

## The Influence of Desert Bred Salukis on Open Field Coursing

*Compiled and Edited by*

**Gail Goodman**

1998

Postscript 2010



It has always been my belief that the Middle Eastern imports and their direct descendants have a valuable contribution to make to the fancy and the breed worldwide. I have never felt either the imports or their progeny should be separated, either in breeding or competition, from the general population of Salukis. I always believed those who chose to share their lives with Eastern hounds should have the same options in breeding or competing as those who chose Western hounds. Many FCI member countries have registration procedures which permit the continued importation and registration of Salukis from their countries of origin. How exciting it must be for them to show, compete on the racetrack or at lure events, to simply enter competition with their “desert bred” and “go for it”! And what a wonderful array of breeding options are available in countries where Eastern imports can be registered.

Unfortunately the AKC studbook is closed...and has, for the most part, closed us off from the benefit of using Eastern hounds and having them AKC registered. We may import from countries with open stud books and, if the proper number of generations are registered and the country's procedures meet the AKC requirements, such imports will be enrolled/registered by the AKC, and their progeny may compete on equal footing with all other Salukis. However, the AKC, to date, will not accept Salukis on a “continuing basis” from native lands with no registries. This is a tragedy for our breed.

The National Open Field Coursing Association (NOFCA) has, with “appropriate” documentation, always permitted Eastern imports and their progeny to compete in all events open to Salukis. It has been on the coursing field that the “desert bred and direct-desert-descent” Saluki has made its mark. Proportionately, a tiny fraction of the breed population, their achievements are stunning.

Presented here are the stories of the various individuals and their progeny as written or told in conversation and recorded. The love of their owners for them, and the pride in their accomplishments, almost equals the tremendous heart of these hounds as they plied their ancient



trade...as they ran the courses and the great hares that we will all remember...always.

## **Tallahamra**

*Herb Wells*



My first experience with Desert Bred Salukis was with Jamilla. Anita and I met Sherry King at an Amarillo, TX dog show in 1975. She said she had this Saluki at home that she had brought back from Lebanon where she and David had been teaching at one of the Universities. Jamilla was born May 6, 1973 in Lebanon out of Saudi Arabian imports; her breeder was Nabih Awwad. It was love at first sight! She was a small bitch, I would guess between 23 and 24 inches at the shoulder and perhaps 30 pounds in weight, and light golden in color. If she had been eligible for AKC shows, she would not have done well because she was so East-West in front and her tail carriage was higher than was stylish for the show ring. The

positive things about her far outweighed the few negative things.

One of the things that I found especially notable about her and some of the other Saudi bitches I have seen, is that they have beautiful, fine bladed bone and yet moderately wide heads. With most of the Western bred Salukis that I have seen the width of the head is an indicator of the size bone they have. A wide head meaning coarse, round bone. Jamilla had been injured when young, which affected her movement. Her movement was a high-stepping style that made her look like she was walking on hot coals and altogether very attractive.

As I try to remember what it was about her that made her so appealing, I don't have the proper words. The closest thing that I can come up with is something like what show people call "ring presence". When you were with Jamilla, you knew you were with someone special. She, like the other Middle Eastern Salukis I have seen, was not shy with strangers. She would greet guests by coming up and standing by you as if to say, "You may pet me if you want to but don't over do it", then retiring to her place. I told Sherry if Jamilla ever had puppies, I wanted one.



Jamilla was sent to me in California to do a breeding. On the way home from the airport we found that ice cream cones were one of her favorite foods and that she could lick one in a dignified manner. The first choice of a stud was Harry Rymer's Saudi import, Slim. The second choice was Bayt Shahin Star and the third choice was Ch. Jen Araby El Rojo Grande. The breeding was made with El Rojo. Slim was too old and Star could not get a successful tie.

