

Meet Your Breeders!

Damara Bolte ~ Reveille Basenjis

Damara Bolte has been a breeder/owner/handler of Reveille Basenjis since 1955. Over 5 decades she has bred and handled many Basenjis to Best in Show and Best In Specialty wins. Her professional career was as an Animal Husbandman for the National Institutes of Health.

Her avocation is breeding and exhibiting purebred dogs. Her professional handler skills earned her the Handler of the Year in 1998 from the Professional Handlers Association. Her lifelong accomplishments as a breeder brought her the American Kennel Club's Hound Breeder of the Year 2003. She handled CH Serengeti Let's Roll Reveille to BOB at the 2005 BCOA National Specialty.

How did you get started in Basenjis?

I was looking for a job. I had a degree in Animal Husbandry and found the world was not clamoring for a female animal husbandman, 50 plus years ago.

Why did you start breeding and when?

Bettina Ward imported six Basenjis and we bred several litters each year. She gave me my first Basenji, "Chipmunk", CH Bettina's Fedha, she got her first litter. Of course I wanted to try to breed better ones. I began breeding in 1955.

What persons influenced you most strongly?

My mother, Adelaide Bolte' and Bettina Belmont Ward.

What have you seen improve in Basenjis over the years?

Temperament, feet and their presentation.

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

Shoulders, front end assemblies and honesty about health issues.

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

Go slowly and *LEARN* all you can. Don't be too subjective. Kennel blindness can be a real affliction.

What dogs have you seen or owned stand out as outstanding examples of the breed, and why?

CH Reveille Re-Up was a superb mover. He was just fluid and natural and he produced it.



Ups
First
BIS



Ups
at
The Garden



Damara, Ups and
CH Reveille Ruffles Of Rosebay
(winner of the '66 BCOA Eastern
National before there were
Nationals)

CH Absinthe Aleki Rhajahs Jr. had conformation and presence.

CH Cambrias Ti Mungai was balanced and elegant.

CH Zindikas Johnny Come Greatly was a wonderful ambassador for the breed.

He was handsome, elegant, flashy, and had a great temperament like his sire CH Blucrest Bound For Reveille.

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

My longevity - 50 years and still a Basenji fancier! The African Basenji Safari; Surviving PPM, HA, PRA, Fanconi Syndrome; and lots of discouragements.



Avongara M'Bliki aka "Miss Perfect"
down at the pond at Reveille



Rookie



CH Serengeti Reveille
Larkspur
Moving towards BIS



CH Reveille Accord
2003 Willamette Valley Specialty
BOB