



**FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)**

SECRETARIAT GENERAL: 13, Place Albert 1<sup>er</sup> B – 6530 Thuin (Belgique)

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**24.01.2000/EN**

**FCI-Standard N° 43**

**BASENJI**

**ORIGIN:** Central Africa.

**PATRONAGE:** Great Britain.

**DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICIAL VALID STANDARD:** 25.11.1999.

**UTILIZATION:** Hunting dog, companion.

**FCI-CLASSIFICATION:** 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 and belly:** 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:**

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

**Shoulder:** 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.

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

**HINDQUARTERS**:

General appearance: Strong and muscular.

Stifle: Moderately bent.

Second thigh: Long.

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

Hind 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**.

**DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:**

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.

**N.B.:**

- Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.
- Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.

## SURFACE ANATOMY

