

# *Feeding Your New Basenji*

A proper balanced diet can make a big difference in your hound's well-being. Ask your dog's breeder or rescue contact to provide you with the name, amount and type of food your Basenji is used to, as well as a feeding schedule.

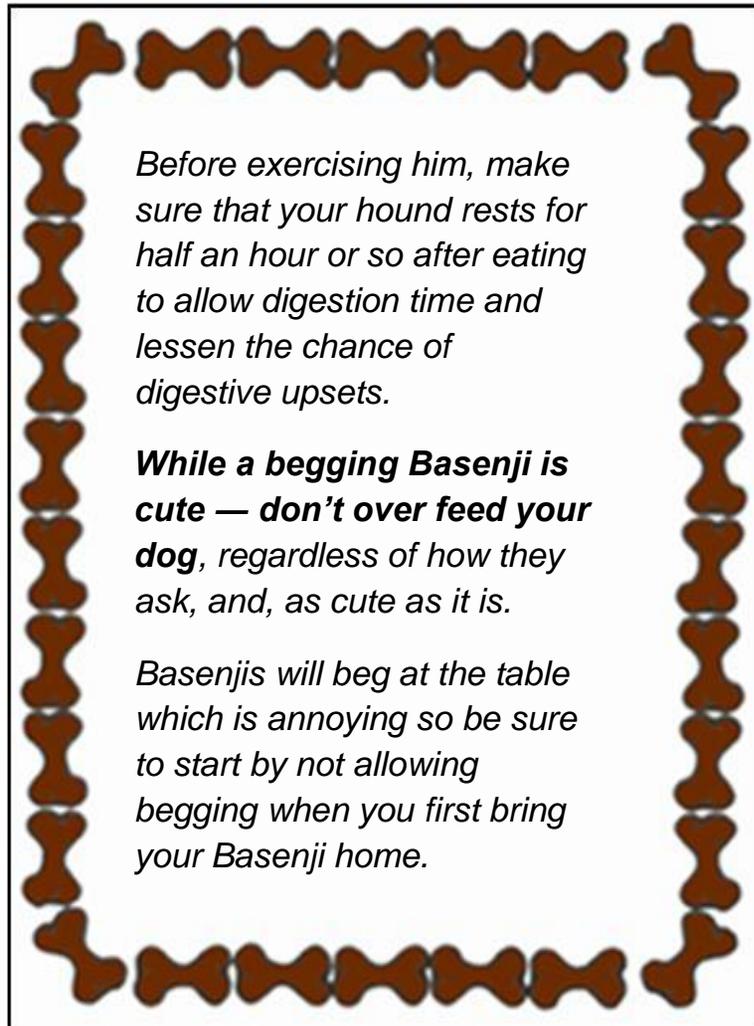
If you are unable to purchase the specific brand of food in your area, ask for suggestions regarding a change of diet. When you bring your new hound home, make sure you have several days' supply of the food he is used to eating. Make the change to a new diet gradually, if necessary.



- ➔ Don't over feed your new Basenji puppy. The pup should not become a butterball with thick layers of fat over the rib cage.
- ➔ Don't add human supplements.
- ➔ Ask your breeder, rescue group or veterinarian for suggestions for a healthy, appropriate diet and supplements for your hound.
- ➔ Young puppies should eat two or three times a day. As the puppy grows, the amount of food is adjusted. Adult dogs can be reduced to one full meal and one snack during the day. If you use treats in training, be sure to reduce the regular meal by that amount.
- ➔ A properly fed dog does not have bones showing but the bones are just covered. You should be able to very easily feel the dog's ribs under the skin. A layer of fat over the ribs, a roll of fat behind the front legs or a pocket of fat in front of the chest are early signs that you are over feeding and if you continue your dog will become obese and unhealthy.

## Feeding Tips

*Below are some tips on feeding your Basenji for a long, healthy life.*



➔ Don't feed table scraps. This can turn a dog into a finicky eater and can lead to obesity. Changes in food can also cause diarrhea. The quantity of food your pet needs will change over time from puppy, through active adulthood, maturity and senior. Be sure to make appropriate adjustments.

➔ Stick to a feeding schedule and feed your Basenji in his crate or dog area. Feeding at the same time helps the house training process. Your hound should be allowed to eat undisturbed.

➔ Moving to a new home can sometimes affect your Basenji's appetite for the first couple of days. Call your breeder or rescue group if the problem persists.

➔ Don't feed your Basenji cooked chicken, pork, beef or fish bones. These can lodge in the throat and puncture the stomach and intestines. Some Basenji owners feed raw diets that include raw bones. If you are interested in feeding a raw diet, be sure to do thorough research. There are references in course [#104 Books to Read](#) about feeding.

➔ Don't over-feed. Obesity is a serious problem and can stress the heart and joints.

➔ It is important to discuss your dog's diet with your vet, particularly if your pet is receiving ongoing veterinary care or has special needs. There are risks involved in feeding any diet, kibble, cooked or raw.

## Food Hazards

The ASPCA Poison Control lists the following as causing stomach upset and in some cases, severe toxic reactions: avocado, chocolate, coffee, fatty foods, macadamia nuts, spoiled foods, onions and onion powder, raisins, grapes, salt and yeast dough. Never allow your dog to consume alcoholic beverages

