

Making Your Home Safe for Your Basenji

Before bringing your new Basenji home, it's important to make your home, yard and car safe for your new friend. In addition, you will need to purchase basic supplies for your hound.

Dog Proofing Your Home



Both Basenji puppies and adults are curious by nature and will get into anything and everything! Safeguard your new Basenji as you would a toddler.

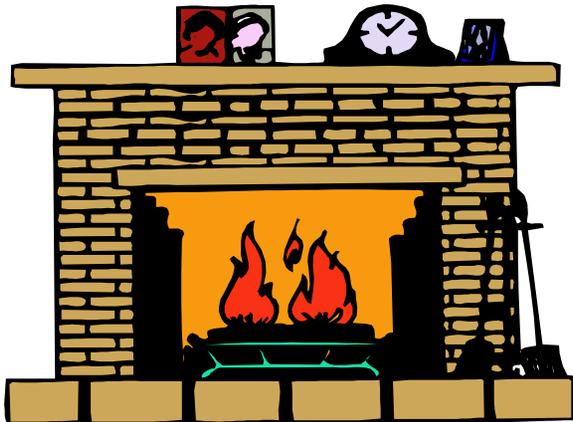
Go through each room, your yard, garage and any storage or outdoor buildings to identify and remove hazards.

Many items typically found in any home, yard or garage can be harmful to your pet. For a fairly complete list of these items, visit the ASPCA Website Animal Poison Control Center (www.asPCA.org).

In Your House

Consider which parts of your house your puppy will have access to immediately. A puppy will become house trained more quickly if he has limited access and is visible to you as you go about your daily life. A closed door or a puppy (baby) gate will be adequate to block off rooms in the house that are seldom used or pose a particular danger.

Block off access to all balconies and decks from which a puppy could fall. A puppy has no sense about height and may lose track of where he is in his enthusiasm for the game he is playing. A small puppy fits through the small spaces in safety barriers. The size of the spaces in safety rails must be either reduced for a time or the pup must be kept out of those situations.

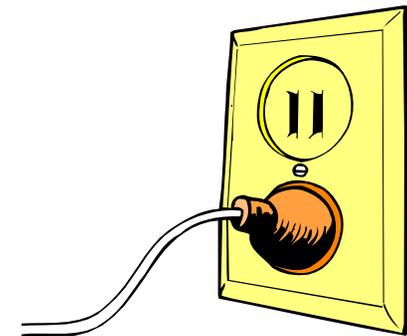


Fireplaces can be hazardous to your Basenji.

Keep the screen closed.

Holidays provide a variety of hazards. Tinsel, glass ornaments, Christmas tree water with fertilizer or preservative, ribbons, batteries and packages containing food can harm your pet if swallowed.

Keep anything toxic such as household cleaners, detergents, pesticides, rat poison and other chemicals out of your puppy's reach. Keep phone cords, electrical cords and outlets away from your puppy and block access to spaces behind things like TV's and refrigerators.





Never leave small objects or children's toys, which a puppy could swallow, lying on the floor. A puppy will pick up almost anything in its mouth. Even a coin which falls to the floor can be potentially harmful if your puppy swallows it.

Pennies cause zinc toxicity if caught in the stomach. To deal with broken glass, put the puppy in his crate while you clean up.

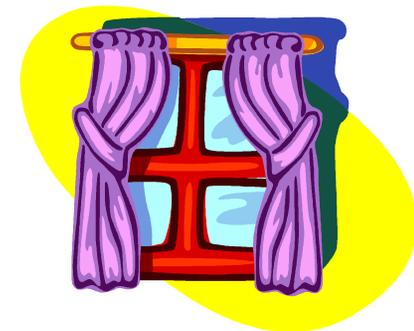


Don't allow access to poisonous plants such as azaleas, poison ivy, mistletoe, holly and philodendron, among others. There are lists of such plants on the internet if you need more information.



Be sure all doors in your house close securely and that visitors are aware of the importance of closing doors. Many a puppy has been killed by a car when someone forgot to close a door securely. Teach your dog not to go through an open front or back door without a command to do so.

