

## **BASENJI**

GROUP: Hound

### **SIZE:**

Ideal height for males is 17 inches; females, 16 inches. Ideal length measured from the front of the chest to the point of the buttocks is the same as the ideal height. Approximate weights are 24 pounds for males, 22 pounds for females.

### **COAT:**

Short and fine coat with very pliant skin.

### **COLOR:**

Acceptable colors: chestnut red; pure black; tricolor (pure black, chestnut red and white); and brindle (black stripes on background of chestnut red); all with white feet, chest and tail tip. Amount of white should never predominate over the primary color. Color and markings should be rich, clear and well-defined, with a distinct line of demarcation between the black and red of tricolors and the stripes of brindles. **Serious faults: Creams, shaded or off colors.**

### **HEAD:**

Head carried proudly; flat well-chiseled, medium width skull tapering toward eyes; foreface tapers from eyes to muzzle with perceptible stop; muzzle is shorter than skull, with rounded cushions. The breed characteristic of fine, profuse wrinkles appear on forehead when ears are erect; side wrinkles are desirable, but should not be exaggerated into a dewlap; wrinkles are most noticeable in puppies; wrinkles are less noticeable in blacks, tricolors and brindles because of the lack of shadowing. **Faults: Coarse muzzle; snipey muzzle; coarse skull; domed or peaked skull; dewlap.**

**Eyes:** Dark hazel to dark brown with dark rims; almond shaped, obliquely set and farseeing. **Fault: Round eyes.**

**Ears:** Small, erect, of fine texture, and slightly hooded; well set forward on top of head. **Fault: Low-set ears.**

**Nose:** Black is greatly desired.

**Bite:** Scissors bite, evenly aligned. **Faults: Overshot or undershot bites.**

### **NECK:**

Good length, well-crested, slightly full at base of throat and well set into shoulders.

### **BODY:**

Balanced with short back, short coupled and ending in a definite waist; moderately sprung ribs, oval, and deep to elbows; slight forechest in front of point of shoulder. Topline is level; Chest is medium width. **Fault: Wide Chest**

### **FOREQUARTERS:**

Shoulders moderately laid back with shoulder blade and upper arm being of approximately same length; elbows tucked firmly against brisket. **Forelegs** are straight with clean, fine bone; long forearm with well-defined sinews; strong, flexible pasterns of good length.

### **HINDQUARTERS:**

Strong, muscular hindquarters of medium width. **Hindlegs** have well let down hocks, turning neither in nor out; second thighs are long with moderately bent stifles. **Faults: Heavy bone; wide behind.**

**Feet:** Small, oval and compact with thick pads and well arched toes. **All dewclaws should be removed.**

**Tail:** Set high on topline, bending acutely forward and lying well curled over either side close to thigh.

### **MOVEMENT:**

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Swift, tireless trot; long, smooth, effortless stride with topline remaining level; Coming and going, the straight column of bones from the shoulder joint to foot, and from hip joint to pad, remains unbroken; dog single tracks as speed increases.

TEMPERAMENT:

Intelligent, independent, but affectionate and alert; often aloof with strangers.

**Any departure from this standard should be considered a fault, and the final score should reflect the seriousness of the deviation from the standard**

*Disqualifications:*

**Viciousness or extreme shyness.**

**Albinism.**