



Office of the President  
Pamela Geoffroy  
197 Mt. Hope Street  
N Attleboro, Ma 02760  
eldoradobcoa@comcast.net  
508-695-6573  
August 1, 2011

## Basenji Club of America, Inc.

James P. Crowley  
Executive Secretary  
AKC Board of Directors  
The American Kennel Club  
51 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10010

Dear Mr. Crowley,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Basenji Club of America, Inc. (BCOA).

The original AKC Stud Book registered the first basenjis in 1944; less than ten of these original registrants contributed descendants. This limited the ability for conscientious breeders in the U.S. to avoid various health disorders, which had become prevalent since the breed's introduction to the western world.

In response to this problem, and on advice from geneticists who believe at least 50 founders are necessary for long term breed viability, concerned breeders have made several trips to central Africa, starting in 1987, in search of native basenjis. At the request of the BCOA, in 1990 the AKC opened the Stud Book to the first group of native basenjis whom, when bred, had a positive impact within the breed via conformation, temperament and overall health statistics.

Due to the early success in 1990 of the integration between domestic and native stock, the AKC Stud Book for the basenji was again opened in 2009 and is to remain open through December 31, 2013 to allow trips to Southern Sudan and other remote parts of Africa to search for native stock.

A number of native basenjis have been registered under the 2008 agreement (effective January 1, 2009) with several others in the process of obtaining the necessary evaluations. However, in December 2008 travel in much of the northeastern DRC Congo and Southern Sudan became very hazardous due to attacks on many of the small villages by the Lords Resistance Army (LRA), a group of terrorist Ugandans that have been hiding in the Congo for years.

Currently, there is an international effort to rid the LRA from that part of Africa, but until such time it will be impossible to visit a large area of Southern Sudan and DRC Congo; Southern Sudan being historically one of the best areas for native specimens. A trip to the DRC Congo in early 2011 had to be limited to a small area on the edges of territory still controlled by the LRA. The inability for breeders to broaden the geographical area due to the LRA, despite Southern Sudan's independence this month, could further limit genetic diversity, the ultimate goal of these excursions.

Given the volatile nature of the area(s), and the fact it can often times take years to develop necessary contacts that enable American breeders to travel safely to some of the more remote regions of central Africa, the BCOA respectfully requests from the AKC a five year extension to the current agreement of 2008 (start date January 1, 2009). The extension will be governed by the same AKC approved procedures for submitting Native Stock for inclusion in the AKC stud book (see AKC Board Minutes August 11-12, 2008 pg. 4-6); a three stage procedure which begins when the dog is at least one year old and includes hands-on evaluations by three highly qualified individuals, approval by the BCOA board of directors, and finally membership approval.

Therefore, the Basenji Club of America is officially requesting the AKC stud book for Basenjis to remain open until December 31, 2018.

Puppies are the most logical choice for importation due to obvious lifestyle adjustments; however it is not feasible, financially or physically, to bring over large numbers at any given time. Due to the procedural process noted above it takes roughly one year after importing a puppy before the evaluations begin with the process finishing with the memberships vote (another lengthy process) for inclusion in the stud book. As such, we would like to inquire about the possibility that any dog imported before the end of the 2018 extension be considered as eligible to participate in the process through those individual dogs' AKC registrations with a cut off of 2020.

The Basenji Club of America feels as long as there are still areas to be explored where purebred basenjis might be found we should take advantage of this unique opportunity afforded our breed and encourage breeder enthusiasts to pursue native stock in remote regions of Africa.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Pam Geoffroy  
President, Basenji Club of America