



# theBark

THE BCONC NEWSLETTER : NOV-DEC 2012

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SWEET, SMART,  
SOMEWHAT SEDATE—  
SIMPLY UNREPLACEABLE  
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## CLUB MEETINGS

As many BCONC members schedules are extremely busy in December the board decided to postpone the year-end meeting. The next BCONC membership meeting will be in held the first part of 2013—date to be determined. Happy Holidays!

—Jeff Sheldon, President BCONC



PHOTOGRAPHY © PAT FRAGASSI

# Whelping help

BY PAT CEMBURA

*So you are having a litter. From thirty years of breeding experience I've learned to expect the unexpected. I've also learned what to prepare for and when.*

**AFTER I DECIDE** which Basenji to breed, I have the vet test her progesterone levels so I know when the optimal breeding time is. (See sidebar on page 3). Testing will also help you know when the pups are due. Counting day-one as the first sign of blood, I start testing on day-four of her season for a baseline, then again around day nine to see the rise. Typically I test three or four times, with input from my vet on when to run the follow-up tests.

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My girls usually deliver on the 61st day, but I have had them as early as 59 days (that was a litter of six and it was the girl's second litter).

I have the girl x-rayed at about day 57 so I know how many pups to expect, then I can go to sleep as you usually have pups late at night or very early morning.

On day 57 I also start taking the dam's temperature twice a day, 12 hours apart, morning and evening.

I find that the temperature readings are more reliable than not. When I see a definite drop in her temperature I will spend the night in the living room so I can hear when mom starts delivering.

I set up the whelping box about a week before pups are due to get mom use to it. I line the box with several layers of newspaper and an old sheet on top so she can rip and tear when

getting ready to whelp.

My whelping box is a three foot square wooden box with a small door cut in one side so mom can easily go in and out, and as pups get older door can be closed so they stay in.

I have been very lucky as my girls have had their pups in one to two hours. As the pups are being born I pick up newborn, break open the sack and tie off umbilical cord with dental floss. I make sure airway is clear and then put puppy with mom to stimulate and to get the pup to start to nurse. I keep a well-covered heating pad in the box off to the side so I can put newborns in while mom is having the next one. I always return the pups quickly to mom, as nursing will stimulate contractions.

Once I know mom is done, I clean up the whelping box and put in fresh paper with a four inch foam pad

### Progesterone Testing

#### Content via CTDSLab

Natural matings often require no intervention as fresh semen remains viable for a number of days and multiple matings can maximise the contact time between fertile ova and viable sperm. Circumstances are often not typical or ideal and in these situations measurement of progesterone can be helpful to try and identify the optimal time for mating. Previously chilled or frozen semen is viable for a shorter length of time and insemination timings are more critical. Some bitches ovulate much earlier or later in the cycle than a "typical" bitch and may show minimal behavioural changes. The stud dog may be a lengthy journey away and only a single mating planned or feasible.

Measurement of progesterone can be very useful to ascertain the stage of the oestrus cycle, confirm or predict ovulation and optimize breeding when the bitch is most fertile. Prior to ovulation as oestrogen falls, progesterone rises from basal levels and the bitch will come into standing heat. As progesterone levels continue to rise a luteinizing hormone (LH) surge precipitates ovulation and subsequently the ova become fertile. Progesterone levels further increase during this time and then remain high during dioestrus or pregnancy. The final level of progesterone varies greatly and so ideally samples are obtained early enough in the cycle to identify either the level corresponding with the LH surge or around the time of ovulation. It is then possible to predict the most fertile period and the optimal time for mating.



PHOTOGRAPHY © GEORGE WOODARD

*“Mom takes complete care of pups the first three weeks, so there is not much to do other than double her food.”*

the size of the box, a heating pad on half of the box, then cover with a sheepskin pad so pups can't get burned. I keep the heating pad on "low" with the pups for two weeks, making sure they always have room to climb off the heating pad. The sheepskin is tucked into sides of box so no one can get under it. I don't use blankets as I have seen pups get tangled and suffocate. My house stays on the cold side as we don't have central heating. We use wood heat but usually only in the evening.

Mom takes complete care of pups the first three weeks, so there is not much to do other than double her food. I add cottage cheese with both meals to provide extra calcium and find that I don't need to give extra calcium supplements (pet cal or pet tabs).

