

BASENJI MANUAL



Contents

ABOUT YOUR BASENJI

- KUSA Registration
- An Introduction to the Basenji
- Characteristic Basenji Behaviour
- Basenji Standard

LIVING WITH A BASEJI

- Socialisation
- Discipline
- Super Dog review
- Crate Training
- House Training
- Basic Training
- A Secure Yard
- Chewing
- Undesirable Chewing and possible consequences
- Introducing your new baby to your Basenji

CARING FOR YOUR BASENJI

- Immunisation / Deworming
- Grooming
- Basenji Health
- Choosing a vet
- Feeding your Basenji
- First Aid
- Poisoning
- Preventing Breeding

BASENJI ACTIVITIES

- Showing your Basenji in confirmation
- Obedience Trials

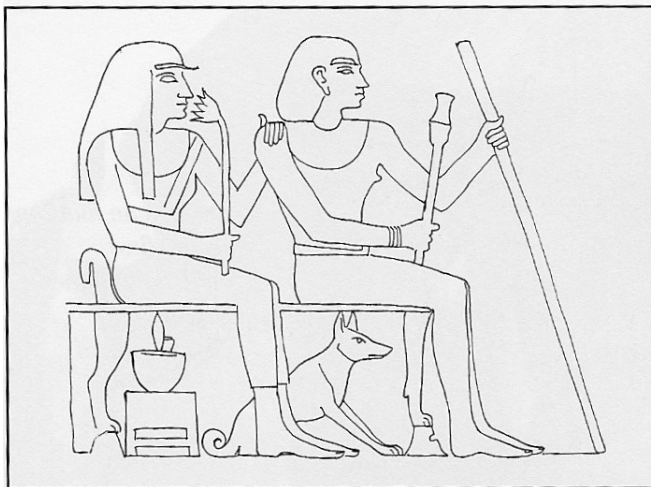
ABOUT YOUR BASENJI

When you buy a dog represented as Kennel Union of South Africa (KUSA) registered, you should receive a KUSA Pedigree Certificate for the dog. On the back is a form to be completed by the seller, which will enable you to transfer the dog into your own name. When the application has been processed, you will receive a KUSA 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.

KUSA is only a registration body and does not in any way guarantee the quality or health of the dog you buy. A registration certificate identifies the dog as the offspring of a known sire and dam, born on a known date.

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. Some ignore health issues while a really good breeder will health test and provide the buyer with the test results of the Sire and Dam. 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. The same is true about the potential health risks. If breeding happens without testing and making sure that only healthy stock is bred from the problems will get progressively worse over several generations.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BASENJI



*Renu and Dede
11th dynasty
(1900 BC).
Chatsworth
House*

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 palaeontologists, 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 favoured 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.

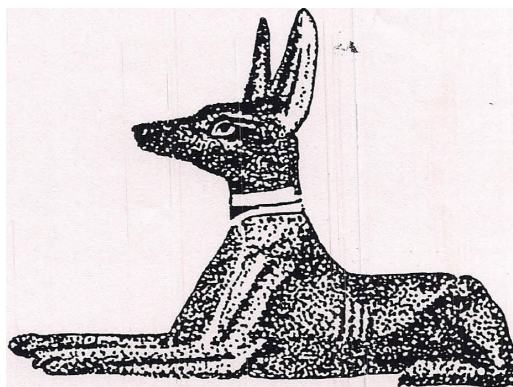
English nobility rediscovered these little dogs during their hunting expeditions. For fifty years, the British made many attempts to bring Basenjis to England, but they were not successfully acclimated there until 1937. At the same time, a pair was taken to America.

