



BEACH-BLANKET ISSUE

PLENTY TO SCAN WHILE YOU TAN



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

AKC UPDATES

BREED COLUMNS

Hound Group

Basenjis	Irish Wolfhounds	Rhodesian
Basset Hounds	Norwegian Elkhounds	Ridgebacks
Bloodhounds	Otterhounds	Salukis
Borzoi	Petits Bassets	Scottish Deerhounds
Dachshunds	Griffons Vendéens	Whippets
Ibizan Hounds	Pharaoh Hounds	

Terrier Group

Airedales	Smooth Fox Terriers	Norwich Terriers
Australian Terriers	Wire Fox Terriers	Scottish Terriers
Border Terriers	Glen of Imaal Terriers	Sealyham Terriers
Bull Terriers	Irish Terriers	Welsh Terriers
Cairn Terriers	Kerry Blue Terriers	
Dandie Dinmont Terriers	Lakeland Terriers	
	Norfolk Terriers	

BREED COLUMNS SCHEDULE

Sporting and Working Groups January, April, July, and October issues	Hound and Terrier Groups February, May, August, and November issues	Toy, Non-Sporting, and Herding Groups March, June, September, and December issues
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FEATURE
WOMEN OF THE CENTURY

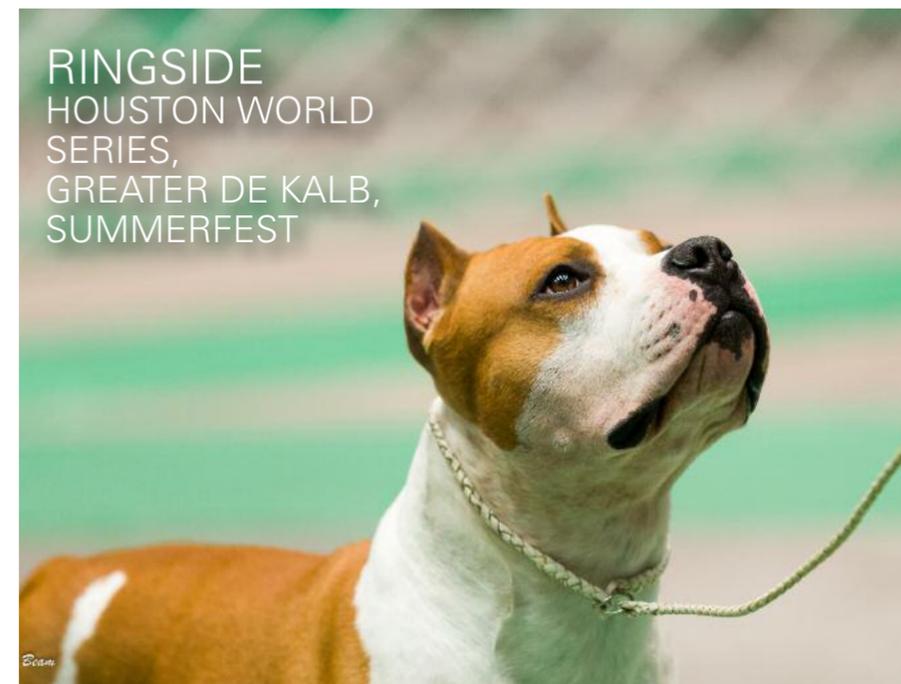
SECRETARY'S PAGES

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Links to AKC Parent Clubs appear following Secretary's Pages
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DOG PEOPLE

AKC WEEKLY WINNERS GALLERY

JULY 2017



BELGIAN MALINOIS/DAVID WOO ©AKC

HOUND GROUP

Basenjis

QUIZ: TRUTH OR MYTH

Hello, students! Welcome to BAS 101, “Introduction to the Basenji.” The following questions test your retention of our in-class discussions on Basenji facts vs. urban myths.

Questions 1–5: Multiple choice. Choose the best answer.

1. Basenji feet smell like:

- A. Ritz crackers
- B. Fritos
- C. Potato chips (plain)
- D. Bran muffins

2. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Basenjis hunt:

- A. Lions
- B. Small game
- C. Their tails
- D. Both A and B
- E. A, B, and C

3. Basenjis are:

- A. Hypoallergenic
- B. Hyperallergic
- C. Both A and B
- D. None of the above

4. What is true about Basenjis’ aptitude for training and obedience?

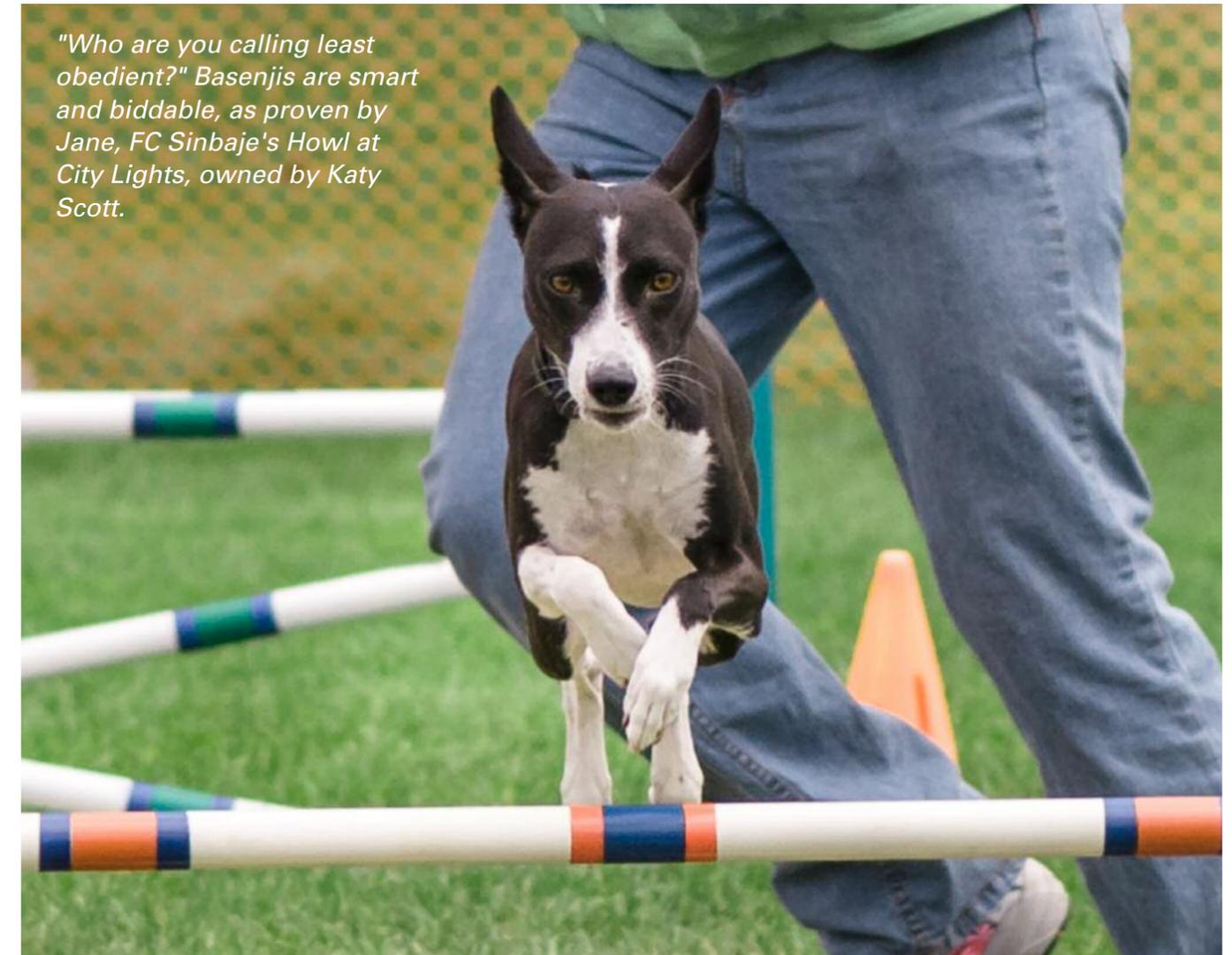
- A. They are biddable (do your bidding)
- B. They are always listed in the top ten least-obedient dog breeds
- C. Titles earned by Basenjis include the top level in rally, obedience, agility, and nosework.
- D. Will work for hot dogs
- E. All of the above

5. Which of the following adjectives are not in the Basenji breed standard?

- A. Intelligent
- B. Independent
- C. Affectionate
- D. Alert
- E. Aggressive
- F. Aloof

Questions 6–13: True, False, or What the He--. Circle the correct response.

- 6. Basenjis are silent. T F WTH
- 7. Basenjis are born with a compromised voicebox. T F WTH
- 8. You can tell whether or not a dog is a Basenji by the smell of its feet. T F WTH
- 9. Most Basenjis clean themselves like cats but will also ignore poop stuck to their feet and roll in cow manure. T F WTH
- 10. All Basenjis will chew their way through your house if given half a chance. T F WTH
- 11. Some Basenjis have been known to climb trees. T F WTH



“Who are you calling least obedient?” Basenjis are smart and biddable, as proven by Jane, FC Sinbaje’s Howl at City Lights, owned by Katy Scott.

