

FCI-Standard N° 43 / 24. 01. 2000 / GB

BASENJI

ORIGIN : Central Africa.

PATRONAGE : Great Britain.

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE ORIGINAL VALID STANDARD : 25.11.1999.

UTILIZATION : Hunting dog, companion.

CLASSIFICATION F.C.I. : Group 5 Spitz and primitive types.
Section 6 Primitive type.
Without working trial.

GENERAL APPEARANCE : Lightly built, finely boned aristocratic looking animal, high on legs compared with its length, always poised, alert and intelligent. Wrinkled head, with pricked ears, proudly carried on a well arched neck. Deep brisket runs up into a definite waist, tail tightly curled presenting a picture of a well balanced dog of gazelle-like grace.

IMPORTANT PROPORTION : Distance from top of head to stop slightly more than from stop to tip of nose.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT : Barkless but not mute, its own special noise a mixture of a chortle and a yodel. Remarkable for its cleanliness in every way. An intelligent, independent, but affectionate and alert breed. Can be aloof with strangers.

HEAD : Fine and profuse wrinkles appearing on forehead when ears pricked; side wrinkles desirable but not exaggerated into dewlap; wrinkles more noticeable in puppies, but because of lack of shadowing, not as noticeable in tricolours.

CRANIAL REGION :

Skull : Flat, well-chiselled and medium width, tapering towards the nose. Side lines of skull taper gradually towards mouth, giving a clean-cheeked appearance.

Stop : Slight.

FACIAL REGION :

Nose : Black nose desirable.

Jaws/Teeth : Jaws strong with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. the upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth and set square in the jaws.

Eyes : Dark, almond-shaped; obliquely set, far-seeing and rather inscrutable in expression.

Ears : Small, pointed, erect and slightly hooded, of fine texture, set well forward on top of head, tip of ear nearer centre of skull than outside base.

NECK : Strong and of good length, without thickness, well crested and slightly full at base of throat with a graceful curve accentuating crest. Well set into shoulders giving head a « lofty » carriage.

BODY : Balanced.

Back : Short, level.

Loin : Short-coupled.

Chest : Deep brisket. Ribs well sprung, deep and oval.

Underline : Running up into a definite waist.

TAIL : High set, with posterior curve of buttock extending beyond root of tail giving a reachy appearance to hindquarters. Curls tightly over spine and lies closely to thigh with a single or double curl.

LIMBS

FOREQUARTERS : Forelegs straight with fine bone. Legs in a straight line to ground giving a medium front.

Shoulders : Well laid back, muscular, not loaded.

Elbows : Tucked in against brisket. When viewed from front, elbows in line with ribs.

Forearm : Very long.

Pasterns : Good length, straight and flexible.

HINDQUARTERS : Strong and muscular.

Stifle : Moderately bent.

Second thigh : Long.

Hock : Well let down, turned neither in nor out.

Feet : Small, narrow and compact, with deep pads, well arched toes and short nails.

GAIT / MOVEMENT : Legs carried straight forward with a swift, long, tireless, swinging stride.

SKIN : Very pliant.

COAT

HAIR : Short, sleek and close, very fine.

COLOUR : Pure black and white; red and white; black and tan, and white with melon pips and tan markings on muzzle and cheeks; black; tan and white; **brindle : red background with black stripes, the more clearly defined the stripes the better.** The white should be on the feet, chest and tail tip. White legs, blaze and white collar optional.

SIZE AND WEIGHT :

Ideal height : dogs 43 cm (17 ins) at withers,
bitches 40 cm (16 ins) at withers.

Ideal weight : dogs 11 kg (24 lbs),
bitches 9 1/2 kg (21 lbs).

FAULTS : Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree **and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.**

Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified.

N.B. : Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.