

May-June 2012

The Western



Yodel



Tuffy Stonehouse at Boat Harbour, Denmark, Easter 2012 - Photo Peter & Lynne Stonehouse

An official publication of the Basenji Club of Western Australia Incorporated

Basenji Club of Western Australia Incorporated

Founded 1974

Incorporated 1998

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Associate Member	AU\$18 (only applies to those who do not own a pure-bred Basenji)
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The Western Yodel is Published Bi-Monthly

The Western Yodel, May-June 2012

From the Editor's Desk

The time has come, the walrus said, and this is my last issue as Editor of *The Western Yodel*. After ten years at this desk, I will hand over the reins to Jane Knox-Robinson. Yvonne and I are stepping down from official duties with the Club after 14 years, so that also means that Yvonne will not be standing again as Secretary. Our remaining Basenji, Kito, will be 16 soon and after he has departed, we want to travel for a while and have new experiences. We wish Jane and the new Committee, to be elected at the next AGM, all the best for the future.

I have taken this opportunity to look back over the past 60 or so issues of *The Western Yodel* I have produced and reflect back on all those articles in this issue (see page 4).

Also in this issue of *The Western Yodel*:

[On page 8 ...](#)

Lorraine and Stuart Silk tell us how their Basenji Duke saved their home from fire. Sounds like a story straight out of *Lassie*.

[On pages 9-11...](#)

Club members have sent us a lot of terrific photos recently of their Basenjies up to all sorts of things. Check out our *Member Pics*.

[On page 13...](#)

Yvonne has written about car travel with Basenjies – how to keep your Basenji safe... and stay within the law.

[On page 18...](#)

In the second of a series of articles, Jean Skaggs from the USA tells us what she has learned from Basenjies she has known: Biting Dogs.

There have been a number of very sad losses in the Perth Basenji community recently. On this page and page 12, we reflect on the sad loss of two treasured Basenjies, the Lavery Family's Kibra and Ray Perry's Embi.

Finally, we would like to offer a very warm Welcome to new members (and their Basenjies) endorsed at the last Committee meeting: Lynsay Millar (Juma) and Naomi & Max Fuller (Boots).

Basenji Club of WA Inc



Your Club Needs You

WANTED

Secretary

From July 2012

Contact a Committee member

Basenji Club of WA Inc

AGM 2012

Saturday 21 July 2012, 7pm

150A Jersey Street, Jolimont

(Yvonne & Pete's house)

Delicious dinner follows meeting

Kibra



A treasured member of the Lavery family
for 16 years and deeply missed

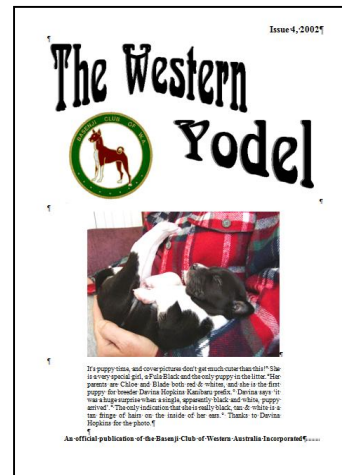
Ten Years of Yodelling

By Peter Morant

It has been a great privilege and very enjoyable to have been Editor of *The Western Yodel* for ten years, but it is also the right time to pass the baton. We are very lucky that Club member Jane Knox-Robinson has volunteered for the job, and look forward to a new era for the magazine.

Over the past ten years, I have tried to balance a variety of articles in the *Yodel*: the lives of Basenjis and their humans; health, activities and history; serious and humorous stories; in Western Australia and across the world...

My first issue, in August 2002, featured an irresistible cover photo of baby Fula, a singleton puppy and the first from Davina Hopkins' Kanibaru kennel. Fula has been in the news a lot since then, not only because of her move to New Zealand and dramatic rehoming back to Perth, but she also recently stole the show in a Channel 10 news feature on her owner Ken Arnold.



The character and beauty of Basenjis naturally lend themselves to being featured in art. We were very fortunate to be granted permission by artist Jo Adang of Georgia USA to publish her terrific cartoons featuring her three-legged Basenji Sinja's view of the world. Basenjis have also been subjects of other artistic works illustrated in the *Yodel*, ranging from drawings by the late Robert Cole, paintings and posters by Susan Kamen Marsicano, to quilts, embroidery, bas(enji) relief, postage stamps from around the world, and even a Basenji gargoyle on the National Cathedral in Washington DC.



Slow down, Sinja! We'll get to tail wagging, lack of drool, and learning to bark later. Let us concentrate on your feline delusions first, shall we?



When you live with Basenjis, a sense of humour is not an optional extra. Members have sent a steady flow of Basenji silliness to the inbox, supplemented by contributions courtesy of other magazines and sources on the internet. Yvonne and I have particularly enjoyed being creative in this area with nonsense such as the *Basenji Guide to the Olympics* and *un-dog-nified* canine puns on celebrities (eg Arnold Schnauzernegger, Spaniel Day-Lewis and Shirley Bassett). Ray Perry's poetry has also kept us amused over the years. In the tradition of British tabloids, we have done our bit with pun-ny headlines, my favourites being *Cleric's Puppy Has No Respect for Dog Collar* by Les Siddall, and my article on the Dog Collar Museum at Leeds Castle in England, naturally titled *Collars and Leeds*.

