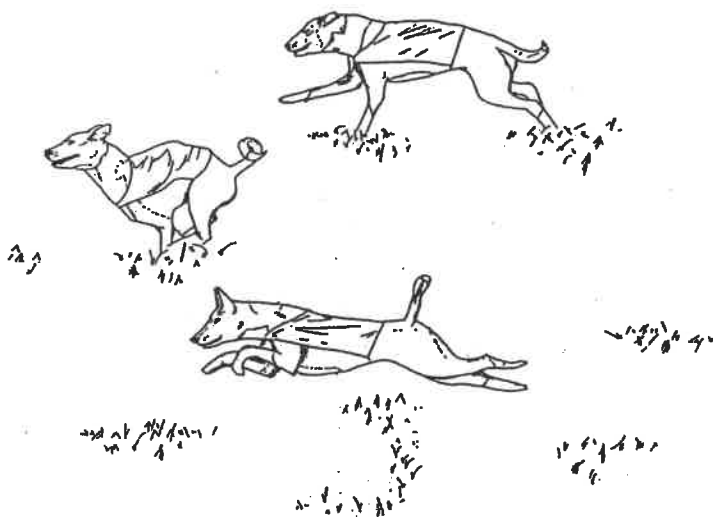
nylon. Remember, these are of light construction and are not intended for lead pops or yanking your dog along. Light lead pops with a choke may be used with an older dog whose lead training has been previously established. Refrain from doing this with a green puppy.

Remember to keep all show training positive, fun, and enjoyable for your puppy. Attitude is very important in the show ring. Even the finest of basenjis would have a hard time winning in the show ring if he exhibits what's called the "hung dog look".

The exercises discussed are intended for home preparation for dog showing, but are a benefit for any dog, to be shown or not.

Show training should also include fun matches (informal dog shows for training purposes) usually put on by dog clubs, organized puppy practices by breed clubs and breeders, and dog show handling classes. These are necessary for the socialization and acclimatization of your puppy to the dog show environment. Have fun and best wishes to a winning team.

LURE COURSING



Tally ho! Three basenjis spring from the slip, running, turning, straining every muscle to catch a tumbling lure as enthusiastically as their ancestors did to catch live game not so many generations ago. It is a breathtaking spectacle -- beautiful, healthy hounds exerting themselves to the limit in an activity similar to the one for which they were bred.

Coursing is a sport as old as the first relationship between hound and man. However, in the days gone by it was not done for amusement, but to get food or eliminate predators. In these gentler times, coursing live game is no longer necessary for survival. We can still give our basenjis (and ourselves) the excitement

of the hunt through the sport of lure coursing. We merely replace the live game with an artificial lure tied to a string and pulled along a random course through an open field. Basenjis are hunting dogs of the native African tribes, and they are oblivious to (or good naturedly ignore!) the fact that the lure is only a white plastic bag.

Why should I lure course my basenji? First, he'll probably love it. Even the most pampered and dignified of sighthounds can rarely resist the opportunity to chase and catch something -- anything! Second, it's a great way to keep him healthy and fit. A basenji in proper shape is trim and muscular, with heart, lungs, and circulation in peak condition. Third, it gives you a chance to evaluate him in a way that the show ring cannot. More and more of the finest basenjis are earning championships both in the field and in the ring.

