The Azawakh

By Deb Kidwell

In the harsh desert environment, nature and the selective hand of man created the Azawakh, a race of hounds with exotic beauty uniquely adapted to serve as a guardian and hunter. An African Sighthound, the Azawakh originates from Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso. Native to the Sahel region of the Sahara desert, they are named for the Azawakh valley which lies between Mali and Niger. Azawakh means "land of the north." The Azawakh is the only sighthound indigenous to this region.

![Dazol In Chenan

Desert bred bitch owned by Ursula Arnold](image)

Western cultures associate the hounds primarily with the nomadic Tuareg, but they are also bred and owned by other ethnic groups such as the Peulh, some clans of the Fulani and the Bella. The Bella were the former slaves of the Tuaregs. The Hausa, a pastoral ethnic group that make their living by trading and agriculture, also raise the hounds.

The Tuareg are considered to raise the noblest hounds. In its purest form, the Azawakh is known as "idi n'illeli", the "sighthound of the free people." The Azawakh or idi held an integral place in the Tuareg life and culture. The seasonal migration of the nomads increased the distribution of hounds and resulted in greater diversity within the gene pool. Such diversity strengthened the genetic health and the stability of the hound’s temperament.

Selective breeding for conformation and markings, as practiced in the west, is unknown. There is typically one female per encampment. Females are bred by the alpha male of the locale. The owner of the female usually culls the litter to two or three puppies shortly after birth. This helps prevent an insupportable increase in the population and ensures better nutrition for the surviving puppies.

**European Origins**
The breed was first imported to Yugoslavia in the early 1970’s by Dr. Pecar, a Yugoslavian diplomat stationed in Burkina Faso. Dr. Pecar received his male as a gift from the nomads since the dogs could not be bought. He later bartered his services as a hunter, by killing a bull elephant that had been terrorizing the tribe, in exchange for a female Azawakh. The French military and civil servants also played a significant role in exporting the Azawakhs to Europe.

France is the patron country of the Azawakh under Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI) rules and controls the standard for the breed. Originally, the Azawakh was considered a variety of Sloughi and was shown under its standard. From the beginning, most Sloughi breeders did not accept the Azawakh because of the extensive white markings and the difference in temperament. Thus, most breeders of the time did not mix the two breeds.

When FCI recognized the Azawakh as a breed, the name went through several changes. First, it was called the Sloughi-Azawakh. The breed finally became the Azawakh in 1980. The first Azawakh FCI standard only allowed shades of red with white markings, since it was considered at the time, that any Azawakhs with brindle markings had been mixed with Sloughi. With increasing pressure from breeders and evidence from its Countries of Origin (COO), Azawakhs with black brindling were finally allowed in the FCI standard in 1993.

The breed developed in Europe along two lines, known as the Yugoslavian and the French lines.

**Yugoslavian Line** - In the early 1970’s, after Dr. Pecar obtained his two Azawakhs, Vesna Sekalec (Haris al Sahra) began breeding them. Two Azawakhs formed the foundation of the breed in Yugoslavia. Their names were Gao and Lara. Around 1975, a male was imported from Burkina Faso known as Darkoye Sidi, and he was incorporated into what had become known as the Yugoslavian line. Many breeders obtained their foundation Azawakhs from Ms. Sekalec, therefore, the Haris al Sahra kennel name appears frequently in the pedigrees of most modern day Azawakhs. The Yugoslavian line dogs figured prominently in the foundation bloodlines of the Czech Republic and Russia.

**French Line** – The French line started began with a total of seven foundation dogs. Parigi was the original importer and breeder in France. His earliest females were, Toboro Il and the males, Aikar, Adignaz, Aourakh and Targoui. He actively bred Azawakhs from 1972-1978. Another male known as Takadamat contributed to the French foundation. Dr. Francois Roussel, who wrote his doctoral dissertation on the Azawakh in its countries of origin (*Contributions to the Study of the Sighthounds in the South-Sahara, 1975*), owned a bitch named Tahoura. In the early 1980’s, other African imports were brought into France by the Coppé family. The Coppé dogs came from Mali. The males were known as C’Babasch and Ejeker; and a brindled female, Tekewelt. Coppé bred the first litters of brindle Azawakhs in Europe.