Basenjis are so photogenic and one of my Key Performance Indicators as Editor was to fill the pages with images featuring yodellers. My first prize for photographs featured in the magazine goes to the cover photo in the 2006/2 issue, from Camilla Nørgaard of Copenhagen Zoo in Denmark, of her Basenji Blixen playing with a young tiger in her backyard. The article told how the tiger was rescued by Danish authorities but needed a playmate to teach it the ways of the world – who better than a Basenji!

Over the years, we have featured articles on a huge range of activities you can do with your Basenjis, ranging from traditional canine pursuits including lure-coursing (sadly difficult in Western Australia), agility, endurance tests and rally-obedience, to co-participation in traditional human sports including skiing, canoeing and fishing.

One of my favourite articles was by Helle Nielsen of Denmark (those Danish Basenjis sure know how to have a good time), who wrote in the 2008/5 issue about competitive dancing (Canine Freestyle) with her Basenji, Selma. Sadly, the video (still, right) of Helle and Selma dancing to *Hillbilly Rock*, *Hillbilly Roll*, appears to have been removed from YouTube.

A major scoop for *The Western Yodel*, and possibly the all-time favourite with readers, was the *Hunter Basenji Chronicles* by Jeff Schettler from California, a series of articles published in 2006-2008. Jeff's background included vast experience in training and working large



Assistant Vicar Ingrid Sjolín with Angus



Blixen and friend



Helle and Selma



Mimi takes a break from fishing

breeds for law enforcement, the military and search & rescue. He described his first encounter with a Basenji at a local dog show, where he was struck by the “positively predatory demeanour” in a brindle Basenji, the same look he was familiar with in top performing police K-9’s and hard charging field dogs. “It was a perfect picture of calm professionalism and experience. An incredible intelligence also flashed in those eyes. Something not quite dog-like. I really couldn’t put my finger on it yet as I hadn’t experienced it before.

Nevertheless, I was enthralled!” The *Hunter Basenji Chronicles* began by describing Jeff’s developing relationship with black-and-white Axel, his first Basenji. Not only was Axel a wonderful addition to the Schettler household, he proved to be a great hunting companion. Jeff stated “I believe I can safely say that he is the smartest dog I’ve ever worked with”. Axel was soon joined by a brindle female, Aru, also a very capable hunter, and it wasn’t long before there was the pitter-patter of little paws. Move over, Rex!

Nothing is more important to us about our Basenjies than their health. Over the past ten years, we have presented articles on many aspects of canine health, with a focus on Basenjies of course. Whilst Basenjies enjoy very good health relative to some breeds, Fanconi Syndrome is a kidney disorder that is sometimes diagnosed in Basenjies. We have therefore run several stories on Fanconi to alert members to developments in testing for this disease because, if caught early and put on the treatment protocol, affected individuals can do well. Other articles sourced from around the world have focussed on hypothyroidism, Cushings Disease, dental hygiene, heat stress and living with an elderly Basenji with dementia. Featured treatments have included Bowen Therapy and acupuncture (both demonstrated on Basenjies at Club Fun Days), hydrotherapy and physioball.

The history of Basenjies and their journey to Africa, as interpreted from genetic and archaeological data, has been reported in several articles. The story of how Basenjies got to the rest of the world, starting with their arrival in England in the 1930s, up to recent expeditions to Africa by Basenji devotees from around the world, have fuelled our ongoing interest in this topic. One of my favourite stories was that of Gali, who was born in a village in the DRC and accompanied



All in a day's work for Axel



Basenji acupuncture



Physioball - Susan Kamen Marsicano & Calliope



Gali – from African lapdog to Swdish laptop

Mia Löwbeer to Sweden, where she settled into the good life. We have also published several pieces about village life with Basenjis in central and west Africa, as told by workers from NGOs.

Training is an area where Basenjis can get a bad rap, but we have sought to redress that perception by showing just how far Basenjis have gone with the right training. And, as if our curly-tails aren't elegant enough, we have shown readers grooming tips that keep Sinja looking *purdy as a picture*.

The Western Yodel is, after all, a magazine from Western Australia, so we have strived to put in as much local content as we can, with Club news, championship show and point score competition results (although there is much less interest from readers in dog showing than when the Club started in the 1970s) and, not least, articles and Brief Bits from members. Keep up the good work of sending in your contributions to the new Editor! It has been interesting to trawl back through the old issues and discover that, among the silly competitions and sausage sizzles, we provided some excellent training (agility, obedience...) and really did have some FUN at some Fun Days. The kayak trips to an island in the Swan River where the Basenjis could run free in the long grass was a highlight of Club functions.



Kayaking across the Swan River

Basenjis, long the preferred canine choice for royalty from the time of the pharaohs to royal families in the Netherlands, Romania and Monaco, have been favoured by modern stars of film, TV and sport. We were fortunate to be given permission to publish two articles by multiple grand slam tennis player Helena Sukova about her life with Basenji Summa. Unfortunately, I wasn't so lucky with other Basenji-owning celebrities. Australian film star Guy Pearce agreed to an interview after completing the film he was working on. My greatest regret as Editor of *The Western Yodel* was that I didn't pursue him as much as I could have. Pity, as it might have really moved his career on! Lack of persistence also hampered my attempt to republish an article on US actress Courtney Thorne-Smith and her Basenji. Over the years we have also brought you news of the sometimes shameless attempts by the famous to be seen with a Basenji, including TV vet Dr Harry and former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd.

