



**FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)**

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

---

**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** : 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.

**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** :

**General appearance** : 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.**

**DISQUALIFYING FAULTS :**

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- 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.
- Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.

# ANATOMICAL FEATURES

