

EARLY DOGS and A REPLY TO MRS. ELPET FORD

Veronica Tudor Williams

I find it rather amusing that photos and comments over Liberian dogs should be called witch-hunting, whilst far less complimentary remarks on things like big ears are just considered fair game. To me, in a free world, provided statements are not rude or untruthful, all comments should be fair game.

Over big ears, Mrs. Ford writes in THE BASENJI, October' 1979, page 2, "looking at the photo of the Kwillo x Kikuyu litter one wonders where the idea of small neat ears arose." As I explained in a previous issue, Mr. Valtier, who was only in Basenjis a very short time, got so many of his facts muddled in his article in THE BASENJI, August, 1979, I felt he had confused the Kwillo litter with another one, born in New York about the same time, as they were such a different type. I promised to look for this New York photo on my return from Australia. I could not find it, but found a less-good but rather similar one. I think anyone with half an eye for type, will find the two photos very different.



I think the other photos will show not how the idea of small neat ears arose, but how we HAD small neat ears. The photo of 5 dogs shows from left to right: K'Impi, Kwango, Kookoo, Kasui and Kavirondo, all of the Congo. Kwango and Kasui were the sire and dam of Kiteve and Kikuyu of the Congo, Kobbi (litter brother to Kikuyu) and K'Impi were the sire and dam of Kwillo of the Congo and Kobbi and K'Impi's daughter Senji, were the sire and dam of Koodoo of the Congo. The parents of several of these dogs were [Bongo](#) and [Bokoto](#). These dogs were the very foundation of the breed and their points were the basis of the standard. Particularly note the ears of Ting Deet. To me they represent the almost perfect ears of three native dogs.



Mrs. Burn and Jennifer



Maj. Richards with TING DEET

To take ears a little further, I am enclosing a snap of three pups born about 1946, which show how the ears are still small, and it was sometime after this that the ears deteriorated into the bigger and less typical, and to my mind, less attractive feature that they are today.



Reprinted from
The Basenji
Volume XVII Number 4 April 1980 p. 5
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Also see ["Where Have all the Small Ears Gone?"](#)



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