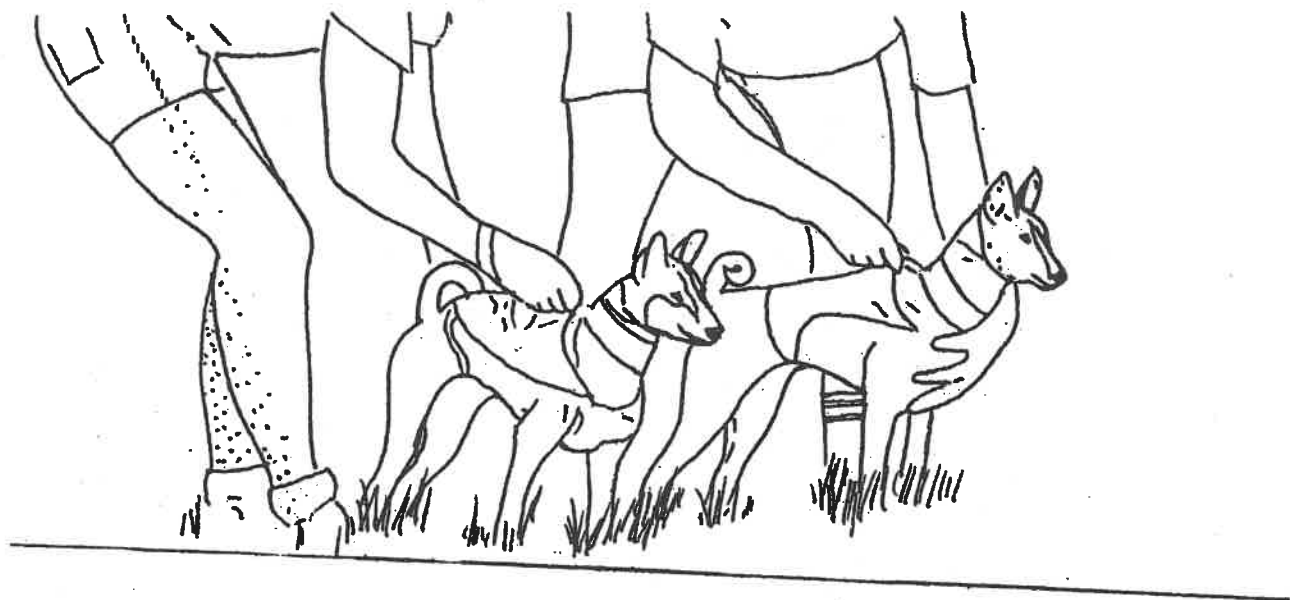
There are two separate organizations that grant titles to dogs competing in Lure Course events: the ASFA and the AKC.

The American Sighthound Field Association (ASFA) is an organization of sighthound fanciers dedicated to the common goal of preserving and further developing the natural beauty, grace, speed, and coursing skill of the sighthound. They promote a recognized system of lure field trials for sighthounds throughout the United States.

By competing in these lure field trials your basenji can earn the titles of Field Champion (F.Ch.) and Lure Courser Of Merit (LCM). The Basenji became eligible to compete in lure field trials in 1979 under ASFA rules. The breeds eligible to compete include Afghan Hounds, Basenjis, Borzois, Greyhounds, Ibizan Hounds, Irish Wolfhounds, Pharaoh Hounds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Salukis, Scottish Deerhounds, and Whippets.

In actual competition, the dogs run in groups of twos or threes (they wear colored blankets so the judges can tell them apart), and they are scored subjectively and objectively in the following five categories: Enthusiasm, Follow (How well the dog follows the lure), Speed (however, they are not timed), Agility, and Endurance. Dogs can be excused, dismissed, or disqualified for not running, interfering with another dog, or fighting with another dog. The dogs earn points according to how many dogs they defeat. The dogs with the four best qualifying scores each earn points at a trial. A dog must earn 100 points to become a Field Champion.

The AKC recognized lure coursing as an official sport in 1991 and began to organize their own system of trials and titles.



Under the AKC rules, a sighthound may earn a 'JC' Junior Courser title by completing a course alone at two different tests. A 'SC' Senior Courser title is earned by completing a course running with other dogs at four different trials. An 'MC' Master Courser title is earned by completing a course running with other dogs an additional twenty five times. A 'FCH' Field Champion and 'LCX' Lure Courser Excellent title are awarded by earning enough points and placements in competition with other dogs. The trial procedures are similar to ASFA but the titles earned have a completely different set of requirements.

The Evergreen Basenji Club is a member of ASFA and is approved to hold both ASFA and AKC lure field trials. There are clubs all over the country which, like EBC, hold practice runs for puppies (older than four months), dogs training for competition (must be one year old to compete), and any dog that just loves to run.

PRACTICES: Basenjis may be brought out to their first practice at any age. Bring your dog out to watch the other dogs run and see the lure before it is his turn. Depending on how enthusiastic your dog seems, you can begin on a long straightaway of maybe half of the course. Praise and encourage your basenji profusely for any interest he shows in the lure. Play rag games with your basenji before and after coming to a lure practice. Play plastic bag-on-the-end-of-the-string type games to acquaint your dog with chasing things that move on the ground.

Your basenji may or may not chase the lure in the beginning. It may take several practices before the idea "clicks" in his mind. He may feel insecure being let off the leash for the first time. Keep bringing him out to watch, play the rag games at home. Do not discipline your basenji for grabbing or tearing up the lure,

or for staying with the lure when the lure has stopped. Encourage your dog to "get the bunny".

