

Gwen Stanich and the Coptokin Black and Whites

A Short History of the Coptokin Black and White Basenjis

Gwen Stancih

BCOA Bulletin

In the early 1960s, when I was exhibiting and breeding Basenjis, I subscribed to a publication entitled; “Pure Bred Dogs” from England. This publication not only had dog shows results from the English shows, but those of South Africa as well. I followed the show career of a black and white Basenji named S.A. Ch. Taysenji Dopa (pronounced Do-Pie), owned by professional handler and Basenji breeder, Bertram Blewett of Port Elizabeth, Union of South Africa. Bert was from Bessemer, Michigan, and moved to Africa as a young man. Ch. Taysenji Dopa was bred by Elsept Ford, who lived in Northern Rhodesia at that time. She owned both his parents.

I contacted Bert, telling him I was very interested in trying to obtain the black and white coloring in Basenjis here in the U.S.A., but since the black and white color was dominant, genetically, I knew you had to breed to get it. Bert sent me photos and a movie of his dogs running along the beach at the ocean, and I observed Dopa to be a fantastic mover and of the type I highly admired in the breed.

Bert and I entered into a lengthy correspondence regarding the possibility of breeding to Dopa. Bert and I struck the following deal – I had a group winning bitch named Ch. Coptokin Ameliette, a daughter of Eng. Am. Ch. Amelia of Little Breach and granddaughter of Eng. Ch. Benedict of Little Breach, pictured in *The Basenji*

by Veronica Tudor-Williams. Bill Boehm (Ericonji Basenjjs) and I jointly owned Eng. Am. Ch. Andersley Atlantic who was a seven times Best in Show winner in England.

I agreed to breed “Ameliette” to “Atlantic” and send best pick of the litter of females for breeding to “Dopa” on the agreement that I would get all of the black and white pups from this first litter. This agreement was subject to getting approval from the American Kennel Club, because at that time, no dogs from Africa could be registered by the AKC with the exception of Rhodesian Ridgebacks.

I corresponded with the AKC, explaining to them my intent and for what purpose, and they granted me a special dispensation from their rules to allow this color to come in through acceptable stock. However, I could not have the pup of my breeding bred to “Dopa” as this would not give us the required three generations of registered stock, so I had to agree to breeding to a black and white grandson of “Dopa.” The name of this dog was S.A. Ch. Lazi of the Senjjs. I bred Ameliette and Atlantic and sent the pick female pup named Coptokin Copper Bikini to Bert. She became a South African champion. Her littermate, Coptokin Copper Beautique, also went to Northern Rhodesia to Elspet Ford. Their littermate was Ch.



Coptokin Copper Ballerina, whom I sold to Ron Neal (Eterndo Basenjjs) as a young pup and who finished her title out of the Puppy Class. First in the breed to do so!

Bikini was bred to S.A. Ch. Lazi of the Senjjs at age two years, and I received from this breeding five black and white pups – four females and one male. I kept the one male and named him “Coptokin Atlantic of the Senjies.” I exhibited him once at the International Kennel Club show in Chicago.

After this showing, the American Kennel Club reneged on their agreement with me, as they had promised to register all my imported black and white pups of this breeding, and instead said they would not register these pups, but would allow each to be bred once to American Kennel Club registered Basenjis, and in turn, their offspring would be allowed to be registered. What a deal!! But there was nothing I could do about it – as you can't fight city hall. However, it was an expensive lesson! Oh well, I proved a point – and to all those nay-sayers out there in Basenjiland – you finally have the truth regarding the “Coptokin” black and whites. They did not descend from some “mongrels” running loose out there in the bush somewhere but were indeed from impeccable breeding stock!



Names for photos:

People in the picture on previous page are: Left to right Phyllis Elloitt, Gwen Stanich, Joyce Boehm, Bill Boehm and two of Gwen's children.

The puppies are Taysenji Kwidi and Taysenji Bweynu. They had already been registered in England by Elspet. The father was Taysenji Tigee, a son of Taysenji Tahzu.

Additional Background and Articles



Elpset Ford sent this photo to "The Basenji" with caption:
1958 – Rosyln Sadler's black Basenjies
from Wozi, Liberia, West Africa.

