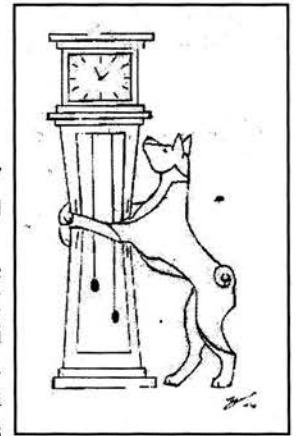


# Meet Your Breeders!

## Darlene "Dee" Lowitt ~ My-Tym Basenjjs



### 1. How did you get started in Basenjjs?

I saw the movie "Goodbye, My Lady" in the 50s and was fascinated by the breed. I have always had dogs and had dabbled a little in showing with my Cockers, but when I saw the Basenji, my first thought was that someday I would own one - little did I know what lay ahead. As time went by I did as much research into the breed, and with each thing I learned about them, the more interested I became. I found that in my area of the country there were not many to be seen, and there also were not many breeders or owners willing to spend time talking to the curious. I started a serious search in the early 80's, after having moved to Bend, Or., where we joined the local all-breed club, and in June of 1986, met Jackie and Terry Jones, who were kind enough to take the time to talk to us and put us in contact with the breeder that they had gotten their girl from; and after many telephone conversations, etc., we acquired our first basenji in August. She was Ch. Kazor's Jinn Jinn, and we picked her up at the BCOA Nationals in Seattle, Wa.

### 2. Why did you start breeding? When?

My husband Bob and I found the breed to be incredibly interesting and intelligent, plus we both enjoyed seeing quality animals, as well as the fact that we had both always been involved with various forms of competition. Our hopes were to breed quality basenjjs with good health, temperament and conformation. Our first litter arrived in 1989, and unfortunately, both the sire and dam became Fanconi-afflicted, and the two offspring were spayed and neutered.

### 3. What persons influenced you most strongly?

Carol Webb and Pat Cembura. Carol, from whom I acquired my first basenji, along with much needed information, guidance, support, sympathy, etc. Pat, for her knowledge and assistance and answering every dumb question that was asked of her. These ladies have always been there to help a newbie; they have become very good friends over the years, and I am grateful for their help and friendship.

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

Fewer snipey heads, better temperament, stronger rears.

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

Balance - too many straight fronts with angulated rears. This causes hackney and crabbing movement. We still need improvement in our fronts, which seems to be an ongoing problem. I also see a problem with substance and size, with many being too finely-boned and/or small. Try to always remind yourself that these dogs come from Africa where they need to survive in a jungle - could a small, finely boned dog be able to endure?

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

Study the breed standard and visualize what this represents in your mind. Look for consistency in breeders and what they represent in your mind's eye to the standard, go to shows and judge in your mind, see how you do in comparison to the judge, observe other breeds, as well, and see how you do, get acquainted with breeders whose dogs you admire. Ask lots and lots of questions and, above all - LISTEN. You will never know too much, so don't talk and act like it - just listen.

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

There are many over the years that I have admired, far too many to list, and many I never got to see in person. The first basenji that I had out as a special was Am./Ca. Ch. Kazor's T. Bear of Astarte, who was a Ch. Kazor's Dandy Deerstalker son. I was also a great supporter of Ch. Arubmec's The Victor, hence my purchase of Am./Ca. Ch. Jato The My-Tym Valkyrie (Ch. Arubmec's The Victor X Ch. Arabrac's Jato Enjoli). Kyrie was my first top winning basenji, my foundation and the light of my life, and a little bundle of dynamite who ran the show with an iron paw and passed all to soon at 13 1/2. My best friend and one that I am very, very proud of is, again, one that I did not breed and that is, of course, my 1/4 African BISS Am./Ca. Ch. Arubmec's Overdrive To My-Tym (Kibushi Spellbinder-Niger X Ch. Arubmec's Precious Thisbe). Turbo is my foundation stock and although not used much, has produced outstanding clean movement and wonderful, fun-loving temperament. Kyrie's first litter by Ch. Sonbar's Brite Genuineoriginal produced 5, of which 4 finished easily, with a futurity winner and BOS in futurity. Turbo's first litter from Ch. Bushbabies Karosel Keepsake produced a litter of 5 and was an all champion litter. Turbo is now 15 and enjoying a healthy and happy life with Mom and once again, making me proud by receiving an Award of Merit at the 2007 BCOA national specialty

I bred BISS Am./Mx./World Ch. My-Tym Waits For No One (Ch. Arubmec's Overdrive To My-Tym x Ch. Jato The My-Tym Valkyrie), of whom I am very proud, and also co-bred BISS Am./Ca. Ch. My-Tym Just Say Win (Ch. Karosel My-Tym Code Blue, a Turbo son x Ch. My-Tym Jato First Edition, a Kyrie daughter). Reno was a top-20 dog and an AOM winner at the first AKC/Eukanuba invitational. I am currently specializing Ch. My-Tym Dragnquest Ice'd T (Ch. Arubmec's Overdrive To My-Tym x Ch. Dragnquest My-Tym Xpres'Lines).

