



How is the Basenji described in the breed standard? The standard will be gold color and the commentary will be in white.

Characteristics. The Basenji should not bark, but is not mute. The wrinkled forehead and the swift, tireless running gait (resembling a racehorse trotting full out) are typical of the breed.



The statement referring to a gait “...resembling a racehorse trotting full out” raised a lively discussion for years. In good Basenji gait the stride should be long, reaching , and ground covering. It appears effortless and can be maintained for great distances. Effortless grace is a better indication of good movement than high speed in the trotting Basenji.



There should be no bounce to the shoulders, and the topline should remain level. Dogs should not appear to trot downhill.



In the Basenji, the reach should be efficient with good shoulder rotation and elbow extension. Excessive action, or high or hackney action is inefficient and fatiguing.

The rear leg should reach well under the body while the follow through of the driving leg should extend about twice this distance behind. Exaggerated kick, which offers no additional propulsion, is only cosmetic and should be avoided.

In Basenji gait, overall balance and timing are of primary importance.



General Appearance. The Basenji is a small, lightly built dog, giving the impression of being high on the leg compared to its length. The wrinkled forehead must be proudly carried, and the whole demeanor should be one of poise and alertness.



The Basenji combines strength and elegance with graceful lines and aristocratic bearing. Gazelle-like grace is the hallmark of the Basenji. The dog is lightly built...



...but not weedy.



The deep brisket carries back to a definite waist.

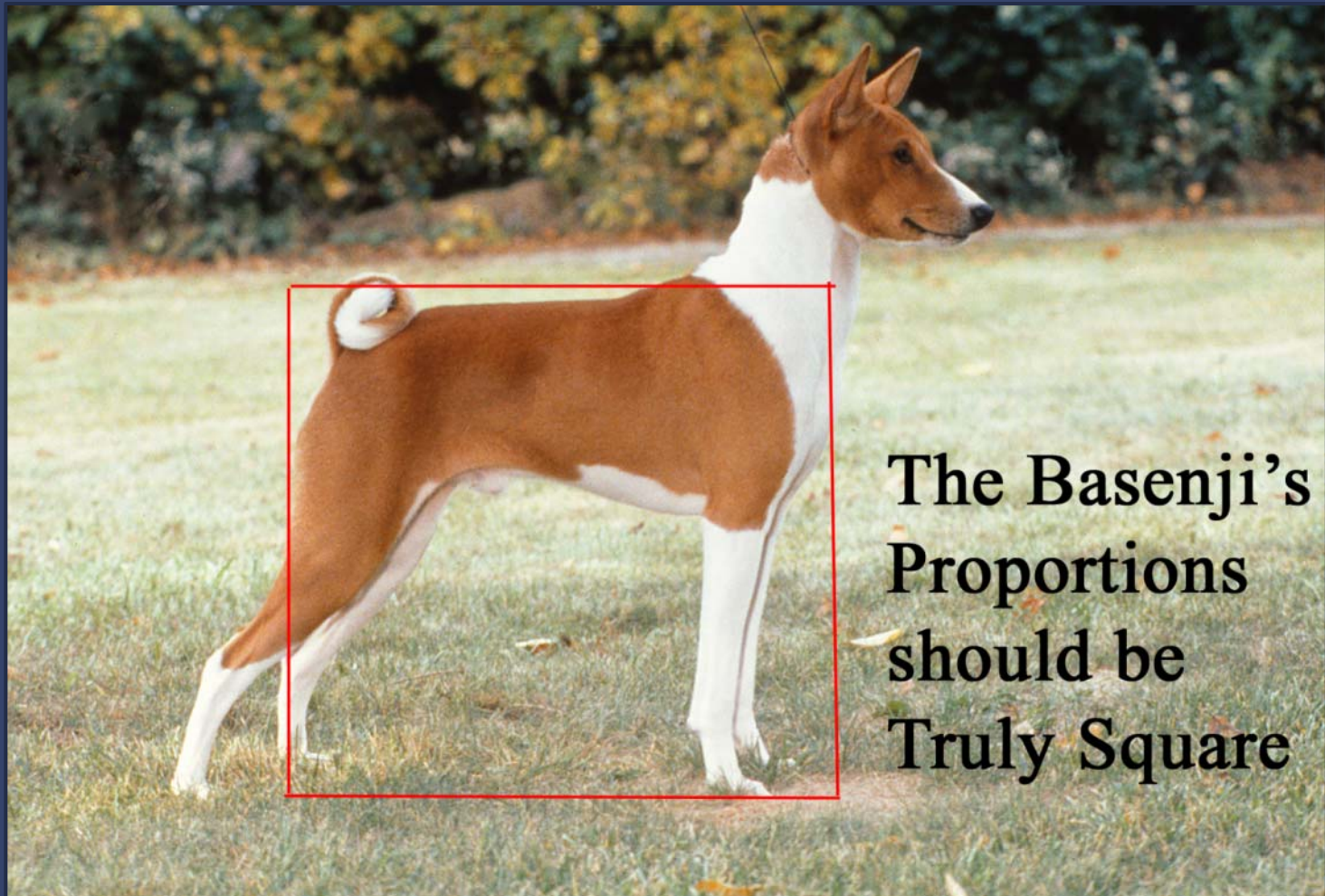


A. Somewhat refined
B. Moderate
C. Rather heavy

Coarseness of body is to be avoided, as is excessive size. Heavy bone is a fault.



The impression of a dog high on the leg compared to its length cannot be over-emphasized. A dog with ample length of upper arm can have good depth of brisket and still appear high on the leg. The brisket should come to the elbow.



**The Basenji's
Proportions
should be
Truly Square**

The Basenji's proportions should be truly square with the height from the top of the shoulders to the ground being equal to the distance from the front of the chest to the end of the hindquarters. Long-bodied or short-legged dogs are not desirable, nor are dogs that appear high behind.



The wrinkled head and tightly curled tail set the Basenji breed apart. The prick ears contribute to the alert appearance.