From "*The Complete Basenji*" by Elspet Ford:

"...Dopa, the black and white male, had run into a thorn bush as a puppy, injuring one eye, which eventually became blind, thus robbing him of the chance of winning the last Challenge Certificate required for his South African title. A grandson of Dopa, SA Ch. Lazi of the Senjies was mated to Coptokin Copper Bikini, bred by Gwen Stanich and C. Holby in the United States, and the resulting black and white puppies were returned to Mrs. Stanich in America."

This litter was related to Elspet Ford's Taysenji black and whites. Check the Timeline to see more about them.

The litter was born on June 10 in 1965 so they were probably sent to America in 1965. While these pups were not totally new stock for America, they did have dogs behind them that were from native Africa stock.

Pedigree of the mating

SA Ch. Lazi of the Senjies to Coptokin Copper Bikini:

S. Afr. Ch. Lazi of the Senjies Black & White S. Africa	S. Afr. Ch. Kabu of the Jungle Black & White S. Africa	Taysenji Dopa (1st) England	Zambi of Lindsey
			Miliku
		S. Afr. Ch. Bessemer's Lettagail of the Jungle S. Africa	S. Afr. Ch. Tan Tan of the Jungle
			Gorgeous Girl of the Jungle
	S. Afr. Ch. Zeela of Bessemer S. Africa	S. Afr. Ch. Tan Tan of the Jungle S. Africa	Guardian of the Jungle
			Bega of the Jungle
		S. Afr. Ch. Bessemer's Lettagail of the Jungle S. Africa	S. Afr. Ch. Tan Tan of the Jungle
			Gorgeous Girl of the Jungle
Am. Ch. Coptokin Copper Bikini S. Africa	Eng. Am. Ch. Andersley Atlantic JW England	Taysenji Dopa (1st) England	Kindu
			Kasenyi
		S. Afr. Ch. Bessemer's Lettagail of the Jungle S. Africa	Eng. Ch. Black Rod of the Congo
			Eng. Ch. Frolic of the Congo JW
	Am. Ch. Coptokin Ameliette USA	S. Afr. Ch. Tan Tan of the Jungle S. Africa	Am. Ch. Glenairley Golden Fresco
			Am. Ch. Phemister's Gay Dancer
		S. Afr. C.h Bessemer's Lettagail of the Jungle S. Africa	Eng. Ch. Benedick of Littlebreach
			Eng. Ch. Jessica of Littlebreach

Pedigree from the Sally Wallis online pedigree database

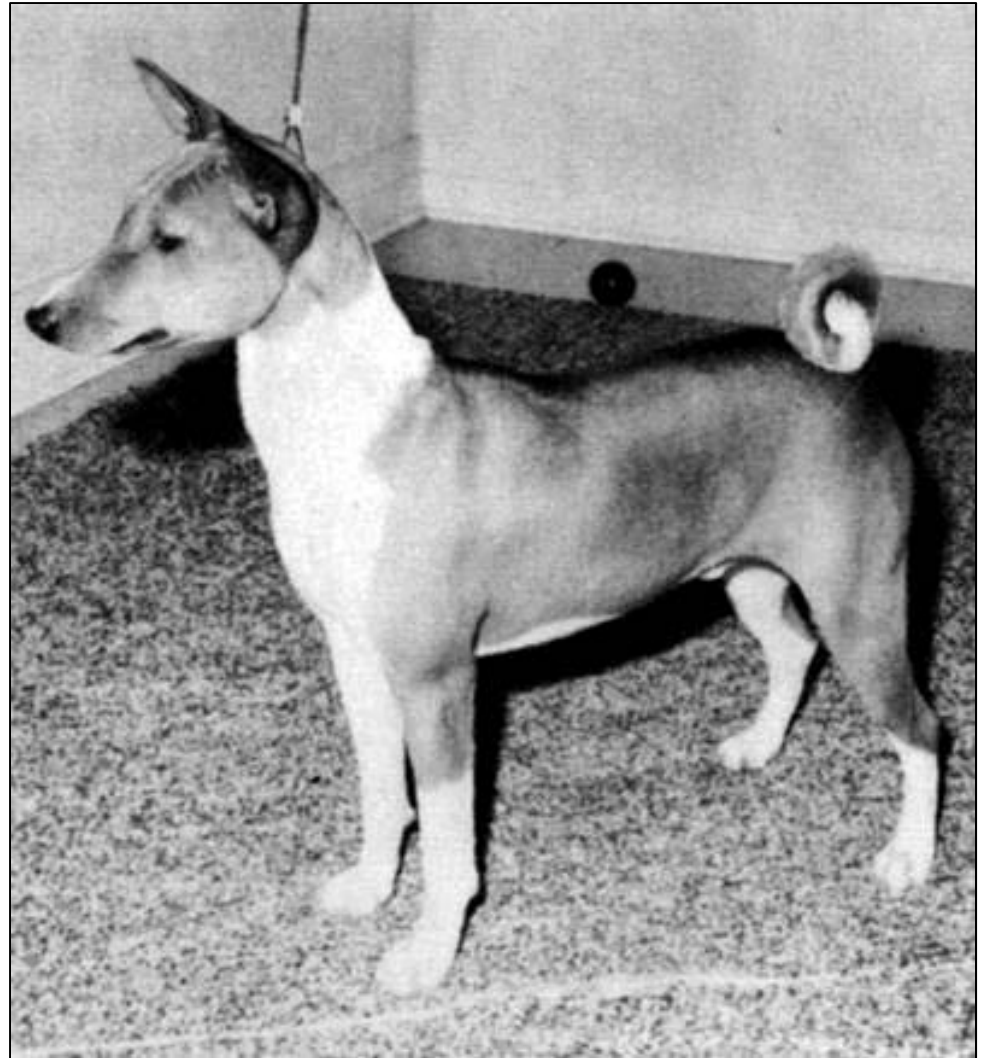
This litter produced three bitches who were each bred once to Eng/Am Ch Andersley Atlantic JW