I start to litter box train the pups when their ears open and can hear, about three weeks old. As soon as the pups wake up I put them in the litter box and keep them in it until they pee. I praise them and return to mom. This gives them a pretty good idea what to do with the litter box.

At four weeks they go into the puppy pen and start to play and eat puppy food. I wean at 5 1/2 weeks so when I give their first shot at six weeks they are weaned.

I also microchip all my pups and they are given a second shot at 9 weeks and then they are ready to go to new homes, and as they say the rest is history. 🐾



PHOTOGRAPHY © BARBARA SAUCEDA

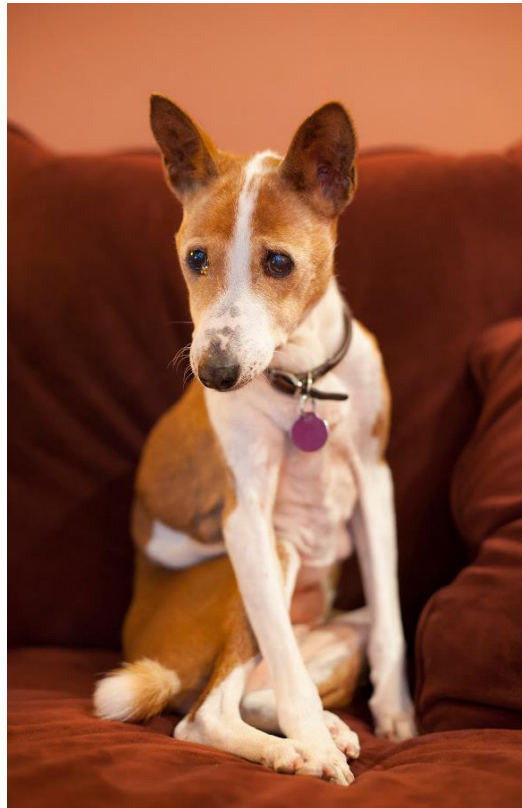


PHOTOGRAPHY © GEORGE WOODARD

This article is not intended as a guide to whelping puppies. Please consult your vet and health test the sire and dam before you breed.



Gazelle at 16, loved by Patrick Shultz



*“These old dogs: I just cry looking at them. It’s not so much that I’m sad but perhaps overwhelmed by how much they mean to me and what they have done for me.”*

—Marcia Woodard

# Graying grace

*“I love my old ones—they are a part of you and the family. I miss my old man I lost two years ago. He was so in tune with me he knew when I was having a bad day. My old girl, just under 14, paces at night when she can’t get into my son’s room. She is deaf and almost blind, but she knows where he is at night.” —Michelle Hogan*

**FROM A CANINE** perspective, Basenjis typically have a long lifespan. Still they age and slow down sooner than we hope. A bit of white on their muzzle may show when they are six and then a flurry at 12. Their hearing deteriorates. Their eyes may get a cloudy blue haze from lenticular sclerosis. Their joints may stiffen with arthritis, they may lose muscle mass in their hind legs. The once tightly

curled tail may be carried more loosely, and then drop completely. However, unless affected by disease, genetic issues, or environmental hazards Basenjis enjoy active years into their late teens.

Jane Davis notes “though the muzzle may be gray, they can still act like puppies. Our oldest is nine, but she still acts like a puppy on any given day.”

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⤴ **Until the very last day, Tego was our little shadow, and always right under my and Ty Rollins’ feet.**

**As a puppy he made his signature early, by chewing a hole in the carpet on every stair. He taught me kitchen drawers need to be B-proofed. Tego could easily open them and haul out whatever he felt he needed. Even at the age of fifteen the kitchen garbage cans had to be in a special cabinet to prevent him from digging in the trash.**

**There is a song I keep hearing on the radio by Adam Lambert. The words are so true for Tego. He never wanted to close his eyes; he always wanted to live every day like there was no time to lose. —Jeff Sheldon**

Karen Christensen adds that “It’s great to see the oldies have sparks of their old enthusiasm, even if they no longer have the stamina and just take their fun and lie down for a nap!”

