

Meet Your Breeders!

Connie Pauslen ~ Khanis Basenjjs

1. How did you get started in Basenjjs?

One year, my infant son and I were visiting my older sister and she had a basenji as a pet. It was a rather unique dog, very stubborn and not the friendliest creature. Sometime later my husband was looking for a dog to take hunting, and I remembered my sister's dog and what she had told me about basenjjs, so I started trying to find one. At that time, we lived in San Jose, California. I found an ad in the newspaper, and went and looked at the dogs, and decided to get one of the puppies. We picked out a female, and took it home the following week, she was 5 weeks old, this was 1965. This little dog was one of the "old school" basenjjs. Her temperament was horrible; she definitely bossed us around, and she would growl and bite and she bit my children numerous times. You couldn't move her if she was asleep on the couch. My husband did take her hunting with him many times, and we have pictures of her riding on the back of his motorcycle with him. We had no idea what we were getting, and were not told anything about basenjjs.

2. Why did you start breeding? When?

Through this dog, I met Chuck and LaFern Ottoboni (Portland, Oregon) and Norm and Mazzie Wallace (Tina's Coma Basenjjs, Bellingham, Washington). Chuck and LaFern became good friends and I learned all about dog shows from them and Fern encouraged me to show and have puppies. We bred our basenji to one of the Wallace's boys two different times, but never got any puppies. Later, we met a couple at a dog show that had a male, and we bred her to him and had our first litter in January 1969. To think back on it now, it makes me cringe, but that is how I got started.

From this first litter I got my first show dog, GHINGHER, and she won points at her first two shows under TOM PETERSON and EDITH NASH HELLERMAN, and hooked me on dog shows; although I never finished her, I don't think I really gave it enough of a try.

GHINGHER was the start of "KHANI'S BASENJIS". By this time I was getting the Basenji magazine, and soon became a member of the Basenji Club of America. I saw pictures of CH Reveille Re-Up, and that was the dog that I wished I had. So I called Damara Bolte', many times actually. When Ghingher finally came in heat, she was shipped back east and bred to Uppity. This produced my second litter [Dec 1970], of 4 puppies, 2 of which were shown by me, and quickly finished their American and Canadian bench Championships. I kept the male, Am Can CH Khani's Taurus Temptation. He was my first champion, and my first special. He was a lot of fun, and enjoyed the group ring immensely, he frequently placed in the group and I think he might have done better had we not had to go up against PAT CRAIG [Trotter] with her Elkhound almost every time!! At that time there were not many people in Oregon with basenjjs, and entries at the dog shows were usually quite small. There were the usual competitors from California [Ken Henrichsen, Bob Mankey, the Logans, and a little later the Leighton's, and the Sommers, and I am probably forgetting a couple], Washington [Shelia Smith, the Wallace's, Jean & Bill Pace, Jerry & Sally Edinger, Melody Russell, Barb & Ken Fay, a little later Chris Olson] Canada [the wonderfully funny John Fenny], and from Oregon there were Bob & Bernice Clemons and myself.

I met a teenage girl, still in high school, that had a basenji that she was working in junior showmanship and obedience. We became friends

and did a lot of dog shows together, and I co-owned a couple of my early dogs with her. Her name is Debra Janes Blake, she no longer breeds basenjjs, but has made a name for herself in Border Terriers.

In the early 70's we gained more basenji people in the area. Susan & Jon Coe (Akuaba Basenjjs) moved from Canada down to Bainbridge Island, Washington. Jon came to my house and made a video of my dogs. And about this time, Sandra Plutchak (Quest'O Basenjjs) moved to Oregon, from California.

3. What persons influenced you most strongly?

Without a doubt, Damara Bolte, and Cecelia Wozniak.

4. What have you seen improve in Basenjjs over the years?

TEMPERAMENT When I first got basenjjs, they were aggressive with people and other dogs. They have a drastically different temperament now, and it is wonderful. We let most of our dogs run together, intact males and females, and they get along with other dogs and people.

EYE COLOR Years and years ago there were a lot of light eyes, and now they are few and far between, which is great because basenjjs are not very pretty when they look at you with headlight eyes!

COAT Coats have improved in texture, density, and color. Years ago there were few with the deep red color we see frequently now. There were a lot with undercoats, and light colors – more browns than reds.