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 38 – 43cm in height at the shoulders and 9 to 11 kg in weight. Colour-coded red, black, black with tan trimming (tri-colour), 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 n that it has no doggy odour, and he keeps it 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 person and property rights. The silent hunter is also silent watchdog. A sound outside brings him noiselessly to the door, to await an intruder. He will give the housebreaker a rough time. Owners will testify to his phenomenal intelligence, his inventiveness, his curiosity, and his clownish sense of humour. 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 the 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

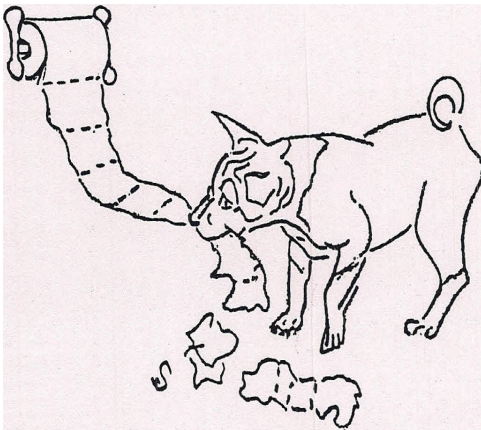
Hi, I'm Sila, a Basenji. Since most humans have no idea about us I decided to write an letter about what Basenjjs are really like. The first thing you should know that each one of us has our own personality although we share many unique characteristics.

You may have read the story about when all the animals were created little piece of ear one was left over so all these pieces were put together in a package and called a BASENJI. That is why at times we have qualities of the dog, cat, fox, deer, horse, mule, gazelle, kangaroo, and unicorn (bet you did not 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 favourite pastimes are:

- napping in front of the fire, in the sun or by any heat source.
- licking my human dry after her bath.
- rolling 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.
- freshly washed laundry, nothing is better to roll on.
- to sing & yodel & dance when my favourite humans visit the house.



- raiding the wastebasket, shredding tissues or unrolling TP down the hall.
- rolling on a wet towel or shredded tissue paper.
- Q-tips are my favourite popsicle! However, a pair of underwear will do nicely for dessert.
- use my paws to explore & play or to clean my face when dirty.
- run free and chase strange cats, squirrels and birds out of my yard, and occasionally, I catch a few.
- doing 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 big loop after loop 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 even persistently clean up under birdcages. Seed shells are almost as good as the actual seeds.
- it isn't unusual for me to take an interest in other animals' poo, possibly rolling in it or sampling a taste. I love to nibble animal droppings, perhaps in lieu of the actual wild

animals, but I hear they say that this 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.
- to snuggle and be scratched and I am happiest where the action is.
- 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 I hear a few (very few!) of my kin actually like to swim. Snow can be fun though although I have not seen any since I arrived in Africa.
- 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 neighbours are not very happy with my noise making.
- and do I love to chew! (see chewing section page).
- 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, Sila.





BASENJI STANDARD – SOUTH AFRICA

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Lightly built, finely boned aristocratic-looking animal, high on leg compared with its length, always poised, alert and intelligent. Wrinkled head, with pricked ears, proudly carried on a well arched neck. Deep brisket runs up into a definite waist, tail tightly ruled presenting a picture of a well balanced dog of gazelle-like grace.

CHARACTERISTICS

Barkless but not mute, its own special noise a mixture of a chortle and a yodel. Remarkable for its cleanliness in every way.

TEMPERAMENT

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

HEAD AND SKULL

Flat, well-chiselled and medium width, tapering towards nose, with slight stop. Distance from top of head to stop slightly more than from stop to tip of nose. Side lines of skull taper gradually towards mouth, giving a clean cheeked appearance. Fine and profuse wrinkles appearing on forehead when ears pricked, side wrinkles desirable but not exaggerated into dewlap. Wrinkles more noticeable in puppies, but because of lack of shadowing, not as noticeable in tricolours; black nose desirable.

EYES

Dark, almond-shaped, obliquely set, far-seeing and rather inscrutable in expression.

EARS

Small, pointed, erect and slightly hooded, of fine texture, set well forward on top of head, tip of ear nearer center of skull than outside base.

MOUTH

Jaws strong, with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

NECK

Strong and of good length, without thickness, well crested and slightly full at base of throat with a graceful curve accentuating crest. Well set into shoulders giving head a 'lofty' carriage.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders well laid back, muscular, not loaded. Elbows tucked in against brisket. When viewed from front, elbows in line with ribs and legs should continue in a straight line to ground giving a

medium front. Forelegs straight with fine bone and very long forearms. Pasterns good length, straight and flexible.

BODY

Balanced with short, level back. Ribs well sprung, deep and oval. Loin short -coupled, deep brisket running up into definite waist.

