

BASENJI

A Breed Standard is the guideline that describes the ideal characteristics, temperament, and appearance of a breed, and ensures that the breed is fit for function, with soundness essential. Breeders and Judges should, at all times, be mindful of features that could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare, or soundness of this breed.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 01/01/2019

ORIGIN

Central Africa. (Patronage: Great Britain).

UTILISATION

Hunting dog, companion.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. For interest, from Wikipedia: The Basenji:]

The Basenji was bred from stock that originated in central Africa. These local dogs, which Europeans identified as a distinct breed and called "basenji", were prized by locals for their intelligence, courage, speed, and silence. Several attempts were made to introduce the breed into England, but the earliest imports succumbed to disease. It was not until the 1930s that foundation stock was successfully established in England. It is likely that nearly all the Basenjies in the Western world are descended from these few original imports.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

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 curled 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

Flat, well-chiselled, and of 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 *[ed. impossible to interpret]* in expression.

Ears:

Small, pointed, erect, and slightly hooded, of fine texture, set well-forward on top of head, tip of ear nearer centre 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; 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 and white: red background with black stripes, the more clearly defined the stripes the better.

* The white should be on feet, chest, and tail-tip. White legs, blaze, and white collar optional.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 43cm (approx. 17").

Females: 40cm (approx. 16").

Weight:

Males: 11kg.

Females: 9.5kg.

N.B. Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.

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 upon the health and welfare of the dog, and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

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When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:

FCI Standard No. 43: BASENJI

FCI Classification: Group 5 – Spitz and primitive types.

Section 6. Primitive types..

Without working trial.