

# Sampling of Newspaper Articles after 1937 Crufts Show

## The Basenji Dog

*Journal of the Royal African Society.* 36(CXLII): 148-149 (1937)

By Captain John Guy Dollman, BA, FLS

"The most outstanding breed shown at the recent Cruft's Dog Show was undoubtedly the Basenji dog from Central Africa. It was imported from the Belgian Congo by Mrs. V. Burn, ... general interest in all dog-loving centres. This race, in addition to occurring in the Belgian Congo, is also found in a very similar form in many parts of Central Africa, including the French Congo and Lower Sudan. These dogs would appear to be of very ancient lineage, as there are drawings and models existing, which would seem to represent these animals, dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> Egyptian Dynasty. ...."

"In Africa the natives make use of the dogs for hunting purposes and in tracking small and wounded game. ..."

"As regards habits, the dogs are very fast and make excellent hunters, having both good noses and sight. They are also extremely brave and very hard and do not appear to mind the English climate in the least. ..."

## Barkless Dogs of Central Africa Steal Show at London Exhibition

*"The Afro American"* 27 March, 1937

LONDON – (ANP) – Displayed for the first time outside their native habitat, the Basenjis, barkless dogs from the heart of Central Africa, have stolen the show at the London exhibition for dog fanciers which began in Agricultural Hall on Wednesday.

The eight Basenjis were brought here by Miss Olivia Burns, who has sold them at high prices and is having more rushed to the city by aeroplane. Their failure to bark comes as a result of training by Africans, who used them to chase game and taught them not to bark. They now emit only gentle growls.

Basenjis are slightly larger than fox terriers and average twenty-two pounds in weight, but despite their size they chase lions and other ferocious game. They are cat-like in appearance, wash their faces with their paws and arch their back when angry. Most of them are chestnut red.

# Animals: Bush Things

*"Time" Monday, Oct. 04, 1937*

The Basenji is a smallish, chestnut-brown African dog, sturdy, compact and bony. Catlike, it slinks, catlike washes its face with its paws. The name means "bush thing." Unique characteristic of the Basenji is that it does not bark; it utters only one noise, "GROOO!" Breeders believe its lineage can be traced back to the Twelfth Egyptian Dynasty. Since then countless generations of Africans, legend says, have succeeded in breeding out its bark, for the sake of silence not in the home but on the hunt.

In the Belgian Congo the Basenji is highly domesticated, plays with the children, eats with the family, hunts with a gourd full of pebbles tied around his neck so he can be followed in the jungle.

Year ago a Mrs. Olivia Burn brought from Africa the first Basenjis England had ever seen. Last February she exhibited them at Cruft's Coronation Dog Show in London and caused something of a sensation.

This week B. Hamilton Rogers, vice president of an organization called Dogs Inc., arrived in the U. S. with two barkless, but playful Basenji puppies. He intends to show them and breed them, hopes to introduce the Basenji to recognized aristocracy of pedigreed dogs.

## The Barkless Basenji

*"Pittsburgh Press" 5 October 1937*

"LET DOGS delight to bark and bite," said Dr. Watts. But the good Doctor had never heard of the Basenji hunting dogs from the African Congo which a New York kennel owner is introducing to this country. The Basenjis are small, active dogs, usually a rich chestnut in color. Their breed has been traced back to the Twelfth Egyptian Dynasty. And they don't delight to bark and bite. At least, they don't delight to bark, because they can't.

The New Yorker who is importing them says that barklessness of the Basenji will cause them to be blessed by thousands of light sleepers in America.

We fear it won't. Light sleepers will continue to curse barking dogs, but they aren't likely to appreciate the silence of the barkless Basenji. That's how things are in this country, and the Basenji might as well realize it now as later. The fellow who makes a big noise may annoy the neighbors, but they know he's there. The fellow who goes about his business quietly maybe a mighty good citizen, but he usually has to his virtue as its own reward.

## Dogs Without Barks

*"The Montreal Gazette" 6 October 1937*

"Two canine oddities, dogs that cannot bark—not because they have been trained to be still but because nature made them that way—have arrived in New York from England on the Berengaria, according to the New York Sun. Known as Basenjis, the African term for "bush dog," they were transported to England from their native Belgian Congo less than a year ago. They quickly caught the attention of English dog fanciers, have been officially recognized by breeders in that country and now are making their first appearance on this side of the Atlantic.

"The pair imported today were brought over by Dogs, Inc. of 59 East Fifty-Second Street, a venture of which Mrs. Olga Rogers is president and H. Byron Rogers vice president. The latter has been in England buying breeding stock for the establishment and the Basenji are only part, though the most unusual part, of the consignment of dogs he brought back. After being kept for a short time in this city they will be taken to the Misty Isles kennels of Mrs. Byron Rogers at Bedford, N.Y.

It is not surprising that the importers envision a demand for barkless dogs in communities where noise-reducing campaigns are common. Just what makes them mute has not been determined.

Although their vocal cords are not developed, they have all the other attributes of good dogs. They are exceptional hunters, although in the African bush the natives have to tie

gourds around their necks that they may be followed by the rattling sound.

Mrs. Olivia Burn, an English woman who had been living in the Belgian Congo, took the first Basenji to England. They bred so closely to the same standard that they were readily accepted by the experts as an authentic and old breed. It is believed that they date back to about the twelfth Egyptian dynasty. Although natives of the tropics, they quickly became acclimated to England.

They are a light chestnut color, with white markings, sharp pointed ears, carried erect, short coats and a tail that curls up tightly over the back. They are about the same size as a Samoyed or a Norwegian elkhound, and except for their

color and short coats, have much in common with these breeds.

## **Barkless Dogs**

*"The Hartford Courant Times" 15 October 1937*

### **Basenji Animals Will Please Those Bothered by Noisy Canines**

"To the Editor of The Courant: ~ I've recently seen pictures of the new Ba. dogs from the Belgian Congo which are Imported Into this country. It is believed ... but omit no louder sound than a low growl when ..."