HINDQUARTERS

Strong and muscular, hocks well let down, turned neither in nor out, with long second thighs and moderately bent stifles.

FEET

Small, narrow and compact, with deep pads, well arched toes and short nails.

TAIL

High set, with posterior curve of buttock extending beyond root of tail giving a reachy appearance to hindquarters. Curls tightly over spine and lies closely to thigh with a single or double curl.

GAIT/MOVEMENT

Legs carried straight forward with a swift, long, tireless, swinging stride.

COAT

Short, sleek and close, very fine. Skin very pliant.

COLOUR

Pure black and white; red and white; black, tan and white with tan melon pips and mask; black; tan and white, Brindle, red background with black stripes, the more clearly defined the stripes the better. The white should be on the feet, chest and tail tips. White legs, blaze and white collar optional.

SIZE

Ideal height : Dogs : 43 cm (17 ins) at withers

Bitches : 40 cm (16 ins) at withers.

Ideal weight : Dogs : 11 kg (24 lbs)

Bitches : 9½ kg (21 lbs).

FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect on the health and welfare of the dog.

NOTE

Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

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 to 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 oldies.
- 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 over whelmed. 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 behaviour. After repeated playful fighting, the pups learn when to act pushy and when to back down. Although capable of both behaviours, 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 behaviour in the pup.

Recognizing dominant and submissive behaviour:

Dominant signals and behaviour include hackles up, standing up straight and erect during greeting, curling lips to expose teeth, mounting behaviour, prolonged direct eye contact, nipping your skin or clothing, or excessive mouthing of your hands, resistance to the removal of possessed objects, 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 behaviour quickly and will help eliminate problem behaviour later on.

- Immediately discourage your pup's pushy behaviour 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 in a manner that he thinks he's won (or dominated you).
- Never chase your dog. (Leaders don't chase).
- Never discipline your puppy for misbehaviour 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 behaviour 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 be 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 hand. If he tries, raise your voice and shake him firmly by the scruff of the neck, as his mother would. 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. It can be started when you first meet the puppy. The more dominant the behaviour 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, behaviour 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 mould your puppy's behaviour, 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 behaviour which the dog would not ordinarily do on his own.
- Negative Reinforcement is used to discourage behaviour which 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 behaviour you want to reinforce. Use lots of praise as you physically guide him through the behaviour, or as you coax him into the position with food. Also use lots of praise when he does the desired behaviour 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 behaviour you want to encourage.

Negative Reinforcement can be Verbal or Physical and should be used to stop any unwanted behaviour 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 behaviour 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 misbehaviour. Try slapping your hand down to make a loud noise along with a growly NO!! To intimidate your Basenji into stopping the behaviour. 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 (hut not enough to lift him off the ground) while a in giving the verbal 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.) And bear in mind that if the correction is late the dog will not make the connection – 4 seconds is all you have between the action to be corrected and the correction if you hope to get the right message thru.

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 behaviour and your reaction. Reinforcement (positive or negative) must be during or immediately after the behaviour 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 behaviour.) Dogs learn by repetition. Every time you permit an incorrect response the dog is learning the incorrect response or learning that he doesn't always have to obey you.

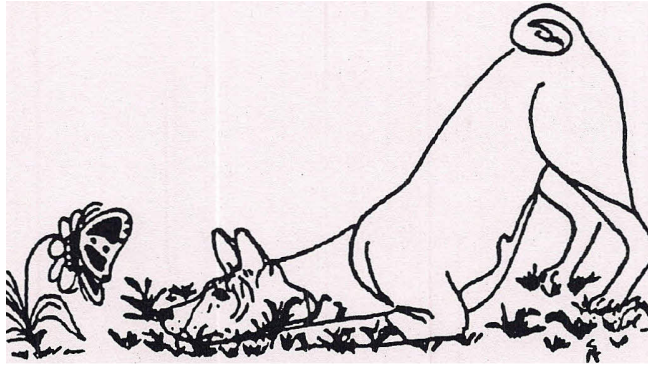
The amount of reinforcement (positive or negative) required for each behaviour is gradually diminished as that behaviour becomes a conditioned response. The more consistent you are with your reinforcement, the quicker this learning takes place.