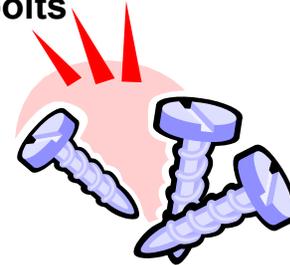
Be aware of open windows, particularly lower ones where your dog might push through the screen to go outside. Consider using safety gates, as you would with a toddler in the house.



***Basenjis will pick up any item and
chew or swallow it***



Remote controls, needlework, prescription and non-prescription medicines, chocolates, glasses and pens, watches and other jewellery, laundry items, hardware items such as screws, nuts and bolts can be very harmful if swallowed



*Be sure to give your Basenji its own toys not whatever such a wild child can find!
Soft toys are to be played with when the pup is supervised.*

In Your Yard, Garage and Outdoor Structures



- Make sure all garden fertilizers and pesticides are out of reach. Read the manufacturers' warnings carefully when you use them in your Basenji's exercise yard and keep him away from treated areas for the recommended amount of time. Most of these products are harmful to your pet. Cocoa mulch is also a hazard.
- Your Basenji may become strangled if it gets its head caught in any type of tight spot like railings, trellises, fences and balconies.
- Lawnmowers, weed eaters, and leaf and snow blowers pose a threat to your Basenji. Your dog should be inside to protect him from flying debris when using these items. While it's tempting to want to share a nice day outside with your Basenji, flying debris can cause severe eye injuries.



- Swimming pools should be fenced. Most Basenji are reasonable swimmers but may be unable to get out of a pool should they fall in. Pool chemicals can be toxic if ingested.
- Antifreeze or mouse, snail, ant and rat bait are especially hazardous to your pet.

***Don't Forget!
Puppies proof your garage and workshop.***

Hazards you might not think of as Dangerous!



Gates to your dog's exercise area should be locked. Your **meter reader may accidentally let your Basenji loose** as may children in a hurry to go play.

Many dogs are afraid of **thunder** or holiday **fireworks**. Make sure your Basenji is in a secure location to avoid injury during fireworks displays.



Each season will bring several new hazards for your Basenji. In the winter, **ice melting products** can cause irritation to your dog's mouth, feet and skin. In the summer, **fly bait or citronella candles** can be toxic. Corrosives and flammables are other dangers.



Rock eating is not an uncommon problem with Basenjis. Small pebbles may pass through your dogs system, but larger stones will not, and will require surgery to remove them. If your hound becomes less interested in food, drools excessively or has a painful abdomen, contact your vet immediately. Timely treatment is very important.

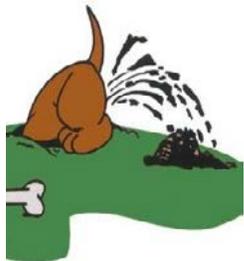
Swallowing a rock can be fatal.

Your Fenced Yard



Basenjis are very athletic and need a good fence.

fine. Post and rail with welded wire can work well, as can chain link. Gates should be kept securely locked and marked to make visitors aware that a dog is inside.



The use of “invisible fencing” requires a high degree of training for your hound. Unfortunately, his nose can override his brain. Remember too, it may keep your dog in, but won’t keep others out, leaving your hound defenseless. Generally, invisible fencing is not a good fence for a Basenji unless you are there to supervise.

Dog trolleys and tie out chains are not safe for Basenjis. Dogs can hang or strangle themselves. Also, they offer no protection from other animals in the area that may enter your property.

Keeping your Basenji in a secure fenced yard is one of the most important things you can do for the well-being of your hound. Basenjis are a true hunting dog, and they are hard-wired to follow interesting scents or sights, which makes them particularly vulnerable to traffic if they run loose.

There are many types of fencing available. Make sure that your fence goes to the ground and, if possible, is buried below the surface, bent to the inside 6” to 12”. Check your fence line regularly for spots which might wash away or are being dug out by your hound. Wood fencing is



Some Basenjis are good at climbing.

Safe in the Car

Your Basenji should travel in a carrier in the car. Confined, he will be unable to interfere with your driving as he entertains himself. Loose dogs may push the buttons to open the windows, escape and be injured. A dog riding loose in a car can be thrown violently about the car even in a small fender bender. Your dog should be confined for the same reasons that you wear a seat belt while riding. If the carrier doesn't fit tightly in its space, try to attach it into position with straps. Remember that a car heats up very quickly to intolerable levels on a sunny day. Be careful about leaving your Basenji unattended in the car.

