

# AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL



## Extended Breed Standard of **THE SALUKI**

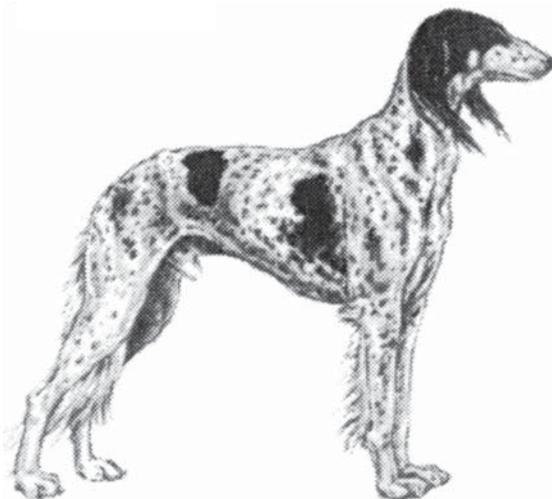
Produced by

The National Saluki Council (Australia)  
in conjunction with  
The Australian National Kennel Council

Pre 1987 Standard Kennel Club (London)  
BSE adopted by ANKC 1998  
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Country of Origin — Saudi Arabia

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## **HISTORY OF THE BREED**

The Saluki, from the hot climate of the Arab Desert, is the swift, galloping hound of the great nomadic, pastoral, Bedouin tribes of the desert has been used by them for hunting from time immemorial. It is claimed that these hounds are the living representatives of the first swift dogs trained by man to assist him in the chase and to help supply him with food.

The Saluki was bred by nearly all the great tribes and the Sheikhs of these tribes carefully guarded the precious strains that have been handed down to them. Famous dogs are well known throughout the desert and pedigrees are learned by heart, sung or chanted and handed down by oral transmission from generation to generation. Some tribes are proud of possessing pedigrees of their Salukis, written on parchment, perhaps dating back a thousand years.

Considering how the Mohammedans despise ordinary dogs, it may seem strange that they should honour the Saluki. The Saluki, called 'El Hor' (the Noble One), is said to be the Gift of Allah and, as such, game which it kills is viewed as fit to eat, as opposed to the ordinary dog or 'Kelb', whose touch would render meat unfit for consumption.

In the Middle East, a Saluki is never sold, but only presented as a mark of esteem to a friend or a distinguished guest.

The game for which the Saluki is used is principally gazelle, hare, fox or other desert animals. Salukis are described as running down a desert hare almost in a moment, but their favourite sport is the gay chase of the tiny, shy gazelle, barely the height of a small Saluki.

## THE HEAD OF THE BREED



### ● GENERAL APPEARANCE

*The whole appearance of this breed should give an impression of grace and symmetry and of great speed and endurance coupled with strength and activity to enable it to kill gazelle or other quarry over deep sand or rocky mountain. The expression should be dignified and gentle with deep, faithful, far seeing eyes.*

The Saluki is an elegant endurance hound giving the appearance of functional athleticism. Almost alone among the breeds, Salukis vary enormously in type and each type is correct. The introduction to these notes demonstrates how variation is due to the wide geographical area of origin. From the smallest to the biggest, from almost square to longer than tall, each type complies with the General Appearance without exaggeration or coarseness. The key word in the Standard is MODERATE. If any feature stands out there is something out of balance, not in harmony with the whole.

### ● CHARACTERISTICS — (NOT DETAILED)

Salukis are the archetype sighthound and the most highly refined of this group of hunting dogs. They must possess – to a marked degree – the CHARACTERISTICS which provide the CAPACITY to perform their original function – which varies according to the type of terrain and the different quarry. Bearing in mind that VARIATION as allowed in the text of this Standard is a BREED CHARACTERISTIC, the ideal exhibits a unique combination of head (for type), deep chest (for endurance), fine waist (for speed), low hocks and broad hindquarters (for power, speed and agility), bladed bone (for lightness and strength) and hare-like feet. There are SMOOTH and FEATHERED varieties, judged together as one breed.