One of the great pleasures of having been Editor for the past decade is in the relationships we have developed with Basenji-lovers around the world. Yvonne and I are pretty introverted (as shown by me not pursuing Guy Pearce with greater zeal) but we have followed up on many potential sources of material for the Yodel. And you know what, people have always been really positive (as I am sure Guy would have been) because we all have the same dear little critters in our hearts. It has meant that we have been able to call in and meet complete strangers around the world, people of very different backgrounds with varied world views, building up terrific relationships, and even staying with some. There are many more people we have been in email contact with, who we may get to meet with their Basenjis someday.



Thanks to everyone for your contributions over the past ten years, and keep them flowing to the new editor, Jane Knox-Robinson, at the clever new email address of westernyodel@gmail.com. And finally, I simply couldn't have done it without my assistant - in - chief and mother to my Basenjis, Yvonne. In the words of the *News of the World*, *Thank You and Goodbye* (well, not quite...)

How our Basenji Duke Saved our Home from Fire

By Lorraine & Stuart Silk

On 6 February 2011 a fire raged though the Roleystone-Kelmscott area of the Perth hills destroying 71 homes and damaging a further 39.

Our Story

It was Sunday February 6th. I had been to a hens' night the night before so Stuart, my husband, came to Mount Hawthorn to pick me up. As it was also my birthday, we stopped at our daughter's house before going out for lunch. I got a phone call from my neighbour to say that there was thick smoke in the area and it might be a good idea to come home.

Driving down Tonkin highway, we were horrified to see such a sight - the huge mass of smoke coming from the hills - and knew that it was not good. We got to the bottom of Canning Mills Road, where there was a road block and the police said that we could not go up, even though we explained that our dog was there and it was only 500 metres up the road.

We went to a friend's house in Clifton Hills where we stayed for an hour or so before they realised that the smoke was coming towards their house. So off we went to another friend's house, all the while listening to the radio, and hearing our road mentioned a lot, knew that we were in trouble.

After a restless night we were wondering what to do next when my friend's phone rang and she passed the phone to me. It was the Rangers, saying that Duke had been found and was now at the pound. The relief was HUGE, although we asked that Duke stay there until we knew if we had a house or not, as we had nowhere to put him. We didn't actually go home until Thursday.

When we were given the all-clear, we picked Duke up. We walked into the kennel; he took one look at us and turned his back, walking away, as though to say, "Why did you leave me at home?" Typical Duke reaction!

Duke's Story



Jos and Justin, our neighbours down the road, had decided to stay in their home to make sure that their house did not catch fire. They spent most of the afternoon going up and down the road putting out spot fires. At around 7 in the evening, they were walking up the hill and heard the strangest sound! Not sure what it was, they worked out that it came from our back garden. Upon jumping the fence, they found Duke going round and round in circles howling like he does. They realised that our back retaining wall, 2.5 metres from the house, was on fire. They spent some time putting it out, then decided to take Duke home with them as he was shaking so bad (he's a good fake shaker). After giving him some food, they left him while they went back out and again had to put out the burning retaining wall!

At bed-time, Duke, who sleeps at the end of our bed, wanted to do his normal thing and jumped up on the bed with a surprised Jos. (The next morning Jos was giving an interview on the radio. He told them he'd *never owned a dog* and *never slept with a dog!*) Anyway, they gave Duke something to eat, then realised he would need to go to the toilet, so let him out, at which point he made a dash for it. The fireys managed to pick him up and drove around the area asking if anyone knew who he belonged to. After a while they passed him over to the Police, who took him to the pound. Luckily Duke is microchipped and my friend's number is the emergency contact.

Duke took several months to get over it all and if he smells smoke he still gets a certain look on his face until he sees that we are ok with it. Duke is now 12 years old, a grand age for a Basenji, and the vets assure me he could live for several more years if we are lucky! He turned out to be very lucky for us!

Members' Pics



Jed

Photos courtesy of Andrea Morris

There's a chicken around here somewhere – Jed knows that a Basenji's nose never lies



Basenjis love the fire in winter

Portia

Photos courtesy of Karen Fouweather



Sister Act

A Good Bath is a Dry Bath (old Basenji saying)

Text and photos by Sian Bennett

Basenjis may not be fans of water or bathing but they are explorers, so here is Dax demonstrating that a dry bath is nothing to fear. Although he has been demonstrating his bravery in this regard for about 2 years now, Keiko is not convinced and has never hopped in voluntarily.

For the record, on the occasions where it's warranted, this is where they both get washed.



checking out the bath...



bath contemplation...



chillin' in the bath...



resting in the bath

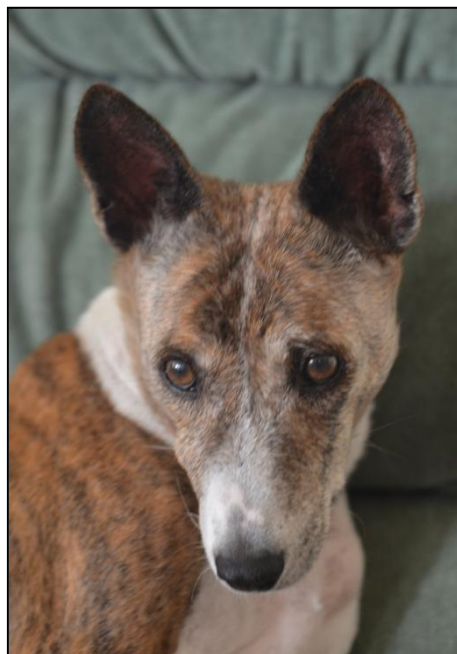
Tuffy's Outdoor Adventures

Lynne and Peter Stonehouse's Tuffy loves the great outdoors. Here we see him on recent expeditions to Wedge Island, Ledge Point and Denmark, Western Australia.