***Once you've Basenji-proofed your home and yard,
it's time to purchase some basic supplies for your new family member!***

Your Basenji Shopping List

A Crate: A Basenji's Very Own Room!



Crates come in open wire mesh or in solid sided varieties. A solid crate is more like a den and has the added advantage of keeping toys, bits of food, torn blankets inside and drapes and other soft household items that may be nearby on the outside. A solid crate about 19" x 19" x 27" is a good size to purchase for your puppy. This size may always be adequate for your Basenji or you may prefer to get a larger or open wire crate later but you will always find this first

one a handy size for your car and much easier to move around than the larger crates. An old blanket or bed sheet is ideal bedding for puppies, because it can be easily laundered if there's an accident!

Food, Water and Treats



Your Basenji will need a stainless steel bowl for food, and a heavy ceramic bowl for water to prevent tipping or a small stainless steel safety bucket. If your breeder or rescue group gives you instructions for feeding and treats, do follow their advice. Some training treats are small and hard without excessive additives and are helpful to keep teeth clean. Some treats are more natural such as cheese, meat or other natural treats. Be sure to feed less if you use treats for training. Get instructions from the breeder regarding feeding your new Basenji. 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.

Leads and Collars

A 6 foot web or leather leash will give you good control over your Basenji on walks, and keep him from darting into traffic. Purchase sturdy equipment as Basenjis are strong for their size. Use an adjustable martingale-style or correctly fitted buckle collar for your Basenji. You'll need to start with a small collar for a puppy. A toy-dog sized collar usually fits an eight to ten week old puppy.

Adjust the collar correctly so that your hound cannot slip it over his head when pulling back on the lead. Once a Basenji learns to back out of a buckle collar or harness, they will do it the rest of their lives. **Do not** use a choke collar on a very young puppy since it can injure the throat if used incorrectly. On older puppies or adults, choke collars should only be used during training or on walks and only by someone trained in its proper use.



Choke collars can lead to accidental strangulation if left on an unsupervised dog.

Grooming Necessities for Your Basenji

- Nail clippers or a nail grinder
- Kwik-stop (for stopping bleeding if you nick the quick of your Basenji's nails)

Use the grinder or nail clippers to keep your Basenji's nails short. If the nails are touching the floor when your Basenji is standing still, they are too long. Neglecting your dog's nails may contribute to arthritis in their feet as they get older. Your veterinarian, breeder or rescue group can show you how to trim your dog's nails.

- Puppy or dog shampoo
- Hound glove or soft bristle brush for brushing your Basenji

Unless your Basenji has enjoyed a romp in the mud or something smelly, a quick brushing with a soft hound glove or soft bristle brush will keep its coat clean and shiny and keep excess hair out of your house. The frequency of brushing will depend on the individual dog and your preference.

Since Basenji do not have an odor, baths are only needed when they have enjoyed a roll in something smelly or for special occasions.

- Doggy tooth brush and tooth past

Dogs do need their teeth maintained just like people do. Start with your puppy when it is young to gain their cooperation. Early training for all grooming procedures will help you and your Basenji throughout its life.

There is additional and more detailed grooming information in [Grooming Your Basenji](#). A short video about training your puppy to accept having its toenails trimmed and teeth cleaned can be found by clicking [HERE](#). The same techniques can be used to train your adult Basenji if it is not cooperative about grooming.



Safe Toys and Chewies

Choose toys which are safe for puppies.

Beware of soft toys with button eyes, squeakers or small batteries, as your puppy may chew them open and then swallow the harmful contents.

Rawhide chews should be avoided. Rawhide that is swallowed can be a choking hazard or may cause intestinal blockage.

Your breeder will recommend chew items that they feel are the safest.

Many toys require close supervision.

Some good toys include:

- Good quality rope toys. Not all breeders agree about rope toys so you may want to discuss them with your pup's breeder or your veterinarian.
- Kong™, Buster Cubes™ and similar toys filled with bits of treats or peanut butter can occupy your dog for hours. A drawback can be that spilled contents can be messy and attract ants.
- Nylabone™ toys

