

Should I Breed My Basenji?

Unless you have purchased a "show quality" Basenji and have a pre-arranged future breeding agreement with a reputable breeder, it is not advisable to breed your pet. Basenjies that are purchased from pet stores or backyard breeders ***should not be bred*** because their puppies will not improve the breed as a whole, which is the goal of a responsible breeder.

Do not breed your Basenji for any of the following reasons:

- ➔ You love your pet's personality and want to have puppies just like him or her.
- ➔ You think it would be a good experience for your children to see the "miracle of birth. Whelping a litter of Basenji puppies is very difficult. Many problems can arise that put both mother and pups at serious risk. If problems arise, this will not be a pleasant experience for you or your children.
- ➔ You plan to make money on the litter. Most breeders lose money raising litters. Their goal is to improve the breed and accept monetary loss as part of the endeavor. The fact is that breeding a bitch, whelping and raising a litter to an appropriate placement age is extremely expensive.
- ➔ It will provide a nurturing or sexual experience for your pet.

**The above are all the wrong reasons
to breed your Basenji!**

A litter should be bred only after much thought, study and research and with the help of an experienced breeder, who is a mentor.



If you decide to breed your Basenji, make sure you are prepared to do the following:

- ➔ Be prepared to pay for all the expensive tests: Brucellosis, DNA for Fanconi, annual eye exams, x-rays for hips, elbows, etc.
- ➔ Have flexible working hours.
- ➔ Be able to function on little or almost no sleep. It may be necessary to supplement feed puppies if the mother is unable to or doesn't produce enough milk.
- ➔ Be prepared to deal with illness or death of any puppies you place or decide to keep.
- ➔ Be prepared to deal with the death or illness of your Basenji bitch.
- ➔ Be prepared to keep puppies you can't place and the possibility of caring for geriatric dogs.
- ➔ Be aware that puppies are extremely noisy and require hours of cleaning up after and socializing.
- ➔ Be aware that you are responsible if you place puppies that are not healthy. You need to be prepared to pay for any health issues which arise because of genetic defects.
- ➔ Be aware that you will need to take puppies back if they do not work out in the homes you have placed them in. You may find that you have puppies from the litter for the rest of their natural lives.
- ➔ Be prepared to pay hundreds or even thousands of dollars in vet bills if something "goes wrong" with the litter.
- ➔ Double check the contract for the pet you bought and make sure there are no restrictions on breeding your Basenji.

Thank you to the Basset Hound Club of America for allowing this to be reprinted here. It all applies equally to Basenjis:

THE BASSET HOUND CLUB OF AMERICA'S

Recommendation on the Question of Breeding Your Bassett Hound

*Because the question of whether or
not to breed your pet basset hound is so important,
below we have reprinted the Basset Hound Club of America's recommendation.*

Reprint is from "Congratulations on your new Basset Hound!"
Reprinted with permission: Copyright BHCA, INC. 2001: TO BREED OR NOT

New owners frequently ask, "Shall I breed my dog?" the answer is complicated, for there is much to consider. Breeding is not a casual undertaking. All breeds have genetic defects which can be passed along from parent to puppy. The Basset is not an exception. Responsible, knowledgeable breeders know these problems and strive to avoid them when selecting mates.

Breeding is a commitment. You must have a good understanding of the breed standard and what health problems exist. You must study canine structure and movement. You must breed only the best and be prepared to spend considerable time, effort and money. Bassets may have several major health problems, some of which can be detected through testing (bleeding disorders, glaucoma) and others to which he may be predisposed including bloat and

immune deficiencies. And of course, one must be very careful with temperament, for this trait is also hereditary and the dog or bitch with known genetic problems should not be used for breeding.

The breeder who encourages the AKC limited registration, a spay-neuter or non-breeding agreement, is the one who understands the over-population problem and has concern for the future of the breed. Old wives tales regarding the benefits of breeding abound. They are just that – old wives tales. You will have a healthier, happier pet if he or she is neutered or spayed. Your dog's disposition will not change adversely with alteration. In fact, you will have a more polite house pet who will not be apt to wander or leave his mark on your couch or cabinets if neutered. And having a litter is in no way beneficial to a female; in fact, it can lead to problems, even death. It is fact that spayed bitches often live longer and have fewer health problems than unspayed females.

Breeding dogs is a real responsibility. One must have knowledge of what makes top quality animals, understanding of pedigrees and genetics, and have proper facilities to keep and socialize puppies and to take them back, if the situation demands. Also financial resources for shots, food and unfortunate medical emergencies. The average size of a Basset litter is 6 to 8, though 10-12 also occurs. Pet population is a serious problem in all breeds today. Bassets are being produced by indiscriminate breeders in unhealthy environments and with serious health problems which are likely to cause much financial and emotional stress for the owners. Many dogs are put to death annually in animal shelters, and Bassets share in those statistics. You would not want to contribute to this problem.

As with all American Kennel Club recognized purebred dogs, there is an approved breed standard for the Basset Hound. The standard of perfection is a word picture of how the Basset should look, move and behave. All responsible breeders strive to produce dogs that conform to this breed standard. Bassets with serious deviation in appearance, structure, movement and temperament should never be bred. A copy of the standard can be found at the end of this publication.