In the late 1970’s, the next generation of breeders started in Switzerland and Germany, with Ingrid Aigeldinger (Al Hara) and Anna and Ulrich Hochgesand (Aulad al Sahra), respectively. These two
breeders were the main source for Azawakhs for both Europe and the United States. Other desert bred imports arrived during this time period. They were Mali, Dazol In Chenan, Yaris, Salome and Akchi.

Hochgesand and Aigeldinger bred Azawakhs from both French and Yugoslavian bloodlines. The Aulad al Sahra breeding program mixed the two lines from the beginning, however; Aigeldinger kept the two lines separate, for the most part, until the late 1980’s.

Aigeldinger made these observations of the two lines during an interview in 1996. “The Yugoslavian line has good formats, full and correct dentition, soundness of legs and good angulation, good almond eye and well carried ears, interested racers (non-fighters), very sensitive, occasionally almost hysterical, not good car travelers. The French line has super quality in all respects, not nervous, good depth of brisket, flowing attractive movement, somewhat long in back and accordingly slightly over-angulated behind. Good at lure coursing, but unsure on the race course. The French family stands on sound and strong legs.”

In 1993, the idea to establish an organization to protect the Azawakh in their African homelands was born during the first International Azawakh Expedition. This expedition was led by a group of sighthound enthusiasts from Germany, Austria, the United States and Mexico. The foundation, known as ABIS (Association Burkinabe Idi du Sahel), was founded to help the breed survive in its countries of origin (COO). Based in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso, the goals of the foundation are the preservation and advancement of the pure-bred sighthounds of the nomads in the Sahel region.

The United States

The Azawakh made its debut in the United States in the mid-1980’s. The first Azawakh that made her way to the US was Amusar’s Hamija, bred by Frau Witzig in Germany. Hamija ended up in rescue with Netboys of California. The Netboys, later imported Izegar, a male from Aulad al Sahra, but the two dogs were never bred. The first Azawakh litter was whelped on October 31, 1987, by the late Gisela Cook-Schmidt (Reckendahl). Sired by Faysal Uschi of Silverdale, a dog of the Yugoslavian line, their dam was Al Hara’s Hiba, a female of the French line. Hiba’s second litter was sired by the desert bred, Mali. These first American Azawakhs were all red or fawn with white markings. The first brindles came to the US in 1989, with the first brindle litter whelped November 27, 1990 by breeder, Deb Kidwell (Kel Simoon).

The American Azawakh Association, Inc. (AAA) is the AKC parent club for the Azawakh in the US. The AAA was founded on February 7, 1988, with the goals of promoting the pure Azawakh and to guarantee the breed a permanent future in the US. The AAA publishes a quarterly newsletter known as the Azawakh Aegis.

The Azawakh is currently recognized to participate in all AKC Performance and Companion Events. The breed will enter the AKC Miscellaneous Class on June 30, 2011.

Azawakhs are, also, fully recognized by the American Sighthound Field Association (ASFA) and the Large Greyhound Racing Association (LGRA) and the United Kennel Club (UKC).

The American Azawakh Association has actively held specialty shows since 1990.
Another sport for which the Azawakh shows a lot of promise is the emerging sport of Canine Freestyle. Canine Freestyle is a choreographed performance with music, demonstrating the training and joyful relationship of a dog and handler team. Freestyle is an excellent discipline to highlight the conformation and movement of the dog. The drive and beauty of an elegant Azawakh moving to music can take one’s breath away. The emphasis is on matching the music to the dog’s gait, validating the bond between the handler and the dog and creating an expressive, flowing picture to the audience. The Azawakhs light, graceful movement and willingness to please make this sport tailor made for the breed.