Many basenji owners are apprehensive about letting their dogs off the leash. This is understandable, but be reassured that we have never lost a dog at a practice or trial. With all the excitement of the people, dogs, and lure, any wandering basenji usually stays close enough to be bribed in with some food. Remember, NEVER scold your basenji when he comes to you no matter how exasperated you are when you finally catch him. If you do, he probably won't let himself be caught the next time. Greet him with praise and a treat so he will be willing to come to you and be 'caught'. Be ready at the finish point to retrieve your basenji as soon as he comes in on the lure. Use lots of praise.

Do not feed your dog a full meal before running. Bring some water for your dog, but cool him down by 'walking out' after running, and give him water after he has relaxed. Don't run your dog when he is tired. Stop a course or two before he runs out of steam.

Training for competition: Before a dog is ready to run with any competition on the course, he should let nothing distract his attention from the lure. Hounds should complete the course alone many times at different practice events before running with any other hound!!!

The most critical period in the hound's preparation for being a lure courser is his first few courses with other hounds. A novice hound can easily be ruined by a hound interfering with its course. The novice hound may be confused and distracted from the lure and begin playing with the other hound, or stop running completely. When a hound has a bad experience when first starting to lure course, it is sometimes impossible to erase that memory from the hound's mind.

In some instances, when a dog shows some interest in the lure but does not complete the course, it may help to run him a few times with an experienced runner.

One proven method of training a clean running dog (one that does not interfere) is to run the dog muzzled the first several times he runs with another dog. In the majority of dogs who are 'on the lure' the muzzle does not bother them while they are in pursuit. Lightweight racing muzzles are suitable for practice and are legal to use in actual competition. Let your dog have several 'clean' runs before entering in actual competition. You run the risk of a dismissal or disqualification if your dog interferes with another dog while coursing.

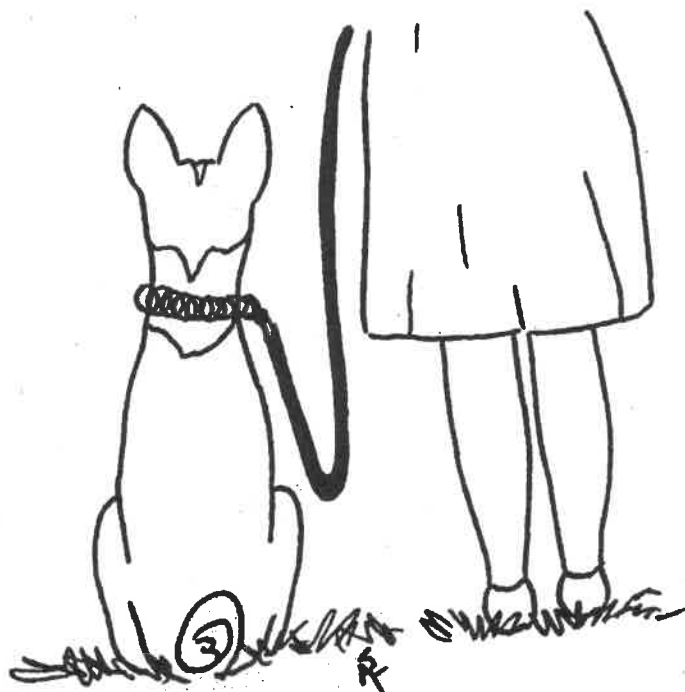
Make sure you are ready at the finish to retrieve your basenji as soon as the lure has stopped. Most basenjis are not willing to share the prize they have worked so hard to catch.

Special considerations for puppies: Bring your puppy out to practice as soon as he has had his shots. This is a great opportunity for socialization. A puppy under about six months should only be run on short, straight, 50 yard dashes because he lacks the attention span and muscle development to follow the lure around a turn or run further. At this age you can run along with him and play 'get the bunny'. As your puppy gets the idea, you can gradually increase the distance and the number of corners he must follow. A puppy under about six months should not run more than 200 yards. This is the length of an average practice course. In actual competition, the course is 500 to 1200 yards. Always run your puppy alone. He can't concentrate on the lure when he has a playmate, too. Remember to praise, praise, praise your puppy's interest in the lure.

OBEDIENCE TRIALS

Basenjis are not a common sight in the obedience ring. They do have a reputation for not being an easy breed to train. However, with a lot of study and education on your part, and some consistent work training your basenji, you can establish a unique relationship between you and your basenji that can be extremely rewarding.

There is much discouragement out there for a novice basenji trainer. Experienced obedience trainers may tell you to find an easier breed to train. Even some basenji breeders may tell you that basenjis are not meant to be obedience trained. This is a decision and commitment you will have to make for yourself and your dog.



