

Updates



from the

BASENJI CLUB OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Hello all!

It's that time of year for annual dues and voting for club officers and board members. Joni, Stormy, and Eunice are updating the Roster and will send notifications to all previous members.

We received a notice from AKC that permits electronic meetings due to covid-19. Stormy is notifying AKC that we will amend our bylaws. Once we have the Roster updated, club members will receive an invitation to dial in for club meetings. Participating simply requires a current email address to receive an invitation and a phone to dial in with.

We also want to reach out to all Basenji owners in Northern California and offer tips and options for your very active, leash pulling, car lunging, squirrel-chasing pup who won't chase and retrieve Frisbees, and needs activities that suit them best.

Stay safe: practice social distancing, wear masks when in close contact. Be smart!

Pat Cembura
BCONC President

Officers & Board

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President

Pat Cembura

Vice President

Marianne Klinkowski

Secretary

Stormy Maddux

Treasurer

Joni Boese

Directors

Donna Troyna

Reginald Smith

Eunice Ockerman

E-Meetings

By Stormy Maddux, BCONC Secretary



BCONC discussed electronic meetings in 2015 but never proceeded with by-law updates. Current language states members “must attend in person” and refers to time and “place.” However in light of Covid-19 it’s time to update our by-laws. Please visit the National Law Review for current positions: www.natlawreview.com/article/club-annual-meetings-time-covid-19

In 2007, AKC allowed for the use of electronic communication, stating that: Meetings are defined as gatherings where attendees see and/or hear each other. This includes meeting (in person) “physically” in the same room or conducting a meeting by video conference or teleconference. Business (voting)—can be conducted at meetings or through mail, fax or e-mail. In order for business to be conducted by e-mail the following precautions must be in place (and included in the bylaws): 1) every board member must be provided with the means to participate; 2) a procedure must be in place to verify the identity of the individuals participating to ensure that they are the eligible board members; 3) a mechanism must be in place to verify that the eligible board members are “listening”; 4) all board members must agree to participate in this manner.

AKC DIRECTIVES:

BOARD MEETINGS Board meetings can be held in different ways, all of which must be in accordance with State Laws. Meetings of the Board of Directors may be held at such times and places as are designated by a majority vote of the entire Board. Written notice of each such meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary to each member of the Board at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. Meetings of the Board of Directors may also be held by, or involve, a remote electronic communications system, including video conferencing technology or the Internet, upon at least three days’ notification of such meeting, only if: (a) Each person entitled to participate in the meeting consents to the meeting being held by means of that system; and (b) The system provides access to the meeting in a manner or using a method by which each person participating in the meeting can communicate concurrently with each other participant. The quorum for a Board meeting shall be a majority of the Board members.

In response to the above, BCONC will move forward on amending the by-laws. The process to do so is as follows.

CLUB PROCEDURES – AMENDING BY-LAWS

BCONC METHODS FOR BY-LAW AMENDMENT:

SECTION 1 Amendments to the constitution and by-laws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by written petition addressed to the Secretary signed by 20% of the regular membership in good standing. Amendments proposed by such petition shall be promptly considered by the Board of Directors and must be submitted to the members with recommendations of the Board by the Secretary for a vote within three months of the date when the Secretary received the petition.

SECTION 2 The Constitution and by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the regular members present and voting at any regular meeting, provided the proposed amendments have been included in the notice of the meeting and mailed to each member at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting. Voting shall be by secret ballot. A copy of approved Constitution and By-Laws will be sent to the California Secretary of State for their records. 🦊

Focused energy!

By Eunice Ockerman

Word is Basenjis should never be off-leash, they are independent operators, and are not going to chase and retrieve your Frisbee. If you've resigned yourself to daily leashed walks, be aware that activities suitable for our intelligent and athletic breed are out there.

BCONC



LURE COURSING, RACING, AND COURSING ABILITY TESTS (CAT)

These activities all build on Basenjis' innate prey-drive and love of the chase (of course there will always be the occasional hound that isn't interested). In each event, dogs run after a plastic bag, pulled along via a pulley.