The puppies were born May 25, 1978. If my memory is correct, there were five, two bitches and three males. The Kings were returning to Lebanon so Al Ahad was sent to me in a cat crate when he was only four or five weeks old. They kept a white bitch and sent Jamilla and the rest of the litter to Harry Rymer who was living near Arroyo Grande, CA. We ended up with three out of the litter: Tallahamra Al Ahad CC/CM, Tallahamra Smoggy CC/CM, and Tallahamra Talli. Al Ahad and Smoggy had very successful open field coursing careers.

Unlike their dam, Jamilla, Al Ahad and Smoggy were trained from an early age for open field coursing jackrabbits. They are Jamilla's contribution to the sport. Before their second birthday they had tied for the coveted ASA Coursing Shield awarded to the Saluki with the most open field coursing points for the year. They had the only tie ever in the history of NOFCA for top sighthound of any breed for a year! They scored enough points to win for Jamilla the ASA Shahin Trophy which is awarded to the bitch whose puppies won the most points for the season in open field coursing, but as I recall she was not awarded it because her owner was not an ASA member.

Al Ahad was a joy in the coursing field. He had tremendous desire and would never stop hunting and searching the horizon for a hare, no matter how tired he was or how bad the weather. At an ASA puppy hunt he coursed a jackrabbit into a grape vineyard and a few minutes later came out carrying a jack almost as big as himself. This was a most unusual feat because when the most skilled grown Salukis chase a jack into a vineyard it escapes. This was a great demonstration of his agility. After the first five hunts of his first coursing season he was the top sighthound of all breeds and had caught the jack in every course that he was in where a take was made. I considered him to be the best turning Saluki I had ever seen....and then it happened.



The rains were late, the ground was dry, very hard and the jacks plentiful. On the way back from a course he jumped another and another until he had run five jacks and damaged his toe ligaments on the rough hard ground. After this injury he was never able to run as fast or turn as well as before. After a coursing session his toe joints would always swell so I usually coursed him every other week in competition with no training between meets. Yet he was still able to end the coursing season tied with his sister Smoggy for top Saluki.

Al was a black fringed red, about 25 inches tall and weighed about 50 pounds when in condition. His physical proportions were very pleasing and, altogether, he was a very attractive Saluki. His front, like his mother's, was East-West. I feel this may have contributed to his unusual ability to turn and for the toe joint injury problem; but this is only speculation and unprovable. Al died of cancer at 12 ½ years old. Al was the only one from Jamilla's litter to be bred from. His litter out of a Saudi import, Tallahamra Bella of Jedda produced the most beautiful Salukis I have bred or seen. They were competent but not great coursers.

Smoggy was quiet and low-keyed, seeming to be indifferent to what was going on in the coursing field. She was a very fast sprinter in her early courses then changed her running style to better suit the long running jacks in the Alpaugh area. She hated cold wet weather and always walked behind me when I was on the line whereas Al was always out front looking, but when a jack got up she was off like a shot. They were so successful that I often had to slip both in the same course in the finals. Al would be pulling forward and Smoggy dragging behind but when the jack got up they were off together and very evenly matched. If Al had not had the toe problems he would have been better.

Smoggy got her name because of her color which reminded me of Los Angeles smog. For those not familiar with LA smog, she was a black fringed fawn. She was about the same height as Al but a little lighter in weight, weighing in the mid 40s. She was considerably taller than long with a rather straight rear end. Her movement was dead true with all feet pointing straight ahead. She was very tough and I cannot recall her ever having a foot or joint injury. She lived to be 14 years and 8 months old.

Sister Talli came to us after she was grown and we did very little with her in the way of competition. She lived to an old age with Vicky Clarke.

Just what coursing assets Jamilla passed on to her puppies is hard to say because she was never coursed. Whatever they were, the combination with what El Rojo passed on worked very well.

Bella was imported from Saudi Arabia by the Stewarts who had been employed in the oil business while there. Tom Stoner contacted us while we were at the Pasadena dog show, saying that a lady had two Saudi Arabian Salukis that needed homes. We immediately followed him to Nellie Stewart's home. There we met Winner and Bella. Mrs. Stewart said that because of her divorce, she was no longer able to keep the dogs. Winner was a male that was said to have come from the Royal Kennel. He had been neutered because he and Bella had produced at least two accidental litters. I have forgotten who took Winner but I did get to see one of the puppies from the Winner x Bella breeding. Frank Morris had him and he brought him to several NOFCA hunts and also competed at lure coursing with him but to what extent I don't remember. The dog's name was Sultan. He was a competitive but not outstanding open field courser.