Tragedy and Tribute: Embi 1998-2012

By Yvonne Morant



Tuesday 8 May dawned sadly for staunch Club member and friend Ray Perry. He awoke to find his beloved Embi (Debrak MoonBeam, 13) had died overnight. Tragically, she had consumed a large quantity of snail pellets. The snail pellets were placed on a high shelf in the garage inside another tied plastic bag; he doesn't know how she got hold of them. Embi was approaching her 14th birthday and was getting on but it is a tragic shock to lose her this way. Ray had done what he thought was enough to keep the toxic pellets safely from her. He thinks perhaps a parcel belonging to a friend that he had recently placed near the pellets piqued Embi's curiosity and she investigated, somehow pulling items down from the shelf.

So little MoonBeam (MB = Embi) whom we remember as a baby puppy squirming all over us has gone over the Rainbow Bridge to be reunited with Ray's late wife, Mollie.

Close friends and Club colleagues were shocked and saddened by the news. Davina Hopkins wrote:

Oh this is tragic and so sad. Embi has always been a regular at Natural Paws and was due to stay again shortly so I got to know her very well over the years. She was the most spritely and knowing old lady who certainly didn't show her age. She adored Ray and they were such a wonderful pair. Poor Ray must be lost I will send him my condolences. I'm very sad to think I won't be seeing her again. I always admired her beautiful brindle coat; she was a true Tiger Stripe.



Our sincere condolences to Ray and to Embi's Aunty Jill who loved her too.

Show Some Restraint

Safe Car Travel with Basenjis

By Yvonne Morant

You're in the driver's seat with your Basenji in the back of the car, ready to drive away. You start the car and before you can say "Basenji on board," a face and front paws appear between the two front seats – how cute is that? She just wants a better view. In no time she's scrambled through the gap and has climbed on to your lap. It's difficult to steer with her head resting on your arm as she gazes with interest out of the window. You try to get her to go back or at least to sit on the front passenger seat... But it's kinda nice (and easier) and if she doesn't wriggle too much...

What's wrong with this scenario? Everything. Clearly, it's unsafe - you, as a driver, are thoroughly distracted and your operation of the vehicle may be seriously impaired. Were your Basenji to stay put on the back seat, unrestrained, you are still putting her at risk.

Car restraints for animals are a good idea for the same reasons that they are for people. An unrestrained dog may distract you and/or become a hurtling projectile should you brake suddenly or be involved in an impact. You can imagine several worst case scenarios...

Should you and your Basenji escape serious injury, the danger is not over - a panicking Basenji may escape from the car during the accident or when

help arrives and somebody opens a door. When you reach your destination safely and open the car door, a restraint prevents an eager Basenji from jumping out of the car and away before you have time to secure her leash.

The law

Unlike in some other states, the road safety code in Western Australia does not require dogs to be restrained in vehicles. But it *is* illegal to drive in WA with an animal on your lap. (Penalty is 1 Demerit and \$100 fine; there is a qualified exemption for dogs involved in farming activities.)

The Animal Welfare Act 2002 covers animal transport. Transporting an animal in a way that causes, or is likely to cause it, unnecessary harm is defined as cruelty. For example, drivers who allow dogs to travel on the back of utes or trucks or in cars during high temperatures, may be liable for prosecution.

The options

So you love your Basenjis and you want to keep them safe in the car. There are two options, each with its pros and cons:

- Crating
- Seat belt/harness



Not wearing a seat-belt sucks!

To crate or not to crate?

The Rip Van Wrinkler magazine, current issue, <http://www.rvwbasenjiclub.org/PetsRideInCrates.html> strongly endorses pets travelling in crates. Two personal accounts of members' experiences are persuasive. The first piece by Denise Como describes what happened when she drove her van into a ditch during a mini blizzard:

Willow's crate eventually ended up behind my head, but she didn't get slammed around. A very nice man checked on me, then got her crate out of the van through the back door, covered the whole thing with a blanket, then took her back to the vet clinic for safe keeping. He said he wouldn't take her out of the crate, so there was no chance she could get loose. I definitely owe the guy a dinner.

Member Suzanne Schultz contributed the second article: *Crates are Worth their Weight in Gold*. One day Suzanne was driving her van with young Basenji pup Cubby riding in his crate when a storm developed very quickly. The rain was so hard she pulled into a driveway and stopped in order to be safe – or so she thought. Suddenly, she heard a loud noise:

I blinked, and when I looked around I realized that an entire Weeping Willow tree had crashed on top of my van. I looked in the rear view mirror and saw my rear window was gone - smashed into a million pieces. Then I thought of Cubby! I climbed over my seat and went to the back of my van, afraid to look in his crate. I yelled his name in a panic on my way back to him. When I got to him there he was, sitting quietly in the middle of his crate getting soaked by the hurricane-like rains, looking softly at me as if to say, "Mommy, calm down and get me out of here. I would like a warm blanket and a biscuit, please".

