

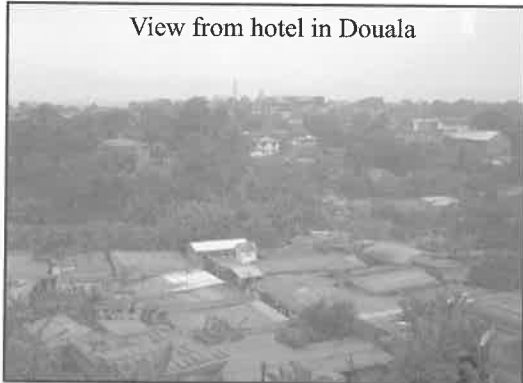
From Africa With Love

Part 4

By James Johannes

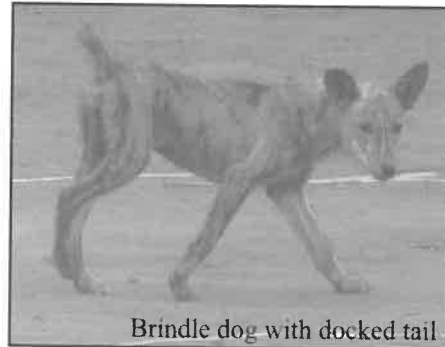
[Fourth in the Four-Part Series]

THE FIRST MORNING after arriving in Cameroon was my first good look at Douala. I had arrived in the evening and had been met at the airport by George. My hotel room was several stories up,



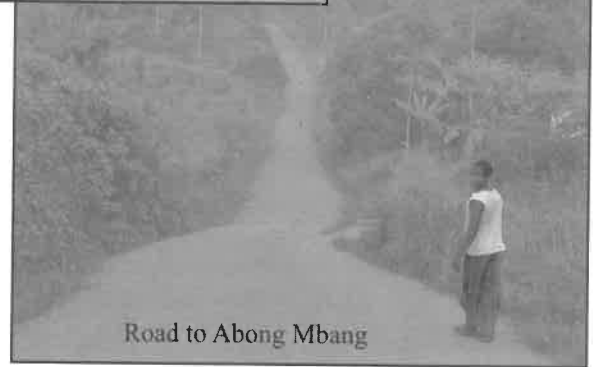
View from hotel in Douala

and I could see people leaving for work. I went down for breakfast, and George arrived just after I finished eating. We drove from Douala to Yaounde to join Brenda. Along the way,



Brindle dog with docked tail

sat down at the restaurant, a man came up and started talking with George. Soon, the discussion



Road to Abong Mbang

I noticed quite a few wrecked vehicles off the side of the road and lots of damage to the guardrails. According to George, there are plenty of accidents on this road.

We arrived in Yaounde in the afternoon. Brenda was staying at Jean XXIII of Mvoyo Center, the Catholic church, in Yaounde. As I already knew that she had dogs from an email I had received earlier from her requesting more crates, I was not surprised to meet four puppies. Arrangements were made for my room and for breakfast and dinner to be provided by the center.

The next morning we took a day trip south of Yaounde. Brenda wanted to try to pick up Afala's sisters. Afala and her sisters were not completely tame; they did stay around an old couple's house. Their mother would take them into the forest to hunt. When we arrived, the puppies were present. George, Brenda, and some local children tried to catch one of the puppies. This puppy was not having anything to do with people and would run and hide in the bush. She would crouch down and watch intently while one or the other of us tried to catch her. After spending time chasing her, we decided she was not going to be caught and gave up.

We went back to Yaounde and picked up Mahogany and Evindi. Both of them were old enough to have their first rabies shot. George knew where there was a vet. Fortunately, the vet had no other customers when we arrived. The dogs received their shots, and the vet filled out the rabies certificate. After returning to the center and having dinner, we moved Nsana and Mahogany to my room, along with their crates. For the rest of the trip until we reached Buea, they would stay with me at night.

The next morning, we left Yaounde and traveled east. Along the way, we saw several dogs with either semi-erect or erect ears. They appeared high on the leg. Overall, tails were long, but there were some dogs with docked tails.

We arrived at Abong Mbang in the late afternoon and found

lodging at the local Catholic Parish. We then went back into town for a cool drink and to buy electric fans to cool our rooms.

Just after we had

became more animated. The man claimed he was the commissioner and wanted to check our papers. We had to follow him to a building down the road where the commissioner, George, and one other person talked. From there, we followed him to his office in another building. He provided no identification, and the building did not have any sign indicating it was the police department. For another 40 minutes, he looked at our papers. Brenda finally got impatient with the situation and pretended she was having problems breathing. We finally were able to leave after the "commissioner" decided he wasn't going to get any money out of us. What a farce! We went back to the restaurant, had our beer, and then bought some fans for our rooms.