Another influence on moulding your pup's behaviour 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 can teach the puppy to assert itself against our will, not a desirable result at all. This does not mean you should not play with your puppy though!

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 behaviour. 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 Q'Kelley, for developing and training puppies from birth.

Age: Birth through 3 weeks Environment: Warmth, food, sleep , Human socialisation: None
Canine socialization: Needs mother

Age: 4th week

Environment: Unchanged and unchanging Human socialization: Gentle handling by humans
Canine socialization: Begins socialising with littermates

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 ('litter box).

ALL OTHER TRAINING REQUIRES FRQUENT, REGULAR, INDIVIDUAL TRAINING SESSIONS

Lead Training: Fit with dead(not choke) 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, d metal) and cotton gloves.

3.When chasing new items ell, encourage the pup to bring the item 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 socialisation - lots of love and attention from all shapes and sizes of people.
- Canine socialization: Remove from mother. Remove from littermates or provide

rotation system into pairs so that the companion of each pup changes every day. Introduce to other dogs if you have access to dogs that will not scar or hurt the puppy.

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 behaviour to be carried through; say "NO," substitute a correct behaviour 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 off 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 manoeuvre the pup to be walking at your side.
 - c) Praise the pup whenever he is not tugging. Keep training sessions short.
 - d) When he is sitting on corn and 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 towards 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. **You can also use food as described below in the section on basic training**

- 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 training, he and his dog can begin to enjoy the benefits of the marvellous crate.

Most Basenji breeders and long-time 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 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) Travelling is much safer if your dog is accustomed to being crated when travelling 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 hotel/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:

- A crate that is large enough to allow the grown dog room to stand, turn around, and stretch out when lying down.
- Latches on the door that will not come unfastened when leaned on or repeatedly bounced against.
- The crate must allow for good air circulation, without drafts, and adequate light.

Place the crate in a quiet area of the home which 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 favourite 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 fibres 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 tough 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:

- 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.
- When no one is free to supervise the puppy, it is probably best to crate him if he cannot otherwise be restrained from mischief.
- Nights are usually the most unnerving part of crate training, so here are a few suggestions:
 - a. 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 earplugs, 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.

Or a wild suggestion: I let my puppies sleep in a crate at my bedside for the first few weeks. That way I will hear the puppy if he needs to go to the toilet and I can take him out before any 'accidents' happen. I can put my hand down to reassure the puppy when his is unhappy. Once he is really settled in his crate the location of the crate can be changed but it will stay a 'safe' place for the puppy.

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 behaviour begins as soon as a puppy begins to walk, leaving the nest 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 behaviour, which all dogs possess, this behaviour must be positively reinforced through reward. Do not use negative reinforcement such as disciplinary punishment.

If your puppy comes into your house at less than 12 weeks of age and must not 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 behaviour. 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 in which case 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 non-workers must get a full night's sleep or leave the home for longer periods.

When you have your puppy out for play time, 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 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 as strong-headed pup that 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, 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 behaviour. 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 that 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.

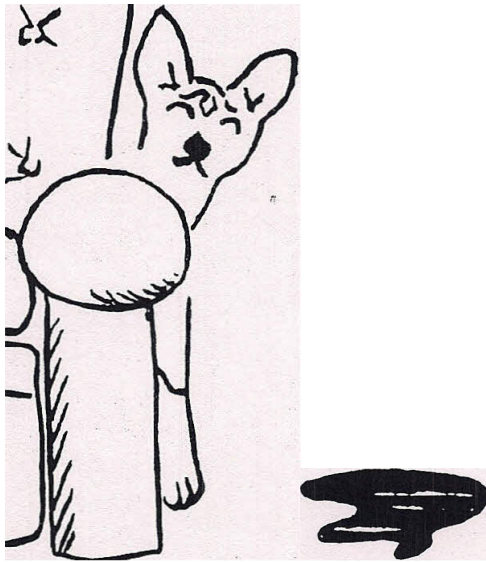
Within two weeks of acquiring your pup, he should be settling in with his new home. He should have the litter box mastered and be somewhat crate-trained. The use of the two together teaches him control. You must maintain a regular schedule of feeding, crating, playtime and a certain spot to soil. This 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 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 play time. 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 travelling 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 other books. Regardless of the method, the key to success is consistency.