Although Cubby had glass all around him and inside his crate he remained calm and Suzanne was able to get him out, put on his leash and hold him.

Thankfully, not one piece of glass or one limb of the tree touched his beautiful, trusting little self, she wrote.

They still had to wait until help arrived to lift the branches off the van so they could open the doors and get out. In all this time, Cubby never complained and did not seem fearful. Indeed, he is still very happy to ride in his crate.



Blossom and Sky, Crated and Comfy (Photo: Davina Hopkins)

Suzanne ends her plea:

I am sure that Cubby would have been injured, maimed or killed if he was not in a crate. He could have been cut by glass. He could have been hit by the tree limbs that came through the window. He could have gotten out of the shattered

window and been out in the storm, etc...But because he was in his crate this horrible, scary event to me was nothing more than just another ride in the car for him.

Back in 2000, Karla Schreiber of New World Basenjis, <http://www.newworldbasenjis.net/kennelaire.htm> was even more forceful in her praise for the life-saving protection of crates. But not just any crate will do. In 1997 she and another Basenji devotee and four Basenjis were involved in an horrific accident involving a semi-trailer. Their Basenjis were crated and thankfully all survived but the three different types of crates they were housed in were impacted differently by the collision. One crate, the relatively more expensive Kennel-Aire, outperformed the others, its base being only dented from the impact and the Basenji inside receiving only minor injuries. One other crate came apart at the seams and Basenjis were impaled on the wires and the door opened allowing the Basenjis to escape (thankfully they were recovered and survived). The

other crate was compressed inwards by the impact and the door flew off (miraculously that Basenji clambered through the wreckage to find "Mom" in the front).

The conclusion? Crates save Basenji lives but some do it better than others and the better the quality, the better the performance.

So a crate is great but what if your Basenji isn't crate-trained?

There are several really good reasons to crate-train your Basenji while he/she is young and safety in the car is one of the most compelling.

Unfortunately, here in Western Australia, many of us don't use a crate once we bring our pups home and it is difficult (but not impossible) to re-introduce a crate to an older dog for car travel. Indeed, some cars are not big enough or suitable for crates in the back.

One of the drawbacks of a crate is that the crate itself may be thrown around as a result of an impact unless securely anchored.

While not offering the same level of protection as a crate, a seat belt or harness does stop a dog from moving about the car, being thrown either within or without the car and from getting loose after an accident.

There are a number of pet car seats, seat belts and harnesses available. Unfortunately, the RSPCA does not endorse any particular product type due to the lack of research on their relative effectiveness and safety. There are several products available on their website shop:

(<http://www.worldforpets.com.au/products/categoryDetail.asp?CategoryID=12>)

– look at Dog Harnesses and Dog Travel Aids.

Or check out your favourite local or online pet suppliers. Look for products that claim to be crash-tested and be aware that they may be less effective if not used as directed.

In the event of an accident, many of us worry that a restrained dog could actually be trapped in a dangerous situation or be injured by the crate or restraint itself. For this reason, restraints should be carefully selected and carefully fitted for size.

Strength of fastenings and ease of release are also essential. Also, think about where your airbags are and make sure their operation is not hampered in any way. Do not let these considerations discourage you - just as we can imagine a scenario where we'd be better off not wearing a seat-belt, in general, based on the available evidence, restraints save lives.

Once you have selected and purchased a suitable restraint, there are other issues: Basenjis not used to restraint may repeatedly chew through the straps or refuse to get in the car. But as with other behavioural issues, persistence is the key – in this case your Basenji's life and even yours may depend on it.

What members say

Justine Adamek writes:

I used to crate both Khan and Corona [Basenjis] in separate crates, side by side, in the back of our 4WD. The crates were anchored but the dogs were free to move about in their crates. Once I had them in North Perth, I very rarely moved them in the car, mainly because the crates did not fit in the Honda. On occasion I would put them in the back and they would not sit down. I would always worry about them.

Sammy [a whippet] is completely different. Pretty much from day one he would get in the car and just do a twirly and lie down. I have opted to use a harness restraint on him most times, which encourages his calm behaviour even further. On longer trips, when he needs to do a wee, he will get restless and sit up and look anxious. I stop, we go for a wander, he does the biz, and then he will lie right back down for the next part of the journey. I am talking long journey such as to Capel or Margaret River. Pretty much for all trips around town, he'll just lie down and wait for me, even when I go in to shops to pick up the odd thing or two.

I would advocate the harness as the friendliest and safe option, especially for a dog that is far more active in the car than Sammy is.

Mari Speechly writes:

Jack Nelson [Basenji] was an absolute nightmare in the car, he was very nervous, excited and would scratch us to pieces; finally Brian would sit in the back and hold him. I think this should be controlled very early on, maybe as they are born! No crates, just a harness in back so they are safe and so are we; they are intelligent, so it could be done.

Jane Churchill writes:

I do have a harness but I don't use it. I only use the seat belt through the lead so they can view at any side. I've never had any problems that way but I would use it if I thought I needed to.