There is much support if you do decide to train in obedience. Many basenjis have done very well in the obedience ring, earning advanced titles. Trainers are realizing the intelligence and stubbornness of the Basenji, and how quickly they get bored with the basic obedience routines.

All dogs should learn how to walk nicely on a leash and sit still when told to. They make much better pets to live with if they can. A basic obedience class will help you train your basenji in these basic exercises regardless of your intent to compete. To compete in obedience requires more precision in these exercises, and for the dog and handler to work as a team. Try to find an instructor who is experienced in working with hounds or terriers and is willing to work closely with you to solve problems.

You will find that different techniques work better for different dogs. You can begin training your dog at any age. They are never too old to start, nor too young. For young puppies, many trainers recommend that you follow the guidelines outlined in the 'Super Dog' article. Use lots of positive reinforcement. Do not expect perfection at an early age. Do your sit-stays and down-stays for only a few seconds (a puppy's attention span is not very long). Praise profusely when puppy sits on your command. Make it a fun game! Experienced basenji trainers recommend that you don't start the precision work needed for competition until the dog is well over a year old - but do start training earlier.

With an independent, super-alert, curious basenji, a prime problem is getting and keeping his attention. One technique found exceptionally useful is the long-line exercise outlined in Koehler Method of Dog Training.

With an adult basenji, it is recommended that you work a few weeks with this long-line technique before you take an obedience class. This will help you keep your dog's attention even in a room full of distractions. Another good manual full of training tips to keep your dog's attention focused on you, to get high scores in competition, is *Beyond Basic Training*. You may find that the way to your Basenji's mind is through his stomach. Be generous with the pup treats and praise when he is first learning an exercise. This will make a faster and more enthusiastic learner.

Your dog does not understand sustained displeasure. Don't moralize about your dog's behavior--he doesn't. He does what his instincts and experience dictate. Correct a goof and go on to something else. Do not allow the instructor or any other 'stranger' to give any harsh physical corrections to your basenji. This can lead to fear of strangers that is difficult to overcome. Do any physical corrections yourself.

Learn to observe your dog, to read why he makes a mistake. The correction for a dog who is confused or afraid is different from the correction used for a dog that is distracted or one that feels he has a choice. Knowing when to correct a dog can be more important than knowing how to correct him.

Give your dog a 'leader' he can respect by being patient, consistent, and fair. Couple this with praise--praise that is as sincere the thousandth time he does what you want as it was the first time. Your result will be a basenji that responds, at least most of the time, with an eager desire to please--except for an occasional challenge, to make sure you still deserve to be his pack leader!

CANINE GOOD CITIZEN

The Canine Good Citizen Test is to demonstrate that the dog can be trained to behave in the home, in public places, and in the presence of other dogs. It is not a competitive program, but a program of certification. In order to receive the title and certificate for CGC, your dog must be able to pass ten tests which demonstrate that the handler is in control of the dog under conditions the dog is likely to encounter on a daily basis. Tests are on a pass/fail basis only. The tests can be done in any order, but the dog must pass all ten to qualify for the CGC title.

1. Accepting a Friendly Stranger.
2. Sitting Politely for Petting.
3. Appearance and Grooming.

4. Walking on a Loose Leash - Out for a Walk.
5. Walking Through a Crowd.
6. Sit and Down on Command. Staying in Place.
7. Praise/Interaction:
8. Reaction to Another Dog.
9. Reaction to Distractions.
10. Supervised Isolation.

Before passing the dog, the evaluator also considers the following:

1. Is this the kind of dog he or she would like to own?
2. Is this the kind of dog that would be good with children?
3. Is this the kind of dog that he or she would welcome as a neighbor?
4. Is this the kind of dog that makes the owner happy and isn't making someone else unhappy?

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP

If your basenji has a young master or mistress, they may wish to participate in Junior Showmanship. JS Competition, a part of most AKC shows, and fun matches, is an opportunity for your youngster to learn to show his dog in conformation style. The Junior is judged on his ability to handle and present his dog, rather than on the merits of the dog. Competition is in four classes:

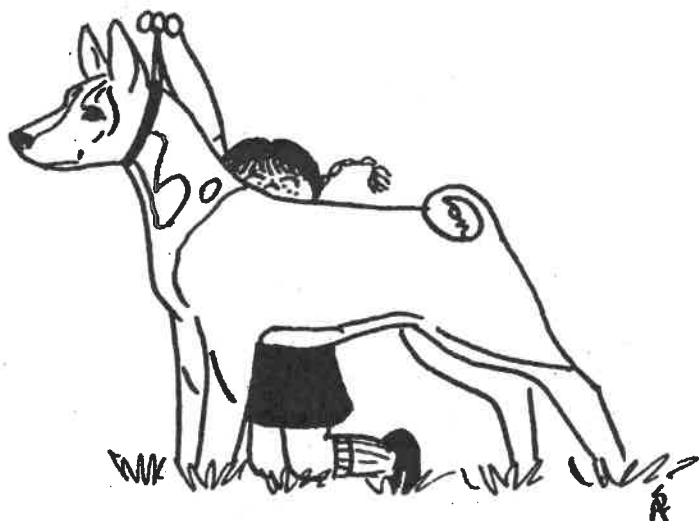
Novice Junior - for juniors age 10 and under 14 who have had less than 3 wins.

Open Junior - for juniors age 10 and under 14 who have had 3 previous wins in the Novice Class.

Novice Senior - for juniors age 14 and under 18 who have had less than 3 wins.

Open Senior - for juniors age 14 and under 18 who have had 3 previous wins in the Novice Class.

Ribbons and sometime trophies are awarded for first through fourth places in each class. Winners of the four classes compete for Best Junior Showman - and a rosette and trophy.

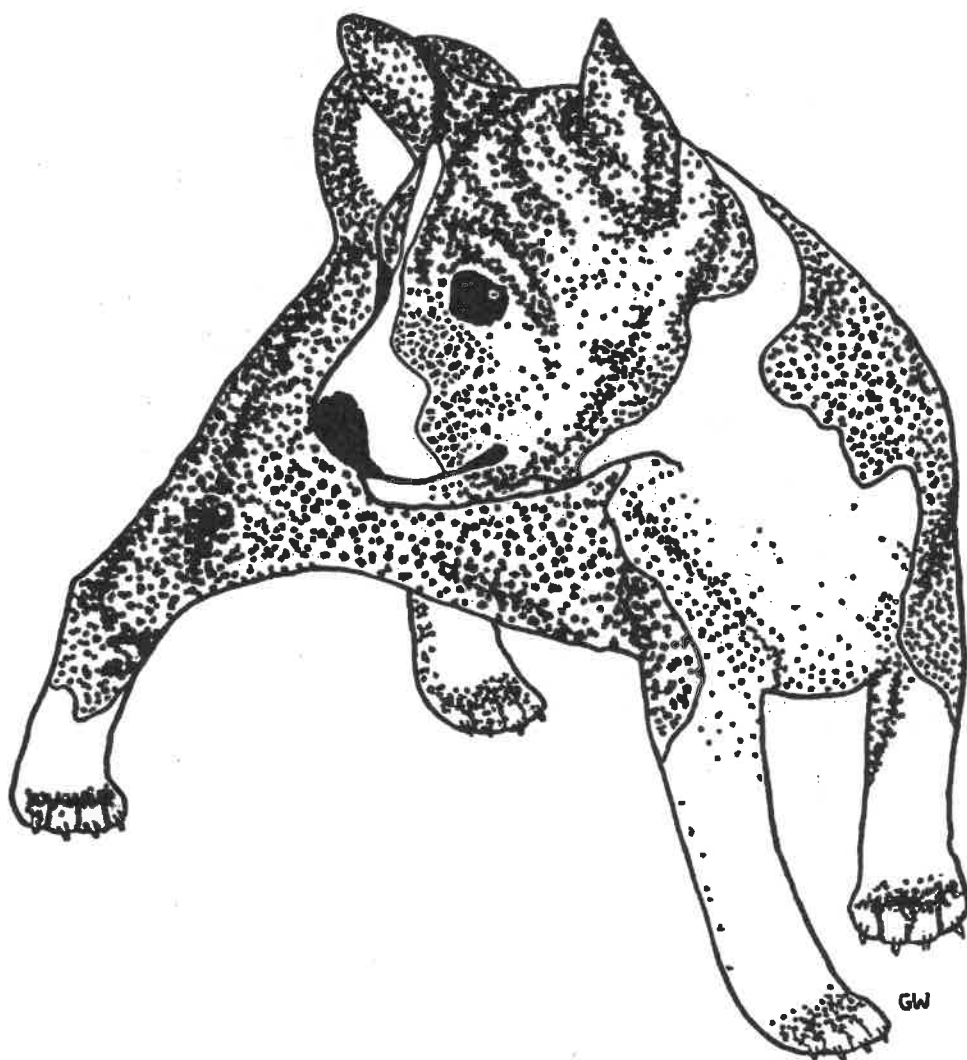


Top winning Juniors compete for a variety of local and national honors. The Basenji Club of America recognizes top-winning juniors each year. Records and achievements of all Basenji Junior Showmen are published in the Junior Showmanship column of the quarterly Bulletin of the BCOA; the BCOA also presents a trophy or award to the Top Scoring Junior Showman for each year. Juniors achieving a certain number of Open Class wins during a year are eligible

to enter limited Junior Showmanship competitions, such as The Westminster Kennel Club Junior Limited at Madison Square Garden, the ultimate experience of a Junior Showman's career!

