

SALUKI

GROUP: Hound

GENERAL APPEARANCE:

The Saluki breed is one of the oldest known, existing virtually unchanged for thousands of years. It was originally bred and owned by Arab tribesmen, who used its sighthound abilities for hunting. Considered a sacred gift from God, Salukis were never sold but given as an honored gift. The overall impression and appearance of the Saluki is one of grace and symmetry, along with great speed and endurance coupled with strength and the ability to chase its quarry across deep sand and over rocky mountains and catch it. Expression is dignified and gentle, with deep, faithful, far-seeing eyes.

SIZE:

Males 23 to 28 inches; it is breed typical that females may be considerably smaller.

COAT:

The smooth coat has a soft, silky texture. Slight feathers are found on the legs. Feathers are found at the back of the thighs. Slight woolly feathers are sometimes found on the thigh and shoulder. Smooth variety has no feathers.

COLOR & MARKINGS:

The following colors are acceptable: white; cream; fawn; golden; red; grizzle; tan; tri-color (white, black, and tan); black & tan; and any of these colors with white. **Disqualification: Albinism**

HEAD:

Long and narrow; skull moderately wide between the ears but not domed. Stop is not pronounced.

Eyes: Dark to hazel; oval; bright; large, but not prominent.

Ears: Long; mobile; hanging close to the skull; covered with long, silky hair

Nose: Black or liver.

Teeth & bite: Full complement of strong, white teeth; level bite

NECK:

Well muscled; long; supple

BODY:

Back is fairly broad; muscles slightly arched over loin; chest is deep and moderately narrow.

FOREQUARTERS:

Shoulders sloping and set well back; well muscled without being coarse; Forelegs are straight and long from the elbow to the wrist.

HINDQUARTERS:

Strong; hipbones set well apart; denote jumping and galloping power; Hind Legs—Stifle is moderately bent with hocks low to the ground.

Feet: Strong; supple; well-feathered between the toes; moderate length; not cat footed; long, well-arched toes. **Fault: Splayed toes.**

Tail: Long; set on low; carried in a natural curve; well-feathered with long, silky hair on the underside; not bushy.

MOVEMENT:

Movement is smooth, effortless, and powerful with great freedom of action.

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REVISED JANUARY 2009

TEMPERAMENT:

The Saluki is a proud animal with great depth of character and personality. Salukis are truly a family hound and will not be happy if he cannot share family life. It is important that Saluki puppies be well socialized because they can have the tendency, having been bred for aloofness and independence, to be shy with strange people, places and animals. A well socialized saluki is comfortable almost anywhere. Very little physical punishment is ever necessary for a misbehaving Saluki. Their feelings are highly sensitive and for this reason, repetition of punishment for the same misdemeanor is seldom necessary. You may be shocked to know that Salukis hold a grudge if reprimanded and they will let you know for the next hour or so that you have insulted them. Oddly enough, if they've been punished for something which they know is not acceptable, they will most certainly apologize with a great deal of tail wagging.

The Saluki is first and foremost a hunter and the traits that the Bedouin bred for are deeply ingrained. Salukis can also be quite physically sensitive due to their low body fat ratio and can be very vocal about pain (even perceived pain).

Any departure from this standard should be considered a fault, and the final score should reflect the seriousness of the deviation from the standard

Disqualifications:

Viciousness or extreme shyness.

Albinism