In the morning, we took a day trip south. We went as far as Mindourou, where we stopped for lunch. I had rice and beans and antelope meat. Not too bad. Along the way, we stopped at a village



Baka (pygmy) hut

with Baka (pygmies) and asked about dogs. They didn't have anything, so we continued south. At one point along the road, we saw a dog coming out of the bush, and not

long afterwards, his owner appeared. Apparently, they had been hunting.

In our trip in southern Cameroon, we saw bush meat on poles being sold on the roadside. Anyone coming by could stop and buy this meat. This was practically the only animal wildlife we saw, other than live birds. We also saw plenty of dogs with docked tails all over in southern Cameroon. At one point, we saw a brindle dog with a docked tail.

George was late picking us up the next morning. The connection to the battery was giving a problem, and he had to jury-rig a repair. We decided to leave Abong Mbang and go on to Sangmelima. Our route took us back to Yaounde, where we stopped for lunch before going south. By late afternoon we arrived in Sangmelima and rented rooms at the Trinite Hotel.

The next day, we continued traveling south and then turned around just after Mang to return to Sangmelima. Along the way, we picked up two puppies. Ebop was found in Medjounou, and at Mbilevom, we picked up Fom. Most of the dogs were red and white, but one was a mahogany tri female. Mahogany and Chaka came from an area just west of where we were stopped. Apparently, mahogany



Red/white dog along the road to Mang

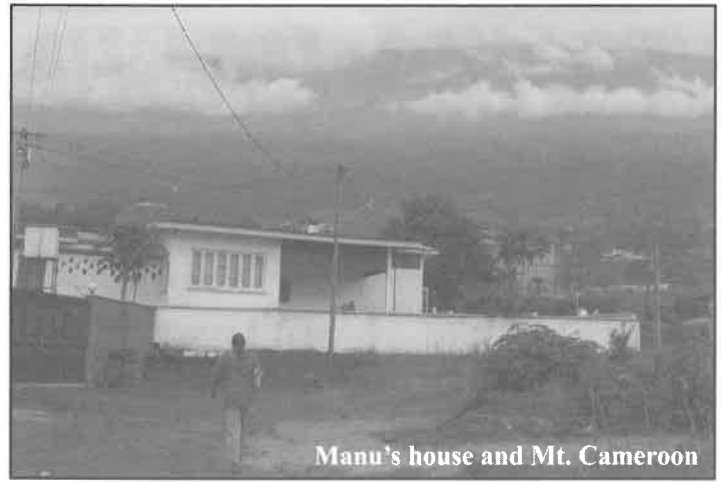


Mahogany tri

tri colored dogs occur in the extreme south of Cameroon and possibly into Gabon. We also saw dogs with red and very dark markings here and previously when we were coming to Sangmelima.

Ebolowa was our next destination. Along the way, we saw red and white dogs --a few with cropped tails. In the middle part of our trip, we did not see many dogs or people. Most people were away burning and clearing areas for planting. The dogs went with them during the day. In Ebolowa, we stayed at Centre Catechetique d'Abang, a Catholic parish. George left to go south after lunch to pick up Chaka and did not make it back until late afternoon. During the last night in Ebolowa, a thunderstorm came through and produced a torrent of water.

In the morning, we drove back to Yaounde and stopped at George's house to meet his wife and baby. We pushed on to Douala, where we crossed the Wouri River bridge, the only bridge linking the western half of Douala to the rest of the city. As we neared Buea, our final destination, we called Manu on the phone, and she gave directions to her office. She had offered to help house

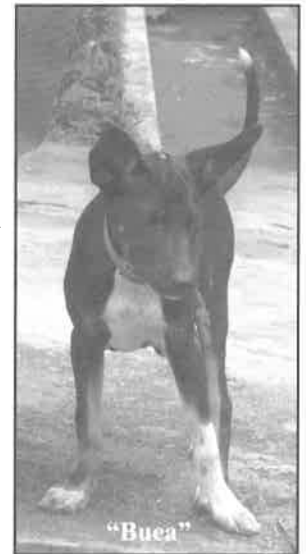


Manu's house and Mt. Cameroon

our dogs. We met her at her office, and she led us to the house where we could leave the dogs. We decided to stay at the Capital Hotel, because it was close to her office and only three blocks from the house Manu was renting.