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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

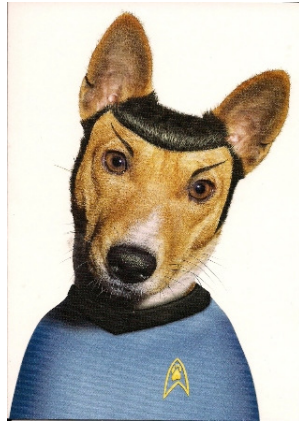
In general, the Basenji is a very clean dog with clean habits. Reinforce these habits with positive reinforcement. Negative reinforcement can create problems. This can be seen in the dog who has been swatted with a rolled-up newspaper or magazine. This dog may be vicious to the paper boy or letter carrier 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 behaviour 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 in the manual for possible solutions.

The adult male marking in the house is a territorial and/or sexual behaviour. 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 behaviour and discipline "NO" for unwanted behaviour.

BASIC OBEDIENCE TRAINING



As with all canines, certain basic obedience is necessary to develop a good pet/owner relationship. Most young Basenjis exhibit similar unruly behaviour, 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 behaviour 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 is a quick action. You must tighten and release it very quickly. You should not e 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 sue a correction with "NO!". If no response, follow by throwing the can with the intent of startling t e dog - not hitting him. The dog should not see you throw the can. It should come as a complete s prise 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.

For a puppy, make sure you keep the sessions short. They are not able to concentrate for long periods of time yet. Several short positive sessions will bring you a lot more success than one long session.

What works best for a Basenji is motivation. You can be sure that negative coercive methods will not achieve lasting result, if any results at all. Find what he really loves to eat and use that as the reward for getting things right. Try your best to initially totally ignore what he gets wrong and to reward even partly correct actions.

Use a chain and leash to give more control and to use for correction once the dog knows what is wanted.



#1 SENJI SIT.

The easiest place to teach a dog to sit, down, stand is on a table/platform of some sort. The dog will not be able to move out of your control easily and you can use the edges to prevent forward or backward movement when so desired. If you have to, do it on the ground but it is can more difficult.

Have your bag/pocket of treats at hand. Take the lead into your left hand, a treat in your right hand. At a height just too high for Senji to reach when standing move your hand with the treat over his head backwards while making sure he does not back up. Do not use the lead to restrain him. The position of your hand over his head will force him to move his head up and as his body cannot move back the only way he can get to the treat is to sit. As soon as he sits, give a clear 'sit' command and give him the treat. Select a 'free' command and use that as the signal to tell him he may leave the position you asked for. You should add verbal praise when he gets it right e.g. 'good sit'.

1. offer the treat over the head
2. move it back forcing a sitting posture
3. give the treat and praise with 'good sit'
4. almost immediately 'free' and have a small play as a reward.

Repeat this several times until he sits on the command. Once the sit is clearly understood some distraction can be added and the length of time you expect the dog to stay sitting can be increased. When this is steady and reliable on the table, move to the ground.



2 SENJI DOWN

Again, this can be easily taught on a table with treats. Let the dog stand on the table. Lead in left hand, treat in right hand. Offer the treat in a closed hand between the front feet. Move your hand under the dog. To get to the treat the dog is forced to go down. Give the 'down' command as the dog goes down. Give him the treat and verbally praise with 'good down'. 'free' the dog as the signal the exercise is over and play with him. Lengthen the

time and distance as above – gradually when the command are clearly understood.

When the dog is steady and prepared to stay in the position, start to gradually move away from the dog, wait a while and return. Remember to do this in small increments.

Wait command: Some people teach a separate 'wait' but if you have a reliable sit, down and stand there is no need for an additional command. 'Sit' means sit and stay sitting until the 'free' releases him.

When you are at a distance where the leash is removed 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 run away. You need to discourage this behaviour from the start. Try attaching a very light line to his collar, before detaching the leash. Walk away with the light line in hand. Senji will find himself still in master's grasp if he tries to run off. It's best to have a glove on the hand holding the line. Should the dog run, 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 positions indoors until solid. Then begin outdoors. Remember if he runs outdoors you may never catch him, so use a light line until the exercise is fully mastered. If your dog runs 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 neighbourhood.

