

SO YOU THINK YOU WANT A BASENJI?

(Prepared by the Mid-Atlantic Basenji Club and adapted by Heather Budd and Jeffrey Lumb)



So you think you are interested in owning a Basenji? You have heard many good things about them, and you have decided they are *my kind of dog*. Well, we think there are a few things you should know about a Basenji before you purchase one.

- They do not bark, but they can make a lot of noise. They scream, howl, cry, groan and yodel. **They definitely *do* have a voice.**
- They are small, but they are a big dog in a small package – a “*pocket rocket*”. They are fast and strong.
- They are unusual, but there are more around than you think. Most owners love them too much to let them run loose, and since they do not bark, they can go unnoticed.
- They are *VERY* intelligent, but Basenjis are hounds and were bred to be independent, resourceful and efficient hunters. As they are very intelligent, they get bored easily. While entertaining themselves, they can get into lots of trouble.
- “I saw ‘*Good-bye My Lady*’ and....” While the movie is very enjoyable, it is not a good representation of normal Basenji home-life.



If you have read this far and still wish to own a Basenji, you should consider the following points:

- Basenjies are an active, intelligent and demanding dog, requiring your attention most of the time, and your love *all* of the time. If you are not willing to spend time with and effort to train and enjoy them, **then you do not want a Basenji.**
- Basenjies are affectionate, loving dogs that will build a strong bond with you and your family. They will, in most cases, be friendly with strangers, and follow children anywhere. If you want a one-person dog, **then you do not want a Basenji.**
- Basenjies are *not* guard dogs. However, they are alert and will give you a warning if strangers are around. They do not bark, however you know by their actions when something is wrong. If you are looking for a guard dog or great protection dog, **then you do not want a Basenji.**
- Basenjies are mischievous and easily bored. It can be a huge mistake to leave an untrained Basenji alone in the house. They can be extremely destructive if left to entertain themselves. They should be trained or contained in a suitable crate. If you are not prepared to do this, **then you do not want a Basenji.**
- Basenjies love to run and unfortunately, they believe they can out-run any danger. They can jump over, or climb out of any fence if they so desire. They are inquisitive, and the grass is always greener etc., so if you like a free-running dog, unsupervised, **please do not purchase a Basenji.**
- Basenjies are habit forming; once you have been owned by and loved this intelligent, mischievous, active, independent, loving breed, you may not ever want to be without at least one. When you buy a Basenji, you are making a 10 to 15 year commitment to him. If you are not ready for this commitment, **please do not purchase a Basenji.**
- Basenji owners believe that all dogs should be contained in a yard or kennel run rather than running loose. Yes, the dog that is contained misses a lot of life's little pleasures....like being hit by a car; like being dirty and full of burrs; covered with fleas or ticks and loaded with worms; the joys of fighting with other strays, the pleasure of being sick on garbage and picking up diseases; and best of all the joy of being shot in a farm yard.

If you still believe you want a basenji and are qualified to be owned by one of these unique little dogs, then we welcome you as a prospective Basenji owner.

We Basenji owners will take great pleasure in welcoming you into the select company of true believers that *own the best, most nearly ideal dog that ever lived*, THE BASENJI.

