

What Every Family Should Know Before Adopting A Basenji



By Donna Falk

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WHY THIS BOOK?

I had the idea to write this book because I knew that many families were interested in Basenjis and did not realize what they were getting themselves into. Basenjis have many qualities which make them attractive to families: they are clean, they are known to be “barkless,” they are playful, fun-loving and intelligent. But, they are also very active, independent, and curious, which can sometimes make them more difficult than some other breeds.

Through my involvement with Basenji Rescue, I see many cases where families don't have the desire to deal with the sometimes difficult personality of Basenjis. It is disappointing to see families give up their dogs because they “don't fit in” to their hectic lives.

As a busy parent and Basenji owner, I thought I could help by giving some tips that have worked in our family. Also, I can give some warnings of

things to expect when you bring a Basenji into your house-- and ways to deal with some of these situations.

I don't go into too much detail about training, feeding, or healthcare -- there are lots of other books that cover that. Instead, I try to deal with things that relate to busy families with children-- such as: adjusting to life with a Basenji, having your Basenji be well-behaved around your children and their friends, keeping your Basenji contained with kids around, keeping your Basenji from destroying your family's things, keeping your Basenji exercised, and fitting the Basenji's needs into your busy life.

It is my hope that these tips make families think before bringing a Basenji home. And that, for those that do, it helps make a positive life for you and your Basenji for the next 10 to 15 years!

---Donna Falk

*Cinnamon
and Mombera
get ready for
Halloween.*



“What are we, animals in a zoo?!”

A Few Words From Cinnamon & Mombera

Cinnamon: So, she thinks she really knows us, eh?

Mombera: Yeah, I guess we haven't been clever enough!

Cinnamon: Even as she's writing this, she doesn't notice that we're eyeing the modeling clay that the girl-human left out on the table.

Mombera: Or the remote that is on the couch! Yum!

Cinnamon: And can you believe she threw away a perfectly good bunny this morning? We were so efficient in catching it -- she just dumped it in the trash!

Mombera: I know -- meanwhile, Basenjis in Africa are starving!

Cinnamon: I don't think she was too happy about it -- she said she was rushing to get the kids out the door and onto the bus.

Mombera: Well, at least she doesn't go to work today. It makes me so nervous when everyone leaves the house.

Cinnamon: I used to be that way, too. But now I'm used to it.

Mombera: Can you believe she's writing a book about us? Trying to warn people like we are some kind of monsters?!

Cinnamon: It's really very insulting.

Mombera: How are we supposed to get away with things if the humans are onto us?

Cinnamon: We're smart... we'll think of something!

Chapter 1

Basenjis: Facts & Fiction



“Where’d that bunny go?”

***From what you already know about Basenjis,
take this short True or False Quiz:***

- | | True or False? |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1) Basenjis are silent | --- |
| 2) Basenjis are clean | --- |
| 3) Basenjis are playful | --- |
| 4) Basenjis are easy to train | --- |
| 5) Basenjis don't need much exercise | --- |
| 6) Basenjis are good family pets | --- |
| 7) Basenjis cannot live in apartments | --- |
| 8) Basenjis can be trusted off-leash | --- |



Answers:

1)Basenjjs are silent.

False...

While Basenjjs are known as the African “barkless” dogs, they are by no means silent. They are usually very quiet, but can yodel or “baroo” when they are happy to see you. If they are displeased they do whine and grumble.

2)Basenjjs are clean.

True...

Like cats, Basenjjs like to lick themselves clean. They shed very little and have no undercoat, which often (but not always) makes them a good breed for people with allergies.

3)Basenjjs are playful.

True...

These dogs love to play and play! They often act like puppies even when they reach old age!

4)Basenjjs are easy to train.

False...

Basenjjs are very intelligent and quick learners, but that is not the same as “easy to train!” They are very independent and often have an agenda of their own. Basenjjs also do better with “positive reinforcement,” and if your Basenji is food-motivated it will help greatly in your training.

Basenjjs usually have a “what’s in it for me?” attitude!

5)Basenjjs don’t need much exercise.

False...

I read somewhere that Basenjjs have “moderate” exercise needs. I guess that is a relative term. If you think that running a marathon is “moderate” then I guess that would be true!

6)Basenjis are good family pets.

True...