#3 LET'S GO

Taking Senji 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 Senji on a 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, Senji 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 Senji is looking away and walk away from him. When you get to the end of the leash and Senji 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 Senji 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 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 Senji is on something he shouldn't be, give the command "Senji 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 Senji jumps up on people, use the command "OFF". Correct if necessary as per exercise.

Note: If you are dealing with people prepared to be consistent it may be better to ignore the jumping by actively looking away, folding your arms and adopting an aloof stance. As soon as he goes down you engage him by petting and saying 'good dog'. In extreme cases you can raise your knee firmly striking the dog in his chest. Be careful to use only enough force to deter the dog without injury – personally I do not like this method for Basenjis as it tends to turn them into 'hit and run' experts. They sort of bounce off one – before anyone can react to correct the jump they are gone.

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

C: If Senji gets off when commanded, but jumps right back up when you are not looking, command "NO SENJI 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 Senji" 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 1m, climb a tree, and can clear some structures 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 1m 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.

Basenjies 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 up 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 tree in the back yard. This may be escape proof, but is it fair to a dog who enjoys running and needs his exercise?

A 2 x 3 m 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 1.5 or 1.8 m fence is a good start. Should the dog find this an easy jump/climb, attach 15 cm 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. 1.8 m 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.

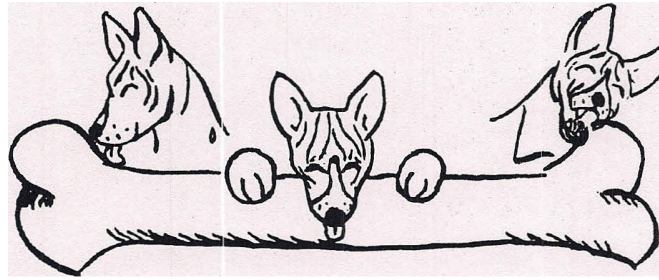
Install solid latches on gates, up high enough to prevent the dogs from using them. Make sure gates always are closed by using self closures or padlocks. Inspect your fence daily for possible escape routes he is currently 'working on, and repair such immediately!

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 behaviour 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.

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 no 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 odours. 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 jambs, 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 behaviour, 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 favour 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.

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 favourite remark, 'It all comes out in the end' is always good for a laugh, and most Basenji owners have tales of colourful faecal deposits. Many ingested objects are vomited before they have a chance to reach the intestines.

A story for the US: 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 3 cm 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 fibres. 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 fibres had slowly collected in intestinal pockets and attracted even more "debris" - various little pieces of non-food 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, loveable 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 marvellous little fellow. It as fun to see him experience his first Christmas, year late, and to watch him learn to play free of pain.

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 owners' 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!

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.

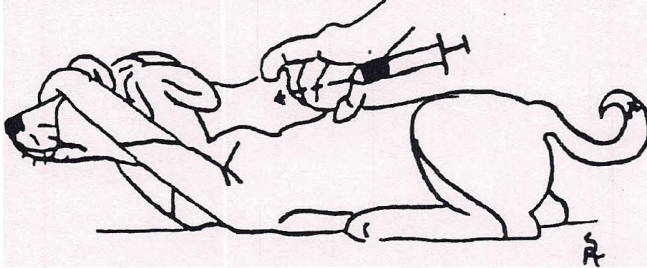
Be prepared for any number of behavioural reactions from your Basenji. He may be aloof and sulky for a few days. He may be your shadow, never leaving your side, even trying to crowd the baby as he attempts to climb onto your lap. He may consider himself the appointed guardian of the new baby, sleeping 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.

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.

CORONA VIRUS (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.'

During the first few months of life, the pup should be protected from unnecessary exposure to other dogs, except your own dogs that you know are vaccinated.

Using the schedule below 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.

Suggested vaccination schedule. This is in line with manufacturers recommendations

	DHPPi	Parvo	Rabies	Lepto
9 weeks	x (or DHP)			
12 weeks	x	x	x	x

A booster at 1 year old and thereafter not more often and every 2 years.