Junior Showmanship is a fun and educational activity for youngsters, dogs, and their families. The juniors learn how to present their dogs and themselves. Both dog and Junior gain experience, poise and self confidence. They meet and compete with youngsters and their dogs of all breeds. Most of all, a spirit of camaraderie and sportsmanship is developed among the Juniors and their families.

Juniors are usually welcome at local breed club classes, as well as many all breed training classes. Occasionally, former Junior Showmen offer handling classes especially for Juniors. Check with your breeder or with Junior members of a local basenji club, who will be glad to help your Junior get started.



ABOUT THE EVERGREEN BASENJI CLUB



The Evergreen Basenji Club, founded in 1964, is the oldest existing local Basenji Club affiliated with the Basenji Club of America. Its membership consists of basenji breeders, owners, and fanciers from the greater Seattle area. You are cordially invited to become acquainted with the club and its activities.

The objectives of the Evergreen Basenji Club include:

- 1) to encourage the selective breeding of purebred Basenjies to preserve their natural qualities and to conform to the AKC standard for the breed.
- 2) to encourage and promote training and showing of Basenjies.
- 3) to encourage sportsmanlike competition at dog shows, obedience trials, and lure trials.
- 4) to conduct AKC sanctioned specialty shows and ASFA & AKC sanctioned lure trials.
- 5) to encourage participation of breeders and nonbreeders in club activities, to disseminate information and conduct educational programs, and to assist members with their problems in connection with the breed.

In addition, the club and its meetings encourage interchange of ideas and information, provide the opportunity for camaraderie, fellowship, and friendship among members and basenji fanciers.

Evergreen Basenji Club meetings are held usually on the 3rd Friday of each month. At time of this printing, the meeting place is the Lake City Community Center in Seattle (or contact a club member to verify current location). A business meeting is followed by a fun and/or informative program, refreshments, and fellowship. Meetings are always open to guests and fellow basenji fanciers. For information on upcoming meetings, ask your breeder.

Foremost among its many activities the EBC hosts is the annual Specialty Show, Lure Trial, and Futurity in August. The Specialty is an all Basenji conformation show, which also includes non-regular classes such as Veteran, Stud Dog, Brood Bitch, Team and Brace. The Lure Trial is also just for basenjies. The Futurity, unique to the EBC, is a puppy 'sweepstakes': a dam is nominated for the Futurity before her puppies are whelped; then puppies are individually nominated before 3 months of age and again before 5 months. Only nominated pups may be finally entered in the Futurity classes at the Specialty. Proceeds from nomination and entry fees are split into cash prizes for winners of the classes and Best in Futurity. Check with your breeder to see if your puppy is Futurity-nominated!

In anticipation of this August Specialty, the EBC conducts informal puppy training classes, beginning with good weather in the spring each year. These classes are taught by showing members of the club. Any and all basenjies and their owners -novice or experienced - are welcome to join in the fun and experience. Handlers, as well as puppies, learn ring procedure, training and handling techniques.

EBC has a dedicated lure coursing contingent. The club sponsors several AKC & ASFA trials each year.

To assist members and any interested basenji fanciers in training their puppies and conditioning their experienced dogs for lure coursing, the EBC holds informal lure practice runs, beginning with good weather in the spring. These practices are open to all basenjies. Members assist novices in handling their dogs at the course, training and conditioning at home, introducing beginners to chase the lure, use of the muzzle, and progression to running with other dogs.

The EBC also sponsors All Breed Fun Matches. These are "practice" shows; no points towards championships or titles are awarded. They are for fun and experience for handlers and dogs alike. Matches provide the opportunity to show just for fun and to gain ring experience both in conformation and/or obedience. They also provide the opportunity to learn

how a dog show works and to learn and assist in the various aspects of running a dog show, such as taking entries, ring set up, ring stewarding, etc.

To recognize achievements of members and their basenjis, the EBC offers award certificates for the preceding year, such as: Championship, Obedience Title, Lure Field Championship, National Honor Roll - Stud Dog or Brood Bitch, Top Ten placement, Top Junior Showman - Novice and Open, Best in Show, Best in Field, High in Trial, Sportsmanship

These are awarded at an Awards Banquet held in March. Guests, as always, are welcome to come and honor the newest champions and their proud owners.

