

Meet Your Breeder



Dragnquest Basenjis



Jackie Jones



Above: Ch. Kazor's Ivory Isis - Izzy

Q. How did you get started in Basenjis?

I had been raising & showing Dobes on and off since 1963, then went in the Marine Corp just out of high school. Dobes are very expensive to start -- dewclaws, tails, ears, etc. So, after my third boy and the move into town with a smaller yard, I started looking for a smaller breed. The idea of a dog that didn't bark was just what I needed. HA! Well, after one whole year of writing breeders and getting no responses -- this was before email -- I went to a show in Portland and met Carol Webb and company, up for the group of shows that ended in Portland. She did not win every class, but did place in all with her group of dogs. Her special went BOB. I remember her being very excited and running out to have a cigarette. She was very gracious when we approached, and, after discussing my reasons for wanting a Basenji, she pulled all of her guys out for me to see. I placed an order for a female show quality Basenji and about one year later was the proud possessor of a little red and white girl who became Ch. Kazor's Ivory Isis. That started a lifelong friendship, which extends through many trials and tribulations.

Q. Why did you start breeding? When?

I had already bred Dobes, so breeding was the next step with Izzy. After many discussions with Carol and many dogs' attributes checked, we settled on the stud dog and Izzy was sent to be bred. She was seven weeks into her pregnancy when we had a house fire which totaled the house and lost all pets, including Izzy and her unborn litter in 1987. We did not have our first litter until the 1990's.

Q. What advice do you have to a new breeder getting started?

Do your homework and put in the time to know your breed, its standard, and have a strong mentor who can guide you the entire way. Be prepared to put in long hours before, during, and after pregnancy. Puppies are very time and work intensive. And most of all, remember that you are responsible for those babies their entire lives, be that one day or twelve years. So be in a situation that you can take them back and make the hard decisions, if necessary.



Q. What have you seen improve in Basenjis over the years?

By far, the temperaments. But the willingness of breeders and owners to discuss the health problems is most impressive. I can tell you, having had many other breeds, that not all have come to the understanding that being open about the issues is the only way to address and overcome them.



Above: Ch. Kazor's Mostly Mine - *Miner*

Q. What do you feel are your most significant achievements with the breed?

I like to feel that my dogs are good ambassadors to the breed, not so much for breeders who know and understand the quirks that Basenji's have, but to the everyday person who meets these dogs on the street. I have owners coming back for their third and fourth dogs, not to show, but to have a nice house pet. Their dogs go on to meet and greet, extending the circle. Can't beat that.

Below: Dragnquest My-Tym the Fine Lines, *Maggie*, playing in the snow



Q. What persons influenced you most strongly? Why?

By far, it was and still is my mentors, Carol and Jim Webb. They guided me through the entire process, picking Izzy from the litter for me, and then our replacements for her: Ch. Kazor's Mostly Mine, and Ch. Kazor's Truly Yours of Astarte. They taught me to look at the entire dog, and had the patience to answer my endless barrage of questions, and they were never too busy to take the time to discuss issues, even non-dog stuff.



Above: Ch. Kazor's Truly Yours of Astarte - *Truly*

Q. Anything else you would like to add?

It comes down to the journey. I have had many great canine pals, which is wonderful. But the people I have met along the way are what kept us going through the good times and the bad times. It's the people that welcome you into their midst and become the unexpected friends. Thank you, Basenji people, for a great ride.

Below: Ch. Dragnquest Kazor Shado Dansr - *Dansr*





Above: Ch. Kazor's Dandy Deerstalker - Stalker

Q. What dogs you've seen or owned stand out as examples of the breed and why?

I have to say Ch. Kazor's Dandy Deerstalker was the one who made the most immediate impression on me. He was the dog that Carol won the breed with and brought out of his crate for me to meet and put my hands on. You just can't beat that first dog you meet in person, and to meet such a charming gentleman was a great treat. The second was Ch. Kazor's Ivory Isis, the puppy Carol chose for us as our first Basenji. She schooled us in real Basenjiness. After that there have been so many Breed impacting dogs. I think Johnny was the next one, due to his breaking ground about coat color.



Above: Ch. Kazor's Truly Yours of Astarte - Posey

Below: Ch. My-Tym Dragnquest Iced 'T - T



Below: Dragnquest My-Tym Read Btwn The Lines - Ziggy



Q. What do you think today's Basenji breeders need to pay special attention to?

If I were to pick only one part, which isn't a good way to breed, I would have to say topline is suffering. Where have our nice, level topline gone? We are seeing mile-long backs, arches over the loin to support that long back, and then rounded croups, with the tails falling off like greyhounds. Yes, the dogs can move with a long back, arched loin and S-shaped set-up; that is to be expected, but it is not correct.

Q. Your chosen Kennel name is Dragnquest. How did you choose this name? Why? Does it have a meaning?

Well I tried Sukari; it was taken, as were several others. Since I really like dragons I decided finding the perfect dog was like finding a dragon. So, we became Dragnquest. The 'o' was removed to make it just a little different, and more likely not to be in use by others.