Kristin Sicotte with Sambala Konan n’ Simoon participating in a Freestyle competition

**General Care of the Azawakh**

Grooming of their short coat is accomplished easily with a zoom groom or hound glove. Frequent bathing is not necessary, as the breed has no doggy odor. However, they do have sensitive skin, so use of a mild, hypoallergenic, unscented shampoo is recommended.

Exercise requirements with all sighthound breeds are a very important subject. The Azawakh must have adequate exercise and makes an excellent companion for the serious jogger and runner.
The Azawakh is a very active dog; however, they run and play in spurts interspersed with long naps on the sofa. They should have a large yard where they can stretch their legs, but more importantly they need interaction with the owner or another dog, to make them exercise. Left alone in the back yard with the expectation of self-exercise is generally not acceptable for this breed. A bored Azawakh will look for its own entertainment, not necessarily close to the house. They should receive at least half an hour a day of hard running and/or playing exercise. Finding a securely fenced ball field is perfect for play excursions.

They typically need a lot of space around them and cannot tolerate endless hours of crating. However, many love to pile on the couch. Scenes with ten or twelve Azawakhs or other sighthounds piled on a couch are pretty normal!

Regular exercise and living as an integral part of the family are prerequisites for a well-balanced Azawakh. Azawakhs generally love to travel and go to different places with their owner.

The Azawakh is a hound of the desert. However, their delicate appearing physique can be misleading. Azawakhs are strong and durable dogs, well-adjusted to living in the challenging conditions of the Sahel. They can live on small portions of food, though they always act hungry. They hate wet and cold weather. The breed should not be left outside for long periods of time in cold weather. Azawakhs enjoy a quick race in the snow, but need to come back in the house to warm up. This breed will become fat and lethargic or hyper and destructive without an outlet for their energy. Azawakhs can be very reliable off lead if taught a strong recall. This is a bonus for people who take pleasure in the company of sighthounds, but have difficulty enjoying them because they cannot be trusted off lead.

When discussing the temperament of an Azawakh, consideration should be given to individual personalities and contributing backgrounds, both genetic and environmental. However, there are several general characteristics common to the breed. Described in a Dog World article as a "warrior class dog", they have the intelligence and heart to protect. When approached in their own territory, they may bark loudly and can be quite intimidating. The Azawakhs “territory” may include the home, the car, or simply their owner’s body space. In situations where their duty as guardian isn't necessary, their reactions
may range from friendly, to mildly curious to arrogantly indifferent. Although generally not outgoing, several in the US have found the opportunity to make social contributions as therapy dogs in nursing homes and rehabilitation centers.

The Azawakh seem to possess an uncanny combination of total loyalty and independence. Each new situation presents the potential for the struggle between the dog's natural desire to please his owner and his prideful desire to do things his own way. A firm, fair hand is called for. A well-socialized Azawakh is affectionate, gentle, playful, subtle and very loyal to its owner. Some Azawakhs, having bonded with one particular person, do not change ownership easily. Azawakhs are usually cautious with strangers. Typically, they observe for a while before approaching. One needs much patience and empathy, along with considerable time and personal interaction to raise this proud and independent breed.

At the same time, rough and aggressive handling is not recommended for any dog. Therefore, people who cannot control their tempers would not make good owners for Azawakhs. With such treatment, dogs would become withdrawn, mistrustful, aggressive, and unpredictable. Properly socialized and trained, the Azawakh will live harmoniously within the family and community.

Azawakhs raised in kennel situations, with little socialization, are typically shy and distrustful. They are frequently panicky, frightened and may freeze in a new situation. They may snap or bite.
Approach with extreme caution!