I think that temperament is by far the most important part of our basenjjs. We breed for good temperaments first, with health a close second, and then "the package". We strive to get a "well-balanced" dog. We want it to appear high on leg, and to look like a hunting hound – not a couch potato. I do not care if the dogs may be taller or bigger than some, if they are balanced; balance is the key. You want an equal front/rear combination, with a good topline, to get the correct movement.

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

I think the biggest problems facing breeders today is getting correct movement, and level toplines. There are so many basenjjs out there that look nice when stacked, and then you watch them do their down and backs, and they fall apart. I think part of the cause of the poor front movement can be traced to not enough front fill, or what we used to call a "chicken front"; and shoulders that are so straight they look like they are pasted on the front of the dog. They tend to cross over, or move too close in front, and the rears tend to have hock movement that shouldn't be there. A wide-open side gait is nice, but you don't want to give up good front and rear movement and a good topline, to get the side gait, in my opinion. I think the key is to have a balanced dog, where the front and rear go together, and if you have a shorter loin, and you are not going to have as much open side gait.

Toplines are another problem in the breed. You can stretch the dog out, and get a level topline. Of course, if the judge tells you to let the dog free stack, you are in a heap of trouble, unless you have taught that dog to stretch itself out to hide the rear being too high. Some of these bad toplines break in the middle when the dog moves; there are far more basenjjs in the show ring today that move (and stack) very

high in the rear. I have heard that “they move out of it,” but I find that an excuse. If the dog has good/correct movement, it should not ‘need to move out of it.’ But, this is something that goes along with the topline. A dog with a correct side gait and good topline will move with a level topline, right from the get-go. I want a dog that has a level topline, stacked and moving.

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

I think watching and listening to the older/more experienced breeder is worth a lot. Ask questions, and listen to what they say. If you ask lots of different people, you are going to get lots of different answers, so I think your best bet is to pick someone that has the type of dog you like, and is a person you like and are compatible with, and watch them and let them help you. Everyone has a different idea of what is the perfect dog – after all there isn’t one yet, so what I tell you is going to be different from what someone else tells you.

One last point, just because you have pointed or finished your dog, doesn’t mean it should be bred. Lots of dogs that are finished are not worthy of being bred. And, in retrospect, there are dogs that are not finished that are worthy of being in a breeding program. In this day and age with the health problems that we have in our breed, if you are going to breed you should be health testing your breeding stock and the resulting puppies [in my opinion].

7. What dogs you’ve seen or owned stand out as outstanding examples of the breed and why?

OTHER DOGS

CH REVEILLE RE-UP, I never saw him in person, but I did see him on television. He moved like a dream – he just floated.

CH BLACK POWER OF WOZ, I never saw him in person either, but the children of his I have seen, and had, were gorgeous.

CH AKUABA’S TORNADO – I saw him several times in the ring. I think he was an outstanding dog, he moved very well; and he passed wonderful attributes on to the breed. That carriage, the arched neck, the nice tight feet, the level topline. [Yes, people will say – AND FANCONI – but, we don’t know how that is passed, and to my way of thinking, it most likely takes 2 to pass it – so that means the dams have to carry it as well – so I cannot justify blaming NATE for all of the Fanconi in basenjjs].

CH REVEILLE TRIED AND TRUE – I fell in love with this dog when I first saw him, he was about 6 years old. I would have taken him home in an instant. I think he could have been one of the top-winning dogs, if he had been speialed longer. Wonderfully put together boy, and a prized temperament – to let a complete stranger take him and do with him, as she wanted – can’t get any better than that!

CH. SUKARI’S STEVEN SPEILBARK, & CH. JASIRI JURASSIC BARK - I first met these two in person, in 1999, on our way to the National in Arizona. I am proud they are behind our dogs. They were lovely basenjjs, and have produced some very beautiful dogs. JURI was our BIS FRANI’s dam, and we are very proud of all they both have done. The temperaments passed down from these dogs are outstanding.

CH. ZINDIKA’S JOHNNY COME GREATLY – Rocket Man was RWD to JOHNNY, at the 1995 National. JOHNNY was a very beautiful dog. He had a charisma about him, and it was obvious that he loved to show. Not many people are lucky enough to breed a dog like Johnny, and even fewer get to own them.

KHANI’S DOGS

Am Can CH Khani’s Taurus Temptation – our first Champion – his movement was outstanding – similar in type to his sire.