The earlier you socialize your dog, the better. Not just to children, but to other pets and people as well. Basenjis like being part of the pack – the pack being your family. They can be aloof, but at the same time, they like lots of attention and being included in family activities. As with all dogs, Basenjis should be supervised around young children who may pull their tails, chase or tease the dogs. Likewise, Basenjis see small children as fellow dogs and may jump on them and knock them over, which can be very unsettling to a young child.

7)Basenjis cannot live in apartments

False...

Of course Basenjis can live in apartments! I know many people who live in the city and own Basenjis. However, to accommodate their Basenji's need for exercise, many owners utilize dog-walkers when they are off at work and also take many trips to the local dog parks.

8)Basenjis can be trusted off-leash.

False...



Basenjis in particular should never be off-leash in any unsecure area. Since they are sighthounds and have a high prey drive, they will chase practically any thing that moves – bunnies, squirrels, even cars! They are also famously known to have “selective hearing” and may not reliably come when called. Basenjis are not the kind of pets that you can have run free.

CHAPTER 2

A BASENJI IN THE FAMILY



Getting ready to hit the soccer field on a cool, fall day

Don't think your kids will take care of the dog

In general, one of the biggest mistakes I see with families adopting dogs is that the parents think that the children will take responsibility for the care and keeping of the dog. This is a big commitment even for an adult, and to expect a child to walk, feed, exercise and train the dog is just setting everyone up for disappointment. If, as a parent, you don't have the time or desire to put effort into raising your Basenji, then this is probably not the right time to adopt one. Certainly the children can, and should, assist in these activities, as it will give them a sense of responsibility and pride, but they should not be expected to be the primary caregivers.

The first week is a nightmare.

Bringing a new dog into your home, whether it's a Basenji or other breed, old or young, rescue or not, will totally disrupt your household. It is a new environment for the dog and he will have to get used to your routines; how to let you know his

wants (food) and needs (to go out, when and where!).

There will be a lot of adjustments for all.



The stress of running home to walk the dog in between all the family activities is very overwhelming, especially during that first week. More

than one friend of mine has called me, literally in tears, feeling like they

are losing their minds and considering giving up their dog. I was in that same situation. The best advice I can give on this is – hang in there!

Give it time, be patient, and you will all settle into a routine. The beginning is the toughest part, but I promise, with a little time and a bit of effort, everyone will calm down.

It might also be helpful to enroll your basenji puppy in “Puppy Kindergarten,” or your older basenji in an obedience class. These controlled group situations are good for socialization (for both you and your dog!) as well as aiding in training and giving you a place to get some questions answered.

Busy Moms & Dads

Very often these days, both parents in a household are working full- or part-time from the home or out, volunteering in schools and community, and carpooling the kids to their many activities and sporting events. This is part of what adds stress to the family when a new pet is brought into the home.



And, to say that you’re a “stay-at-home” parent does not necessarily imply that you have any more time than those that work full time. These parents are more on the run than ever, too.

If the primary caregiver doesn’t have the time or desire to fit a new pet’s needs into the daily routine, serious thought should be given to not adopting at this time. Sometimes it’s OK to “JUST SAY NO!”

Basenjis want to be part of the pack

– that is, part of the family.

They don’t want just 5 minutes of your time at the end of the day. They want to be with you, play with you, hang with you. If they don’t get enough stimulation and exercise they can become bored, frustrated, depressed, and destructive. Make sure that your Basenji has enough exercise. A tired Basenji is a calm Basenji. As I learned from experience, three quick walks around the block per day does not constitute

enough exercise. They need to be “dog tired!”

Here are some ways to satisfy your Basenji’s need for exercise and stimulation:

Socialization for the family dog:

- You can take your kids to *soccer practice*, and bring the dogs along, too! It is good for your dog to get out, see many children and adults, and be part of the hub-bub of a sporting event. Keep your dog on a leash at all times. Always bring poop bags and water, too.

- Fenced in *dog runs* are great fun for dogs and families, too. I love the surprised reaction that my Basenjis get when people see them keeping up with the big dogs! They certainly outrun the other dogs, make wicked sharp turns, and play hard. Everyone goes home tired!

However, beware of bringing your young children (especially under age 8) to the dog runs. All dogs can



be unpredictable, and may jump or inadvertently run into your young child. And while all owners are supposed to be responsible for their dogs at the park, I've witnessed many occasions when an owner was socializing or talking on a cell phone while their dog was getting into a scrap with another dog. You definitely wouldn't want a child (or dog!) in the middle of something like that.

