

BASENJI CLUB OF AMERICA

THE SECRETARY'S PAGE

November 1955 Bulletin

FOULED-UP DEPARTMENT: Since this summer, what with serious illness in the family and our move, there is a note of turmoil about our house. Worse, much of our "office stuff", scheduled to arrive by Sept.15, didn't reach here till almost the end of Oct. I am not satisfied that a few boxes haven't been lost. The Olney Post Office (also gas, oil, complete car winterizing, farm animal feed supply, farm tools, and ice cream) is currently sending us all the advertisements (with postage due, naturally), but where is the regular mail? If, since July 1, you or anyone of whom you know has written for information from the Secretary, such as how to join the Club, where to find a pup, change of your address, and have not received a reply from me, PLEASE accept my apologies and write again - just a post card.

MEMBERSHIP: Membership applications should NOT be sent to me, but directly to Mr. James Maltbie, Treasurer, 855 Queen Anne Rd., Teaneck, N. J. Applications will be sent to all members along with voting ballots and membership lists early in December, so you will have a few on hand. There were several new members who, between the July 1 and November 1 chaos, sent application and checks to me; I've asked Mr. Maltbie to credit you with 1956 membership.

OFFICER-DIRECTOR ELECTION VOTING: This bulletin will carry a blank "Membership Inquiry" page. If you had a change of address, or any change in status, or haven't previously sent in a completed inquiry prior to July 1, please do so immediately. Remember this list will carry the coded system indicating who has pups for sale. I must have these back by Dec. 1*in order to prepare the new list for mailing with election ballots. The ballots must be mailed by Dec.11, and must be received by me no later than Feb.11 to be counted. The by-laws state that ballots may be signed; this is not mandatory. However, in joining AKC, we must present a breakdown of active membership; therefore, please do this: whether or not you sign the actual ballot is of no consequence, but do sign the back of the envelope AFTER IT HAS BEEN SEALED WITH THE BALLOT enclosed; sign it across the seal. This is your guarantee that no ballot has been opened before the proper time, and will serve as a check of who and how many members are active. I can save time, then, by making the statistical survey in advance of the Feb.meeting.

THIS WILL LOOK GOOD TO AKC: Let's have 100% return on the ballots that have just reached you; make it another 100% on officer election. Maybe this is superfluous though; a note from Mr. Maltbie lists 6 dropped memberships, which he says is the lowest he can recall. This is about 5% as compared to a previous average of 45% approximately. We've hit our stride. Let's continue.

AKC GAZETTE COLUMN: This article is prepared a bit better than one month in advance of publication; so March issue, which I must mail the end of January is the first issue that can carry Basenji activities for 1955. I'd like the March issue to be the eye-opener for the non-member breeds. So, will every owner of a Basenji who has made his 1955 championship or has placed in the Hound Group please send a post card to me no later than Jan. 15 with the following information: your name, breeder's name, dog's name, championship in what month of 1955; how many group placings and what place were they. Also include: if the new Champion was less than a year old, give the age at which he finished; if he finished in five shows or less, how many.

ELIZABETH M. RYDER

R.D. 2, Great Barrington, Mass.

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GENETICS REPORT NO I-b

My sincere thanks for the substantial amount of additional information received since the Sept. bulletin; along with the data and pedigrees, there have been many letters of warm congratulations on the project. I am deeply grateful; however, my role is only interpreter; the congratulations belong to those of you who have sent the necessary material. In this respect, may I extend particular thanks to Miss Mary McVain, Miss Veronica Tudor-Williams, and Mr. George Gilkey, all of whom have generously given many hours to this color study. Mrs. Roberta Jenkins recently wrote, "...it must be remembered that all these older breeders contributed so much toward producing the smart little hound we have today, that we should feel humbly indebted to them for the effort, money, and time that must have been spent in trying to establish a new breed in this country. Indeed, at times, they must have felt quite discouraged. I am quite sure (if it be proved that certain dogs did hand down this cream gene) that they also handed down something of value to our present day Basenjis...".

**"This cream gene" is but one of our genetic problems, but please make special note of this quotation; it embodies the principles of genetics as well as being a beautiful tribute to the first breeders. Mrs. Jenkins' words help to emphasize the Sept. report in which I said that most animals contribute some good to their progeny. Nature balances the scale with her survival of the fittest program; however, she does not usually abandon the less fit till she has extracted what is good from them. A sound genetics program and selective breeding mean exactly the same thing. When we have a specimen who is an accumulation of faults and throws the same, why bother, BUT it is wasteful to eliminate from breeding any specimen who has one or two faults; let's eliminate the faults, not the specimen. We breeders of the 1950's are in an

easier situation than the first breeders; we not only have a couple of thousand compared to the original five or so, but we also have had a few valuable outcrosses. I wish space permitted including Miss Tudor-Williams complete description of her back-to-the-wall situation around 1938; it illustrates the terrific frustration all of the older breeders must have faced, and is, without doubt, one of the most hilarious descriptions. It narrowed down to a choice of two studs - one who was a known cream carrier, or one who BARKED. (A special bouquet to you, Veronica, for permission to name any cream carriers whom you bred.)