As Sally Wallis writes, “By the time a Basenji becomes a teenager, especially if it’s a boy or girl you’ve bred, they’ve become so much part of your life that parting with them seems

inconceivable. But it happens, dogs’ lives being so much shorter than ours. So after probably the ninth birthday, one becomes increasingly aware that time together could be cut short at any time. You need to cherish every possible moment and appreciate the old person more.”

Laura Gilchrist concurs. She observes that “Every day is precious because you never know when it is the last.” She also loves how her oldsters respond when being shown in the veteran class. They “liven up when the people applaud for them. They know that clapping is for them and they are giving it 120% going ‘I know I am still great.’”

There is a sweetness about older Basenjis that rivals the rambunctious joy of puppies. Barbara Cox Barber observes that her eleven year old Kenji is blind and diabetic and does “his B250—instead of the B500.”



And just as we give new born pups extra care and attention, our seniors need the same. Add a comfy heated pad to their crate to ease their joints (or let them join you in bed). If their diet has been switched or if they are no longer enthusiastic about their regular diet, warming it up may help. Keep them mentally stimulated with games and rewards for tricks and basic household behavior. Most of all, celebrate them. 🐾

*“We lost Firbi at 12, a couple of months ago. Difficult to credit because his mother lived to be 16.5 years and we kind of assumed / hoped he’d be with us for at least as long. He was the ‘current favorite’ with both Marvin and me and looking back through the years, the favourite is always the oldest!” — Sally Wallis*

⤴ **Take time to stop and smell the roses—**

**As we get older, we learn to slow down, take a look around our surroundings. Smell the scents that occupy our space— enjoy the view! Crash has always been Mr. Independent. He beats to his own drum. If everyone is gathered together, Crash will go to opposite sides of that gathering and sit by himself. Crash will be 15 in a month and a half. —Barbara Saucedo**





⬆ Tuli will be 17 in Jan. She's a blessing in my life. I don't know how I will cope when she leaves me. She is in amazing shape for her age. She recently had her yearly check-up and everything checked out all right.  
—Paulette Rinck

⬆ Matuko on the run in 2012.

Marcia and I cherish everyday this girl is still with us. At the ripe old age of almost 17 years (b. 1-12-1996), Matuko (DC Zuri's Matuko SC JOR) has brought so much joy to our home. She has her good days and bad days yet is still getting around quite well.

Matuko has the honor of holding the record for the Basenji who has shown at every BCONC Specialty since she was able to show. So many memories of her being my first Basenji, show dog, and racing hound, but most of all a great mother and companion to her daughter Nikita, where the three of us became a very close pack. So many memories of all the trails we ran, the trips we took, the shows, the races—but most of all the close bond we have, always looking out for each other. I will truly Miss Tukst when she decides to leave—my best friend and the best running partner I could ever ask for.  
—Donna M Troyna



⬆ The love of my life, "Benny" MBISS BIF Am DC Can CH Khani's Benny N The Jets JC SC FCh AOM SDHR, a few months shy of his 11th birthday and his passing. Benny was a breeder's dream come true—a lovely specimen of the breed in both conformation and performance, as well as health and temperament—he "sold" more people on the breed than any other Basenji I have ever had. He was a true ambassador of the breed. And I continue to miss him daily. I will always be thankful to him and his dog family for their massive contribution to the final test run to produce the Fanconi Linkage Test. May he Rest in Peace. —Kathy Britton

*"Tootsie will never be old—ever.  
I won't allow it." —Sue Kite*





Well, Crash and Lulu seemed to be perfect trail companions. They'd take off and keep going; heading for the sunset it seemed. I could tell Eunice was not comfortable with how far they were going and for how long they were gone. I then told her that I'll just tell Basco to go get them, and did. "Tabasco, go get Lulu and Crash!" Off he went. Taking his obligation seriously, raced in the direction of Lulu and Crash, looped around them and corralled them back to us—ha! True Tabasco-form! I think from then on out, Tabasco became Eunice's hero.

Tabasco continued to be king of the trails, keeping all his pack members in range until he passed the torch to his disciples in his later years....no Basenji, past or present, has taken this command to the level that tabasco had. My hero. Tabasco.

