



Head and Skull. The skull is flat, well chiseled, and of medium width, tapering toward the eyes. The foreface should taper from eye to muzzle and should be shorter than the skull. Muzzle, neither coarse nor snipy, but with rounded cushions. Wrinkles should appear upon the forehead, and be fine and profuse. Side wrinkles are desirable, but should never be exaggerated into dewlap.



The small, forward inclined prick ears...



...the profuse wrinkles, and the obliquely set eyes combine to create an attractive and distinctive head. Wrinkles appear when the ears are erect and pricked forward.



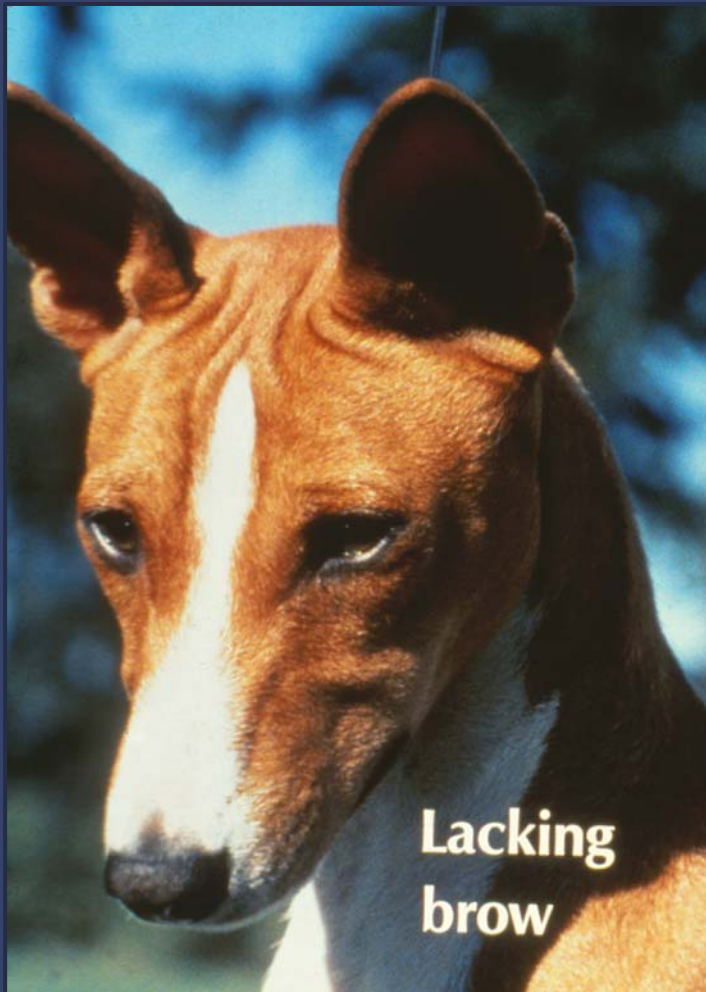
This is the head of a typical female. A female should look feminine...



...and a male should look masculine. Functionally, the structure is the same for both.



The smooth transition of the skull into the muzzle can best be illustrated from above. The head is seen as all one piece—the sides of the skull narrowing slightly toward the eyes, the foreface tapering toward the shorter muzzle, the muzzle neither coarse nor snipy.



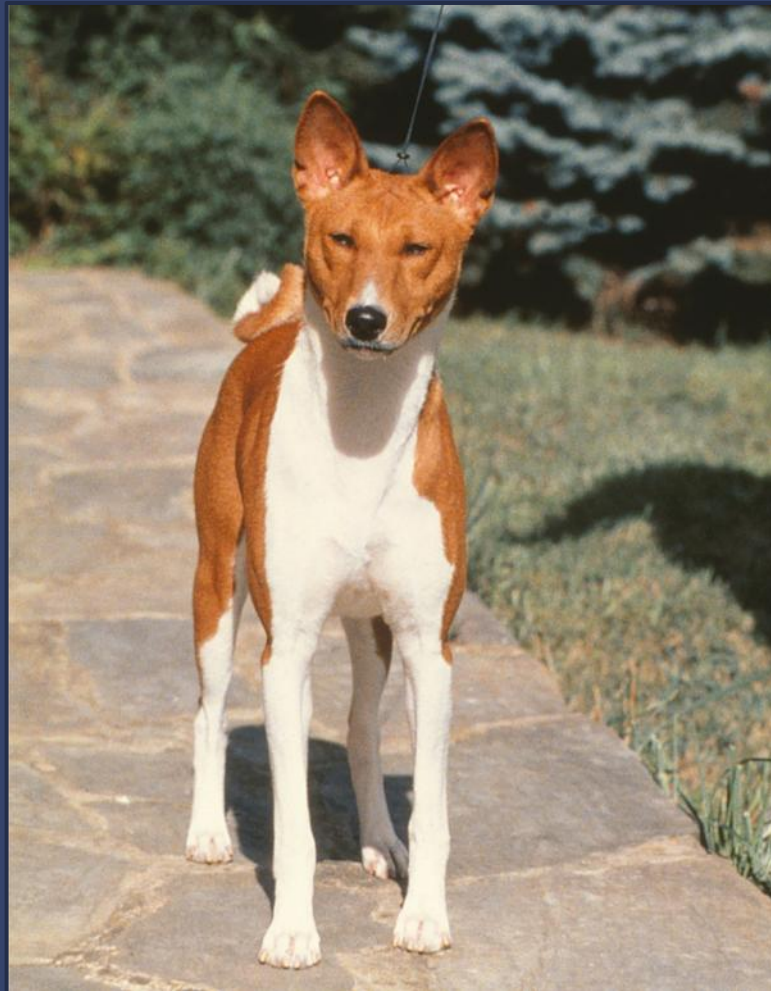
The well developed arch over the eyes, the brow, gives character to the head by influencing width and placement of the eye, and the shape of the muscles that attach to the jaw.



Facial contours are subtle but discernible.



In profile, the muzzle continues in a line parallel to the that of the skull. A domed or peaked skull or a coarse skull or muzzle are faults. Length relationship of muzzle to skull is critical. The distance from the back of the head to the stop is greater than that from the slight stop to the tip of the nose.



Nose. Black greatly desired. A pinkish tinge should not penalize an otherwise first class specimen, but it should be discouraged in breed.



Eyes. Dark hazel, almond shaped, obliquely set and far-seeing.

The color of the iris is dark and small without being piecing or button-like. The far-seeing expression is dependent on position, shape and angle. Dark eye rims are desirable. Light eyes are undesirable, round eyes are a fault.



Ears. Small, pointed, and erect, of fine texture, set well forward on the top of the head.



A. Large
B. Correct
C. Low set

The tip of the ear should be nearer the center of the skull than the outside base. In addition, the ears are slightly hooded in that the tips are directed more forward than the base. The orifice is to the front, cupped rather than opened flat. It is the high set of the ears and the pricking forward when alerted that produces the wrinkle and quizzical expression so typical of the Basenji. Large ears are not desirable, and low set ears are a fault.



Mouth. Teeth must be level with scissors bite.

Do not confuse the term “teeth level” with an even bite. Teeth must be evenly aligned.