General Appearance

Small, short haired hunting dog from Africa

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General Appearance

Short backed, lightly built, appears high on the leg compared to length

© The Basenji Club of America 2010

General Appearance

Wrinkled head proudly carried

© The Basenji Club of America 2010

General Appearance

Well arched neck

© The Basenji Club of America 2010

General Appearance

Tail high set and curled

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General Appearance

TAIL: Should be set high and a proper tail set is more important than curl. A well set single curl is perfectly acceptable and trumps a tighter curl on a lower set tail.

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General Appearance

Whatever you do, please do not uncurl the tail as this can be very painful to some dogs.

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General Appearance

Poised, elegant, graceful

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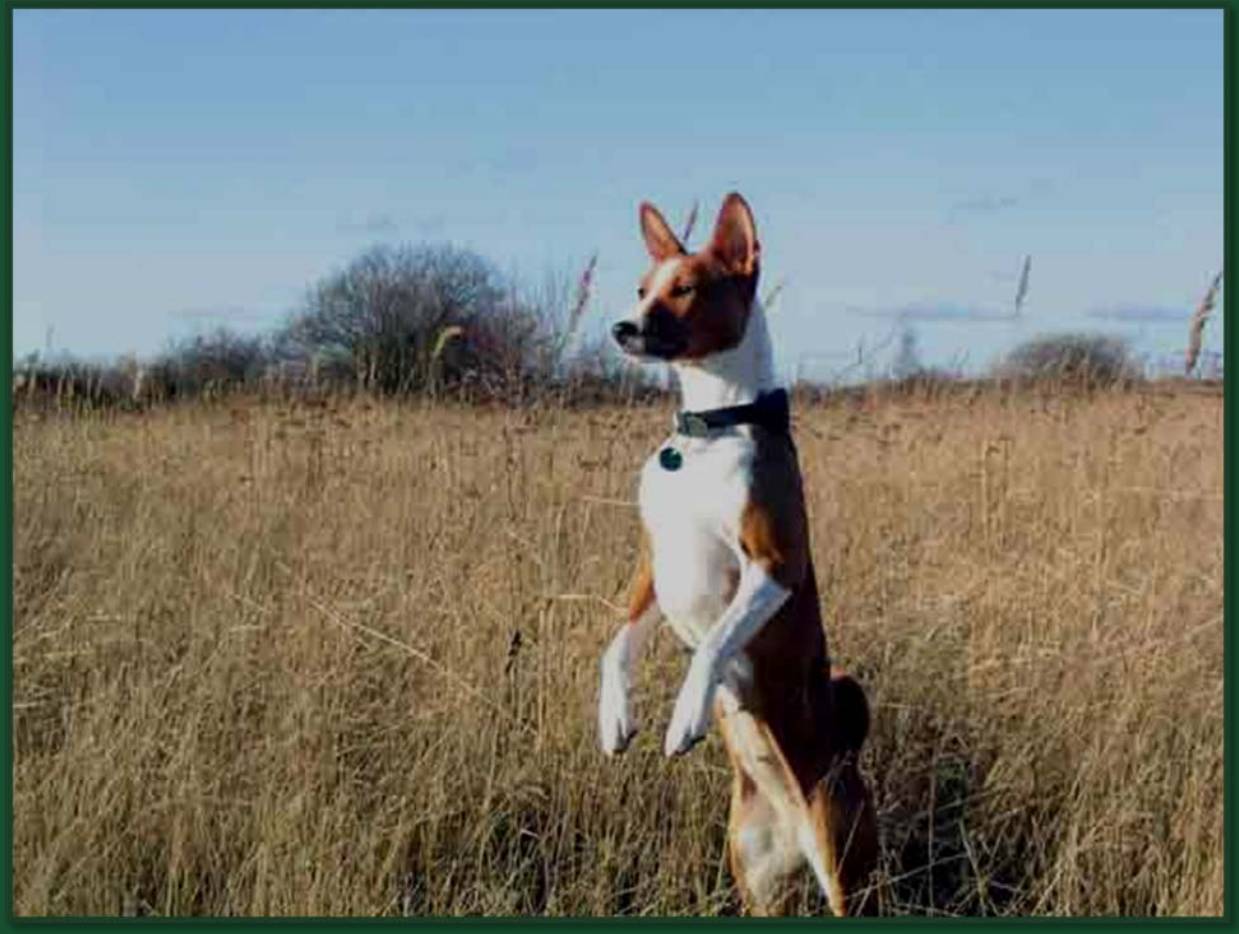
General Appearance



