

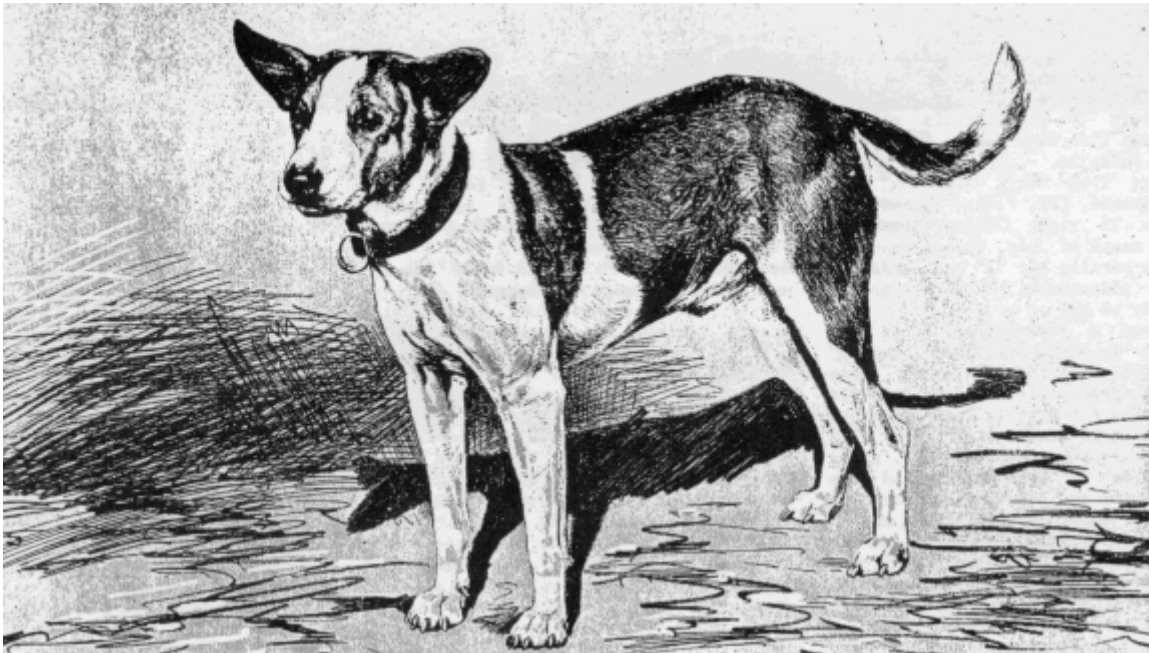
Early Basenji imports at the Zoo

by James E. Johannes

Very few dogs have been bred and exhibited in zoos. The author knows of only three, the Basenji, the Dingo and the New Guinea Singing Dog.

The earliest known Basenji in a zoo was one imported from the Congo Belgium in the 1880's. He was named Bosc and the Zoological Garden in Paris owned him (see below). At that time the breed was known as the Congo terrier.

Less than a quarter century later more Basenjies were imported from the Belgian Congo to the Berlin Zoo. The Germans called them the Congo dog. A 1905 picture shows three of them (see below). The exact date of importation or any other information was not available because the zoo lost its records during the Second World War. Susan Coe mentions in her book, *The Basenji: Out of Africa to you*, of a 1908 photo in the *Illustrated Kennel News* showing a Basenji bitch and her daughter. The daughter had been bred at the Berlin Zoo.



“Bosc”



Kongo-Hunde, Berlin Zoo 1905
Taken by: Dr. O. Heinroth.

Bosc photo reproduced from: *Le Chenil*

Berlin photo reproduced from: Pariahunde by R. and R. Menzel. in: *Die Neue Brehm-Bucherei*; 267.
Wittenberg Lutherstadt: A. Ziemsen, 1960. p. 64.