



This is a photo of the preserved Kowboi

Kowboi of the Congo

Jess MacKenzie
 Toronto, Canada writes to The Mailbox
The Basenji, October 1979

I'm sure Basenji owners often wonder what the original dogs looked like and whether there has been an accumulation of imperceptible changes in the breed over the years. Recently I had the opportunity to satisfy that curiosity to a small degree. Ann Manders of the Basenji Club of Canada had mentioned to me that the Royal Ontario Museum possessed a

mounted Basenji, one of the first introduced into North America, and had it locked away in its cold storage vaults.

Nancy Grepe of the Museum's Mammalogy Department was extremely helpful when I enquired if we could see the mounted specimen and perhaps photograph it.

The Museum's Mammalogy Department has many other breeds mounted, champion dogs with their pedigrees, some of them dating back to the 1890's. Ms. Grepe told me that at one time the specimens had been on display, but some members of the public had strong emotional reactions to the exhibits, forcing them to be withdrawn.

Enclosed are photograph and pedigree of Kowboi of the Congo. He and a female were the first Basenjies imported into Canada. They were purchased on June 10, 1939, by Dr. A. R. B. Richmond's Windrush Kennels in Aurora, Ontario, from Veronica Tudor-Williams. The height of the dog is 19", the skull length approximately 7 ¼". Bone structure is fine and coat is fine and soft.

Kowboi of the Congo died September 9, 1939, at approximate 11 months from distemper. The female was also a victim of that disease.

(Note: The female was Kokombo of the Congo (Bwanga of Blean x Kasui of the Congo)

*From the Certified Pedigree from the
 Canadian Kennel Club of*
Kowboi of the Congo,

Male, red and white,
 Born: November 28, 1938,
 Imported: June 10, 1939.

N'Joku
 Bongo of Blean
 Kisandu

Sire: Kwango of the Congo
 Kikongo
 Bereke of Blean
 Mutani

Kowboi of the Congo

Todo
 Bachele of Blean
 Tifi

Dam: Senji of the Congo
 Bongo of Blean
 K'Impi of the Congo
 Bereke of Blean

Mirrie Cardew wrote about Kowboi and his half-sister:

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“Having got that off my chest I would like to go back to the article about the preserved dog Kowboi of the Congo. Even before my times! But I did know his sire and dam. The letter mentions he was 19”; I doubt this very much and would suggest he was no more than 18 but nearer 17”. One can see he has been well stuffed and no doubt his pasterns “lifted up”. He looks to have taken after his dam more than his sire. Kwango was not a small dog although from stock smaller than himself. In fact, he was given to my parents by Miss Tudor-Williams in the early part of the war. My mother gave him more than his fair share of the precious family rations and consequently they had him far too fat. I think Kwango must have been nearer 18” and weighted a good deal when he died. He had the tiny thicker ears, but again carried the thicker skin and developed a finer coat as he got older. He also was that desired flame-orange color with a lovely eye and expression. Senji, a great character, carried a fine coat and all her offspring had lovely fine wrinkle and double curled tails. In fact, my own fist Basenji was Kinkujou of the Congo, by Kobbi of the Congo out of Senji of the Congo. She was 15”.”



Photo of Kinkojou of the Congo