With a lot of time and patience many can learn to adjust to life as a house pet, though some never recover sufficiently to be a good pet. Well-socialized Azawakhs can also be frightened, but adjust more quickly to the new situation, and often watch and trust their owner’s reaction to a given event. It is important not to “protect” the Azawakh puppy from different experiences. From the youngest age, it is essential that the dog is taken downtown, to your friend’s house, in a car and to walk on leash and to come when called. Teaching the puppy to recognize that new and unfamiliar situations do not present a threat is the best way to help the Azawakh feel at home in our stressful society. Puppy obedience and socialization classes are important for the social development of a young Azawakh. The raising of an Azawakh puppy, because of the intensity of the effort and commitment, can be very rewarding. Azawakh owners find that the strength of the bond created during this process often dramatically exceeds their previous experience with the love of “normal, civilized” dogs.
Quick, attentive, distant, reserved with strangers and can even be aggressive, but he is gentle and affectionate with those he is willing to accept. However, it is a fault to be excessively timid, panicky or aggressive to the point of attack. This part of the standard is at odds with many breeders in the US and Europe who are trying to breed Azawakhs who are more approachable, maybe even friendly, and less apt to be outwardly aggressive. In the Sahel, the hound prefers not to be touched, but is not aggressive. More accurately, they are avoidant. Unprovoked aggression towards a family member or guest would not be tolerated.

Much discussion has been given to the guardian nature of the Azawakh, but here we must remember that this is a sighthound. Azawakhs have retained all their instincts, and when several live together they establish hierarchies with subtle behavioral rituals. Intentions and moods are expressed by a repertoire of postures, expressions and sounds. Azawakhs are resourceful and driven hunters. Because comparatively few generations have been removed from the need to hunt daily for personal survival, the hunting instinct is very strong in this breed.

As a rule, they seem to accept other dogs, though sometimes grudgingly, as protected members of their own pack. Their keen vision, speed and stamina specializes them for chasing down their prey in open spaces. The Azawakh is always on the alert for moving objects; even a leaf in the wind or a butterfly will trigger a chase. Azawakhs usually play by chasing one another. Their play can be very rough!

Azawakhs can develop great friendships with cats and small dogs, but may mistake them for game outside, particularly if the pet runs away. Some cats attack dogs and can inflict serious damage to their
eyes and face with their claws. Similar caution is required with Azawaks and indoor birds. The beak of large parrots can turn into a dangerous weapon and, alternatively, the teeth of an Azawakh can hurt the bird!

Another point to mention is that the Azawakh is a very dominant breed. Within a household pack, the breed will almost always aspire to the alpha dog position. If there is an existing dominant dog in the pack, this can cause conflict within the pack.

No one can predict the individual personalities of all dogs in any breed. There are some situations which should be avoided with guardian and sighthound dogs of any breed. Children playing together, sometimes quarrel. It is natural for a guard dog to protect "his" children from their playmates. Also, children can abuse dogs without realizing it, and an Azawakh (or any other dog) might want to defend itself.

Chase or prey behavior is another situation that can be a problem. Children or other pets running away from the hound can activate the prey drive instinct. The hound may try to "take down" the child from behind, as they would while hunting. A good rule of thumb is to never leave the Azawakh with children while unsupervised by an attentive adult. There are individual dogs of all breeds that do not like children. The Azawakh, as a breed, with care given to the situations mentioned, should fit well into the family structure.

Health & Nutrition

The Azawakh as a breed does have some health challenges. The most common of these health concerns are hypothyroidism, seizures, and several autoimmune mediated diseases, such as a muscle wasting condition, autoimmune thyroiditis and generalized Demodectic Mange. Cardiac problems and Bloat, though not common, have occurred in some individuals. Breeders are strongly encouraged to test for as many maladies as possible, making it possible to make informed breeding decisions when considering a litter. Common tests are thyroid screens, complete blood chemistry (CBC) profiles, autoimmune function blood work, cardiac screening, eye examinations (CERF), X-rays for hip/elbow dysplasia (OFA, PennHip). Seizures are hard to test for and cause determination is not always possible. However, dogs exhibiting
seizures should not be bred. Unfortunately, many dogs start seizure activity later in life after they have been bred many times and have already adversely impacted the gene pool of the breed.