In addition, be aware that some dogs may not get along well with other dogs, so you must know your Basenji's own temperament before heading out to a dog run.

- Sometimes I take my dogs in the car when I *carpool*, just to get them out of the house, see some new faces, and get some fresh air. But not too much fresh air -- crack the window just a little, but not so much that your dog can jump out if he sees something interesting!

Other fun activities for your family and dog

Lure coursing is a fun activity to which you can bring your whole family. Basenjis are "sight hounds" (as well as being "scent hounds"), which is part of what makes them great hunters. In this activity, a pretend lure (usually a plastic bag of all things!) is attached to a wire on a pulley. The dogs chase the lure around a huge open field. It is fun to watch as the dog follows its natural instinct and tries to catch the "rabbit-bag!"

Agility is another mind-and-muscle-working experience that your Basenji may enjoy (in your fenced-in backyard). Various jumps and obstacles can be set up for the dog to go over, around and through. A lot of training is involved for serious competition in this area,

“You go first!”

but we have fun just setting up a mock-agility set in our yard. We put a 10 foot pine board on an incline to run up and down, take out our kids’ old play tunnel for the dog to go through, set up a pole to jump over, and we hold up a hula-hoop to jump through. Our dogs really enjoy it and the kids get a kick out of it as well!



Some other social activities for your family and Basenji to enjoy include obedience training, puppy playdates, local dog shows, and breed club activities.



Chapter 3

IN AND AROUND THE HOME



Good House Manners: The dog will jump on your kids' friends until you teach them not to.

- Teach your dog sit, down, and stay. There are many reasons to do this— it establishes you as “alpha,” it is good for their obedience, and it is easy and enjoyable for kids to participate.
- Provide your kids' friends with treats to make the dogs “sit” when they come in.
- Have children “look to the sky” (ignore the dogs and pretend they are looking for something else) when dogs jump on them. This has worked great for us when our not-yet trained Basenjis would enthusiastically greet our children's friends. One thing Basenjis don't like is being ignored! Petting them when they jump up gives them the attention they crave and only trains them to jump more!
- Do not subject kids that are afraid of your dogs to your dogs. In our home we have areas gated off with baby gates and rooms that are off-limits, so that the children have safe places to go if they are nervous about dogs. I try to encourage those kids



to feed a treat to the dog and, even if they are nervous, they seem to feel empowered when they can get my dog to “sit” or “roll over” at their command!

- Let kids eat in another room until your dog is trained or put the dogs outside or in a crate. Again, one thing that is so annoying is when a dog jumps up and takes food off your child's plate or right out of their hands! Also, it can be dangerous to the child if the dog is food-aggressive.
- Push chairs in under the table. Don't keep food out unattended.

-
-
- Take away the dog’s toys/food/bones. Periodically, take away the dog’s toys, food, and bones and give them a favorite treat in return. This teaches them to trust you and your children. No matter how many times you tell your kids or kids’ friends not to take something from a dog, invariably, for reasons known only to them — they will! Better to have your dog used to it now.

The Basenjis will eat the Barbies®

And so much else – shoes, electrical cords, pencils. Special favorites are TV remotes and tissues. Why? I have no idea. These dogs are very curious and just love to chew and rip apart things! Some products you can try to keep your Basenji from eating things: bitter spray and cayenne pepper. You can also try mentholiptic vapo rub on power cords and wires.



The best defense is a good offense – keep toys, shoes, etc. out of reach of your dog. Have certain off-limits areas just for kids. My house has never been as neat as it is now that we have Basenjis living in it! It only took losing one or two Barbie dolls for my daughters to quickly learn to keep their toys in their room or in the basement (both off-limit areas to the dogs). We keep our kitchen garbage in a closet (locked with an “eye hook” since our Basenji figured out how to open it!). And our bathroom garbage is kept inside the vanities with child-proof locks. Having a Basenji is a lot like having a toddler constantly around! When dog-proofing your home, think “two-year old!”

Beware of dangerous people foods!

Be especially careful when eating chocolate around your Basenjis (or any dog). Chocolate, especially the darker variety, can be extremely harmful to your dog, even lethal! Onions are another food to keep away from your dog, and there have even been report of problems with grapes and raisins.

Also, note that some common houseplants may be harmful if ingested. If your over-inquisitive Basenji gets into any of these foods (or other harmful products), call your vet immediately. Depending on the poison, they will tell you whether or not to induce vomiting.