The BEST DOG that I have bred from my old stock: I think CH Khani’s Tuff Stuff was one of the best we have bred; he was a very balanced boy, and had a lot to offer. He produced some very nice pups, the most well known of them being Am Aust CH Touch O Class of Woz.

From our new stock, I would have to say that BENNY [mBISS SBOS BIF SBIF Am DC Can CH Khani’s Benny N The Jets, JC, SC, FCh, SDHR] is probably the best male we have bred, to date; with his half sisters, JANI [mBIF DC Khani’s Sweet Painted Lady, SC, FCH, mAOM] and HAYLEY [SBOS CH KHANI’S WRITTEN IN THE STARS, mAOM] running a close second.

The BEST DOG that I have had, but not bred, without a doubt, AM CAN CH CANDU’S ROCKET MAN, SC, mAOM, SDHR.

FAVORITE DOGS

CH Khani’s Tuff Stuff [1974-1985] **TUFF** was “my buddy” in the early years. He was there when I needed a confidant, and a shoulder to lean on. And he always loved me, no matter what – but don’t they all?

CH Absinthe Pastiche [1979–1993] **ABBY** was absolutely gorgeous, and so much fun to show, and a dream to live with, and was a faithful companion, during some rough times, for many years.

Am Can CH Candu’s Rocket Man, SC, SDHR [1994-present] **ROCKET** has been more than anyone can expect of a dog. He is my buddy, and always there. He was/is so much fun to show, and to live with.

mBIF DC Khani’s Sweet Painted Lady, FCH, mAOM [2000 – present] **JANI** is my favorite of the ones that we have bred, that still live with us; a ROCKET/FRANI daughter. She is a doll. I think she is beautiful, plus smart. She has taught me the thrill of lure coursing, and she has exceeded any expectations one could have in that department. **FOUR ALL BREED BEST IN FIELDS.** What more could one ask. She courses with a killer instinct, and toys with the bigger dogs when it comes times for the BIF runs. Jani has been bred but has yet to produce a litter.

SBOS CH Khani’s Written In The Stars, mAOM [2003-] **HAYLEY** is a dream come true. She has the shortest of dark red coats, painted for the judges, and is as sweet as they come....she is just in her prime. She produced an excellent litter of puppies this winter.

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

We have managed to produce some top quality basenjjs, with excellent temperaments, that also make outstanding family companions. We feel it is a compliment to our breeding program that people ask for our dogs, because of their outstanding temperaments. Not only have we been able to produce some beautiful basenjjs that have done some outstanding winning, these dogs have also produced excellent get.

I was treasurer for the 1995 BCOA National, what a lot of work that was....and headaches....lots of stress. I was Show Chair for the 2003 BCOA National, and for the WVBC Show held in conjunction with that. This also was a lot of work, and stress, but the club members all worked their butts off to put on a show that stood out for the hospitality of the Northwest. I/we learned a lot from these experiences. As Show Chair I spent a lot of time with our judge, Doreen Duffin, from Australia. What a wonderful lady, and I consider it an honor to have ▶

met her. She allowed us to import one of her boys to use in our breed program.

We have also started bringing in some Africans into our kennel, and will be incorporating them into our bloodlines, and this will be a challenge.

9. Anything else you would like to say?

Now that I am not showing as many dogs, I decided to try judging, and I was accepted by AKC on a provisional status this year and look forward to spending some time in the ring, in the future, as a judge.

I have met some really nice “doggie” people over the years, some that I consider very good friends. I have had a lot of different experiences, traveled to a lot of places, and learned a lot from different people, for all that I am grateful.

10. What is your chosen kennel name? How did you choose this name? Why? Does it have a meaning? Any other information you would like to provide?

KHANI'S = pronounced “Connie’s”

I wanted something to name the dogs that showed they were mine – and I thought it looked like it would fit with an African dog!



mBIF DC Khani's Sweet Painted Lady, SC, FCh, mAOM



Khani's Tanganyika Ghingher



Am Can CH Khani's Taurus Temptation



Am Can CH Candu's Rocket Man, SC, mAOM, SDHR



SBOS CH Khani's Written In The Stars, mAOM



CH Khani's Tuff Stuff

KHANI'S Basenjis



mBISS SBOS BIF SBIF Am DC Can CH Khani's Benny N The Jets, JC, SC, Fch, SDHR