**SALUKI**

**Official UKC Breed Standard**

*Revised May 1, 2008*

The goals and purposes of this breed standard include:
to furnish guidelines for breeders who wish to maintain
the quality of their breed and to improve it; to advance
this breed to a state of similarity throughout the world;
and to act as a guide for judges.

Breeders and judges have the responsibility to avoid
any conditions or exaggerations that are detrimental to
the health, welfare, essence and soundness of this
breed, and must take the responsibility to see that
these are not perpetuated.

Any departure from the following should be
considered a fault, and the seriousness with which the
fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion
to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare
of the dog and on the dog’s ability to perform its
traditional work.

**HISTORY**
The Saluki is one of the oldest known breeds and has
existed 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 Saluki was recognized by the United Kennel
Club in 1956.

**GENERAL APPEARANCE**
The overall appearance and impression of the Saluki is
one of grace and symmetry, along with great speed and
endurance coupled with strength and activity. Salukis
vary in type and this variation is typical of the breed due
to the immense size of the Middle East area where the
breed has been used for hunting for thousands of years.

Each tribe had Salukis that were best suited for hunting
the particular game in their region, and it follows that
the dogs that were presented to Europeans and
brought to Europe were from a wide variety of terrain
and climate, and therefore vary accordingly.

**CHARACTERISTICS**
The Saluki is dignified, intelligent and independent.
They are reserved with strangers, but never shy or
aggressive.

**HEAD**
The head is long and narrow, and has the look of
nobility.

**SKULL** - The skull is moderately wide between the ears
and not domed. The stop is not pronounced.

**MUZZLE** - The jaws are long and strong.

**TEETH** - A full complement of strong, white teeth meet
in a scissors bite.

**EYES** - The bright, oval-shaped eyes are large, but not
prominent. In color, they are dark to hazel. The
expression is dignified and gentle with faithful, far
seeing eyes.

**NOSE** - Nose pigment is black or liver.

**EARS** - The long, mobile ears hang close to the skull.
They are covered with long, silky hair.

**NECK**
The long neck is well muscled and supple.

**FOREQUARTERS**
The sloping shoulders are well laid back. They are well
muscled, but not coarse. The upper arms are
approximately the same length as the shoulder blades
and form a good angle with them.

**FORELEGS** - The forelegs are straight and long from the
elbow to the wrist (carpus). The pasterns are strong and
flexible with a slight slope.

**BODY**
In proportion, the Saluki is approximately square when
measured from the point of the shoulders to the point
of the buttocks, and the top of the withers to the
ground. The chest is deep, long and moderately narrow.
The ribs are moderately sprung. The back is fairly broad,
and the loin is well muscled and slightly arched. The
hipbones are set wide apart. The underline is well
tucked up.
HINDQUARTERS
The hindquarters are strong, showing galloping and jumping power.

HIND LEGS - The upper and lower thighs are well developed. The stifle is moderately bent. The hocks are low to the ground.

FEET
The strong, supple feet are well feathered between the toes. The feet are of moderate length, not cat footed; with long, well-arched toes.

Fault: Splayed toes.

TAIL
The long tail is set on low and is carried naturally in a curve. It reaches at least to the hock. It is well feathered with long, silky hair on the underside; not bushy. In adults, the tail is not carried above the line of the back, except in play.

COAT
The coat is smooth and has a soft, silky texture. There is feathering on the backs of the front legs and on the rear of the thighs. In adults, there may be feathering on the throat. Puppies may have a slightly woolly feathering on the thighs and shoulders. The smooth coated variety has no feathering.

COLOR
Any color or combination of colors is permissible, with the exception of brindles, which are undesirable.

Disqualification: Albinism.

HEIGHT
Dogs average in height from 23 to 28 inches. It is breed typical that females may be considerably smaller.

DISQUALIFICATIONS
(A dog with a Disqualification must not be considered for placement in a conformation event, and must be reported to UKC.)
Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid.
Viciousness or extreme shyness.
Albinism.