The problem that breeders face in many cases is that because of the small gene pool, it is impossible to eliminate all dogs that carry a genetic disease from the breed program. But it makes sense to test for as many diseases as possible so as not to "double up" on the same disease process in sire and dam. Pedigree research and disease tracking is an invaluable tool for Azawakh breeders. Some health problems can be tracked through an entire line from the original foundation dogs.

A six month old pup in good weight

Nutrition is an important point to consider in a breed so close to it's "roots". Though not all breeders feel it important, many feel that the hounds should be fed a simple diet of whole foods, rather than kibble. This is a personal preference. Many generations of dogs have been kibble raised and have done well. If feeding regular kibble, the Azawakh should be fed a diet with a fat content of 12-16% fat to maintain good weight and a healthy coat, a moderate level of protein (22-26%) is advisable. The breed also does well on the newer grain free diets. Weight maintenance of Azawakhs is another important area to consider. They should be slim. In proper weight, most ribs, vertebrae, and the hipbones should be visible. It's not to say they should be skeletal, but a fat sighthound is neither a happy nor a healthy sighthound. Azawakhs are structured to be on the thin side. Overfeeding will adversely affect the joint structure of the hound, especially in puppies. Azawakh puppies should never be fat and roly-poly. Keeping them slim as they are growing permits the joints and other body parts to grow properly, without additional stress and wear and tear. Slim pups are less prone to growth plate problems. In
medical treatment of the hound, natural, holistic methods work very well. The Azawakh is generally a healthy breed. They heal amazingly well from cuts and scrapes. The Azawakh is a natural breed whose immune system is not conditioned to the use of most Western chemicals; therefore, judicious use of chemicals around the hound is advised.

A Discussion of the Azawakh Standard

The Color and Marking Controversy

Currently the Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI), the World Canine Organization standard of the Azawakh allows only the coat colors of sand to red, with and without black brindling. White markings are required on all four extremities, the tip of the tail and the chest. A blaze in the face is allowed. Any deviation from the above standard is a major or eliminating fault.

However, this standard does not reflect the reality regarding colors and markings of the hounds in the Sahel. The coat colors accepted by the FCI standard are indeed the dominant colors; however, a smaller portion of the Azawakh population displays different coat colors and patterns. Additionally, more extensive white markings than described in the standard are very common.

Although the AAA doesn’t recognize the FCI Standard for the breed because of its color limitations, the dogs can be shown in any FCI recognized country under FCI rules which allow only sand to dark red and black brindle, with all other colors disqualified. In the past few years, the French Club du Sloughi, des Levriers d’Afrique et du Galgo (S.L.A.G.), which is the club governing the Sloughi and Azawakh in France, has further limited the “approved” white markings of the Azawakh. This trend has sharply divided the Azawakh fanciers and breeders both in the US and abroad. By limiting the markings on the hound, the club is further narrowing the genetic pool from which breeders can draw if they wish to breed within the standard as set forth by the club in France.

Since the formation of the American Azawakh Association in 1988, it has been the belief of the members, that the FCI standard should be amended to include all the colors and patterns found in the Sahel. This would allow breeders to utilize Sahelian-bred hounds to expand and enhance the breeding lines. It would also help to preserve the unique character and performance abilities of the Azawakh and help to balance the progressively more extreme type found so often in the show ring today.
“As fast as wind, durable as a camel and beautiful as an Arab horse ... these few words could briefly describe a charming Azawakh."(Eva-Maria Kramer). Azawakhs are elegant, tall dogs of proud bearing. Lean and muscular of frame, their appearance should indicate swiftness when running. He should be longer of leg than of body, which may seem extreme when compared with other sighthounds His neck is long and graceful, his head held high when alert. His tail is proudly carried above the line of the back. The breed has pendant ears that are raised to the side of the head in response to sounds. Their beautiful, darkly rimmed almond-shaped eyes and ever-alert look capture the admiration of all who fall under the spell of the hound.
The Azawakh's movement is agile and light, without hackney action or pounding. He has particularly graceful, elastic movement at the walk and at the trot gives the appearance of floating effortlessly over the ground. At the trot, the front foot should not extend past the end of the nose. The gallop is leaping and they cover ground in great strides. Moving with exaggerated reach and drive, as in the “flying trot”, is incorrect. The movement is an essential point of the breed.