Among its social activities, the club has an annual Halloween party and a Christmas Potluck with gift exchange. Occasionally, members and friends get together with their basenjis for an informal Play Day, featuring races, contests, and games for basenjis and their handlers, along with a Gourmet Potluck.

Friends, guests and basenji fanciers are welcome at all EBC activities and meetings. Come join the fun, meet other fanciers and their basenjis, and introduce us to your basenji!

THE EVERGREEN BASENJI CLUB, CODE OF ETHICS

I will encourage a high standard of sportsmanship by my behavior and will not engage in malicious or intentionally misleading or exaggerated statements about other breeders, their dogs or breeding practices.

I will help educate the public in the standard and care of the breed.

I will maintain high standards in the care of my dogs.

I will comply with all AKC rules and regulations where they pertain, and will not use dogs for breeding purposes that are not AKC registrable.

I will accept the AKC Basenji Standard as the ideal towards which to direct all breeding activities.

No dog that I sell shall be AKC registered unless it has, in my opinion, sufficient quality and soundness of temperament to be used for breeding. Otherwise, I will offer limited registration or the dog shall be, or has been, sexually altered.

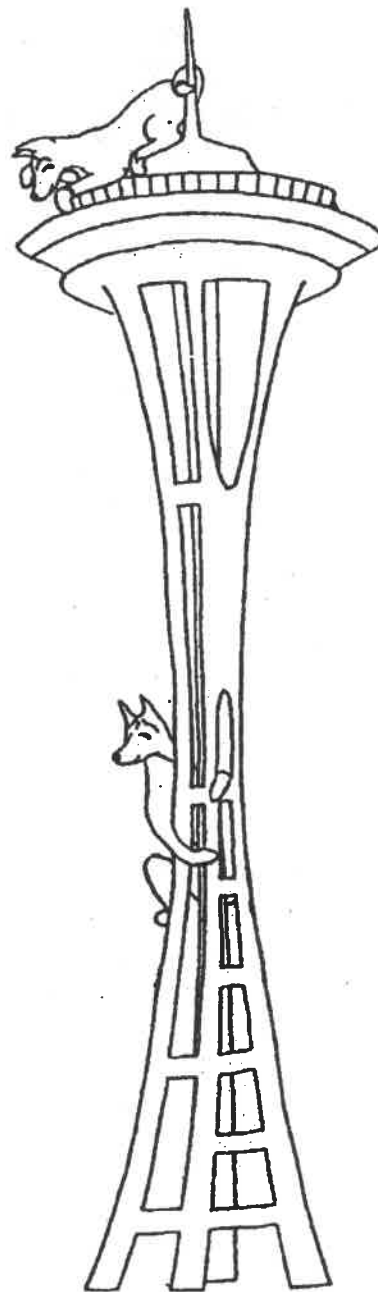
I will not sell dogs without true and full representation, nor willfully conceal known genetic faults nor

intentionally use misleading or untruthful statements in selling and advertising.

I will not sell or donate dogs to commercial dog wholesalers or pet shops.

I will help the purchaser in every reasonable way for the life of the dog.

I understand that indiscriminate breeding may lead to overpopulation and contribute materially to the deterioration of the breed.



REFERENCE LIBRARY

PERIODICALS

THE BASENJI - monthly. Windigo Harbor Media P.O. box 182397 Shelby Twp, MI 48318 www.thebasenji.com E-mail: info@thebasenji.com.

PURE-BRED DOGS AMERICAN KENNEL GAZETTE - AKC - monthly. orderdesk@akc.org

FIELD ADVISORY NEWS (FAN) - Bi-monthly, official publication of American Sighthound Field Association, \$14/year Vicky Clarke, Editor. 2234 Walnut Ave. McKinleyville, CA 95521

THE AKC COURSING NEWS published quarterly by the American Kennel Club 5580 Centerview Drive; Raleigh, NC 27606-3390.

SIGHTHOUND REVIEW. bi monthly, PO Box 30430, Santa Barbara, CA 93130

THE BULLETIN - official publication of the Basenji Club of America, Inc. Quarterly, You need to join BCOA to get this one! <http://www.basenji.org/member.htm>

DOGS USA - yearly, buy at your newsstand, a great resource for articles and book publishers

THE WINDHOUND - bi-monthly, a publication on sighthounds. 4401 Zephyr ST., Wheat Ridge, CO 80033-3299

BOOKS

The following books are available at your local bookstore or thru Amazon.com. Another convenient source is through book vendors at dog shows.

