

Prospective Basenji Owner's Checklist

(special thanks to Heather Budd)

Item	Description	Check
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase an airline approved size 200 or 300 crate. • Put appropriate bedding inside crate (washable, allergy proof polyester “lambs wool” covered with a cotton pillowcase). • Make sure crate fits in your car. • Bring crate with you to pick up puppy from breeder. 	
2.	<p>Post these phone numbers and addresses for all household members to see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The puppy's regular Veterinarian • The closest 24-hour emergency animal hospital • The puppy's breeder • The closest animal shelter/lost and found 	
3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basenji-proof your back yard and home. • Repair potential escape points in fences; put blocks or bricks at the base of fences where digging could occur. • Check spacing between posts or bars (wrought iron) of fencing: no more than 2 inches for an ADULT DOG! Remedy here might be by temporarily attaching 2 metre high chicken wire to fence posts, completely encircling the dog's yard. • Remove any dangerous/and/or household chemicals and cleaners from dogs reach (say 1 metre high & above); • install childproof closures/locks on cupboards that could be opened with paws. 	
4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put locks on gates that are accessible by neighbours, other children, service people, mail carriers, utility meter readers, door-to-door sales people, or anyone that could open the gate and let your basenji out of the yard. • Make plans ahead of time on the days that anyone needs access to your puppy's yard and keep him in another safe area. • Note that utility readers will give you schedules of their meter readers. 	
5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase a good supply of food recommended by the breeder. Purchase stainless steel food and water bowls. • Filtered or bottled drinking water is preferable. Purchase a box of recommended dog treats. • Keep the box of dog treats full and in the same place; if you have trouble getting your dog to come when called, or you need to recapture him, this box can be quickly grabbed by any household member and shaken to get the dogs attention. • There is nothing like a biscuit to get four fast legs running towards you. <p>NOTE: Your basenji is not a ‘garbage bin’ ... resist any urge to feed him / her ‘scraps’.</p>	
6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase good quality ‘humane choke’ type collar and obedience lead. <p>The Basenji is NOT an off-lead breed.</p>	

7.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install lockable dog-door where Basenji will be allowed controlled indoor/outdoor access. This is best placed between a dog yard or run and a room that can be closed off from the rest of the house such as a laundry room, back porch or kitchen. • The garage is not recommended because of the potential for escape when a door is opened. The puppy's crate and any other bed should be kept in this indoor area. 	
8.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell the children not to chase or harass the puppy. <p>NOTE: Tell everyone that they <i>MUST NOT</i> uncurl the tail. This causes the dog considerable discomfort.</p>	
9.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase breeder-recommended 'chew' objects such as Nylabone's Puppy Ring or natural cured rawhide pieces. • A carrot makes a good chew food. <p>NOTE: Never leave your puppy or adult dog unattended with any type of rawhide chew or bone! The potential for choking on a sharp piece is tremendous. If this should happen, open the dog's mouth and clear his air passageway by reaching into his throat to pull out the object.</p>	
10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan your new Basenji's daily schedule before her / his arrival. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will he / she get a long walk before and after work? • Will she /he be able to look forward to a specific time of day when you get out his toys and have a good romp and play? • Will he / she spend 15 minutes a day with you and other household members learning obedience? • What feeding schedule can she he count on? • Will he / she be able to sit with you in the TV or family room and have his supervised rawhide chew? 	
11.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan to monitor your puppy's toilet habits. Pick an area in the yard that you prefer he use. He will always have to 'go' about 20 minutes after play time, heavy activity or eating. This is the perfect opportunity to housebreak him by taking him out to this spot after the 20 minutes, or when he begins to circle and sniff the floor. • Carry him out the first few lessons, followed by coaxing out the open door, followed by dog door training. Do not do this frantically, as there will always be accidents in the beginning; firm and consistent discipline is only effective whilst he is in the act, and only after you have let him know what is expected of him. • Praise your Basenji when he goes to the toilet in the right spot. 	
12.	<p>Be prepared: your new basenji puppy will cry up a storm for the first few nights in his crate because he is in a new environment without his littermates. Even if his breeder has started his crate training, he will still cry. So that the household can get some sleep, you might want to consider the placement of the puppy's crate out of hearing range, behind closed doors. Do not react to the puppy's crying by approaching his crate and telling him to be quiet; if you do this, he will stop when he sees you, only to start again, when you leave. Take him out to his toilet as late as possible (11:00pm), coax him in his crate with a nighttime cookie, and put in your earplugs. Because he is still a puppy, he will not be able to get through a human night's rest period without having to go to the toilet. Get up by at least 6:00 am (even if you plan to go back to sleep), and take the puppy out to toilet.</p>	

13.	<p>Be consistent!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not start any puppy habits that you do not want the adult to have. • The more routine you make his puppy life, the more he will count on you. • Since the Basenji is a very highly intelligent breed, you will not have any trouble introducing little changes as he starts to feel secure. • Your dog's ability to accept change is part of the socialisation process will come through this process. 	
14.	<p>Read everything you can about this wonderful breed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is presented in this checklist is only a quick reference guide to get you through the first days. • Topics such as crate and toilet training, socialisation, discipline and reward, and obedience training must be studied in depth. • The accumulation of this information, plus the suggested reading list, are the examples from those who have lived with and loved the Basenji for many, many years. • By benefiting from our experiences, some through trial and error, you will be able to avoid much heartbreak. • Your Basenji will become the star of your household, and a friend for life. You will be the leader of the pack! <p>NOTE: Join your local Basenji club – even if you never intend to show your dog. In New South Wales, your Club is <u>The Basenji Club of NSW</u></p>	

Don't Forget: Talk to your breeder or other Basenji owners. Their long years of experience with the breed can never be underestimated.

Recommended Reading

THE BASENJI – OUT OF AFRICA TO YOU
By Susan Coe

THE COMPLETE BASENJI
By Elspet Ford

THE BASENJI STACKED AND MOVING
By Robert Cole

THE BASENJI ILLUSTRATED
By Robert Cole

BASENJIS – THE BARKLESS DOGS
By Veronica Tudor-Williams

FULA – THE BASENJI FROM THE JUNGLE
By Veronica Tudor-Williams

BASENJIS
By Jack Shafer & Bob Mankey

HOW TO RAISE & TRAIN A BASENJI
By Jack Shafer & Bob Mankey

DOG OWNER'S HOME VETERINARY HANDBOOK
By Delbert G. Carlson, D.V.M., & James M. Griffin M.D.