For the next month, we stayed in Buea. We had a local vet give a rabies shot to Nsana, Afala and Chaka. Fom had a skin condition, and the vet gave him a bath and, unknown to us, a de-worming pill. Fom was not old enough to be given a full dose of de-wormer, and the overdose killed him.

During our stay in Buea, the Race of Hope marathon was held. The course starts in Buea, with competitors running to the top of Mt. Cameroon and back. We also went to a local village and looked at dogs and puppies. In and to the north of Buea town, located in the northwest corner of Buea, we looked at puppies and some dogs used for hunting. One of the puppies we looked at was a tri colored dog, and Brenda was taken by his head because it reminded her of some of the basenjis of the past. She decided to buy him. The owner's children took us to their mother who was at the local market. She owned a clothing store. After agreeing to a price, we went back and collected Buea.



We took a share taxi back to the hotel. Before we reached the hotel, Buea threw up. Brenda had to pay the taxi driver an extra few dollars for the mishap Buea had in his car.

Because we ran out of dog food and couldn't get any locally, we started cooking rice and eggs with some meat for the dogs.

On our last day in Buea, we hired a driver to take me to the airport, because I couldn't fit in George's SUV with dogs and crates. We arrived at the Douala airport in the afternoon and started the process of getting the dogs out of the country. We had to pay a fee to export them and had to put some of the dogs on the plane as freight. It took several hours of negotiating a price, and I began to wonder if we would be leaving or not. After getting the dogs' paperwork finished and paying the fees, we drove to the freight terminal to arrange passage for the rest of the dogs. Finally, at ten o'clock we pulled away from terminal and were on our way home.

The next morning we arrived in Zurich, Switzerland. We had

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The Lone Star State in 2008

- Y'all Come!

It's eighteen months away, which sounds like a long time, unless you're part of the group preparing the event. The Dallas-Fort Worth Basenji Club, Inc. is doing just that. The DFWBC annual specialty was held in March (details elsewhere in this issue), and we were waiting to get that wrapped up so we could concentrate fully on the BCOA Specialty.

We are thrilled that the event will be held at the famous Southfork Ranch, former home of J.R. and family. Attendees will have the luxury of all specialty events being held in one place. Even more exciting, there is outdoor lighting to have certain carefully selected events at night! The 2008 BCOA National Specialty will be a Texas-sized, fun-packed event no basenji person will want to miss!

Committees are being formed, chairpersons are being forced – er, selected to head those committees, and details are starting to be scrutinized. Our small group alone cannot organize an event of this proportion. The Indian Nations Basenji Club and Wanda Pooley, BCOA Oversight Committee Chairman have been of invaluable help during these very early stages. As things get bigger, we will need more people to help.

If any of y'all would like to offer your expertise for the event, why that would be right nice of ya. To find out how you can help, please contact the 2008 BCOA National Specialty Chairman, Karlene Schoonover at Karlene@tjesem.com.



to rush through baggage claim and security, so we could get to the freight terminal, luckily within walking distance, to pick up the dogs. Unfortunately, we ran into a problem. The dogs needed to be inspected by the vet before going on the plane, and more fees needed to be paid. All this caused a delay and forced us to miss our connecting flight.

American Airlines rescheduled us for a flight four days later. The dogs were held in a kennel at the freight terminal. We booked rooms at the airport and decided to visit Zurich to see some art galleries and the Zurich History museum.



We left Zurich and flew to Dallas/Ft. Worth airport, and then flew on to our separate homes. The dogs were not inspected. All the officials were interested in was making sure nothing was in the crates, other than the dogs. Brenda took with her Evindi, Afala, Chaka, and Buea while I took Ebop, Mahogany and Nsana.

Brenda and I would like to thank Emmanuelle (Manu) Occansey for allowing us to keep our dogs at her house while we stayed in Buea.

Jengi Project and Jengi dogs can be seen at www.dibubasenjis.com. Jengi dogs are listed below Jengi Project link.

2008 NATIONAL SPECIALTY

–Field Trial Judges

TALLY HO!!!!

Believe it or not, 2008 will be here before you know. I hope you're planning to come to Texas for the 2008 BCOA Specialty. There are lots of fun things being planned for a big Texas event. We are planning ASFA lure coursing and AKC JC tests.

At this time we are asking for suggestions for lure coursing judges. If you have any suggestions, please e-mail me with your suggestions at lurcorsr@sbcglobal.net or call me at 580-255-2227. The deadline for suggestions is **July 1st, 2007**.

Linda Stillwell



A red/white dog we spotted along the way to Mindourou



Ebop and Fom