Jane & Carl Knox-Robinson write:

Bogie wears a Kramar Car and Walking Harness in the car. We tried the seat belt through the seat belt loop on the harness but he hated being restricted. It also has a metal ½ circle clip - the ½ circle is the one we click his harness to for walking - so in the car we have a short lead wrapped around each headrest (middle back) and the front passenger seat ... we simply clip the short lead to the ½ circle on Bogie's harness. He can go from window to window and stick his head out - which he loves, but the lead restrains him insofar as he cannot jump out the window.

In the event of an accident a seatbelt harness and seatbelt attached to the collar would choke him or break his neck. Whereas the harness he wears distributes the pressure across the chest and shoulders.

They say that no standard car harness is suitable for the front seat because of the airbag ... we hope that with our set up Bogie would be able to get out of the way of it...

He is great! I see him bracing himself and using his legs to distribute weight for corners etc... For example he knows the way to my work and as we approach the last bend he leans into the wheel arch - and braces with one leg...

Karen Fouweather writes:

Unlike our first boy Tyrone, who loved going in the car more than anything in the world (cue: joyous off-key yodelling), our two now absolutely hate it

and get carsick (cue: sad mournful howling). Literally. In fact, they both did just last night when we took them down to Sandra's in Gingin for boarding while we go on holiday. Have learned to take towels, ice-cream containers and wet wipes with us... and leave the windows down, even when it is zero degrees outside...

We use a seatbelt lead for what it's worth for both of them - just a lead with clip in attachment that fits a normal seatbelt clip. Tyger and Portia have never been crated and don't like harnesses, so this seems to work best. Would not recommend travelling with an unrestrained Basenji, far too inclined to try and sit in the driver's lap or bounce about- could be dangerous!

Michelina Field writes:

With regard to restraining Basenjis, Les has never restrained Tabby even though I tried to encourage him to do so and up until this time we have been very fortunate not to have had any injuries by the Grace of God.

Sian Bennett writes:

We use the Black Dog Seat Belt Strap, sometimes simply attached to their collar and other times attached to the Black Dog Car Harness.

http://www.blackdog.net.au/index.php?page=shop.browse&category_id=51&option=com_virtuemart&Itemid=5&vmcchk=1&Itemid=5



A 1m leash looped around the headrest support attached to his chest harness gives Bogie plenty of freedom

without any fear of him jumping out the window.

Our main problem, initially, was keeping Basenjis in the back of the car. To that end, we had tried the dog car seat covers that create a sort of hammock in the back, but Dax would clamber over it and Keiko just hated it, period (reluctant to get in car, then cried when she was in!).

Then we decided that the hammock wouldn't really help them in an emergency or accident, so we got the seat belts. They are working really well, are easy to use: one end just clips into the standard seat belt buckle and the other end attaches to the collar or harness. I only attach to the collar for very short journeys, 'cos the car harness can be a bit tricky. Black Dog makes the point that their car seat/harness buckles are made to human car restraint standards to withstand the force of impact, whereas standard dog collar rings/buckles are not.

Having the restraints has made travel with the Basenjis HEAPS safer and more comfortable for humans (who no longer have to monitor Basenji travel round the car, or worry about accidental electronic window opening and Basenji escape. Our previous Basenji girl twice jumped from a moving vehicle out the back window – no lasting injury, but that was luck – so we are very conscious of what a loose Basenji can get up to). If I'm leaving the Basenjis in the car unsupervised (e.g. to pop into shops for chicken necks...) I release them from the seat belt because otherwise they get distressed and would probably chew through them. While there's a human pack member around, they don't chew.

So far we have been fortunate not to have truly needed the restraints for any emergency. I like the peace of mind knowing that if, for whatever reason, I have to suddenly leave the car, or someone opens the car door, Basenjis stay inside.

Cool Basenji Stuff for Sale

Get Yours Now

Items are well priced, eg \$15 for T-shirts and \$5 for magnets. Contact Leanne (08 9332 3352) or mummabear38@hotmail.com for details.



What I've Learned from Basenjis I've Known Biting Dogs

By Jean Skaggs

Second in a series of articles, first published in Basenji Companions Newsletter, January-February 2012; republished here with permission of the author

Why do we say once a dog bites, it will bite again? Because of *our* reaction to a dog bite. When a dog bites a human, inevitably the person *who is bitten* will overreact... not intentionally, but because we're human. Being bitten is startling, frightening, and it hurts. *When the dog hears the overreaction, it thinks, "Wow! Do I have that kind of power? Cool!"*

Dogs only bite when they feel threatened. The threat can seem minor or even unrecognizable to us but the dog feels biting at that moment is the only choice it has. Often we aren't even aware that the dog feels threatened. So our reaction, as the dog's guardian, is usually embarrassment and fear that we're going to be sued.

While dealing with these feelings we are also trying to figure out why the dog bit and "what do I do now?" We expect our dogs to have better manners. But we need to know that, no matter what we think our dogs know, or how we feel our dogs should act, when it comes to a situation where our dog feels it has no other choice, a dog will only ever be a dog. When instinct *rules*, our dogs will follow their canine instinct.

In their canine world they have only three choices of defence... growl, nip, bite. That's not to say that is the order in which a dog will always react. If a dog growls it is warning whatever or whomever is confronting it that what is happening is unwanted. Unwanted enough for it to growl. A growling dog is saying, "Back off," and it should be taken seriously.

