

Grooming Your Basenji

Welcome to the world of the Wash and Wear Basenji where a minimum of work is required to keep your hound in great shape.

Cleaning Teeth

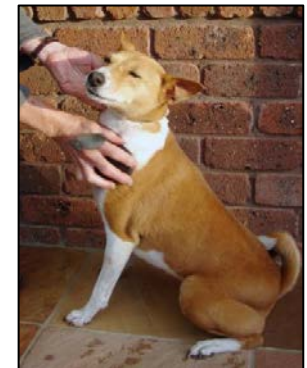
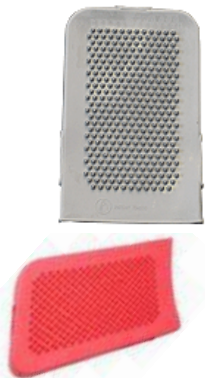
Healthy teeth and gums are important to your Basenji's health. Teeth should be brushed regularly and checked for tartar from an early age so the dog gets used to the routine. Begin training your puppy to have his mouth handled and his teeth brushed as demonstrated in the video you can see by clicking [HERE](#). Start with brushing once the puppy teeth are gone and all of the adult teeth have come in. Heavy tartar build-up should be removed by your vet. Your Basenji's bad breath may be caused by teeth and gums which need cleaning. Dental paste and brushes are available at your pet supply store. **Don't use human toothpaste for your hound.**

Grooming the Basenji Coat

Basenjies are one of the breeds who shed very little but during the spring and autumn most will shed. To keep your house free of dog hair and to keep your hound handsome, frequent brushing with a hound glove, grooming mitt or glove will be all that is needed. During the heavier shedding periods, you may want to do your grooming outside of your house.

If you choose to try a shedding blade, be very careful as you can scrap the hound's skin and that is very uncomfortable for your Basenji.

If you include brushing with the glove or mitt as part of your every two week dog check, your Basenji's coat should stay in top condition. These regular checks are important to monitor your hound's condition.



Cleaning the Anal Sacs

Anal sacs, which are located on either side of the anus, should to be checked and emptied regularly to avoid impaction and infection. Basenjis with impacted anal sacs often drag their rear ends on the floor. Sacs are cleaned by holding the dog's tail up and gently squeezing each sac. The smelly contents of impacted sacs will then squirt out. Ask your veterinarian to show you how to express the sacs. At home, this is best done in the bath tub, just before you bathe your dog.

Trimming Toenails



Trimming toe nails is something that should be done quite regularly, once every week or two. If you keep trimming regularly your Basenjis nails will not become long and tricky to trim. Also, they will get quite used to the procedure and be more accepting of the trim. Watch this [VIDEO](#) to see how to train your pup to have its nails trimmed.



A Basenji's nails need to be kept short to prevent soreness and stress on the feet. Long nails may break or get caught in decking causing considerable pain and bleeding.



There are various toenail clippers. Files are also useful. Some people prefer to use a grinder.