A annual booster for Parvo on it's own can be given.

Rabies should not be repeated more often than every 3 years. However, legislation can change this requirement so check on the current status where you live and where you intend travelling to.

There are questions about the effectiveness of the Lepto vaccination. Recent studies have shown that the strain in the vaccination is often not to be the same as what your dog is exposed to. It also has a tendency to turn what is usually a treatable acute disease into a low-grade chronic disease.

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 tapeworms 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, potbellies, 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, which 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 (many do not have an undercoat). 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 tailor 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 not want to try. Consult the Kennel Club 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. Try to do this every week so that the dog gets used to the procedure. If his dewclaws were removed when he was just a few days old, 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 of them will eventually be quiet while you do the 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 (PPM)

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 labelled 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 Basenjies do have PPM to some degree.

PPM is believed to be an inherited failure of the papillary 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 the veterinary: 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. It is considered more serious than iris to iris PPM.

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. Testing is done by ophthalmic exam by an 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. Mode of inheritance is thought to be a simple recessive gene (see HA section below) however, a carrier will be "normal-eyed".

HAEMOLYTIC ANAEMIA

Haemolytic Anaemia 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 anaemia (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 at 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 Basenji could be divided into three categories:

- Those *clear* of the disease (a dog which has 2 genes for normal PK activity).
- 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 behaviour and activity, and a normal life span.
- 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.

FANCONISYNDROME

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 sighthound breeds.

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 that 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 blood sugar levels. Many vets have falsely labelled the disorder diabetes, kidney failure or thyroid deficiency due to lack of knowledge of the syndrome. The signs may appear as early as the age of three, but Basenjies 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 the health of your affected pet is very good if you work 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.

Research has led to the identification of the gene. A DNA test is now available. Details of how/where to test can be found via the OFA in the US. The test will indicate:

- Clear
- Carrier
- Affected.

Affected dogs should not be bred from. Carriers can be bred from if they have a lot to offer, but only to a clear mate.



IPSID

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

IPSID is a genetically-mediated severely debilitating diarrhoea disease of the Basenji. Clinical symptoms can be various -- you may see chronic diarrhoea, poor appetite, aversion to food, occasional vomiting, weight loss, unthriftiness, 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 diarrhoea, or a cyclically exacerbating course, characterized by episodes of anorexia and/or diarrhoea. Many times it is precipitated by a stressful episode, such as boarding, transport, oestrus, 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 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 might have to be surgically repaired.

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 behaviour with dogs which have tested low normal range of thyroid when given a low dose thyroid supplement. Diagnosis requires a thyroid blood test.

The current threats to the breed are Fanconi Syndrome 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 Basenjies in the past and if he has any current clients that own a Basenji. Ask for references and check on them.

Basenjies 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 anaemic dog must have Hemolytic Anaemia on the basis that this once was very common with the breed.

A few Basenjies are rather sensitive to foreign substances in their systems, such as fleabites, tranquillisers, 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 tranquillisers 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. In general, most Basenji breeders are very conscious of their dogs' health. The Internet with links to organisations like The Basenji Club of America is a good source of information. They have collated 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 flavour 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 favourite 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 diarrhoea, 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 Confine to 'safe area'
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 Confine to 'safe area'
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 Confine to 'safe area'
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. Keep these reference book at a convenient location at all times. Establish a regular veterinary relationship 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 check-up 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 2cm 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 20C, 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 25C, 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 30 plus degrees. A dog inside a crate can continue to generate this heat to 35 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 25 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: 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 10kg 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, 25-30 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 a vehicle. Basenjies have no regard for the moving vehicle, 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 travelling 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 centre 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 child-proof cupboards or on too-high-to-reach shelves or cupboards. Remember, Basenjies love to drink from the toilet, so don't use bowl-cleaning chemicals.

Basenjies also love to lick their paws, so anything they walk through could be potentially toxic (slug bait, anti-freeze, 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 centre, or from your vet, or consult a good veterinary manual. Basenjies 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 you Basenji. Exercise close super-vision 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. |



PREVENTING BREEDING

The female Basenji's oestrus 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 autumn. You'll probably notice your dog was born in the month of April, May or June. 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 behaviour is usually exhibited in your dog's ancestors.

