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**AKC Board of Directors
The American Kennel Club
51 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10010**

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Basenji Club of America to ask that the AKC Stud Book be reopened for native bred Basenjjs for a period of two to three years to allow trips to the Southern Sudan and other remote parts of Africa to search for native stock.

The original Stud Book opened in 1944 and included just two native dogs and some dozen or so English dogs. This very small gene pool was further diminished when several dogs turned out to be unusable for various reasons. This limited gene pool has made it difficult for conscientious breeders to avoid the various health disorders, which have become prevalent since the breed's introduction to the western world.

As a response to this problem, American breeders visited Africa in 1987 and 1988 and returned with 14 native basenjjs. In 1990 the AKC opened the Stud Book to these imports. These dogs have had a positive impact on the breed in this country, and, it should be noted, none has been diagnosed with any of the Basenji specific health disorders we are seeking to eradicate; Fanconi Syndrome, PRA or IPSID. None of these imports has produced these problems in their offspring, even when bred to American lines known to produce these problems. Further, the direct descendants of these imports have also failed to produce Fanconi Syndrome, PRA or IPSID.

All native stock brought back from Africa will be examined by a BCOA Board member and two long time breeders to determine that they display Basenji breed type and that their inclusion in the gene pool would promote quality as set forth in the AKC Standard for the breed.

When the BCOA put this issue to vote when the Stud Book was last opened 75% of the membership voted in favor of the proposal.

Our Club and our breed are in a unique position. We have access to Basenjjs living in their native land, as they have for centuries, still working with hunters using only spears and nets and their extraordinary dogs. That these dogs continue to thrive, living in a part of the world suffering the devastating effects of poverty and war speaks to their vigor and health as well as their great character. These dogs represent a living history of our ancient breed. We cannot afford to lose them.

Thank you for considering our request.

Pamela A. Geoffroy

**Chair
BCOA Native Stock Committee**