### ● TEMPERAMENT — (NOT DETAILED)

Characteristic temperament is reserved with strangers, dignified, intelligent and independent, neither nervous nor aggressive. Adolescents should be handled with sensitivity.

## ● HEAD AND SKULL

***Head long and narrow; skull moderately wide between ears, not domed, the stop not pronounced, the whole showing great quality. Nose black or liver.***

Correct Saluki heads vary considerably. Viewed from above AND from the side, ALL have a muzzle and skull in the form of a wedge, the length of which varies according to the (moderate) width between the ears. A wedge too wide and short lacks 'quality'. A wedge too narrow and long is untypical. The top of the skull is flat. There should be a slight stop. The planes of the skull and foreface are approximately parallel. The skull should never be longer than the muzzle or appear to recede. The length of foreface, from the inner corner of the eye to the tip of the nose, should be as long or slightly longer than the back skull or distance from occiput to inner corner of the eye. Good strength of underjaw is necessary.

## ● EYES

***Dark to hazel and bright, large and oval, but not prominent.***

Eyes should be oval, not round. The set should be slightly oblique when viewed from above. The eye colour can range from dark to hazel and can be in harmony with coat colour. Eye rim and nose pigmentation ranges from black to liver and must be solid.

## ● EARS

***Long and mobile, covered with long silky hair; hanging close to the skull.***

The smooth variety has the same ear description but no feathering. On the feathered variety, long, silky hair may cover the ear or grow only from the top half. The leather is broad, the bottom tip reaches the corner of the mouth when brought forward. The tip is rounded.

## ● MOUTH

***Teeth strong and level.***

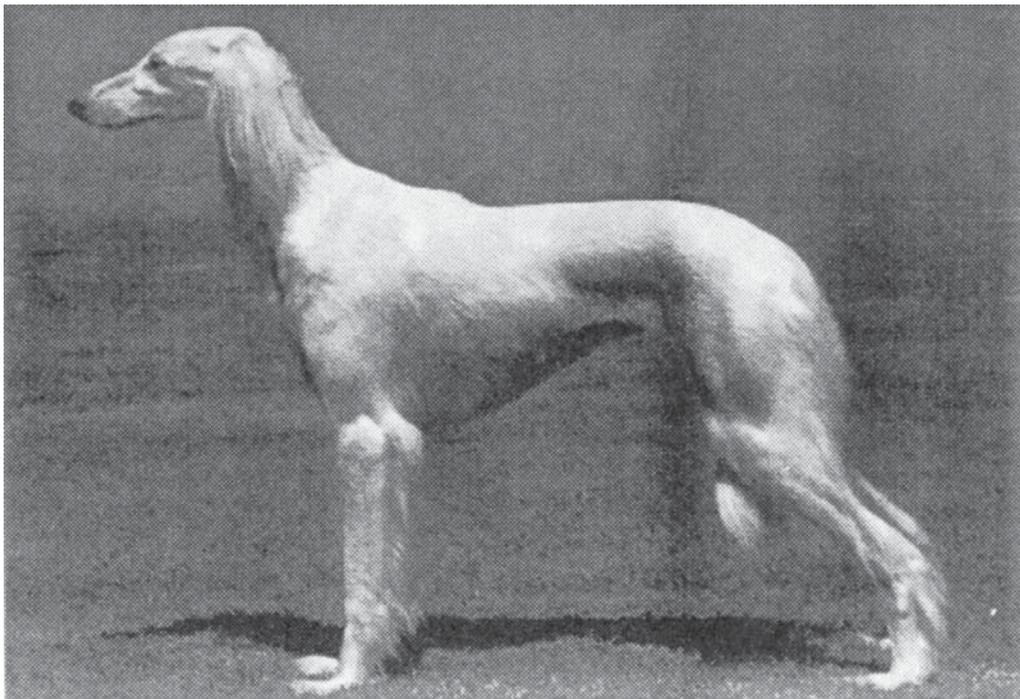
A perfect, regular and complete scissor bite is required. Full Dentition is extremely important. There must be sufficient underjaw to avoid a snipey expression.

## ● NECK

***Long, supple and well muscled.***

The neck is strong but streamlined. It should be moderately long, in character with the galloping breeds, and well muscled, giving a slight crest. Any suggestion of a weak, ewe neck is undesirable.

