

# MEET YOUR BREEDER

## "Astarte"

- **How did you get started in Basenjis?**

When I first moved to California, I had 2 pet poodles. When one of them passed, I needed a companion for the one that was left. Douglas Force (Hounds of Force) talked me into getting one of his Basenji puppies. The agreement was that he could show Force's Sasha. He was showing her, and I started to go to dog shows to see for myself why she wasn't winning, as I thought she was gorgeous.

At that point, I decided I should get myself a real show dog and went to Carol Webb and purchased Kazor's Force Field. Carol did show him to his championship. I was hooked and got Kazor's Intriguing Isadora, who never did finish. I finally got my foundation bitch, Kazor's Jazzy Jezebel. Carol showed her and she was in the top 10 the year she was specialed. Next came Kazor's Lime Lite, and he was the light of my life.

- **Why did you start breeding?**

My first breeding was Jazzy and Lighter – produced 2 Champions. I kept Kazor's Vyveeka of Astarte, who was the first dog that I actually showed myself. At first I didn't want the responsibility of finding the perfect homes, so I gave that task to Carol Webb. But eventually, I decided to do my own thing and Astarte really began.

- **What persons influenced you most strongly?**

Obviously Carol Webb, who was my mentor, friend and travel buddy. Carol got me started in breeding and showing quality dogs.



Ch. Astarte's Trindsetter With Pips (one of the first trindle champions)

- **What have you seen improve in Basenjis over the years?**

More than anything, temperaments have improved dramatically. When I began in Basenjis, you could rarely have someone help you show your dog unless the dog knew them. I witnessed many a dog get disqualified for snapping at a judge. Also, the overall health of the dogs has improved, given the increased awareness on the part of the breeders of the various diseases that have plagued our breed over the years. All of the tests for these conditions have helped reduce their occurrence.



# MEET YOUR BREEDER CONT.

- **What do you think today's Basenji breeders need to pay special attention to?**

We all know about the front issues, but I am concerned about the disappearance of our classic head. All too often we see dogs with snipey muzzles, little cushioning, longer, narrow muzzles, and lower ear sets. For a while there, I saw an oversize issue, but that seems to be one area where breeders have reverted to a more correct size. Another vanishing feature is the pelvic shelf.



Ch. Kazor's Cruise of Astarte

- **What advice do you have to a new breeder getting started?**

Do your homework and get a mentor that you respect. Breed for what is important for you, and never forget good health. Test for whatever you can to produce healthy offspring. Above all, remember that these dogs are social dogs and want human companionship. I also encourage people to spay/neuter and re-home dogs once they are done in the ring and/or are no longer needed in your breeding program. This way they can become part of a loving family home and not have to live their life out in a kennel.



Ch. Kazor's Jazzy Jezebel

- **What dogs that you've seen or owned stand out as outstanding examples of the breed?**

A few dogs that I produced that were influential were Ch. Kazor's Cruise of Astarte, Ch. Astarte's Takes A Stance, Ch. High Sienna, Ch. Kazor's Vyveeka of Astarte, Ch. Astarte's Roxy Roxanne, and my sweet first Tri – Astarte's Miss Wilda With Pips.



Ch. Astarte's Takes A Stance



Older dogs that I admired were Ch. Kazor's Dandy Deerstalker, Ch. Asari's Envoy, Ch. Djakomba's Spotlight, Ch. Kazor's Intrepid Icebreaker, Ch. Escapde's High Five, Ch. Jasiri-Sukari's Steven Spielbark, Ch. Akuaba's Tornado...the list can go on and on.

I've been fortunate over the years to have California neighbor/breeders that I can count on for advice.



Astarte's Miss Wilda with Pips

- **What do you feel are your most significant achievements with the breed?**

I am most proud of my temperaments, my beautiful rich coats, and consistent heads, as well as my breeding practices. These are best represented by my limited breeding program and by my making sure I find loving homes for both show and pet (quality) puppies. I also place my older dogs to assure that they can have a fabulous dog's life.



Ch. Kazor's Lime Lite

- **Your chosen kennel name is Astarte. How did you choose this name? Why? Does it have meaning?**

Andie Paysinger gets all the credit for my kennel name selection "ASTARTE". When she suggested it, it just sounded perfect. First, Stella in Latin is Star....and Astarte is the Goddess of Fertility.

I immediately felt connected and have been very proud of it from the get go.

- **Anything else you would like to say?**

For some reason, too many of our beloved breed wind up in rescues. We're very fortunate in So. California to have a wonderful rescue: Medfly Basenji Rescue, run by Karen Jones and her husband. If for any reason one of your dogs ends up in a rescue, take responsibility and either take it back or find it another forever home....be aware. We should be referring people to them when we can't fulfill their needs. And also donate and support them whenever possible. I do!



Ch. Kazor's Vyveeka of Astarte