I have never believed in breeding a lot of litters and we only bred when we wanted to add to our home and for showing. Since the loss of my beloved husband I no longer breed in my home but do continue to co-breed, participate in showing and judge at matches, etc.

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

I would consider my conscientiousness toward health, health testing and the willingness for open communication regarding the health, traits, and temperament of my breeding stock. I believe that my 1/4 African has contributed to the breed even though he was used sparingly he has consistently produced sound temperament which carries down line.

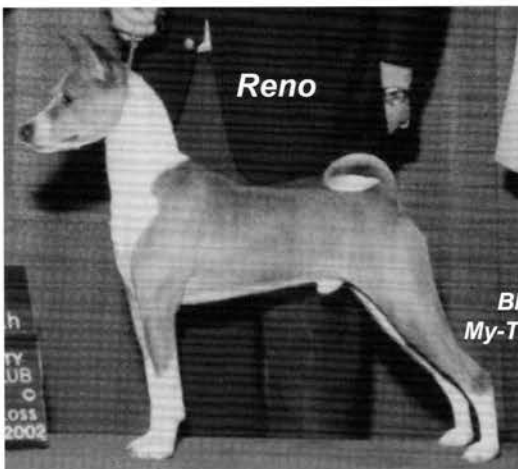
### 9. Anything else you would like to say?

Everyone of us has his own opinion and mind picture of what he likes and wants to see, and I can only speak for myself and what I find important. When I look at a basenji I expect to see a balanced picture (equal angulation front and rear), showing a nice blend of neck into the withers. Then I want to see the movement on the down and back, which to me is very important, as it tells a lot about the structure. This seems to be the most overlooked factor with most judges today; they want to see a pretty picture on the stack and go around. We all have ▶

our own way of grading and judging our beloved breed in both puppies and adults, and it all goes back to the old saying, "if it works for you, don't fix it."

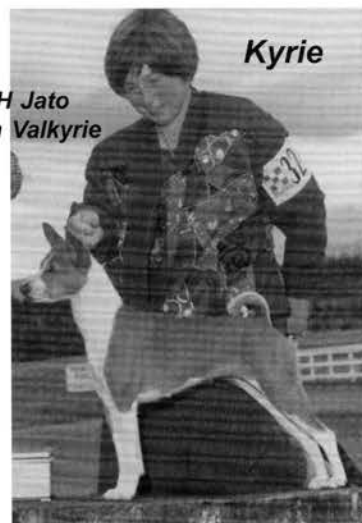
**10. What is your chosen kennel name? How did you choose this name? Why? Does it have a meaning? Any other information you would like to provide?**

My-Tym Basenjis - My kennel name was actually taken from my custom license plate which I had selected in the early 80s. The plate signified a big change in our lives wherein a decision was made to move away from family and friends of 40 plus years and start anew. My feeling was that it was indeed My-Tym, so when we acquired our first basenji we were also starting on another new adventure and felt that the name was very appropriate. Little did we know the adventures that lay ahead. It has been a wonderful experience, offering sweet puppy breath, pride in watching our accomplishments, travel, and the opportunity of making and keeping many new and precious friends, for which I am very thankful. ♦



**Reno**

**BISS Am/Ca CH  
My-Tym Just Say Win**



**Kyrie**

**Am/Ca CH Jato  
The My-Tym Valkyrie**



**T Bear**

**Am/Ca CH Kazor's T. Bear Of Astarte**



**Morgan**

**BISS Am/Mex/World CH My-Tym  
Waits For No One**



**T**

**CH My-Tym Dranquest Ice'd T**



**Turbo**



**Turbo**

**BISS Am/Ca CH  
Arubmec's Overdrive To My -Tym**

**2007 BCOA  
National Specialty**

**Turbo won:**

**Sweepstakes**

1st 13 & over Veteran Dogs

**Regular Classes**

1st 13 & over Veteran Dogs

Award of Merit