LURE COURSING, be it the American Sighthound Field Association (ASFA) or the AKC variety, the course is set up to zig-zag across a field, replicating the erratic movements of a jack rabbit escaping a predator. The runs are typically between 600 and 1,000 yards. Dogs compete against their same breed, in groups of three or pairs. ASFA and AKC use similar criteria to rank the entries: speed, agility, endurance, enthusiasm, and how well they follow the lure.

There isn't a lot of training necessary but practice runs are required to make sure your dog is focused on the lure and not the dogs they are running with. You will need some specialized gear but it's not expensive, it's fun and the dogs love it.

RACING comes in two flavors: a race around an oval governed by National Oval Track Association (NOTRA) and a straight sprint to the finish governed by Large Gazehound Racing Association (LGRA).

Dogs burst out of boxes and, unlike Lure Coursing, the dog who crosses the finish line first wins. Dogs run muzzled to protect the lure (in LGRA it often includes a furry squawker) from being demolished at the end as hounds run in groups of up to six; in Basenjis it is limited to four. Courses are 300-400 yards in NOTRA and 200 yards in LGRA. Basenjis run three courses in a meet (Whippets run four).

The speed some breeds achieve is impressive. Stay clear of the finish line when the Greyhounds are coming in.

CAT AND FAST CATS are a relatively new addition to chase/prey driven events. While the above are limited to sighthounds, these new AKC events are open to all breeds. Dogs run individually on straight sprint courses adjusted to breed type and age, from 300 to 400 to 600 yards. Basenjis would land in in the 600 yard course. The CAT is a pass fail.



ACTIVITIES AND PERFORMANCE EVENTS

The Fast CAT is a 100 yard timed-sprint. The finishing time is converted into MPH, and race results adjusted by size of breed. Titles are conferred through the accumulation of points.

BARN HUNT

Prey drive unleashed! This event will test your Basenji's ability to hunt by scent instead of sight. Rats, kept in safe in aerated tubes, are hidden in hay bales. The challenge is to find and alert to single or multiple hides. Titles earned in Novice and above will be recognized by The American Kennel Club.

K9 NOSE WORK AND TRACKING

These are two more activities that build on a Basenji's natural abilities. Our breed hunts by sight and scent (and their imagination!). The latter can make activities more challenging for Basenji owners but what a thrill when you and your dog excel!

NOSE WORK trains dogs to search for scant molecules of specific odors and alert when they determine the source. This is another sport where the dog works independently and in fact, guide the handler to the hidden odor. Handlers learn to read their dog's behavior, gradually progressing to more challenging search parameters.

Nose work was developed by the National Association of Canine Scent Work (NACSW) and now, AKC offers a similar activity.

TRACKING is similar to nose work but, instead of particular scents, dogs are trained to search for an item left by a track layer. They are required to follow the scent over 440 to 500 yards with three to five changes of direction. In the beginning stages tracks are set in the early morning, before conflicting odors distract. The degree of difficulty increases from Tracking Dog to Tracking Dog Urban, to Tracking Dog Excellent to Variable Surfaces.

OBEDIENCE AND RALLY-O

This is where building an early bond with your Basenji is essential. Neither Obedience or the more congenial Rally-O come naturally to the breed. But if you are up to a challenge and up to date on current training techniques, there is nothing more impressive than a happy and responsive Basenji. Best advice if you want to pursue obedience competitively is to choose a more compliant breed—think German Shepard, Poodle, Border Collie, Papillon. But Basenjies can become quite proficient with patience and good humor.

AGILITY

The breeds that do well at agility are typically the same as those who excel at obedience with Border Collies and Papillons rising to the top. But Basenjies are agile, quick, and do well in this sport that requires dogs to navigate many obstacles in a given order. It's a challenge for dog and handler alike.

FLYBALL AND DOCKDIVING

Not to mention surfing. No joke. While neither sport is suited to a Basenji's innate drive, it can be done. Make sure your dog is loving it. 🐾

