

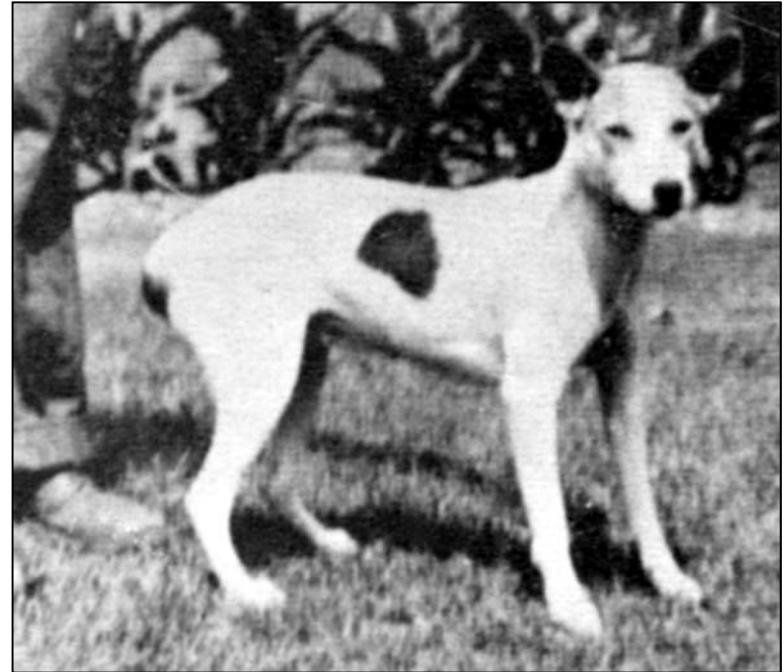
Phemister's Congo

It is interesting to read various things written about this little dog.

There are two stories about Congo's arrival at the Library of the African Stock Project on the BCOA website.

Congo is known for producing Phemister's Barrie, CDX the breed's first obedience titled Basenji.

Veronica Tudor-Williams wrote this in "*The Basenji*," November 1983, as part of an article on early imports:



Another strange American import was Phemister's Congo. She had traveled in the hold of a ship without food or water for three weeks from West Africa and was more dead than alive when she arrived. She was then nursed back to health by Al Phemister. It is doubtful if she was a Basenji, as she was white with brindle patches and a docked tail. However, she was mated to Dr. Richmond's Ch. Koodoo of the Congo (*the original text incorrectly noted the sire of this litter as Kwillo*), whom I had exported as a puppy, and she produced Barrie, the first Basenji ever to win a C.D. This was way back in the 1940's and little more was ever heard of her and her puppies.

Photo left of Phemister's Barrie, CDX

From a typewritten text that shows no author:

Phemister's Congo arrived as a stowaway on a freighter, West Leshaway from West Africa, docking at Boston early in April 1941. She was taken in charge by the Animal Rescue League of Boston. She was nearly complete white; the only color showing in several pictures of her was on the head – the skull portion and the ears which was tan or fawn. She had a black spot about the size of small hand on her right side, below the top line and about half way between the fore and hind legs. There was also a small black spot on the tail two to three inches below the attachment to the body. This tail later was cut off for when I saw her early in November 1941 she had no tail. *(Note: this may be inaccurate as it may actually have been cut off*



before she left Africa. Also the markings have also been called brindle in some places rather than black.)

At the time we knew very little about the breed. According to our present knowledge Congo was a mongrel with considerable Basenji blood in her make-up. But her head was wrong in two important respects. Her skull was too much rounded on top and her ears were far too large with the inner edges attached below the top line of the skull.

I saw her three days after her three pups were born and also saw Bois at the same time. The sire of the pups was Dr. Richmond's Koodoo of the Congo NOT Bois as some dog books, including PureBred Dogs published by AKC. My copy of this book dated 1961 still carried that error, although the AKC Stud Book of June 1944 credits Koodoo as the sire of the pups. Careless reporting on someone's part.

This was Congo's one and only litter. There were three pups, namely Phem. Barrie and Phem. Naida as well as a male named Bwana. Barrie was never used at stud. Bwana sired a litter or two for someone else and Phem. Naida had a litter sired by Boise. All of our few "Beagle Saddled" dogs descend from Naida daughter of Congo. I know of two litters descended from Naida born in 1960 and 1961 but they carry less than 1% of that dull hound black so we can forget about that bloodline.

(Note: In other letters as well the tendency to call these saddle-backed dogs simply black makes for confusing reading. There was quite a bit of discussion about the source of the saddle-back and also the cream colored dogs in old correspondence. Some of it is very confusing and contradictory.)

Photo of Congo on left and Phemister's Bois on right