We took Bella home with us and named her Tallahamra Bella of Jeddah. Mrs. Stewart said that they got her in the desert East of Jeddah from Arabs who were abusing her. Bella was small, about 23 inches tall, light golden color; her proportions and structure were, to me, almost perfect. Her feet were beautiful, well arched with thick pads; the kind that will stand a lot of use. She had one very noticeable fault, a short tail approximately half the length of a normal tail. She was very much like Jamilla in size, color, and proportions, but she was dead sound where Jamilla was not. Judging by appearance, they may have come from the same family tree in Saudi Arabia. Bella's Saudi Arabian health certificate is dated January 20, 1977. She died of bone cancer at about eleven years old.



When we got Bella, she was passed the age where a novice Saluki would be expected to become competitive at open field coursing. She enjoyed going to the field and coursing jackrabbits. She had a lot of endurance, tolerated the heat well, was an eager hunter with a good eye, but not blessed with a lot of speed.

We bred her once to Al Ahad. The litter was born January 13, 1982 on a ranch near Hondo, TX. There were seven puppies, two females and five males. Two of these, Pixy a bitch, and Sanam, a male, are to me the prettiest Salukis I have owned. The only one from this litter that I bred from was Sandy (Sanam). As I write this (May 25, 1998) he is almost 16 years and 5 months old. This litter produced some good but not outstanding coursers. At least one was a NOFCA coursing champion.

We got Zaharan and her brother Shawhan when they were about a year old. Anita received a call saying there were two desert bred Salukis in the Bay Area that needed homes. We contacted the young lady who had them. She had been the classmate of a Saudi Arabian student who had brought a bitch in whelp from Saudi Arabia when he came to America. She had taken Zaharan as a puppy and the student had given her Shawhan, the puppy he had kept for himself, when he returned to Saudi Arabia. Some other puppies from this litter have made significant contributions to the desert bred population in the Phoenix, AZ area. The young lady, whose name I have forgotten, was unable to keep them because she was moving to Oregon.



Zaharan and Shawhan were at a good age for serious training for open field coursing. I started taking them coursing with my other Salukis. They were tough little dogs with a lot of enthusiasm. They had a lot of endurance and excellent feet. What they lacked for competition was speed. Zaharan was an especially good hunter. She would often find jackrabbits for her faster companions to catch. She considered each outing to be a food finding expedition and would eat whatever little goodies she found in the field. If the pack killed a jack and she had the opportunity, she would eat it. Zaharan and Shawhan were born on July 4, 1982. Their breeder was Mr. Akram. The sire's name was Amar and the dam was Farha. Both died in January of 1996 from cancer.

Tallahamra Shawhan was a deep chested cream with a slight Irish blaze on the neck. He was 26 inches tall and about square to slightly taller than long. He had no impact on NOFCA coursing because he did not compete nor was he bred from. Tallahamra Zaharan was a very deep chested gold/cream grizzle with a small white blaze on the back of her neck. She was 25 inches tall, and taller than long. She had a great impact on NOFCA coursing through her daughters Musdiy, and to a lesser extent, Lena.

Some breedings must be caused by a higher power. The one that produced Musdiy surely was one of those. Arif and Zaharan usually stayed together but they were separated because Zaharan was in season. I was scheduled to judge the 1987 Grand Course and planned to stay in Merced until it was over. Vicky Garofalo (now Clarke) was going to take care of the dogs while I was gone. I thought Zaharan's season was over so I put her back with Arif to facilitate the care taking. When Vicky went to feed she found Arif and Zaharan tied. I accuse Vicky of being the breeder but she won't accept the responsibility. So, it must have been caused by a higher power when one considers the spectacular success Musdiy had in the open field.



