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New on BCOA’s website is the Basenji University...hmm, what’s that?

Breeders Education Committee: Susan Coe and Laurie Stargell

Some years back the Bassett Hound Club of America was looking for ways to educate breeders, judges and owners of Bassett Hounds. Basset Hound breeder Dr Claudia Orlandi, Topsfield Kennel, was the leading force behind the development of the Bassett Hound University. The BHU Mission Statement reads:

” The goal of Basset Hound University (BHU) is to provide continuing education programs in all areas of Basset Hound interest and in so doing, help carry forth the mission of the Basset Hound Club of America. It is BHU’s hope to preserve our breed’s past and present experiences and legacies and to educate future Basset fanciers in a manner that is on-going and available for years to come. In the spirit of the Basset Hound’s cooperative, pack-oriented character, BHU is dedicated to sharing educational materials and working hand-in-hand with other clubs to help improve education for the betterment of all breeds of dogs.”

The Bassett Club decided to share their idea by selling templates for other breed clubs to set up similar educational programs. The Basenji Club of America purchased these templates in 2007. A small start on the University concept was made in 2009 with the publication of Course 102, which is an educational coloring book for children. The BCOA Breeders Education Committee tackled the University proper in 2010.

The Basenji University as it opened is a compilation of contributions from the Breeders’ Education Committee, the Judges’ Education Committee, previously published work from BCOA and its committees, material from the AKC, and many articles from the “BCOA Bulletin,” “The Basenji” and other publications. The different Colleges and informational materials represent the efforts of dozens of Basenji fanciers, with essential contributions of photos, material and input. For example, the support in the making of the Basenji Timeline and the Illustrated Honor Rolls was tremendous (the Honor Rolls can be found at the end of the “Timeline”, which appears in the College for Basenji Owners).

After BCOA Board balloting on the sub-site and review of the material, the BCOA took the Basenji University totally online on the Basenji Club of America website. The template of Colleges with courses, workbook exams and certificates of completion of the original Basset Hound University templates have been maintained, while offering everything in an open access format. The opening of the Basenji University in September 2010 represents the first breed club to bring the Basset Hound Club idea of sharing templates to fruition.

Here is an outline of the Colleges of The Basenji University:

College for Basenji Owners

Interested in getting a Basenji or living with the one you already have? This is the College to enter.

College of Basenji Activities

Basenji can participate in many activities and this is the College that covers getting started in showing, lure coursing, obedience, agility, rally, etc.

College for Basenji Breeders

Have you decided to become more involved in Basenjies by becoming a breeder? You can obtain a deeper understanding of the breed standard and the art and science of dog breeding in this College.

College for Basenji Judges

All dog fanciers thinking of becoming judges for the Basenji breed should make a through study of the courses in this college.

Like any educational institution of higher learning, it is important to note that The Basenji University is a work in progress. The Basenji University on opening day was largely a compilation of material that has been published or presented over the years. It is material that all students of the breed can access now. We expect several more years of growth and development to fill in some of the courses that are currently proposed, and like any strong university curriculum, there will be ideas for new courses as time passes.

Please visit the site, and enjoy it. The address is: <http://www.basenji.org/BasenjiU/niversityIndex.html> or click the link on the top menu bar at the BCOA's website. If you have ideas for new courses or materials, please contact the Basenji University at BasenjiU@basenji.org.