

THE BRAT MISSION

Who are WE?

Basenji Rescue and Transport, Inc. rescues, rehabilitates and re-homes dogs of the Basenji breed. Founded in 1999, BRAT is an all-volunteer organization and has been recognized by the IRS as a tax-exempt charitable corporation. BRAT rescues Basenjis from shelters, abusive situations, and relinquishing owners. We provide routine and advanced veterinary care of our dogs and ensure that they have been spayed/neutered and appropriately immunized before placement. We train, rehabilitate, and work to place each dog in the best possible home.

Our 800-plus volunteers perform a wide variety of tasks (depending on their situations) including fostering, evaluating Basenjis for temperament, performing homechecks, coordinating placements, and providing post-adoption counseling during the adjustment period. We also help transport dogs to foster and forever homes, notify responsible breeders when their dogs come into rescue, educate shelters and other rescue organizations about the Basenji breed and assist owners in dealing with Basenji behavior issues in order to prevent dogs from needing to be rescued.



BECOME A MEMBER

Help a dog in NEED.

We need help from every member of BRAT in order to keep up with the never-ending flood of rescue dogs. We depend on the help of our volunteers to carry on the mission of BRAT. If you would like to become a BRAT volunteer, please visit our Website. There are a number of ways to contribute to the cause. We are in need of screeners and foster homes. Of course we always welcome donations.

Helpful Websites for anyone interested in learning more about this special breed:

Basenji Rescue and Transport, Inc. Website:

www.basenjirescue.org

Basenji Club of America Website:

www.basenji.org

Basenji Magazine on-line:

www.thebasenji.com

Basenji Companions Website (excellent information about owning a Basenji and Basenji health):

www.basenjicompanions.org



Basenji Rescue and Transport, Inc.

www.basenjirescue.org

Toll-free hotline: (877) 488-7328 or
E-mail: adoption@basenjirescue.org



BASENJI RESCUE AND TRANSPORT

What is a BASENJI?

Also known as the "African Barkless" dog, this intelligent and curious breed has been the hunting companion of tribes in the Congo Republic for thousands of years. Only since the 20th century has this medium-size, short-haired canine become popular here in the United States and Canada. Their unique personalities have been described as "cat like" while having an extremely independent, self-driven nature. Their playful antics can be a handful for an untrained owner or a family with young children, but with patience, airlocks for a secure environment and a good sense of humor, the Basenji can become a loyal and loving companion.



ADOPTING A BASENJI

My dog is a BRAT!

Basenji Rescue and Transport, Inc. keeps a database of all of our rescues on our Website. It is important to note that the adoption process at BRAT is *not* a first-come, first-served process. It is based on evaluating the dog, describing him fully and putting that information into a public setting for all interested applicants to consider.

An adoption coordinator goes through all inquiries to find the family whose situation best dovetails with the needs of the basenji. More intensive interviews follow the preliminary screening and a home visit is required before any final placement decision is made.

When we have a young, healthy, purebred basenji, many of our applicants may be interested in applying for that dog. An applicant may be turned down not because they are unsuitable but because out of everyone considered, someone else's situation was felt to be the best match.

Faster is not always better, especially when re-homing dogs. People who work in rescue are certainly aware that those who want dogs can easily visit a pet store, hand over a credit card, and go home with a puppy in a matter of minutes. Part of the reason we are so aware of this is that we see many of those puppies later in rescue.

BRAT has an excellent track record for placing basenjis in "forever homes." One of the most important reasons for the high success rate is the thoroughness of the screening and matching process.

Because it is thorough, it takes time. How long a potential adopter can expect to wait while being screened and approved for a particular basenji varies. The whole process might only take a week or two, but more typically an applicant waits a month or more (sometimes several months) for the right dog to come along.

If you are interested in one of our dogs, e-mail the basenji's coordinator, expressing your interest. It is helpful to include a brief description of your home situation and perhaps explain why you feel this particular dog might be a good match for you. The coordinator will reply and in all likelihood, will have further questions for you. Think about these questions carefully. You may even wish to discuss them with your family.

Our coordinators are not trying to be snooty or give you a hard time. They just want a positive outcome for you and the dog. Be cooperative and answer the questions as honestly as you can. This is also a good opportunity for you to ask questions. For example, if the coordinator mentions that the basenji has a particular health problem or behavioral challenge, you may want to request a more detailed explanation.

BRAT does not require that people stay at home 24 hours a day in order to adopt a basenji. BRAT does not do financial evaluations of families. There are some absolutes in the BRAT process, but there is also great emphasis on looking at each dog and family on its own merits.

SO MANY DOGS...

So little TIME...

Each year, BRAT receives more than 300 requests for assistance from basenji owners and shelters in the United States and Canada. Given that the basenji ranks only 77th in AKC registrations with a total of 1,233 dogs registered in 2002, 300 purebred basenjis needing rescue each year is a very significant number.

There appear to be at least three major reasons that basenjis are placed into rescue: inaccurate expectations about the breed; nipping problems with young children; and family financial problems/divorce.

Because responsible breeders take back all dogs of their breeding at any time, BRAT deals primarily with basenjis purchased from pet stores and from irresponsible "back yard breeders."

Anyone considering adopting a basenji should first do extensive research. Too many people consider a basenji because of their size, barklessness and short fur without considering their personality.

Unfortunately, as long as pet stores and back yard breeders exist, it will be too easy for someone to purchase a basenji without knowing what they are getting into. Rescue groups and responsible breeders need to educate prospective basenji owners about all Basenji quirks.