12. You should never walk a Basenji off-lead because he may run far, far away and never come back. T F WTH

13. “Aloof” means most Basenjis want to make the first overture to strangers. T F WTH

Essay question. In a paragraph of a minimum 250 words, respond to fancier Katie Campbell’s thoughts

below on Basenji myths:

“The myth is that those outside the fancy can make these broad-brush generalities about the breed and assume all Basenjis to be cookie-cutter-consistent for particular traits and characteristics. What is true about this breed is that Basenjis, like human beings, are individuals within their pack (some outside the

HOUND GROUP

fancy choose to erroneously substitute the word *independent* as a synonym for *individual*).

“My Basenjis are my children. I’ve bred, raised, and lived with many. The breed has evolved over time and has managed to adapt to the multifaceted cultures within the Western world. Basenjis have proven themselves to be durable survivors, yet mortal—like we humans are—and are susceptible to car accidents, overmedication, and old age, but rarely to elusive, chronic systemic issues.

“Sure, a few things are the same or similar among Basenjis, but like human siblings and friends and family, definite character differences exist. Some of these different characteristics seem to be inherited, and others are a product of the dogs’ environment or the training received and boundaries set by their adopted human families. What we love about Basenjis is their depth of character and the way that they think. The myth, in my opinion, is that those outside the fancy can accurately create a long list of universal truths about what Basenjis can and can’t do any more accurately than they could about their own human family and friends.”

Answers to quiz questions:

1. B. Fritos. Fanciers describe this as a pleasant, yeasty smell. Others liken the smell to dry grass.
2. B. Small game. Basenjis chase small game

into a net where it can be trapped and killed by hunters. One fancier, however, imagined a situation where a Basenji might hunt a Congo lion, but it would be not be the norm.

3. D. None of the above. Nope. Some sites list Basenjis as “more compatible” with allergy sufferers, but the breed is not hypoallergenic.

4. E. All of the above. Who makes those “least obedient” lists, anyway?

5. E. Aggressive. You got a problem with that?

6. F. Basenjis squeal, squeak, boof, yodel, talk, growl, and whine. See my columns of August 2015 and November 2015.

7. F. They’ve got the same equipment as other dogs.

8. WTH. Really? Identify a breed by the smell of its feet?

9. T. Odd conflict of interest between cleanliness and an attraction to pungent smells.

10. F. The key word is *all*.

11. T. Scaling a tree is uncommon, but it has been observed.

12. F. Stories of runaway Basenjis abound, but in a safe area, and with proper training, it’s not a problem.

13. T. Many fanciers describe their Basenjis as “my shadow” or Velcro-like, but when it comes to strangers, Basenjis’ attitude can be “Don’t call me; I’ll call you”—even while crawling on the stranger’s lap and sniffing his

or her face.

—Marcia Woodard,
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 Basenji Club of America

Basset Hounds

PICKING A SHOW PUPPY

Puppy selection is the hardest thing Basset breeders do, and we often get it wrong. I was reminded of this yesterday when a puppy I placed as third pick came back to me for training. I realized sometime in the intervening year she had gone from third to first pick. Of course I kept the one I thought was going to be first pick.

I like to look critically at puppies starting at 7–8 weeks of age. They are proportionately correct then, but they quickly change within the next few weeks. I can’t keep everything to grow it out, so I narrow my picks down to two or three and sell the rest as pets. It’s best not to revisit that decision or you can drive yourself crazy with doubt.

I place a lot of emphasis on correct shoulder structure, neck, sternum, topline, and rear angles, in that order. Any puppy without well-knit shoulders, tight elbows, and good layback does not stay. I also look for return on layback and length of upper arm. I am pretty good at identifying these traits on 8–9 week old pup-

pies. Don’t believe people who tell you shoulders or sternum will come with age. They don’t.

However, over the years I have come to realize things I don’t see are as important as those I do. I can’t gauge bone density on young puppies. I can’t tell who the biggest or the most refined puppy will be when they are adults. I don’t see that until they are 9–10 months old. Try as I might, I am also not good at determining toplines, especially on the bitches. Another trait that shows up around 6 months of age is the crook in front legs. I have seen beautifully straight feet at 4 months become horribly mismatched at 6 months. If the feet turn equally out (East-West), I will keep the puppy a bit longer to see how that changes when the ribs spring and the chest drops. Mismatched fronts (both feet turn the same direction, or one points north and one points east), get placed immediately. Although this is a big issue for me, I have seen judges give major wins to dogs with mismatched fronts. I just don’t want to keep it in my breeding program.

I am fortunate to have dogs that rarely produce bad heads, so my selections are not based on head type. If I ever got wide, flat backskulls or flat, short ears, I would be concerned, but you can see those on young puppies.

Finally, I look for the outgoing show puppy who moves smoothly with purpose. I don’t like