Alert

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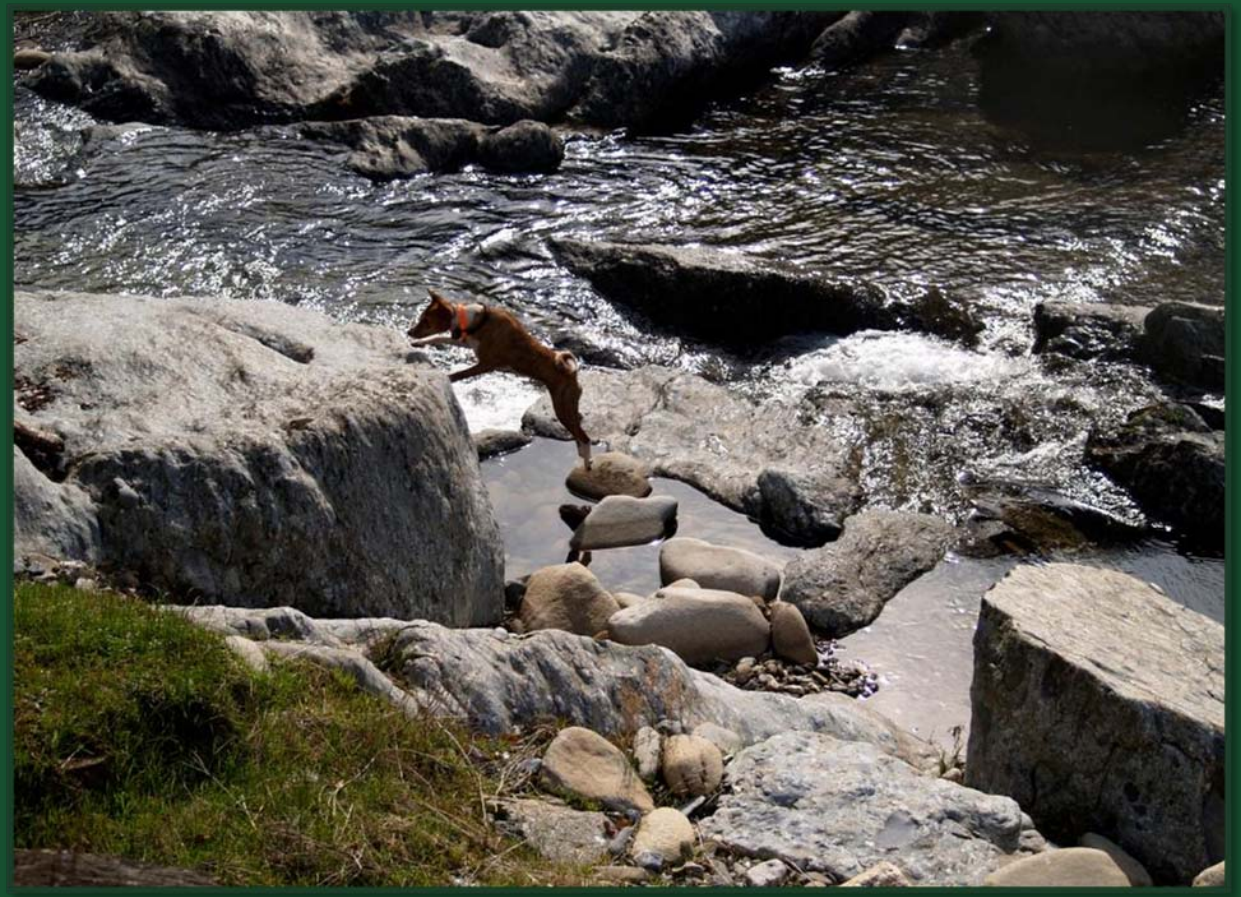
General Appearance



...and agile

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General Appearance

...a race horse trotting full out...

Horses are not dogs and do not move in the same manner but please note that this thoroughbred race horse exhibits an easy, graceful gait and it appears that he could keep it up all day. The Basenji should give a similar appearance of light, effortless movement; he should appear to float. Any Basenji who moves with a hard-driving, flashy gait is probably working too hard.