Musdiy went to live with Sally Blackwood when she was a small puppy. Sally lived only a few miles away so I got to see Musdiy often. At the ASA puppy hunt, that year the Rama Cup and Scramble Cup were run the same day. Musdiy and her sister Lena, who I had kept, ran together.

They would not come back, they just kept hunting and running more jack rabbits, completely absorbed in what they were doing and ignoring all efforts to catch them until they were completely exhausted and could find no more jacks. This was certainly annoying behavior, but it showed the desire that was to lead them to success later. Musdiy won one or both of the cups that

day. I don't remember which. I was very impressed with Musdiy's coursing ability and told Sally if she ever wanted to part with her that I would be glad to take her back.

Sally and Don Pappin were getting more and more involved so Sally started keeping some of Don's whippets. Musdiy, who is a super alpha bitch, treated whippets like they were pond scum. This did not go over well, and was a strain on the new romance, so Sally gave Musdiy back to me. This was a good decision because she and Don got married and I had Musdiy back.

Musdiy's first coursing season as an adult was 1989. Even though she only competed in the October through December part she finished as high scoring Saluki in NOFCA competition for the year and went on to win the NOFCA Grand Course in the spring of 1990. She had a very dominant win, being high scoring Saluki and overall high scorer each day. She was the second Saluki to win the Grand Course and, to date, 1998, there have only been three Saluki winners. She was the high scoring Saluki in NOFCA competition in 1989, 1990, and 1991.



Musdiy and Lena won the Cirrus Cup for 1990-91, which is awarded to the sire whose progeny accumulate the most open field points, for their sire, Arif. For their dam, Zaharan, they won the Shahin Trophy, which goes to the bitch whose progeny accumulates the highest total points in open field competition. Along with her other cup wins, Musdiy is the only Saluki to have won the Ishtan Cup three times. She is one of only seven Salukis to accumulate over 1000 NOFCA open field points, and the only 1000 point winner to have won the Grand Course. After retiring from open competition she won the Archives Plaque the two times she competed as a veteran. She is retired from all competition and rules as a not too benevolent queen of the house. Her boys (puppies) can do no wrong but the other dogs and cats are ruled with an iron hand.

What do I consider as her strongest points as a coursing Saluki? Heart and desire have to be near the top. She always gave her best. Without the intense desire to catch the hare other athletic abilities cannot be maximized. She had excellent speed, endurance, and heat tolerance. She could beat any of her contemporaries after the first  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile. The longer the course the longer her lead would be. She could work a jack rabbit beautifully, seemingly delighting in turning and

herding it. She was a master at keeping the jack from getting to cover, which didn't necessarily help her score but contributed to the overall efficiency of the course. In her later years she became very skillful in using the other dogs to put herself in a position to catch the jack. Good feet and joints contributed a lot to her durability. She is 24.5 inches tall and 24 inches long. She is a pale golden color and weighed 42 pounds when she won the Grand Course. Any hound that can accumulate 500 NOFCA points shows that they have a lot of skill and durability and she accumulated over 1000 points! Her worst injury was a broken toe that happened on a summer outing. At eleven she is still sound.

Another plus was that in her early years she came in season once a year in the spring, which didn't interfere with the coursing season. Her sister Lena came in twice a year which limited her career. Her main weakness as a coursing hound was that she did not have great early speed and could be beat on short courses. She was not the best at catching the jack early in a course, seeming to prefer to work it for awhile before making a take and if she was with a good kill dog, this hurt her score.

Musdiy was bred once, to Tepe Gawra Durak of Ajuz, who, like Musdiy, was of half Saudi breeding. Durak had been the top scoring Saluki in England one year. This was the first time a top scoring English Saluki had been bred to a top scoring American Saluki. Musdiy produced a litter of six males. Four are still with me, one is with Vicky and Lynn Clarke, and one went to Chuck Jackson and was lost at an early age. They were all named for human runners who were world record holders at different distances. Carl Lewis, Steve Cram, and Said Aquita have earned their CC and CM titles. Sebastian Coe was injured when young which has limited his coursing career but he did manage to win his field at the 1996 Christmas Cup Hunt. These boys have been contenders at the hunts they have competed in despite the fact that their owner is getting decrepit and doesn't take them out very often anymore.





