

The first Basenji Tracking Degree and she was the first Champion to also win UD (Utility Degree) and TD (Tracking) titles:

***Ch. Il-Se-Ott
Golden
Majorette, UDT***

Rex Tanaka

*Cover Advertising Story
The Basenji, June 1978*

From the very first puppy show, Tammy showed she had great potential. She took Best Puppy in Match in an all-breed puppy show in Pueblo, Colorado, before coming to Hawaii. After 4 months in quarantine, at the age of 8 months, she was entered in her first licensed show. She went over her dam for Best Opposite and won a 3-point major. Since we had only two licensed shows a year in those days, it took her a few more years to attain her championship. But the feeling was never in doubt, she'd be a champion.



CH. TENKI'S FULA AQUARIUS AZENDA, UDT

"Devoted To Basenjis World-wide"

In the obedience ring, Tammy was unpredictable as the weather; she would be great in one trial and miserable in the next. This uncanny behavior gave me many a sleepless night trying to solve the problems that caused her to fail. But with all her incredible antics, she had her moments of glory as a well trained, obedience dog. Her highest scores in Novice was 196, in Open 194 and she climaxed her obedience career with a 198 in the Utility ring which was good enough for second place in a field of 12 competing dogs.

In tracking, Tammy made breed history by being the first Basenji to successfully pass an AKC sanctioned tracking test. It took her nearly two years of consistent training before she finally made it. At no time during our quest for the TD title, did I realize that no Basenji had passed a tracking test before. Regardless of the first, I was thrilled and happy beyond words that we finally made it. It gave me a feeling of great satisfaction and accomplishment.

Tammy was a born leader; she was unlike most female dogs I have ever known. She took no “back seat” to any dog – male or female, at home or in public. Size didn’t mean anything to her. I remember one instance, when she charged and attacked a Great Dane. She always showed an air of elegance wherever she went “like a queen looking over her domain.”

When I trained Tammy in obedience, I often wondered who was being trained! I am certain of one thing, that most of the knowledge I have gained in training a Basenji, I owe to her. She taught me a lot about her behavior and habits of a Basenji in obedience training. Looking back in her life, I somehow feel she was brought into this world destined to be something special, a symbol in her breed. Tammy had that certain sparkle, that little extra something that made her unique and different from the ordinary dog.



The cover story for “The Basenji”, March 1975 issue was this:

On this cover this month is Ch. Il-Se-Ott Golden Majorette, UDT (“Tammy”).

HURRAH!!! Our African Wonder did it!!

Tammy’s success story is the result of Rex’s love and dedication to the dogs and obedience training.

Hearing stories that a Basenji was untrainable Rex became obsessed with the idea of training a Basenji to the top. It was a challenge all the way and he loved it.

Many would have given up if they were in Rex’s shoes. His dogs were always well prepared for the trial, but with an independent hound, you must be ready to expect anything. Rex is an instructor and Tammy’s clowning in the ring embarrassed him, but he kept smiling. His courage and drive is to be admired.

I hope Tammy’s accomplishments will inspire other Basenji owners to obedience train their dogs. It takes a lot of patience, understanding, hard work, and a sense of humor, but it is not impossible.

On August 26, 1974, Rex’s dream finally became a reality. It was a day of great triumph for Rex K. Tanaka when Ch. Il-Se-Ott Golden Majorette, UDT earned her third leg in utility. She reached her full potential and became the FIRT Basenji in the nation to receive all Five Titles awarded by the American Kennel Club – from Champions to Utility Dog Tracking.



At the age of four months, Tammy won Best in Show at an all-breed puppy match, in Pueblo, Colorado, before coming to Hawaii. One month after she was discharged from quarantine, Tammy made her debut in the Hawaiian Kennel Club show ring, on Labor Day 1967. She was awarded Best of Opposite Sex, going over a champion for her first 3-point major. It took her three and a half years (eleven shows) to earn her championship title in March 1971.

Tammy has been trained for obedience work since 1968. She has been prominently rated, and received many awards from The Basenji Club of America, and *Front and Finish* (an obedience monthly publication.)

Her obedience records are as follows (Basenji breed national ratings):

1969 – C.D., Third Highest Scoring dog in nation

1971 – D.X., Highest Average Score in Open

1972 – T.D., First and Only Tracking Basenji

1973 – Highest Single score in Utility

1974 – Completed Utility

1971 and 1972 – Recognition given to Tammy as one of
the Outstanding Basenjies doing Obedience Work (*Front and Finish*).

Sire: Ch. Merlea Dancing Sunlight, C.D.

Dam: Ch. Aker's Autumn Leaf, C.D.

Breeder: Scott Goshorn

Owner: Rex K. Tanaka, Honolulu, Hawaii