

## SALUKI

*A breed standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However, if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as unacceptable, it must not be rewarded in the show ring.*

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 01/01/2026

### ORIGIN

Middle East. (Patronage: Great Britain).

### UTILISATION

Hunting and coursing Hound.

### BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 269:]

Salukis vary in type and the variation is desired and typical for the breed. The reason for the variation is the special place held by the Saluki in the Arab tradition and the immense size of the Middle East area where the Saluki has been used as a Hound of the chase for thousands of years. Originally, each tribe had Salukis best suited for hunting the particular game in its own area, but by Middle East tradition, Salukis are not bought or sold, but presented as marks of honour. It follows that those presented as such to Europeans and brought to Europe came from a wide variation of terrain and climate and vary accordingly. The British 1923 standard was the first official European breed standard for the Saluki and was drawn up to cover all these original types of Saluki.

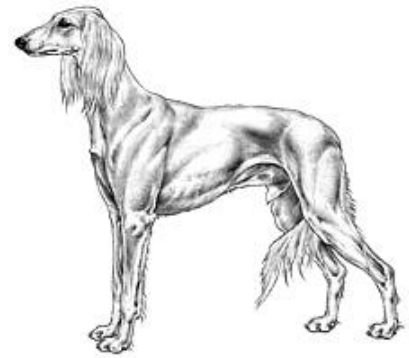


Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

### GENERAL APPEARANCE

Gives impression of grace, symmetry, and of great speed and endurance, coupled with strength and activity.

### CHARACTERISTICS

Great variation in type [ed. style] due to wide geographical area of origin. There are both feathered and smooth varieties. The expression should be dignified and gentle with faithful far-seeing eyes. Light flowing movement.

### TEMPERAMENT

Reserved with strangers but not nervous or aggressive. Dignified, intelligent, and independent.

### HEAD

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

#### Eyes:

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

#### Ears:

Long and mobile, not too low set, covered with long silky hair, hanging close to skull. Bottom tip of leather reaches to corner of mouth when brought forward. Provided ear is covered with silky hair, which may grow only from top half, the standard is complied with but longer hair also correct.

#### Mouth:

Teeth and jaws strong with a perfect, regular, and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

### NECK

Long, supple, and well-muscled.

## FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders sloping and set well back, well-muscled without being coarse. Chest deep and moderately narrow, when viewed from front, not an inverted V. Forelegs straight and long from elbow to wrist. Pasterns strong and slightly sloping. Not round-boned. Humerus sloping slightly backwards.

## BODY

Back fairly broad, muscles slightly arched over loin, but never roach-backed. Brisket long and deep, not barrel-ribbed or slab-sided, with good cut-up. Sufficient length of loin important.

## HINDQUARTERS

Strong hip bones set wide apart. Stifle moderately bent with well-developed first and second thigh. Hocks low to ground.

## FEET

Strong, supple, of moderate length, toes long and well-arched, not splayed out, but at the same time not cat-footed. Feathered between the toes (except the smooth variety). Front feet may point outwards at a very slight angle when standing.

## TAIL

Set on low from long and gently sloping pelvis. Carried naturally in curve. Well-feathered on underside but not bushy. In adults, not carried above line of back except in play. Tip reaching to hock.

## GAIT / MOVEMENT

Smooth, flowing, and effortless. Light and lifting, showing both reach and drive without hackney action or pounding.

## COAT

Smooth and of soft silky texture, feathering on legs and back of thighs, puppies may have slight woolly feathering on thighs and shoulders. Feathering may occur on throat. In the smooth variety the coat is the same but without feathering.

## COLOUR

- Any colour or combination of colours permissible except brindle, blue or merle which are unacceptable.

## SIZE

### Height at withers:

**Males:** 58cm – 71cm (approx. 23" - 28").

**Females:** proportionately smaller.

***N.B.** Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.*

## 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, and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

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**When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:**

**FCI Standard No. 269: SALUKI**

**FCI Classification: Group 10 – Sighthounds.**

Section 1 – Long-haired or fringed Sighthounds.

Without working trial.