## **Loofah Al Khalij Tepe Gawra**

*Susi Burchard*

Loofah for me was Loofah...there was nothing like her. She was very sweet, very obedient, with no training at all...it was just her nature. She came to us, Hans Peter Oeschlin and me, at about two and a half. She was bred by John Burchard in Saudi Arabia. Her dam was Shaalah and her sire a well known Saudi hunting dog.



Loofah lure coursed in Switzerland but she never qualified for her racing license. We just never bothered even though she was very fast. She never seemed to take the racing very seriously. If she saw something more interesting outside the racetrack, she would jump the fence and investigate. She only ran when she wanted to. She did love lure chasing and did it with intensity. We chose to breed her to Arezu because he was such a terrific racing dog, earning the Swiss racing championship three years in a row. The two litters from Loofah and Arezu then won the Swiss racing championship for seven years in a row, one or another of the offspring.

Arezu also had a lovely temperament and he was all over a lovely dog. Every one of Loofah's puppies has her friendly, happy nature. This comes through all the generations down from her...even her grandpuppies have this wonderful nature. It's a happy spirit that is definitely Loofah.

Loofah remained active and intent on running until she was twelve; she simply never seemed to age. When Loofah was about eight years old her dam, Shaalah, came to live with us. Shaalah was about thirteen years old when we got her. Shaalah loved Loofah's puppies, which were about a year old when she arrived, and she raced around like a youngster with them. We were sure Shaalah would collapse from this exertion, but she never did. It was clear to see that Loofah took after her dam completely; they were the same kind of wonderful companions. Shaalah and I became inseparable. Loofah's son, Duman, also had this wonderful character.

Loofah's son, Tepe Gawra Durak, went to England and made his mark in the coursing field and then repeated his successes in the USA after crossing Canada on foot with his daughter and their owner, Diane Avery, on horseback. Thabiya was the result of a breeding to the daughter of another Saudi Arabian import to England, Fatima min Shaoul Khala, aka Bobby. At the SPDBS Hunt in Alpaugh Thabiya won the open class, ran against her daughter by Durak for the trophy, beat her and won the trophy. Both Durak and Thabiya ran impressively in the few NOFCA and NACA hunts they competed in. In New Mexico, both Thabiya and her son Raj put in outstanding performances, with Raj winning the ASA Suki Cup.

Loofah's son, Duman, despite the fact that he began his American lure coursing career at nine and a half years old, he finished his field championship at ten years and seven months. He only retired from lure coursing at age twelve with a win in the field champion class. Duman competed in the







open field once, at the Desert Bred Hunt in Alpaugh. He took a first place as a veteran.

Durak's daughter, granddaughter of Duman, Amira, has coursed impressively in NOFCA hunts, has qualified twice for the Grand Course, but due to a toe injury, her competitive coursing career has been hampered. She will reenter the field, depending on the outcome of her toe surgery, next season. Before entering the open field, Amira ran impressively in ASFA trials, winning numerous awards including number one Saluki in 1995.

Each time one of our Tepe Gawra Salukis runs, we still see Loofah in them. Loofah's influence remains strong in our line, even today.