It is interesting to note that although the dogs from this litter have found themselves in many pedigrees over the years. The black and white color in the descendants of note is limited in numbers.

Coptokin Amerique of the Senjies

Amerique and Atlantic produced Coptokin the Veldt Sir Lantic who is pictured to the right.

Amerique leads to: Am Ch Kita of Kazor and Cambria's Asari through to many Kazor dogs and Ch. Cambria's Asari leading on to kennel names that are easily recognize such as: Out of Africa in Europe, Terrarust, Akuaba, Jumoke, Southhouse, Woz, Meisterhaus, Tamsala in Australia, Khani, Jasis-Sukari, Hacker, Arubmec, Congaro, Astarte, Bubalak, Undercover, Zuri, Taji, Red Jhinn, Bushbabies, Tarawinds, Mardi Gras, Betsy Ross, Jamila-Fimlaid and on to others.



Coptokin the Veldt Sir Lantic

Coptokin Ameliana of the Senjies

Ameliana and Atlantic produced Ashanti's Melanite to Wilmer whose pups contributed to the breeding of Merv and Wilma Bauer. (The Bauers were well known in the early history of Basenjis in lure coursing.) These dogs continue into today's pedigrees. Photo of Melanite is below left. Below right is Coptokin the Black Ashanti who was used at stud.



Ashanti's Melanite to Wilmer

16 DECEMBER 1967 THE BASENJI
CURRENT WINNER



COPTOKIN THE BLACK ASHANTI
"Pure black and white Basenji"
(Ch. Andersley Atlantic x Ameliana of the Senjies)

"Toby" shown winning BW for 4 points at Hodgenville, Ky.,
9/3/67. Owners: John and Pat Loukota, Wauconda, Illinois.
Handler: Larry Downey. Judge: Haskell Schuffman.

Coptokin Americana of the Senjies offspring were not significant in the future

The only male in the litter was Coptokin Atlantic of the Senjies

Coptokin Atlantic of the Senjies was bred to: Antiquity Rose of Eterndo and Am Ch Coptokin Ameliette

This leads on to Asari, Ka and Ba and others.

Down from these litters you can find
a number of Top Producing Basenjis like:

Am. Ch. Chrismar Igot the Power of Woz

Am. Can. Ch. Falisha's Star Wars of Woz

Am. Ch. Rameses Golden Phoenix, F.Ch.

Am. Ch. Asari's Ti-Jii

Am. Ch. Kazor's Watsie Kengo

Am. Ch. Pendragon Sugarbabe of Kazor CDX CJ

Am. Ch. Sukari's Spot the Target CD JC

and many others.