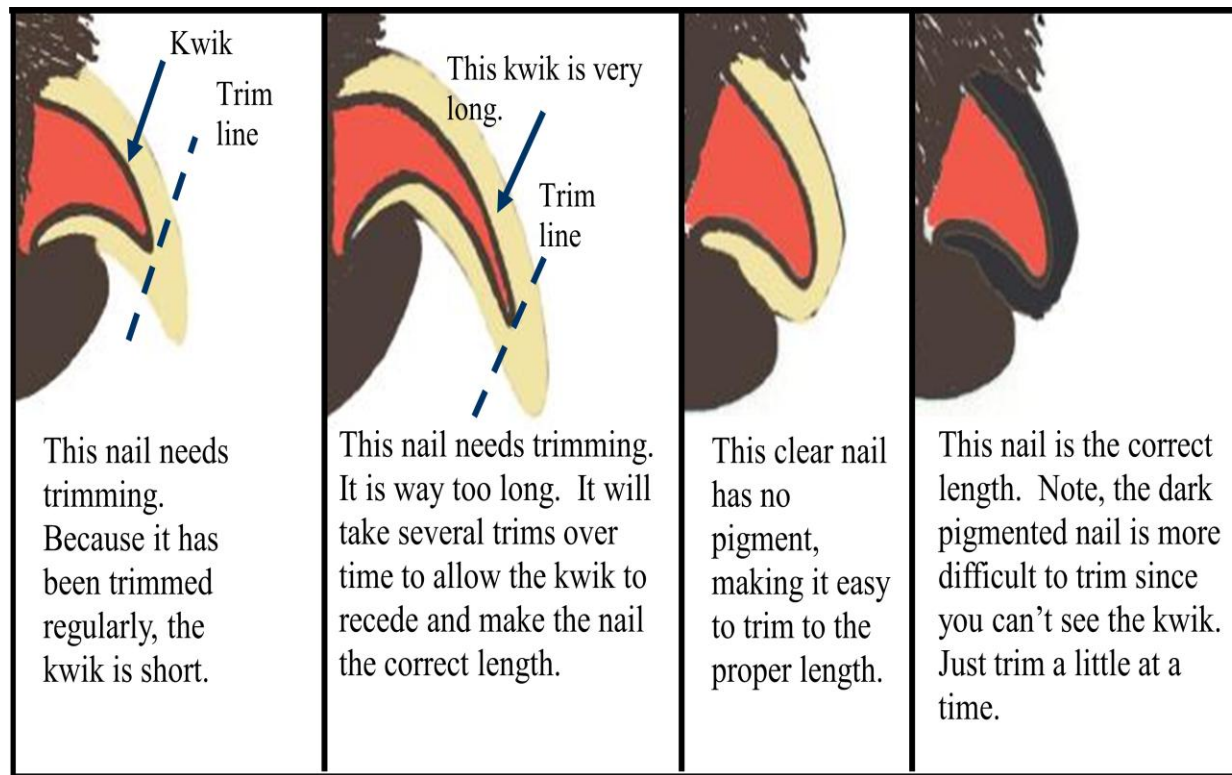
If your Basenji still has his dew claws (the extra nail located about two inches from the bottom of the foot on the inside of the legs), make sure to trim them as well. Forgotten, they can turn inward growing into the skin.

Nails should be trimmed at least every 10 to 14 days. Various types of nail trimmers and grinders are available for this purpose. Your breeder, rescue group or veterinarian will be happy to teach you how to trim your Basenji's nails. Some puppies may resist nail trimming but with patience and a gentle approach by their owners they soon learn not to resist.

If you are too squeamish to trim your dog's nails, make sure you have them done regularly by a competent groomer or your veterinarian. Remember, begin trimming nails on your puppy...don't wait until he is an adult to start. Watch the [video](#) mentioned earlier to see how to start out.



Well-trimmed toenails



Bathing the Basenji

Basenjis can be bathed as often as necessary with a dog shampoo but they really tend not to need regular baths.

- ➔ Thoroughly brush his coat before you bathe your Basenji.
- ➔ Apply a drop of mineral oil or eye ointment to protect his eyes from the shampoo.
- ➔ Avoid getting shampoo and soapy water inside the ears, by placing cotton balls inside the ears. (Make sure to remove the cotton balls when you are done.)
- ➔ Bathe your dog in a warm location away from drafts. A bathtub is best. Place a rubber mat in the tub to prevent slipping.
- ➔ Use warm, rather than hot water, to bathe your dog.
- ➔ Use a shampoo made for dogs.
- ➔ ***Don't use household cleansers or human shampoo.***



A Proper Bath

- ➔ Wet your Basenji thoroughly, then add shampoo and massage into the coat well. Thorough rinsing is necessary.
- ➔ A good rule of thumb is when you think you've rinsed enough, do it again to make sure. Soap left on your hound can cause irritated and itchy skin.
- ➔ When you have finished bathing your dog, gently squeeze excess water from your dog's ears, body, legs and undercarriage.
- ➔ Use towels to dry your Basenji thoroughly.
- ➔ Wet Basenjis tend to get chilled and pick up dirt quickly. Keep your pet crated in a warm area until thoroughly dry. Or let him run wildly around the house if you don't mind wet furniture and rugs.
- ➔ Once your Basenji is thoroughly dry, brush him to remove loose hair.