## GENERAL APPEARANCE — MALE AND FEMALE



## ● FOREQUARTERS

***Shoulders sloping and set well back, well muscled without being coarse. The chest deep and moderately narrow. The forelegs straight and long from the elbow to the knee.***

The heart-lung room required by the Saluki is obtained more from depth of brisket than from width, but there should be a small hand's breadth between the front legs to that the elbows cannot easily be pressed together in an adult dog. The deepest part of the chest should be at the elbow. The forechest should be well-filled and the prosternum visible when viewed from the side. The ribs should be moderately sprung, never barrel-ribbed or slab-sided. There should be good length of ribcage, and in a well conditioned animal the last three ribs should be slightly visible. Full depth of chest may not develop until maturity at 4 to 5 years.

The scapula is laid well back. When there is adequate return of upper arm, the elbow meets the deepest part of the brisket, showing some prosternum. The upper arm is long and is never less in length than the length from tip of scapula to point of shoulder. A line dropped from the tip of the scapula should pass through the point of elbow.

The legs must be straight with fine, dense, bladed, never round, bone. The pasterns must slope slightly as they are the shock-absorbers of the running hunter. Straight pasterns as well as any indication of knuckling over are extremely undesirable.

The withers are discernible but not so sharply defined as to detract from the smooth flow of neck into back.

## ● BODY

***Back fairly broad, muscles slightly arched over the loin.***

There is a slight arch to the loin due to strong muscling, which allows for flexibility at the gallop. A flat topline or an exaggeratedly arched topline is undesirable. The loin should not be flat. There should be a pronounced, graceful tuck-up.

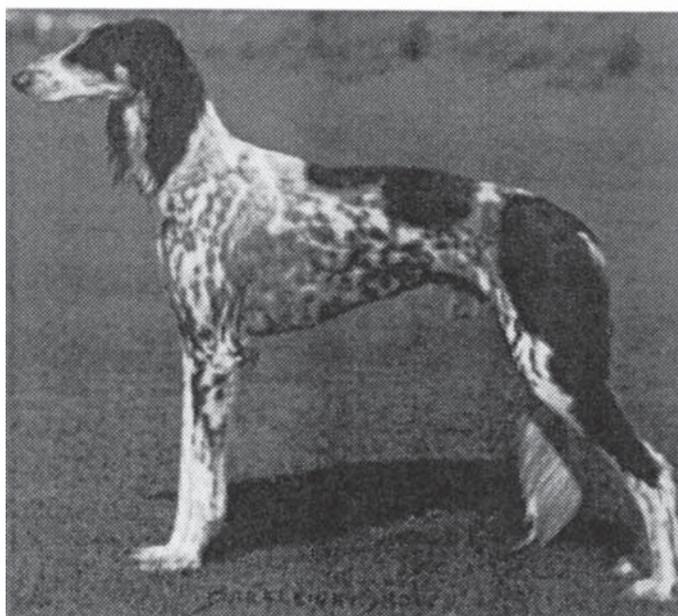
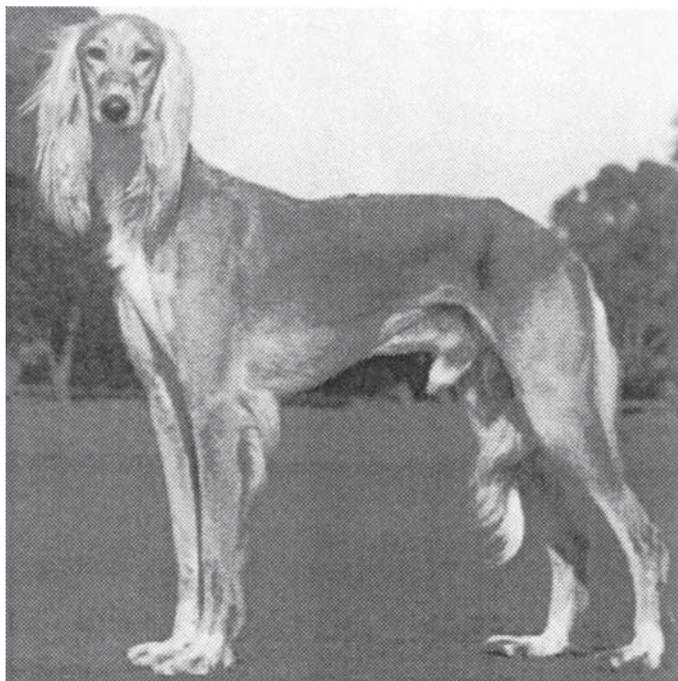
The withers and the top of the ilium (pin bone) should be the same height from the ground. A sloping topline, when the pin bones are lower than the withers, is not functional and extremely untypical in a Saluki.