Actually there were three originals, all of whom were exports from Africa to England: Bongo of Blean, Bashele of Blean, and Bokoto of Blean. Let's call these dogs Group I; Kindu and Kasenyi Group II; Amatangazig of the Congo and Wau of the Congo Group III. There has never been any tricolor offspring from Group I or II unless Group III is in the pedigree; likewise, there has never been any cream offspring from Group II or III unless Group I is in the pedigree. (This, of course, is taken from the 20 or 30 pedigrees I have; if this statement is wrong, please dash a note to me.) The interesting point here is that (I believe) Groups I and III came from different parts of Africa, which may indicate that we have a mutation from the wild-type, Red (called wild type because it must be the original natural type as indicated by its statistical prevalence), to either cream or tricolor; therefore, we may have a tendency toward environmental (geographic in this case) mutation. A fact to remember is that, once a gene mutates or changes, it faithfully reproduces itself in its new form.

Concerning the production of cream pups, this apparently is not too much to worry about. We should theoretically be getting a minimum of about 12% per year by now; it's doubtful though that we're actually getting more than 2%. Miss Tudor-Williams has not had a cream since 1943. This is encouraging, as it indicates a gene of low vitality. Our big color concern is brindles (from here on, unless new information reveals otherwise, I shall call ANY off-colored or oddly marked dog a brindle just for simplicity's sake; there is no indication at this point that they are of another genetic formula.) Also, at this writing, there is no indication that brindles are coming from anything but a combination of tricolor (the black of tricolor) and cream. It may be accidental, but every brindle pedigree carries both cream and tri; and brindles are occurring in increasing numbers. It MAY BE that the elimination of creams will automatically cut the brindle population, but three possibilities must be considered: 1. If cream and tri blend to give brindle, they should also separate during the formation of germ cells. 2. If the cream and tri ancestry are accidental, brindle may be an entirely new mutation of no relation to the previous mutant genes. 3. If cream and tri do blend, the mating of a brindle to a red cream carrier should produce 25% cream pups. So far it hasn't, and this leads us to three sub theories: a. A repetition of number 2. b. An affinity of cream and tri which produces what is known as a linkage pair that may or may not break their bond. c. A blending of cream and tri with an intracellular biochemical action causing the permanent blending into brindle.

It requires about a minimum of 20 words to describe, in every day language, one technical term - appendicitis. I know I've sprinkled a few genetic terms through this report, and quite a few of you have asked for explanations since the first report. I'm holding the explanation for the next report which will be completely technical. As Miss Tudor-Williams has said I may use specific names of "Of The Congo" dogs, I want to get more information from her on various breedings, and will then be able to trace cream for you through one or two pedigrees of her dogs, with the hopes of showing exactly what the formula is and how to count the probability of brindle and/or cream occurrence. Meanwhile, when you look back 8 generations and see that Bereke of Blean was the only "clean" one behind your Basenjis up till Amatangazig, don't scream in horror, but, as mentioned last time, if you suspect an undesirable color gene, breed right into it. We must have results on these breedings: brindle x brindle, brindle x tri, brindle x cream, and tri x cream. (Our kennels has been temporarily delayed, but we hope by spring to have it; so everything going according to schedule, if you don't have room for the experimental pups, we may. If you will pay shipping charges to us, we will pay room and board. We will not take AKC registration papers on such dogs and will dispose of them and their offspring according to your wishes, but WILL NOT sell them.) I strongly recommend that no creams be registered; aside from giving us genetic information, a desirable pup will never come from a cream parent; the offspring may be red, but each one carries cream. For this year, at least, do register brindles; if theory No 1 is true, a brindle, who is otherwise a good specimen, may produce good tri-colors when mated to a tri. However, if you sell brindles, consider this - sell them as local pets without papers and write in a breeding right for yourself for next year.

Your response has most certainly shown a healthy, progressive attitude. For the completion of the color study and for further studies, please do the following: Do not send anything that requires immediate returning; do not send original pedigrees. Do send: a separate sheet for each fault; if possible, a six-generation pedigree (I eventually copy yours to standardize my files and will then mark carriers or suspected carriers on your copy and return it to you;) pictures are quite helpful; any background you ABSOLUTELY KNOW about parents, grandparents, etc.; regardless of the fault, always give such information as color of parents, number in litter, color and sex of affected pups, color and sex of unaffected pups - this is vital information. Keep in mind that genetics is positive too; if you continue to supply me with information, we can gradually work up a list of desirables and undesirables; we won't have to be eliminating faults; we can rather be breeding good traits. One of the valuable possessions of any breed is a list of dominants and recessives - then you, a breeder, will know in advance how to avoid a fault. Many of you have asked for help regarding hernias (inguinal, scrotal, and the so called "umbilical") and undershot bites; these are tentatively scheduled for February, and, if anyone hasn't sent information about them, please may I have it soon.

ELIZABETH M. RYDER
RD 2, Great Barrington, Mass.

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Wessman
-Philo

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Miss Elizabeth Ryder, Secretary, Basenji Club of America, RD #2, Great Barrington, Massachusetts