A Second Litter was Produced:

A second litter from Coptokin Copper Beautique sired by Taysenji Tigee (black and white by Taysenji Tahzu x Taysenji Titema) was bred in Africa, born in England and produced three black and whites and two red and white puppies. Those that came to the USA again can be found behind dogs still in pedigrees today. Those that went to England had a smaller influence at that time there. The black and white were not well received in England at that time. You can read more about this second litter and Elspet Ford's Taysenji black and whites in a separate article.

A Brief History of the Black and White Basenji in the United States

Author's name did not appear
From "BCOA Bulletin" in 1970

The Basenji Standard, accepted by the American Kennel Club, makes provisions for a black and white Basenji. A registered dog of this description could not be produced in the U.S. since no two Basenjis of any other color can produce a black dog. Thus it was necessary to

obtain the black and white coloring from a source outside the United States. Mrs. Gwedolyn Stanich of Illinois chose to undertake this project as an individual and embarked upon what was at that time a very chancy and expensive experiment.

Mrs. Stanich exported two red and white bitches, Coptokin Copper Bikini and Coptokin Copper Beautique, to Africa to be bred to two different K.U.S.A. registered black and white studs. Both bitches are sired by Eng. Am. Ch.. Andersley Atlantic, and are daughters of group winning Ch. Coptokin Ameliette.

The first litter of imports to this country were sired by Kennel Union of South Africa Ch. Lazi of the Senjies who is also a group winner. This dog is owned by Mr. Bertram Blewett of Port Elizabeth, Union of South Africa, formerly of Bessemer, Michigan, U.S.A. The litter contained six blacks and one red. The black imports are Coptokin Amerique of the Senjies, Coptokin Ameliana of the Senjies and Coptokin Africana of the Senjies. The dam of the litter, Coptokin Copper Bikini went on to win her K.U.S.A. Championship and a Reserve Best in Show.

The second litter was sired by Taysenji Tigee who was bred and owned by Mrs. Ford of Scotland, formerly of Northern Rhodesia. The dam was Coptokin Copper Beautique. Their litter contained 5 pups, 2 reds and 3 blacks, were bred in Africa, whelped in England and imported to the U.S.A. These dogs are registered in three recognized clubs. Taysenji Kuidi and Taysenji Bweynu are two of these pups.

These blacks were the first imports used to establish the black and white Basenji in the United States. Several of the bitches were bred back to Andersley Atlantic to standardize type and conformation. The American Kennel Club made a rather unique ruling on this importation however, and the original imports were not granted individual registration. Only after being bred once to A.K.C. registered dogs would their offspring be granted full registration.

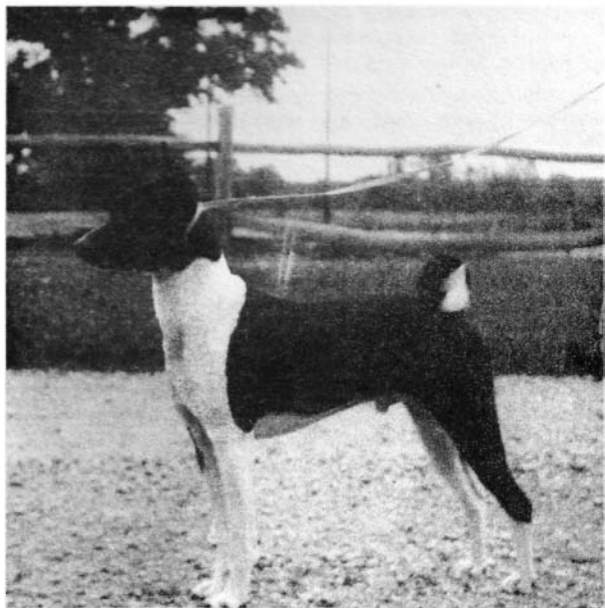
A complete list of the genetic capabilities of these black and white Basenjies is listed in the October 1968 issue of DOG WORLD on page 47. There are a few points of interest which I would like to bring out here and which

have proven the dominance of the blacks. Each black descendant is genetically capable of producing black and white offspring no matter what color Basenji he is bred to. The color dominant to all colors as red is to tri. It is now estimated that between 25 and 50% of the offspring of one black over a life-time will be black and white. Each black carries either red or tri recessively. Knowing the genetic facts, you have a great deal of control over the colors you wish to produce and know pretty well what to expect from each breeding.

