

Suggestions for Judging Procedures

Prepared with suggestions from exhibitors and judges

1. Approach the Basenji from the front where you can easily be seen. Never approach from the rear or side to examine the dog on the table.
2. Basenjis are sensitive to human facial and body language so your facial expression when approaching the dog is important. Your expression should be friendly and confident as you evaluate and approach the dog. Staring at the dog or peering over one's glasses, for example, can make the dogs nervous. A gentle vocal greeting and friendly face are well accepted by the basenji.



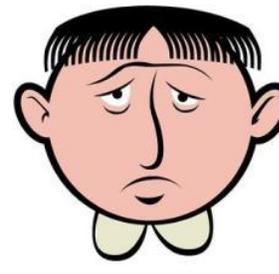
Bad



Bad



Bad



Bad



Good

3. Always start by putting your hands under the jaw giving a gentle scratch under the chin or on the dog's front. Do not first reach over the head to begin your examination.

3. You may find that the Basenji stands still for the table exam better if you check the bite at the completion of the table exam. When checking the dog's teeth and head, never cover the eyes. Many exhibitors and judges prefer the handler show the dog's bite.



Do not cover eyes with hand.



Approach under the chin using 1 or 2 hands



Approach with hand over the muzzle without covering eye



4. Examine the dog with a stroke not a poke. Do not lift the skin excessively to check skin texture.

5. Do not uncurl the dog's tail even though it is tempting, as it can be painful for some dogs. Run your hand along the topline to feel the tail set under the tail or simply look at the tail set from the opposite side to the one the tail lies on.





6. Basenjis are one of those breeds that often lean into their stack so one needs to factor that in when evaluating actual angulation, topline and proportions.

7. It is not important that the dog show ear set and wrinkles all the time. Expression can be evaluated best while the dog is comfortably on the ground.

8. The Basenji's expression can be obtained with a small sound, such as a chirp or some rustling paper. A gentle blow into your curved hand will often work. Sometimes just putting your hand in your pocket will gain the attention of an experienced show Basenji.

9. If you want to double check something on the dog while the dog is on the floor, be sure the dog realizes you are coming, or ask the exhibitor to return to the table. In either case, your approach should be from the front with confidence and a friendly face.

10. The Basenji is an agile and alert hunting breed and is not meant to stand still for any length of time.