An over-angulated dog can have spectacular movement; but it is not the correct movement. This is a very common judging fault in Azawakh. A dog which shows all the characteristics of the standard, but has a heavy pounding trot or hackney action cannot be considered for the ribbons!
General Appearance:

The Azawakh is an African sighthound of Afroasiatic type, which appeared in Europe towards 1970 and, comes from the Nigerian middle basin, among others, from the Valley of the Azawakh. For hundreds of years, he has been the companion of the nomads of the southern Sahara.

Particularly leggy and elegant, the Azawakh gives a general impression of great fineness. His bone structure and musculature are transparent beneath fine and lean skin. This sighthound presents itself as a rangy dog whose body fits into a rectangle with its longer sides in a vertical position.

Faults – Heavy general appearance

Size, Weight and Proportions

Height at withers:

Males – 25 – 29 inches

Females – 23 - 27 inches

Serious Fault – Size deviating more than an inch from the norms of the standard

Weight:

Males – 44 – 55 pounds

Females – 33 – 44 pounds

In correct weight - 3-5 ribs should be visible
**Body Proportion:** Length of body/height at withers – 9:10. Length of body is 90% height of hound. This ratio may be slightly higher in bitches.

**Head**

Eyes: Almond shaped, quite large. Their color is in keeping with the coat color. Eye rims are pigmented.

Ears: Set quite high. They are fine, always drooping and flat, quite wide at the base, close to the skull, never a rose ear. Their shape is that of a triangle with a slightly rounded tip. Their base rises when the hound is attentive.

Skull – The skull is almost flat, rather elongated. The width of the skull must definitely be inferior to half the length of the head. Width of the skull/length of head = 4:10. The width of the skull is 40% the length of the head. The superciliary arches and the frontal furrow are slightly marked. On the other hand, the occipital crest is clearly protruding and the occipital protuberance marked.

**Faults:** Wide back skull, prominent stop

Muzzle: Long, straight, fine towards the front without exaggeration.

Planes: Long, fine, lean and chiseled, rather narrow, without excess. Length of muzzle/length of head = 1:2. Length of back skull is 50% length of head. The directions of the axes of the skull and the muzzle are often slightly divergent towards the front.
Nose: Nostrils well opened. The nose color is in keeping with the coat color.

Lips & Jaw: Lips are fine and tight. Jaw is long and strong. Cheeks are flat.

Bite: A scissor bite is preferable; a level bite is allowed.

   Serious Fault: An overshot or undershot jaw

Teeth: Full dentition; the teeth are healthy and strong.

Neck, Topline and Body:

   Neck: Good reach of neck which is long, fine and muscular, slightly arched. The skin is fine and does not form a dewlap

   Topline: Nearly straight, horizontal or rising toward the hips. Withers are quite prominent.

Body: Length of body/height at withers – 9:10. Length of body is 90% height of hound. This ratio may be slightly higher in bitches.

   Fault: Body too long

Chest: Height of chest/height at withers – about 4:10. Height of chest is 40% of height at withers. Well developed in length, deep but without reaching elbow level. It is not very wide, but must have enough space for the heart, so the sternal region of the chest must not abruptly become narrow. Forechest is not very wide.
Ribs: Long, visible, slightly and evenly curved down to the sternum

Underline: The chest is curved like a keel consisting of dry muscle and visible skeleton. The sternum is well defined, rising very high into the lumbar arch without interruption.

Back: Nearly straight, horizontal or rising toward the hips.

Hipbones: Distinctly protruding and always placed at an equal or superior height to the height at the withers.

    Serious Fault: Hip bones placed distinctly lower than withers.