Because so many people think growling means their dog is showing aggression, they try to stop the dog from this 'unwanted' behaviour. Growling is not aggression. It's the dog's way of letting others know it feels threatened. It doesn't matter why the dog feels threatened...we may never know... but the dog knows, and that should be enough to tell us to be aware.



When a person says to us, "Back off," we understand that because we speak the same language. The dog can't speak our language so it tries to communicate in the only way it knows how. If we insist on the dog not growling, the dog has no way to let us know it's having trouble. What do you do when a dog growls? Show the dog it has nothing to fear. You can do this in several ways... slowly and calmly step back one or two steps from the dog with your

hands raised, palms forward to your shoulders. It's not necessary to speak to the dog at this time. Your body language is speaking for you. If you feel you have to speak, say something very calmly like, "Hmm, having a bad day, eh?" Don't take away your dog's first line of defence.

If you know or think you know why the dog is growling, help the dog move away from the threat. If the dog growls when company comes to visit, there are two things you can do. The first thing is to tell the people, "Do not touch or reach for the dog." They need to just talk to you. And don't be afraid to caution them if you get a reply like, "Oh, but I love dogs." If you work with your dog it will learn when it's okay to growl and when it's not. In either case, growling should be a warning to everyone. Stopping a dog from ever

growling can force it to go to the next step when it feels threatened.

That next step is nipping. We're not talking about puppy nipping here. Puppies nip because they're puppies and puppies' teeth are the main doggie way to communicate. Puppies nip for just about anything and everything. It's good to work with puppies to help them learn that using their teeth is not as exciting for people as it is for the dog, but do it gently. Redirecting the pup teaches it that it doesn't have to use its teeth on everything.

An older dog that nips, however, is usually a dog whose growling has been inhibited, or whose growling has not been allowed. What's the best thing to do when your dog nips? Distract the dog. If the dog is on lead, gently get the dog behind you. You may have to turn around yourself several times, but the dog *will* get the message. Try not to act upset, jerk the dog's collar, yell at it, or raise your voice as that will upset the dog more. That's why it's so important to work gently with the dog to teach it to growl or nip only when necessary.

If the dog has nipped or bitten, the best thing to do when company arrives is to totally ignore the dog. Don't let the visitor reach for you (for instance, hand you their coat, or a gift or some such). Keep talking until the dog is totally relaxed. If the dog seems calm enough to sniff and/or investigate the visitor, that's okay. Just no touching. When the dog steps back after investigating, then and only then, do you talk to the dog. If you don't know whether or not the dog is going to nip or bite, work with the dog beforehand to go to another room when you get company.

We do not squelch the dog's ability to growl or nip because there may come a time when the dog

needs to use those defences. If the dog's growling and nipping behaviours have been thwarted, it could cause it to delay protecting itself. That delay could cost the dog its life.

Other dogs have learned, on their own, that growling and nipping don't accomplish what they're trying to say, so they take the next step on their own. When both growling and nipping have been either stifled or ignored, the dog is left with no choice but to bite.

Whenever anyone says, "The dog bit without any provocation," it's not so. The dog always feels it's been provoked... if not, it wouldn't have bitten. There are, of course, other reasons dogs bite... they've been abused, they've been frightened too many times or they've had their space invaded too many times. Some dogs are simply "bite first, ask questions later" dogs.

If your dog does bite - breaking the skin type bite - that's a whole new ballgame. Don't get in the dog's face. Remember, the dog had a reason (even if you have no idea what or why). Gently remove your dog from the scene. Try not to act upset. Dogs always read our body language. If you get upset, the dog has no clue about why YOU are upset, and your response may trigger worse behaviour from your dog. You then need to find someone who truly knows dog behaviour to help you teach your dog that *you* are able to handle every situation it may run into. You don't want your dog ever to feel it has to take a stand to save you or itself in any particular situation. It's important to work one-on-one with whomever you choose to help you as each dog is different. It's important not only to know why dogs bite, but why YOUR dog bites. Every dog is different. There is no "one size fits all."



Our Rylee Puppies

What the Papers Say

Compiled by Yvonne Morant

Except where otherwise indicated, all of the magazines discussed in What the Papers Say can be borrowed from the Club's library contact Yvonne on 6150 2430.

The Rip Van Wrinkler (USA)

May 2012

<http://www.rvwbasenjiclub.org/Wrinkler60.html>

Our favourite Basenji mag! This issue highlights the importance of crates in protecting Basenjis from harm in cars. Two members contribute their experiences of how crates saved their Basenjis from harm – a timely reminder. The RVW always features a photo contest on a theme: this time it is “The Basenjis and white papery stuff”. There is a lovely article by Marcia Woodard called *Nudes*, which highlights the artistic achievements of Susan Kamen Marsicano whose beautiful drawings and paintings of Basenjis illustrate the magazine.

Basenji Companions (USA)

January-February 2012

The same Basenji Companions we know and love but now even better, in colour and on-line. In addition to the regular sections including *Weasel Awards*, *Member News* and the evocative *View from My Front Porch – Spring through Winter* by Tana White, this issue includes a feature article by Jean Skaggs, the second in the series: *What I've Learned from Basenjis I Know*; this one focusing on *Biting Dogs*.

