

Meet Your Breeders!

Jo Bradshaw - Casa de Viento



1. How did you get started in Basenjis?

The father of my children saw some Basenjis in Dallas, Texas in the late 1950s. He told me about them and showed me a picture in an encyclopedia. I said that those Basenjis were the ugliest dogs I had ever seen! I would NOT have one. However, in March, 1964, we went to see a litter in Albuquerque, NM and left with a red and white girl puppy named Pearl. In February, 1965, we bought a tri puppy girl and named her Shajo's Mariya. Mariya became the dam of six American champions.

2. Why did you start breeding? When?

When Pearl was just 6 months old, we were invited to a fun match in Albuquerque. Pearl was in a class of several girl puppies and she won! I was bitten by the show bug but Pearl was not show quality. In the summer of 1966, Ross Newman was in Dallas and met with some of the Basenji people there. He was out promoting his champion Fuvize. He asked us to breed Mariya to Fuvize – which we did in September, 1966. The result was a litter of five puppies – four of them became champions.

3. What person(s) influenced you most strongly?

The first person to influence me was Mr. Henry McGill. Henry was the handler/kennel manager for the Hallwire Variety Kennel owned by Forest Hall. Henry handled Mr. Hall's early Basenjis including Kingolo. Henry and Mr. Hall taught me a lot about the Basenji standard and how a dog should be put together. The second person to influence me was Ann Logan of Tanda Basenjis. Ann and I would talk for hours about Basenji conformation and movement. I bred to three of her dogs.

4. What have you seen improve in Basenjis over the years?

The Basenji's static conformation is a lot better than it was 40 years ago. I see fewer and fewer straight shoulders so the breed has much better extension. They do not have the horrid fronts they used to have where they would throw their elbows all over the place. We do still have problems with fronts. The dogs turn their paws in as they bring their legs down to the ground instead of keeping the paw straight. My conclusion is that many Basenjis have weak pasterns.

5. What do you think today's Basenji breeders need to pay special attention to?

HEALTH! I believe that we, as breeders, are at a crossroad with our Basenjis. We have been very lucky to have received a test for two inherited defects in the Basenji. But, why do we have to have inherited defects in the first place? It is because we have such a small gene pool. What will this gene pool bring us next? Luckily, we have native African Basenjis that are being imported and carefully bred into our domestic stock. Very few other purebred dogs have this opportunity. We MUST use these African Basenjis! With our new Fanconi Linkage Test and our imports, Basenji breeders are able to go a long way to keep this breed healthy and avoid other inherited defects with an expanded gene pool.

6. What advice do you have for a new breeder just getting started?

Do a lot of research on the Basenji breed. Find all of the current breeders in your area and go talk to them asking all kinds of questions about health, structure and movement. Read books on how dogs are supposed to move. Join BCOA. Go to local dog shows and talk to dog people other than the Basenji people. Find out the reputations of the Basenji breeders. Then, when you really, really feel right about a breeder, buy the very best bitch from that breeder that you can afford! Remember that it took a lot of blood, sweat, tears and money to get that bitch here. It will

take a lot of these same qualities on your part to make her a champion.

7. What dogs have you seen or owned that stand out as outstanding examples of the breed, and why?

The very first dog that I remember loving in the 1960's was CH Reville Recruit. In my opinion, Recruit fit the standard almost perfectly. I have fond memories of CH Tandy's Jaunty Dandy. He was a very beautiful and elegant dog who was very sound. I got my first really sound girl out of him. CH Sonbar Celestial Wizard was also one of my favorites. That dog could move. I wish we had him now. A dog that I bred in my very first litter, CH Shajo's Shenandoah, is one that I wish I had used in my breeding program more. He was a very elegant and sound dog. Then there is My Delite - CH Viento's Red & White Delite. She will always be first in my heart.

8. What do you feel are your most significant achievements with the breed?

Breeding CH Viento's Red & White Delite. My biggest achievement is giving what blood and money I could to Dr. Johnson to develop the Fanconi test. What little I, or anyone else, did to help him will go a long way to help save our breed.

9. Anything else you would like to say?

Please use the available Fanconi Linkage Test so help eradicate Fanconi.

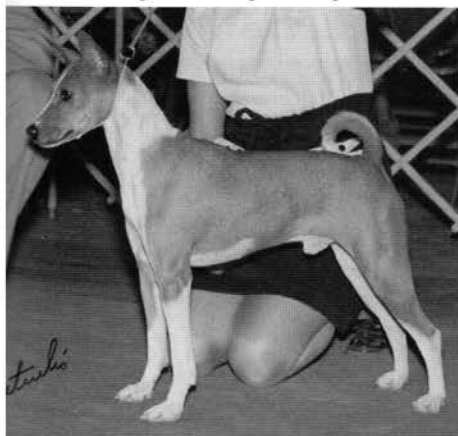
10. Your chosen kennel name is Viento. How did you choose this name? Does it have a meaning?

SHAJO was my original kennel name. After I was divorced, I no longer wanted to use this kennel name. I bought an old adobe house in north-central New Mexico that was called Casa de Viento, or House of the Wind. I took the name Viento from the house for my kennel. VIENTO means 'the wind' in Spanish.

Jo and CH Viento's Red & White Delite



CH Shajo's Gay Chaparral



CH Shajo's Shenandoah



CH Pikwick's Petelote De Viento



CH Viento's Apache



CH Viento's Apache



CH Viento's Fire Bird



CH Viento's Ember Explosion



CH Viento's Lil Shooting Star