And also pesticides...

Watch what you put on your dog and your lawn! It is easy to keep the kids off the lawn when pesticides are put down, but it is more difficult to keep the dogs off, especially if they are used to “going potty” in the yard and playing in the yard. Do some research to decide what, if anything, you really need to put on your lawn. Do the risks outweigh the benefits? You can also look into using natural methods to eliminate pests and weeds.

As for fleas and ticks -- check your dog regularly for these. You shouldn't have to use repellents. Occasional grooming and diligent checking, along with good diet, should ward off any potential problems. Topical and ingestible pesticides are harmful and can make your Basenji (and children!) quite sick. Ticks are easily removed. And as for Lymes Disease vaccinations (and all vaccinations for that matter), do your research before you give your dogs their shots so that you know of any side-affects that may occur.

Babysitters

Finding a babysitter to watch your kids is easier than finding the right babysitter to watch your Basenji! I know my kids will at least listen and I don't have to worry about them bolting out the front door!

One of my babysitters was intimidated by the enthusiastic nature of my Basenji when the dog decided to do the "Basenji 500" throughout the house--stamped over couches, chairs, and practically the babysitter's head!

And don't forget my special Basenji-babysitter rules:

- ✓ *Keep the kitchen chairs pushed in.*
- ✓ *Keep the closet door closed where the garbage is.*
- ✓ *Put the dogs out in the yard when you go upstairs to put the kids to bed.*
- ✓ *Don't leave homework on the table unattended.*
- ✓ *Put your pocketbook and jacket in another room!*
- ✓ *And, of course, watch those doors -- don't let the dogs bolt!*

One time a babysitter forgot one of these important rules and left her homework and "white-out" on the kitchen table and the chair not pushed in. Then she went to put the kids to bed. When I came home there was white-out on the carpet and on the dog -- I was petrified that



she was poisoned! The babysitter was sitting there with her own petrified and embarrassed expression. Luckily, only a small puncture was made in the bottle, so very little white-out, if any, was ingested. The vet said it should be OK (we did not have to induce vomiting at this time) and luckily, everything turned out all right. It just shows you how important it is to have the right babysitter for this breed!

What about vacations?

You can hire dog walkers or pet sitters if you're going to be out for a long day or when you go on vacation. Most will come to your house (some will even stay, but these people are hard to find!), and some have set-ups in their home where they can accommodate a few dogs at a time. I don't personally recommend leaving your Basenji at home unattended (even with periodic dog walking) for days at a time because there is too much trouble for them to be in and I think it's unfair to crate them for 24 hours for days on end. I also don't particularly like kennels, though I've used them. In any case, do your research first. Positive word of mouth from people that you know is always great and always visit the facility first. Make sure it is clean. Does it smell "doggy?" Do

the dogs have very secure areas to exercise? Do the dogs have to do their business on concrete or stones (some dogs are only used to going on grass)? Also, have they dealt with Basenjis? Do they like this breed?



There are even many hotels that accept pets, so consider taking them with you on vacation!

Usually you have to crate them when they are in the room (especially unsupervised), so this is another time when it is a good thing to have your Basenji used to being in a crate.

CHAPTER 4

BASENJI ISSUES



“Mmmm, what smells so good?”

Positive training is best.

Just as all dogs are different, all Basenjis are different, but they do have basic inherent qualities that you should know about before you begin training.

They are certainly an independent breed (“what’s in it for me?!”) and do best with positive reinforcement. Use treats and praise for correct behavior and try to ignore wrong behavior. If your dog is food motivated, all the better!

Clicker Training

There are many good books on positive training. Many utilize “clickers” along with treats to signify correct behavior. The dog begins to associate the click noise with a treat and therefore produces the wanted behavior. One aspect of this training is that you need to have the clicker with you at all times (where is that clicker again?!) and it also takes a bit of timing and coordination



When house-training, remember that unless you “catch them in the act,” it will be of little use to scold your dog after-the-fact for having an accident. If you do catch them in the act, give a firm, “No,” and take them out to the area where you want them to go. Better yet, if your dog is having accidents in the house, take them out more often. Try to avoid the accidents in the first place.

Sometimes you need to be creative and use other training techniques. Once in a while we utilize a squirt bottle (with water only) to discourage our dogs from an unwanted behavior. Remember, though, always use common sense and your own gut feelings when training. Keep kindness and respect for your dog in mind, and try to avoid aversive methods.

