



**Sent for inclusion in AKC Judge's Newsletter on November 24, 2009.**

This letter addresses the acceptability of the brindle-pointed-tri coat color/pattern in Basenjis. Several times during the last fifteen years, BCOA has consulted AKC concerning the need to change our Standard to specifically address the brindle-pointed-tri color color/pattern in the breed. AKC informed BCOA that the color was already included in our Standard, under the descriptions of the tri-colored Basenji and the brindle Basenji. We were told there was no need to proceed with a Standard change. The Club could change the Standard if it wished to do so, but AKC's position was that the acceptability of this color/pattern could be adequately addressed through ongoing judge's education.

BCOA has not revised its Standard to include brindle-pointed-tris due to its understanding (per the above) that this coat color/pattern is already adequately covered in our Standard. Brindle-pointed tris are a naturally occurring, expected result of a combination of two coat colors/patterns already described in our current Standard. Brindle-pointed tris should be judged as any other Basenji, referring to the description of tri-color and to the description of the brindle, with an emphasis on clear demarcation between black and tan on the exhibit. Stripes should be distinctly visible on brindle Basenjis, as well as within the tan points of brindle-pointed tri-colored Basenjis. As always, we ask judges to consider that Basenjis are native African hunting dogs of ancient origin, and that the Basenji Standard has no disqualifying faults.

The BCOA Board agrees unanimously with respect to this issue, and requests that judges consider brindle-pointed tri-colors to be as acceptable in the ring as red and whites, black and whites, tri-colors or brindles.

Sincerely,

***The BCOA Board of Directors***

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