



GROUP II: HOUNDS

BASENJI

RECOGNIZED: 1939

Effective: January 2004

The breed standard outlines the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance of a breed, and ensures that a dog can carry out its original purpose. Breeders and judges should be mindful to prioritize dogs that are healthy and sound in both mind and body.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Basenji is a small, lightly built, short-backed dog, giving the impression of being high on the leg compared to its length. The wrinkled head must be proudly carried, and the whole demeanour should be one of poise and alertness. The Basenji should not bark, but is not mute. The wrinkled forehead and the swift, tireless running gait (resembling a race horse trotting full out) are typical of the breed.

SIZE

Height at the withers: Dogs, 43.25 cm (17 in); bitches, 40.75 cm (16 in)

Length (front of chest to farthest point of hindquarters): Dogs, 43.25 cm (17 in); bitches, 40.75 cm (16 in)

Weight: Dogs, 11 kg (24 lb); bitches, 10 kg (22 lb)

COAT

Coat short and silky. Skin very pliant.

COLOUR

Chestnut red, pure black, tricolour (pure black and chestnut red) or brindle (black stripes on a background of chestnut red); all with white feet, chest and tail tip. White legs, blaze and collar optional. The amount of white should never predominate over primary colour. Colour and markings should be rich, clear and well-defined, with a distinct line of demarcation between the black and red of tricolours and the stripes of brindles.

HEAD

The **skull** is flat, well chiselled and of medium width, tapering towards the eyes. The foreface should taper from eye to muzzle and should be shorter than the skull. The **muzzle** neither coarse nor snipey but with rounded cushions. Wrinkles should appear upon the forehead and be fine and profuse. Side wrinkles are desirable but should never be exaggerated into dewlap. Black **nose** greatly desired. A pinkish tinge should not penalize an otherwise first-class specimen, but it should be discouraged in breeding. **Teeth:** Must be level with scissors bite. **Eyes:** Dark hazel, almond shaped, obliquely set and far seeing. **Ears:** Small, pointed and erect of fine texture, set well forward on top of head.

NECK

Of good length, well crested and slightly full at base of throat. It should be well set into shoulders.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders: Flat, laid back. The **legs** straight with clean fine bone, long forearm and well-defined sinews. **Pasterns** should be of good length, straight and flexible.

BODY

The body should be short and the back level. The **chest** should be deep and of medium width. The **ribs** well sprung, with plenty of heart room, deep brisket, short-coupled, and ending in a definite waist.

HINDQUARTERS

Should be strong and muscular, with **hocks** well let down, turned neither in nor out, with long second thighs. **Feet** small, narrow, and compact, with well-arched toes.

TAIL

Should be set on top and curled tightly over to either side.

FAULTS

Any departure from the aforementioned ideals shall be considered faulty to the degree in which it interferes with the health and well-being of the dog and the breed's traditional purpose.

- Coarse skull or muzzle
- Domed or peaked skull
- Dewlap
- Round eyes
- Low set ears
- Overshot or undershot mouths
- Wide chest
- Wide behind
- Heavy bone
- Creams, shaded or off colours, other than those defined above, should be heavily penalized.