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

Preventing breeding may be accomplished in many ways. These include surgical spaying or neutering, drug contraceptives for either sex, and isolation. Surgical 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 and 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 behavioural 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 behaviour 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. Recent studies show that spayed females may be more prone to aggressive behaviour towards other dogs. Please ensure you understand the implications fully before doing something you may regret.

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 dog shows. Please ensure that you understand the potential side effect of spay/neuter. 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 during 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 neighbourhood 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 neighbourhood.

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 oestrus cycle occurs over a 30-day period, beginning with first signs of discharge, appearing dark red in colour. 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 are termination drugs a vet can administer. 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. Decisions on the future of the pups are a matter of ethics.



SHOWING YOUR BASENJI IN CONFORMATION

Basenjis 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 details of where and how to show your dog.

Handling classes and fun matches are the best methods for preparing you and your puppy for showing. Do not enter an all-breed 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 in-put for 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 up-tight 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 CHAMPIONSHIP STATUS

A dog or bitch must accumulate a total of 5 points to become a Champion.

These points are earned at KUSA - licensed shows by going "CC Dog" or "CC Bitch". The number of points earned at any given show is dependent upon the number of dogs competing. The total of 5 points must include at least one show out of your home province and all CC used towards CH status must be from different judges. 1 CC must be obtained after the dog turns 18 months old.

OBEDINCE TRAILS

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 Basenjies are not meant to be obedience trained. This is a decision and commitment you will have to make for yourself and your dog.

Many Basenjies have done very well in the obedience ring, earning advanced titles in other countries. Trainers should realise the intelligence and stubbornness of the Basenji, and how quickly they get bored with the basic obedience routines and adjust their methods accordingly.

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.

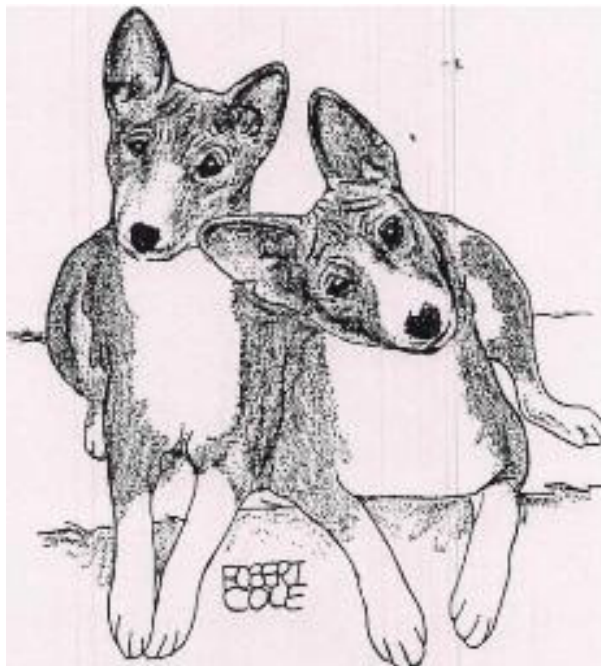
You will find that different techniques work better for different dogs. You can begin training your dog at any age. They are never too old to start, nor too young. For young puppies, many trainers recommend that you follow the guidelines outlined in the 'Super Dog' article. Use lots of positive reinforcement. 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. 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 behaviour -- 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 that 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!



Books and Internet links:

Basenji Books

THE BASENJI – Out of Africa to You by Susan Cole

BASENJIS (COMPLETE PET OWNER'S MANUA) by Mary Lou Kenworthy *

THE COMPLETE BASENJI by Elspet Ford

THE BASENJI STACKED AND MOVING by Robert Cole.

CALL OF THE MARSH by Jill Wylie This is a great read but out of print at present.

Trainng

The Culture Clash by Jean Donaldson *

Dog Star Daily - <http://www.dogstardaily.com/> *

Links Basenji specific

Basenji Club of America - <http://www.basenji.org/> *

Zande - <http://www.zandebasenjis.com/contents.htm> * The Zande site contains a very comprehensive bibliography, a world wide Pedigree Database and lots more.

* Recommended

<http://KitokoMbwa.yolasite.com>