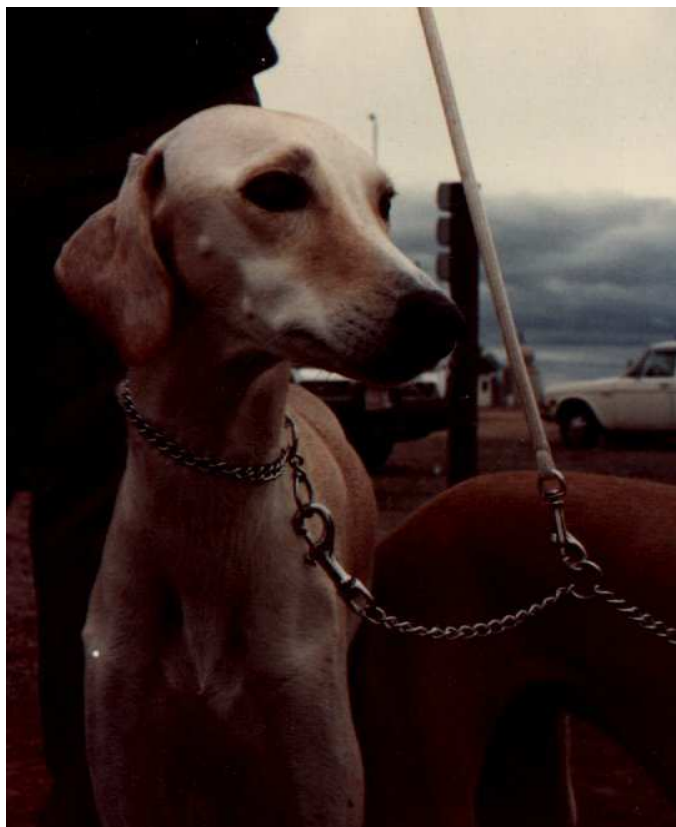


### **Bani Dawsari** *Elizabeth Dawsari*

The known Tribal elements behind the Bani Dawsari Salukis are: Dawsari, Bani Khalidi, al Murra. The imported Saudi Arabian bred dogs are Brandi Bint Dawsari, Samir Turki al Thani al Thani, and Satem min al Qahtani. The 100% Saudi direct tribal descent Bani Dawsari Salukis whelped in the USA that have offspring contributing to the open field coursing success of the "desert bred" are Dawsari's Red Reno and Kahaylah min Bani Dawsari.



Seventeen of the forty seven Salukis placing in the 1997/1998 NOFCA coursing season are descended from seven Eastern Province Saudi Arabian tribal descent Salukis and two of their American bred, 100% Saudi Arabian descent progeny.



Ibn al Batal, a tall, sparsely feathered cream dog bred and hunted by the Dawsari, is the sire of Brandi Bint Dawsari, imported to the United States in 1979 by Fahd Al Hazzam ad Dawsari, Ph.D. La'aban, a tall, tri colored, sparsely feathered dog owned by Barghash an Naimi, is the sire of Sun-X Bint La'aban. Sun-X Bint La'aban, a tall grizzle smooth bitch out of an al Murra bred Saluki, is the dam of Brandi Bint Dawsari. These three Saudi Arabian Salukis, Ibn al Batal, La'aban, and Sun-X Bint La'aban, though never exported from Saudi Arabia, are present in the pedigrees of nine of the NOFCA seventeen desert-descent Salukis through Brandi Bint Dawsari.

During the 1980s, few Saluki fanciers expressed interest in the Saudi Arabian imports and their descendants. However, Brandi, always willing to travel, attended most of the critiques in Arizona and

California conducted during her lifetime. A number of people unfamiliar with Saudi Arabian tribal Salukis were fascinated by Brandi's appearance. She was a sweet tempered, powerful yet ultra-refined bitch with an extremely deep brisket, greater height than length, and croup steep by comparison to angulated American show bred Salukis. Brandi thoroughly enjoyed free and lure coursing, and demonstrated extreme speed and athleticism. Ken Conter said, "Brandi is one of the few Salukis I know that can sprint as well as run".

Tall, cream smooth Brandi Bint Dawsari was bred twice. Her first breeding was to the half Saudi descent, Shazad. None of the progeny from that litter entered the breeding pool. Her second breeding was to the 1981 Saudi Arabian import, Satem min al Qahtani.