Crate training

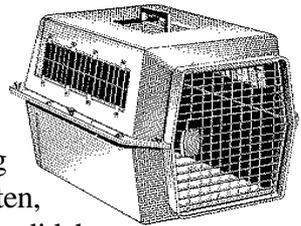
Crates are invaluable when house-training your dog. Whether it is for potty training or for house manners, crates will keep your Basenji safe and your house undestroyed. Crates also keep dogs safe when traveling in the car. And, as was mentioned earlier, it is good to have your dog used to a crate for those times when you take him on vacation. Some dogs even enjoy their crates as they create a safe haven when the house is filled with guests, children, etc.

Staying out of the crate

I couldn't believe it when my trainer said that we would get our rescued Basenji, Cinnamon, out of the crate when we are out of the house. "Impossible!" I said. Most Basenji literature says that you should never leave a Basenji out of the crate while you're gone or you will risk coming home to a totally destroyed house...

Well, like I said, Cinnamon was a rescue. Separation anxiety was a big problem for her. When we went out, we kept her in the crate while we slowly taught her to trust that we will return. And we made our "hellos" and "goodbyes" very low-key.

Among other things, this process saw many cold winter mornings with me loading up the children in the car, circling the block and coming right back. First for one minute, then two, then ten, etc. until our dog started feeling secure. Then we did the whole thing again with her out of the crate. We also employed other behavior modifications and it was a long and slow process. It was especially difficult and time consuming with children to get off to school, and parents off to work.



But it was definitely worth it. Now Cinnamon is totally self-assured when I go off to work while she lazes around on the couch. It's almost like I'm bothering her when I return and try to get her to come outside! Here, it is definitely slow and steady progress that is most beneficial.

How to keep the dogs in the yard

Invariably, the kids will leave the door or gate open — and these dogs love to run! Work on training your Basenji not to bolt out of the door and you will save yourself a lot of aggravation. Also, having back-up gates may help. For a whole summer, I only allowed my children and their friends to come out to the fenced-in backyard by going through the front door and through the house! I had locks on the gates, so they couldn't be left open by accident.



Finally, I installed an “air-lock” type extra gate — like they have in dog parks — where you have to open and close one gate, and then go through and open and close another gate. If the dog gets out of the first gate, there is a second gate to stop them.

And, of course, I bought signs that say “Pets Escape, Please Close Gate.” Does this seem extreme? Read on...

Our first Basenji, who was not necessarily an escaper, loved sneaking out of our fenced-in yard (4-foot chain link). She would crawl under the fence, through the holes that had been made by bunnies pushing their way into and out of our yard. I spent many afternoons running through the neighborhood trying to catch her. What a scene it was to watch me hopping over fences like an Olympic gymnast only to have her easily run from yard to yard under all the bunny holes. Finally, after trying many things, we installed (by ourselves) garden edging around the entire perimeter of the fence, and attached it to the bottom of the fence with wire. So far, so good! Other methods I have heard of

are having the fence buried a foot under the soil, placing cement blocks around the edge of the fence, and setting railroad ties around the bottom of the fence. And then, there are many Basenjis that figure out how to climb their way out or just jump over fences (even the 6-foot variety!). Don't tell my guys about that or I'll really be in really big trouble!

Dogs on tie-outs

Tie-outs are not recommended. Dogs, especially Basenjis that love to run, get bored and frustrated when left on a tie-out. They can eat through the tie-out and run off. They can start digging. And it has happened where dogs have gotten caught up and hung themselves.

And don't forget that they are hunters...

Basenjis are kept by African villagers not just for companionship, but also because they are superb hunters. My own Basenjis have caught many rabbits in our own backyard.



While bunnies, groundhogs and squirrels might look cute, remember they are wild animals and may carry rabies and parasites. If your dog does catch an animal, be careful when trying to free it, so that you don't get bitten! Make sure you wear gloves when disposing of remains.



When walking your Basenji, be especially careful to hold the leash tight at all times. Remember, it is the Basenji's instinct to hunt!

One time I had my young, 6-year old daughter holding our Cinnamon's leash and a bunny darted by. Well, of course Cinnamon took off, ripping the leash right out from my daughter's hand. She started crying, I started running. It took a half hour of chasing Cinnamon until we could get her. A valuable lesson was learned:

Don't let young kids hold the Basenji's leash!