THE BASENJI STACKED AND MOVING - Robert Cole, ISBN: 0920939007 on Amazon.com

FULA-BASENJI FROM THE JUNGLE - Veronica Tudor-Williams Order from THE BASENJI

THE BASENJI-OUT OF AFRICA TO YOU - Susan Coe. Doral Publications, PO BOX 596, Wilsonville, OR 97070. \$24.95. Also on Amazon.com ISBN: 0944875424

CANDLE: A STORY OF LOVE & FAITH - Sally Ann Smith. Doral Publications, PO BOX 596, Wilsonville, OR 97070. Also on Amazon.com ISBN: 094487522X

AT HOME WITH YOUR BASENJI - BCOSW c/o Patricia L. Bright, W. 1358 S. Shore DR., Palmyra WI 53156-9798. \$5.00

THE COMPLETE BASENJI - Elspet Ford ISBN: 087605016X On Amazon.com

HOW TO RAISE AND TRAIN A BASENJI - T.F.H.

HOW TO SHOW YOUR OWN DOG Virginia Tuck Nichols

YOUR BASENJI - ISBN: 0877140413

COMPLETE DOG BOOK - AKC

NEW KNOWLEDGE OF DOG BEHAVIOR - Pfaffenberger

MOTHER KNOWS BEST - THE NATURAL WAY TO TRAIN YOUR DOG - Benjamin

KOEHLER METHOD OF DOG TRAINING - Koehler ISBN: 0876055773 On Amazon.com

TRAINING YOUR DOG - STEP BY STEP MANUAL - Volhard & Fisher

SUPERTRAINING YOUR DOG - Loeb ; ISBN: 0671732099

DOG OWNERS HOME VETERINARY HANDBOOK - Carlson & Giffen ISBN: 0876052014 On Amazon.com

THE DOG IN ACTION - Lyon

THE NEW DOGSTEPS - Elliott

THE DYNAMICS OF CANINE GAIT - Hollenbeck

CANINE TERMINOLOGY - Spira ISBN: 0876054165

FIRST AID FOR PETS - Robert W. Kirk DVM

BEYOND BASIC TRAINING - Bauman

PLAYTRAINING YOUR DOG - Burnham

THE ART OF RAISING A PUPPY - The Monks of New Skete ISBN: 0316578398 On Amazon

BASENJI, DOG FROM THE PAST - Johnson ISBN: 1882032004 On Amazon.com

INTERNET

EBC web page: www.basenji.org/ebc

BCOA official web page: www.basenji.org

AKC official web page: www.akc.org

...or search on "basenji" to find many other Basenji sites.

FANCONI PROTOCOL

FANCONI DISEASE MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL FOR VETERINARIANS 2 page flyer available from

Steve Gonto, MMSc, PhD.-Med.Sc, 6 Cedar Point Drive, Savannah, Georgia 31405

Or online at <http://www.basenji.org/>

Many thanks to Steve Gonto for researching this protocol.

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TEN COMMANDMENTS

FOR NEW BASENJI OWNERS

(AND OLD ONES TOO)

THOU SHALT LOVE, HONOR, AND CHERISH THY BASENJI

THOU SHALT APPRECIATE THY BASENJI FOR THE NATIVE BREED WHICH HE IS, AND RESPECT HIM FOR THE NATIVE INSTINCTS HE RETAINS.

THOU SHALT BREED THY BASENJI ONLY WITH DUE CONSIDERATION FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE BREED, AND NOT "JUST FOR FUN" OR PROFIT.

THOU SHALT CRATE TRAIN THY BASENJI AND USE HIS CRATE WHEN NECESSARY.

THOU SHALT LEASH TRAIN THY BASENJI AND USE HIS LEASH WHEN NECESSARY.

THOU SHALT MAINTAIN A FENCED YARD OR MAINTAIN A SAFE PLAY/EXERCISE AREA FOR THY BASENJI.

THOU SHALT SOCIALIZE THY BASENJI.

THOU SHALT "LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE" AND "EATING DOGS EAT"; AND THOU SHALT EDUCATE THY CHILDREN AND GUESTS TO DO THE SAME.

THOU SHALT USE THY LAUNDRY HAMPER, CLOSE THY CLOSET DOORS, AND HIDE THY WASTEBASKETS.

AND FINALLY, THOU SHALT KEEP THY SENSE OF HUMOR AND ENJOY THE ANTICS OF THY BASENJI