December 2 1995 - August 9 2011  
—Barbara Saucedo

Ⓜ I miss Tabasco. Even with all his little idiosyncrasies as he aged and what we had to do to accommodate his failing body. Wouldn't it be great to be able to turn back the clock, to be able to play with our companions all over again when they were feisty little puppies, now that we "know" the outcome. We always said that Tabasco had the demon-seed in him! He was as ornery and stubborn as they come! But what I know now, wish I could experience him all over again, from puppy to adult. He had every personality that a Basenji possess and then some; both sides of the spectrum. What I do admire most about him is that he was super smart, a survivor.

Short story. Every first-time Basenji-owner is always warned *never* let them off lead! Well, we did but only in very safe areas, away from traffic, with miles of open space. Tabasco was always so good. From puppy to adulthood, he'd always check in with me or Steve on the trails. He'd go out

and about on a hunt but would always make sure we were in his sight. Always check in.

Along comes Crash. After experiencing the trails as a puppy, the distance apart from us and his wandering grew. Advancing into boyhood, he was off on his own adventures, not checking in as Basco had done. Crash had his own agenda.

When Steve or I would get a bit concerned, we'd tell Tabasco to go get Crash—and he would! Always. He'd round up Crash and have him running back to us. Still relatively "new" at having Basenjies off leash, there's always an unsettling feeling in doing so, but I was confident in my two Basenjies off lead in these safe areas.

We were having a get together hike at Mission Peak trails with Lulu accompanying Crash and Tabasco. I could tell Eunice was a bit uneasy. I remember saying, "Don't worry. They'll come back."



*"Lulu's passing scoured a hole in our hearts. Upside it left us with a greater capacity for love."* —Eunice Ockerman





⊕ Komet is my “Kiwi daughter”— a dearly loved brindle girl that has always occupied a very special place in my heart. She came into our lives 13 years ago this Christmas day, and is the best memory we have of any holiday season. She always was “the baby”, and even now is my baby girl and the princess of the pack. Komet is our senior dog, but you wouldn’t know it to look at her. She is still young at heart and a strong, sweet presence that demands pampering and snuggling. She puts up with many indignities from the boys and still loves and grooms them daily. She never liked showing, racing, or any activity other than running free. She does like sitting on top of the boy’s crates at events and blowing raspberries at everyone that has to be confined. As I said, a princess! —Chris O’Rear



⊕ Nicky, DC Sherwood’s In The Nick Of Time SC, RN, VFCh, LCM, JOR, has been my introduction to Basenjis and many dog sports. He is battling squamous cell carcinoma. He still loves to find the sunny spot to lay in and his son and great nephew love him very much and cuddle with him daily. We all cherish the time we have left with him. Picture by Stormy Maddux taken at this year’s puppy match at the age of 14.5 years. —Lisa Voss

*“I love the oldsters, they are so much fun to be around, They really make my day. We currently have a 14 year old and 16 year-old. The 16 year-old sleeps with us. She fell off the bed recently, and unable to back on, curled up on the floor. My husband was getting up before me and I said to him Tamu isn’t on the bed so watch where you step. Sure enough he would have stepped right on her if I hadn’t said something.”*  
— Lynn Arrand

*“Gaby paved the way for our Basenji obsession. She lived to be 14.5. Gaby developed doggie Alzheimer’s and wandered off into the snow when we were living in Kansas City. My husband found her 3 miles away at a grocery store. She was in kidney failure. He held her while we put her down.”*  
—Tatiana Gregorian Bailey

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theBark



PHOTOGRAPHY © JIM BAGBY

**Coursing—not just for sighthounds anymore!**

## Coursing Ability Test

Saturday & Sunday, Dec 29 & 30

Brigantino Park  
2045 San Juan/Hollister Rd.  
Hollister, CA

Roll call:  
8:30am & 11:30am  
(Or immediately following  
the finish of the first session)

Photographer **Jim Bagby** will be on hand to capture highlights of your dog's run. Join us in ringing in a new year of dog fun. Bring a dish, snack, or treat for a group celebration. For more information email [dmtroyna@yahoo.com](mailto:dmtroyna@yahoo.com) or [christie\\_beetz@yahoo.com](mailto:christie_beetz@yahoo.com). Dogs must be registered with the AKC through the Canine Partners Program or regular registration. Canine Partners/non-purebred dogs can register on the day of the tests. Pre-entry: \$20. Day of trial entries: \$30 (closes 1/2 hour before 1st course) AKC licensed event