Some Common Basenji Diseases

As with all breeds, there are a few diseases that are more prevalent to the Basenji breed. One is called *Fanconi Syndrome*. This is a kidney disease, one symptom of which is sugar spilling into the urine. It is recommended that a Basenji's urine be glucose "strip-tested" once a month after the dog turns age three. Sugar spilled into the urine may indicate Fanconi so further testing by a vet knowledgeable in this disease is necessary. It is important to realize that the "usual" indication of spilled sugar is diabetes, but diabetes is actually rare in Basenjies. Also, vets may confuse Fanconi with kidney failure. Treating your dog for diabetes or other kidney diseases usually involves treatments that are opposite from what is prescribed for the Fanconi Disease!

A somewhat common eye disease in Basenjis is **PRA** (Progressive Retinal Atrophy), which results in loss of eyesight. You can easily check your dog's eyesight by silently waving a brightly colored toy in front of your dog and seeing his reaction. An occasional eye checkup by a canine ophthalmologist for this and other eye diseases is also a good idea.

Both Fanconi and PRA are "late-onset" diseases and they usually don't show symptoms until some time between the ages of 4 and 8 years of age. Therefore careful screening can help lead to early detection.

Because the Basenji's **thyroid** is more active than other breeds, thyroid problems (both under- and over-active), while still relatively rare, are a bit more prevalent and need to be watched for as well.

Malabsorption, also known as IPSID (immunoproliferative systemic intestinal disease), is a fairly rare genetic gastrointestinal disorder where nutrients are not absorbed properly and requires careful veterinary treatment. Basenjis may also be prone to **food sensitivities**, which can often be better controlled with careful changes in diet.

Most of these diseases are seen only rarely, but it is good to be aware of them since, the earlier they are detected, the better the chances for treatment and control.

Perfect Angels!

In

Conclusion...

Are my guys perfect angels and do I do everything I'm suggesting all the time? Of course not! I'm a



busy parent, just like you, and even as I type this, my Basenjis sneakily got hold of my daughter's modeling clay and chewed it apart.....

Other Resources

There is quite a lot of information out there on Basenjis and other dog-related subjects. Here are a few of my personal favorites. Many of these will link you to others!

WEB SITES

Basenji Rescue & Transport

www.Basenjirescue.org

Basenji Companions

www.basenjicompanions.org

Basenji Club Of America

www.Basenji.org

Basenji FAQ- *frequently asked questions*

<http://www.k9web.com/dog-faqs/breeds/basenjis.html>

The 4 sites above offer tons of information about Basenjis, including training, owner support, and health & nutrition.

Basenji.com Healthlinks- *info./links on Basenji-related health topics*

<http://TheBasenji.com/healthlinks.html>

Gardens Alive -- *environmentally responsible yard products*

www.gardensalive.com

Dr. Goodpet-- *natural pet health products, supplements, and remedies*

www.drgoodpet.com

Petsitters International-- *helps you to find petsitters in your area.*

www.petsit.com

<http://www.melanie.org/dogs.html>-- *household plants poisonous to dogs*

BOOKS

The Basenji: Out of Africa To You: A New Look
by Susan Coe

The Second Hand Basenji Handbook
by Cotter & Cotter

Childproofing Your Dog
by Brian Kilcommons

The Power of Positive Dog Training
by Pat Miller

Clicker Training For Dogs
by Karen Pryor

Don't Shoot The Dog
by Karen Pryor

***Pitcairns's Complete Guide To Natural Health
for Dogs and Cats***
by Dr. Richard Pitcairn

PERIODICALS

Whole Dog Journal - info. on nutrition, training, health with
emphasis on natural and positive techniques. www.whole-dog-journal.com

Dog Fancy Magazine- basic dog magazine. www.animalnetwork.com/dogs

The Basenji Magazine- lots of breeder/competition information and
various Basenji topics. www.theBasenji.com

Donna Falk is a mom, part-time worker, car-pooler, and owner of two rescue Basenjis, living in suburban New Jersey.

She is a member of Basenji Companions and Basenji Rescue And Transport (BRAT) where she helps out doing home visits, meeting families, attending rescue fairs, and transporting rescue Basenjis.

In addition, she has tried her hand at Basenji foster care, but ended up keeping her second foster. That was the end of fostering as far as her family was concerned!