## ● HINDQUARTERS

***Strong, hip bones set wide apart, and stifle moderately bent, hocks low to the ground, showing galloping and jumping power.***

Compared with other sighthounds, the Saluki hindquarter is moderately angulated, indicating powerful running and jumping ability. An over-angulated rear with a longer second thigh is unfunctional and therefore highly undesirable. The muscling should not be exaggerated. The hock should be low and perpendicular when viewed from the side and the rear. A weak rear is a serious fault as the dog's driving power is derived from the hindquarters. The croup should have a moderate slope. The hindquarter assembly should give the overall impression of powerful running and jumping ability.

## ANY COLOUR IS PERMISSIBLE



### ● FEET

***Of moderate length, toes long, and well arched, not splayed out, but at the same time not cat footed; the whole being strong and supple and well feathered between the toes.***

The feet are of the long, hare-foot type with elongated centre two digits. They should be well-knuckled up, never flat, but also not cat-footed, and should have thick pads. In the feathered variety, the feet should be well-feathered between the toes and underneath the foot, between the pads. The front feet can point straight ahead or may turn out at a small angle. Any suggestion of a pigeon-toed stance is undesirable.

- **TAIL**

***Long, set on low and carried naturally in a curve, well feathered on the underside with long silky hair, not bushy.***

The tail is long and the last tail vertebrae should reach at least to the hock. Free from any lumpiness at the onset. A low-set tail carried gaily should not be penalised, as this simply indicates a state of mind. The smooth may carry a slight brush of longer, coarser hair on the underside.

- **GAIT/MOVEMENT — (NOT DETAILED)**

The gait of the Saluki must reflect the fact that it is an efficient, speedy galloper and not a trotter. At the trot, appearing effortless, light, smooth, lifting and flowing, showing both reach and drive. No hackney action or plodding. Unexaggerated. Viewed from front or rear, limbs converge to a centre line of travel but do not single track at a show trot.

Front and rear extension must be balanced, with no side-stepping, crossing or interfering. Gait should be evaluated at a moderate pace. Even at the trot, the Saluki exhibits the qualities called for in General Appearance.

The head is carried elegantly, forward from the vertical, creating a graceful, flowing line from nose to tail.

- **COAT**

***Smooth and of a soft silky texture; slight feather on the legs; feather at the back of the thighs; sometimes with slight woolly feather on thigh and shoulders. (In the Smooth variety the points should be the same with the exception of the coat which has no feathering.)***

The Saluki's feathering can vary greatly. It can be quite profuse or fairly sparse. The smooth variety has no guard hairs.



**A SMOOTH COATED  
SALUKI**

- **COLOUR**

***White, cream, fawn, golden, red, grizzle and tan, tricolour (white, black and tan) and black and tan, or variations of these colours.***

Any colour or combination of colours is permissible.

- **SIZE**

***Height should average 58-71 cms (23-28 ins).***

***Bitches proportionately smaller.***

Small or large Salukis falling within the allowed height range must be neither penalised nor shown any preference. However, at the same time, because of the great latitude in height permitted, animals over 71 cms (28 ins) are undesirable. The Saluki should always be balanced and in proportion, neither coarse nor weedy, in trim hunting condition. And, as can never be stressed enough, always MODERATE.



*Male and female Salukis showing good heads, expressions and fronts.*

- **FAULTS**

***Any departure from the foregoing points 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.***

- **NOTE**

***Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.***