1943 AKC Basenji Standard

HEIGHT
Approximately 17 inches males, 16 inches bitches.

HEAD
Of medium width, not coarse, tapering towards the eyes, well-chiseled with lofty carriage. The skull should be flat. The foreface should taper from eye to muzzle, and should be shorter than the skull. Teeth should be level. Wrinkles should appear upon the forehead when the ears are pricked, giving a puzzled expression. These are a special characteristic of the Basenji, but exaggerated wrinkle is to be avoided, as the excessive loose skin tends to give a Blood houndy appearance and spoils the clean lines of the breed.

NOSE
Black greatly desired, but a pinkish tinge should not penalize an otherwise first-class specimen.

EARS
Should be pointed and erect, set well forward and of fine texture.

EYES
Should be dark hazel, almond shaped, small, deep-set and far-seeing.

NECK
Of sufficient length, well-crested, and slightly full at the base of the throat. It should be well set into flat, laid-back shoulders.

CHEST
Deep and of medium width.

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

FEET
Small, narrow, with arched toes.

LEGS
Straight with clean bone and well defined sinews. Pasterns straight rather than otherwise, but not of the fox-terrier type.

HINDQUARTERS
Strong and muscular, with hocks well let down, and turned neither in nor out, with long second thighs.

TAIL
Set on top and curled tightly over to one side.

COLOUR
Chestnut with white points and tail tip; also black and white; and black, tan and white; red and white; faun and white.

COAT
Short and silky, skin very pliant.

MOVEMENT
Both hind legs and forelegs should be carried straight forward with springing strides, greatly resembling that of a racehorse trotting full out, this swift, tireless running gait being a special characteristic of the breed.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS
Basenjis do not bark. The appearance should be one of springy poise and alertness, greatly resembling an antelope.

Effective November 1943