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General Appearance

Movement effortless

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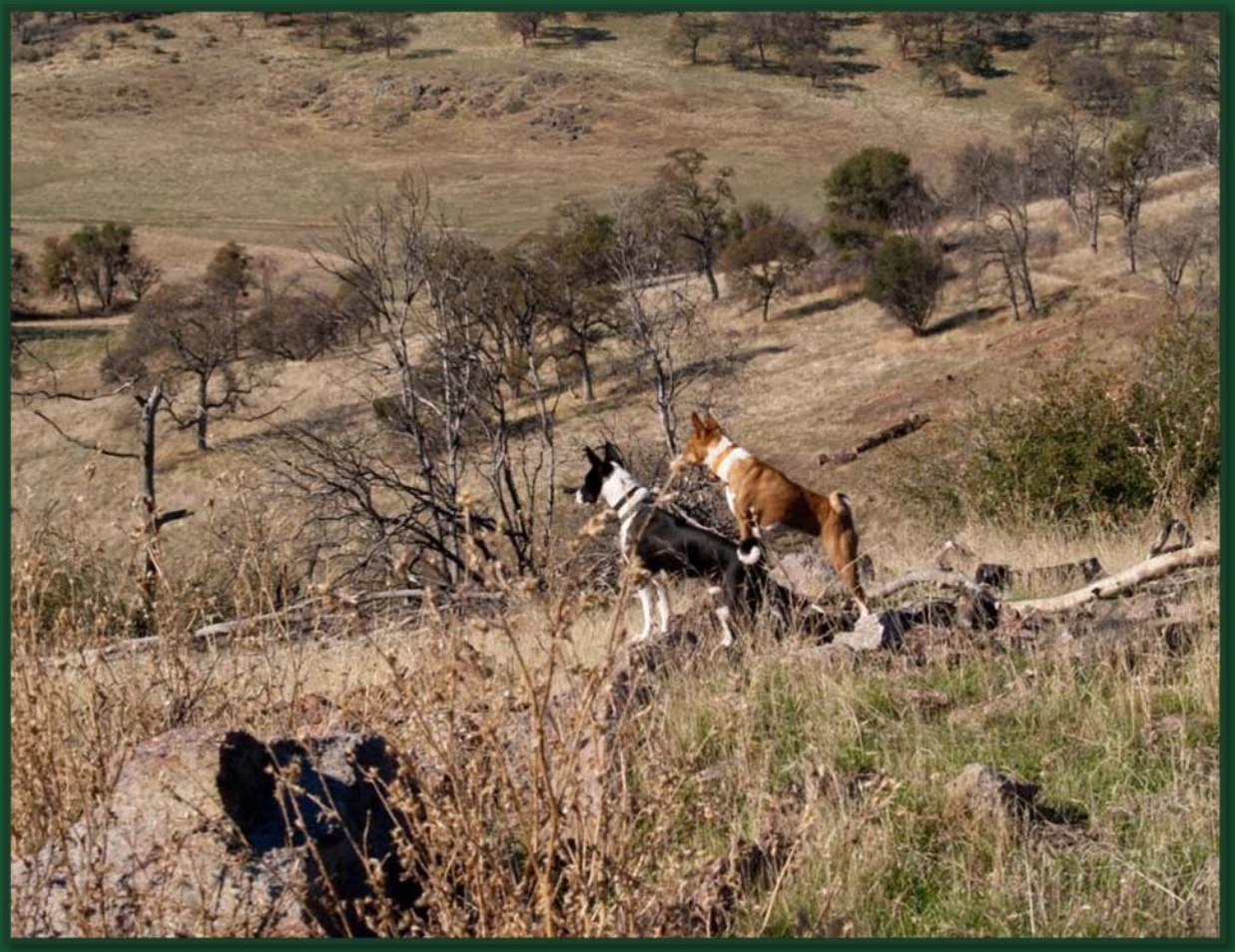
The Basenji hunts by both sight and scent



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Size, Proportion, Substance

Dogs:
17” tall, 17” long, 24 pounds

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Size, Proportion, Substance

Bitches:

16” tall, 16” long, 22 pounds

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Size, Proportion, Substance

Height/Weight Ratio

According to the standard, a 17-inch dog should weigh 24 pounds; a 16-inch bitch should weigh 22 pounds. This is a lot more weight than you would expect in a fine-boned, lightly built dog. A 17-inch dog which weighs 24 pounds is a solidly built, well-muscled dog.

Lack of proper substance is a problem in the breed today as many are too slightly built and verge on weediness.

Measuring

The length, measured from point of breastbone to point of rump, should equal the height from the ground to the withers.

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