



Body. The body should be short and the back level. The ribs well sprung, with plenty of heart room, deep brisket, short-coupled and ending in a definite waist.

First of all, we emphasize that the Basenji should measure square.



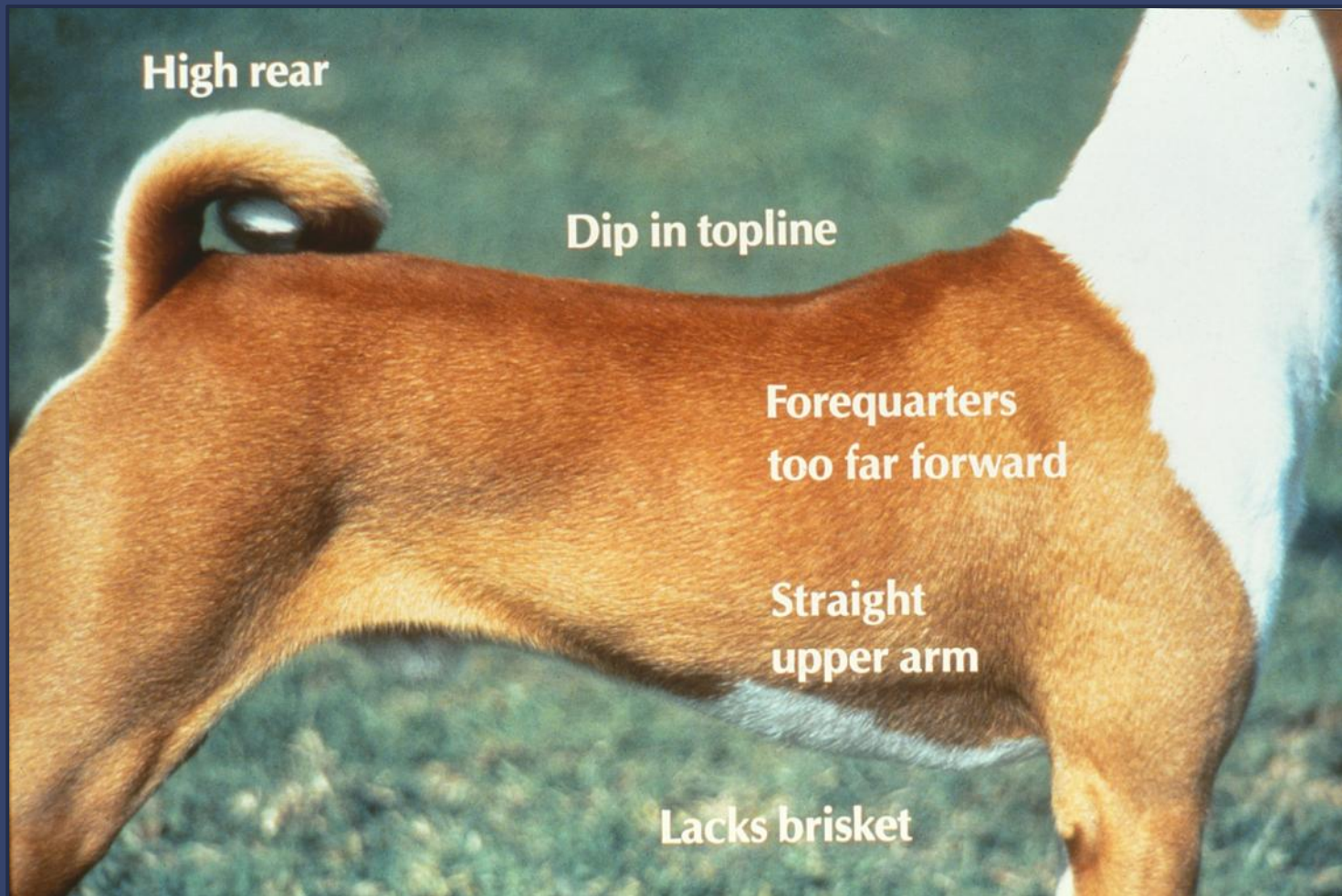
Dogs with long backs or long bodies or....



...short legs, all of which create a rectangular proportion, are not typical of the breed.



The Basenji should have a level back. Dogs that are naturally high in the rear are often made to appear to have a level topline by stacking the hind legs far out behind them.



Toplines should not roach or dip. This specimen has forequarters set too far forward with a short, vertical upper arm. It also lacks depth of brisket, and is too long in the loin.



Hindquarters. Should be strong and muscular, with hocks well let down, turned neither in nor out, with long second thighs.

The key to appreciation of correct Basenji hindquarters is the requirement, not expressed in the standard, for moderate angulation.



Over-angulated hindquarters over power the front, resulting in crabbing, pounding or other examples of movement imbalance.



Maximum propulsion without increasing angulation is achieved by ensuring that the rear portion of the pelvis is long to provide ample attachment for muscles that extend downward and draw the hind leg rearward.



This creates the appearance of a shelf behind the tail, a characteristic that has, unfortunately, become less common. The hocks should be well let down for endurance.



Beware of long hocks and short second thighs.



Viewed from behind, the column of bones from hip to pad should be straight. The hocks should turn neither in nor out.



Moving, the hind legs track directly behind those of the front, converging gradually toward the center of gravity as speed increases. Single tracking is not uncommon at high speed.



Tail. Should be set on top and curled tightly over to either side.

In the minds of many people, the most important aspect is that the tail be curled tightly, preferably twice. The curl itself is a superficial virtue, with a double curl being a western improvement.



More important than the degree of curl is the position where the root joins the body. The tail should sit high on the topline. The tail should be judged first in its relationship to the structure of the croup, and then as a separate feature. The tail should curl tightly to one side of the rump.