Loin: The lumbar section is short and dry, often slightly curved over the loin.

Croup: Oblique without accentuated slant.

Tail: The tail is set low, thin, lean, and tapered. Length should reach the hock. It is covered with the same type of hair as that of the body. It is carried hanging with the tip raised or when the hound is excited, it can be carried in a sickle, ring, or saber above the horizontal.

Forequarters

Forequarters - Seen as a whole: long, fine, almost entirely vertical.

Shoulders: Long, lean and muscular and only slightly slanting seen in profile. The scapulo-humeral angle is very open (about 130°).

Dewclaws: May or may not be removed.

Feet: Rounded shape, with fine and tightly closed toes

Pads: May be pigmented

Hindquarters - Seen as a whole: long and lean; legs perfectly vertical

Thighs – Long and prominent with lean muscles. The coxofemoral angle is very open (about 130°).

Stifle – The femorotibial angle is very open (about 140°).

Hock – Hock joint and hock are straight and lean, without dewclaws.
Feet – Round shaped, with fine and tightly closed toes;

Pads: May be pigmented.

Skin and Coat –

Skin – Fine, tight over the whole body.

Hair – Short, fine, down to none on the belly.

Color – Color and markings are immaterial.

    Serious Fault – Harsh or semi-long coat. Coat not identical to the standard.

Gait – The Azawakh's movement is agile and light, without hackney action or pounding. He has particularly graceful, elastic movement at the walk and at the trot gives the appearance of floating effortlessly over the ground. At the trot, the front foot should not extend past the end of the nose. The gallop is leaping. The movement is an essential point of the breed.
Fault: To move with exaggerated reach and drive or heaviness.

Character and Temperament – Quick, attentive, distant, reserved with strangers, but he can be gentle and affectionate with those he is willing to accept.

Fault: Excessively timid character
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Standard</strong></th>
<th><strong>Azawakh</strong></th>
<th><strong>Sloughi</strong></th>
<th><strong>Saluki</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Format</strong></td>
<td>Standing Rectangle – 90% - impression of fineness</td>
<td>Approaching square – 96% rustic, sturdy</td>
<td>Square – Grace, symmetry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Head – length foreface to total length of head</strong></td>
<td>1:2</td>
<td>1:2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wide of skull / length of head</strong></td>
<td>4:10 – rather narrow, chiseled</td>
<td>Broad skull – domed cranium, long refined muzzle</td>
<td>Long &amp; Narrow, not domed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Face</strong></td>
<td>Occipital crest – clearly protruding, slight stop, slight frontal groove</td>
<td>Occipital crest barely visible, slight stop and frontal groove</td>
<td>Moderately wide between the ears, stop not pronounced,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expression</strong></td>
<td>Feral, far seeing</td>
<td>Melancholy</td>
<td>Dignified, gentle, far seeing</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Body - Depth of chest : height at withers</strong></td>
<td>4:10 or 40%</td>
<td>4:10 or 40%</td>
<td>Chest – deep, long, moderately narrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Angulation</strong></td>
<td>Very open angles – Shoulders – 130</td>
<td>Moderately angulated</td>
<td>Well laid back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Movement</strong></td>
<td>Great impression of lightness, even elasticity – The gallop is leaping. Movement is an essential point of the breed.</td>
<td>Supple, smooth, long strides, ground covering</td>
<td>Smooth, flowing effortless at trot. Light and lifting, not hackney or pounding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Movement continued</strong></td>
<td>At trot, foot should not extend past nose. NO flying trot</td>
<td>At trot, foot should not extend past nose.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tail</strong></td>
<td>Carried above or below line of back</td>
<td>Carried below the line of back</td>
<td>Long, set on low and carried naturally in a curve.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Colors/markings</strong></td>
<td>Color and markings are immaterial</td>
<td>Sand to red, w/or w/o black mask or black mantle,</td>
<td>No brindle, all other OK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>brindling, black overlay</strong></td>
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