Basenji Bi-Monthly (VIC)

January-February 2012

Of interest is the reprinting of a short account of the founding of the BCOV by Mrs Lillian Barker in 1966.

March-April 2012

Features report and results of the Club's 45th Championship Show held on 3 March 2012. International Judge, Sally Wallis from England presents her impressions of Basenjis in her *Judge's Critique*. Also of note, a *Précis of the BCOV Draft Rescue/Adoption Policy*.

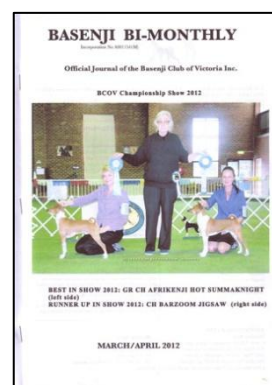
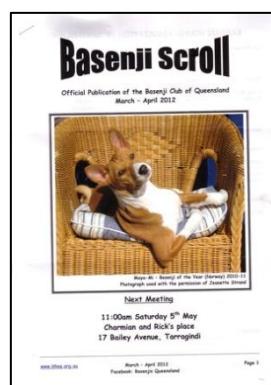
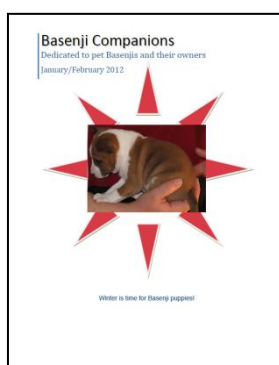
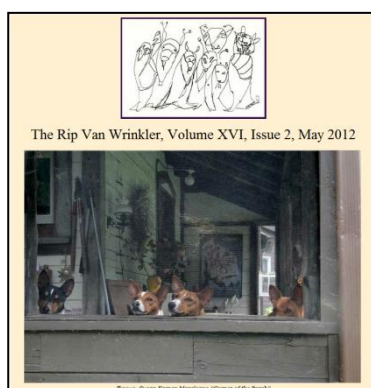
Basenji Scroll (QLD)

January-February 2012

Feature article is *Maintaining Those Pearly Whites* by Chey Miller. Members' photos and contributions and doggy-related news complete this issue.

March-April 2012

Who can resist the cover photo of Norway's Basenji of the Year, Maya-Mi? *When Dogs Attack* is a general article by Dr Cam Day reprinted from www.pethealth.com. A humorous true story called *Bubba and the Refrigerator* by a member of the NSW Club is “typical Basenji.” *What a Dog's Nose Knows* by Caroline Williams rounds off this attractive, plentifully-illustrated issue.



Basenji Club of Western Australia Inc
Draft Minutes (to be ratified at the next meeting)
Committee Meeting, 7.30pm, 18 April 2012, held at 150A Jersey Street, Jolimont

1. **Welcome and Apologies** – meeting opened 7.55pm.
Present: Davina Hopkins, Peter Morant, Leanne Cooper, Mark Smith, Yvonne Morant. **Apologies:** Liz Smith, Lissette Grammer, Sian Bennett
2. **Minutes of 8 February 2012 Confirmed subject to corrections:** 4.3 Change *Hunt* to *Millar*; **Should read:** *Chris Schwindack, Juma's former owner, has offered a donation...*) **Moved** 1. Mark Smith 2. Leanne Cooper **CARRIED**
3. **Business Arising**
 - 3.1 **Proposed Club Website.** No further progress. Sub-group to meet soon.
 - 3.2 **Succession Planning. Editor, Secretary, other positions.** At the AGM in July these positions will become vacant due to expiry of terms or retirement:
President – Davina Hopkins (term expires)
Secretary – Yvonne Morant (retiring)
Committee Member/Editor – Pete Morant (retiring)
Committee Member – Liz Smith (term expires)
Also noted: Librarian – Ray Perry (retiring) – not an elected position
YVONNE to issue a notice to members to encourage nominations and ideas to ensure future survival of the Club.
4. **Reports**
 - 4.1 **Secretary's Correspondence**
In: 1. Various Club newsletters. **Out:** None
 - 4.2 **Treasurer's Report.** Report dated 8/2/12 – 17/4/12 accepted as tabled **Moved** 1. Yvonne Morant 2. Mark Smith; Report dated 2/11/12-7/2/12 accepted as tabled. **Moved** 1. Mark Smith 2. Yvonne Morant. Current Balance: \$3,498.11.
Memberships Endorsed: Lynsay Millar (Complimentary, rehomed, Juma); Sue Johnson (Comp, rehomed Jessie); Naomi & Max Fuller (Comp puppy buyer, Boots). **Moved** 1. Peter Morant 2. Mark Smith
 - 4.3 **Rescues & Rehomes.** Confirmed that Benji (companion to the late Stan Cole) had been rehomed by Stan's daughter.
5. **General Business**
 - 5.1 **June Fun Day, Sun 10th, Whiteman Park.** Food: Liz & Mark; Drinks, Treasure Hunt, Library: Yvonne & Pete.
 - 5.2 **Suggestion for Help section in magazine.** Leanne's suggestion discussed. Agreed to appeal to members to send in their queries and solutions, where appropriate, but that electronic means of communication could deliver more timely information.
 - 5.3 **Treasurer's Letter to Bank re Changing Statement date.** Signed as appropriate.
 - 5.4 **No Other Business - Meeting closed at 9.20pm.**

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