

Saluki

Origin and Purpose

The Saluki is one of the oldest known breeds of dogs. It has existed, virtually unchanged, for many thousands of years. It was originally bred by the Arab tribesmen for bringing down game and was considered a sacred gift of God by the tribesmen. In Arabic, an ordinary dog is called kelb while the Saluki is El Hor, The Noble One.

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 mountains. The expression should be dignified and gentle, with deep, faithful, far-seeing eyes.

Size

Dogs should average in height from 23-28 inches (58-71 cm), and Bitches may be considerably smaller, this being very typical of the breed.

Coat

Smooth and of a soft silky texture, slight feather on the legs, feather at the back of the thighs and sometimes with slight woolly feather on the thigh and shoulder.

Colour

White, cream, fawn, golden, red, grizzle, and tan tricolour (white, black and tan), black and tan, or any of the aforementioned colours and white.

Head

Long and narrow. Skull moderately wide between the ears, not domed, stop not pronounced, the whole showing great quality. Nose black or liver. Teeth strong and level; eyes dark to hazel and bright; large and oval, but not prominent; ears long and covered with long silky hair, hanging close to the skull and mobile.

Neck

Long, supple, and well muscled.

Forequarters

Shoulders sloping and set well back, well muscled without being coarse. Forelegs straight and long from the elbow to the knee.

Loin and Back

Back fairly broad, muscles slightly arched over loin. Chest deep and moderately narrow.

Hindquarters

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

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.

Tail

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

Smooth Variety

In this variety, the points should be the same with the exception of the coat, which has no feathering.