From the first imports in 1965 the black has gained a great deal of publicity, admirers and recognition and have travelled from East to West Coast and into Canada. In preparation for this article I have attempted to compile a list of breeders and perhaps make an estimate of the number of black and white puppies available this year. However, I was not able to acquire an accurate listing, and can only state that these dominant blacks are available in the following states and will be seen in many of the coming shows this year. Our own blacks have been sent to Canada, Virginia, Nebraska, California and, of course, here in Texas. From Richmond, B.C. Canada, they have been sent to Oregon and Vancouver. From Illinois they have travelled to Oregon, Michigan, Arkansas, North Carolina, Wisconsin and Mass.

While we have stayed within the second and third generations, the 5th generation is available this year and incorporates many different bloodlines already established in the United States. The purpose of this article is to establish the solid background on which these blacks are based. The dogs themselves with their striking contrast of black on white are flashy eye-catchers who sell themselves to their admirers and take along with them a basic predictable genetic structure which is entirely dependable.

See photos which as they appeared with the article on the next page



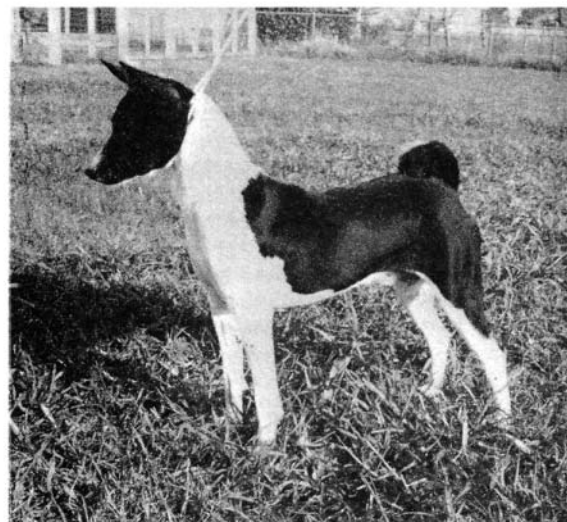
1st Generation

Coptokin Atlantic of The Senjies



2nd Generation

Coptokin The Black Ashanti (Toby)



2nd Generation

The Veldt's Black Bantu

Black and White Basenjis

By Mrs. Gwendolyn Stanich

A printed column but not information in what magazine, dated March 1965

Since being made aware of the existence of black-and-white Basenjis a little over two years ago, and upon learning that there were several owned by reputable dog breeders in Africa, my interest in the color has been very great, and I have become so enthusiastic on the subject that I have delved into every available source of information on them I could possibly get my hands on. However, the particular black-and-whites I refer to in Africa have all been bred and pedigreed for quite a few generations — in each instance one of the parents has been a black-and-white, and in no breeding that I have been able to trace has a black-and-white been the result of a mating of two reds.

Quite a few theories have been advanced on the black-and-white color inheritance, but I am more interested in the practical application; so much so, that I have sent two females of my breeding to Africa specifically for the purpose of the mating of each of them to two different black-and-whites of entirely separated bloodlines. However, since they have been registered with the South Africa Kennel Union for quite a few generations and have been bred by knowledgeable dog people (one a retired professional handler), I feel fairly safe in assuming they are purebred.

I would like to bring out the point here, though, directed to those who may be interested in this new color for the breed, that we should be quite careful in our observations and selections of it, least we let ourselves in for some grievous disappointments. I say this, as it has

come to my attention that two dogs which were bred in England from the mating of two reds of close Sudanese ancestry, and were assumed to be black-and-white and thus, registered that way, have since had to have their registrations changed to read “tri-color,” as they developed tan hairs. They do not carry the typical tan melon pips, though, so since this is a must in a tri-color, they have to be considered mismarks, which is very unfortunate and could be quite costly for those investing in a dog to obtain this new coloring.

Therefore, at this stage of development of this new color in the breed we should try to be most judicious in our pursuit to obtain the color, and select for stock most carefully with an eye toward proper development of it for future generations, and not “go off half-cocked” on any hurry-up scheme.

Since there should be available in the near future several lines of black-and-whites to choose from, we should in a few years’ time have plenty of dogs of this color available for those who find them attractive, and I doubt that after we once positively obtain the color, we will have any worry about keeping it. But for now, slow and easy should be the rule, as we do have an obligation to people we sell dogs to, not only on the quality of the dogs themselves, but the purity of offspring which they may produce.