Satem, bred by a Qahtani tribesman near Na'ariyyah, passed into Dawsari hands and was brought to the United States by Dr. Hazzam. Satem was short bodied in proportion to leg length. He was average sized, a grizzle smooth, powerful and extremely athletic. Satem had been hunted extensively by his Qahtani breeder. Fed only one half of what he caught, he was in good weight upon his arrival in the United States. Fearless, devoted yet protective, sweet dispositioned Satem was loving with people but intent in the field. He knew his job.



In 1983, Brandi and Satem were mated. Only three of their puppies left progeny: Kahaylah min Bani Dawsari (bred once), Tallahamra Hadid min Bani Dawsari (bred twice), and Mafdiyah min Bani Dawsari (bred once).



Kahaylah min Bani Dawsari, whelped in 1983, was daintily feminine in appearance and a delight to live with. Grizzle feathered with tremendous contrasts between silver and black hairs in her coat during her early years, she was exquisitely conformed, reminiscent of some early American bred Salukis. Kahaylah was of medium height, taller than her body was long, with an extremely pretty face and expression. Her black pigment was the source of her name, derived from the Arabic word “khol” associated with the preparation Bedouin women wear to darken the area around their eyes, and “Kohaylan”, a strain of Arabian horses my Bedouin mother-in-law told me she believed was the root of all Arab bred horses.

In 1985 Kahaylah and I trekked from Arizona to Kentucky and the SCOA National Specialty. She was shunned by everyone but Carl Rodarty, one of my fellow SCOA Desert Bred Committee members, and his wife, Kate. I was told by an officer of the SCOA that since Kahaylah was unregistered by the AKC, I had committed what constituted a “mortal sin” by breeding her dam, Brandi Bint Dawsari. I disagreed then and the current NOFCA record speaks for itself without need for embellishment from my quarter.

Kahaylah was bred once, to Tom Miller’s Samir Turki al Fanni al Fanni imported from Saudi Arabia. Samir was elderly at the time of the breeding, I believe 12 or 13 years old. Tom’s devoted companion of many years, Samir was an average sized red grizzle-feathered dog with a kindly disposition and correct conformation. He was not extreme in any way. Of Samir and Kahaylah’s five 1987 puppies, only two have bred on, Bani Dawsari’s Dhahab and Bani Dawsari’s Red Reno. It is through Khayalah’s son Red Reno that nine NOFCA desert-descent Salukis’ pedigrees are influenced by Ibn al Batal, La’aban, and Sun-X Bint La’aban.

Red Reno was bred from three times, twice to Nancy Klein’s Romahny Dalia, and once to the Saudi import Smoke Bint Samir, a daughter of Samir Turki al Fanni al Fanni. Red Reno was a tall, elegant, nicely feathered deer grizzle with a touch of white on his feet and tip of his tail. In California at his first critique, a well-known breeder of AKC Salukis rushed across the show grounds and asked where I had obtained my Knighttellington. Needless to say, this breeder was stunned when I told him Red Reno was 100% Saudi Arabian descent. Bani Dawsari’s Red Reno, bred to Romahny Dahlia, produced Rohmany Calli min Bani Dawsari.





### **Grassland**

*Rick and Lois Kincaid*

Rohmany Callie min Bani Dawsari came to us as a puppy from Elizabeth Dawsari. Rick was interested in getting back into the breed and was particularly interested in desert breeds. His initial Saluki experiences were with Billa de Esta hounds, and he had visited the Eltistes' Billa de Esta kennel on several occasions. Rick owned Laugh Clown Orno of Billa de Esta, among others.



Callie was, from the very beginning the queen of the house, and remains so today, at age six. She did course but was not actively campaigned. The thing that we did notice right away about Callie as a coursing dog was her absolute unwillingness to give up the chase as long as she could see the hare. She was willing to run absolutely startling distances in pursuit even though it was clear to us she'd never catch it. Callie is still active as a courser and we compete with her about three or four times a year because she loves it so much.

Callie's overall personality remains the Saluki that feels she is primary in our household. Of course, the litter that she produced with TSH Greendale Talus is her absolute claim to fame. This was an accidental breeding and, Rick added, "Don't you think we didn't panic when there were eleven puppies because we don't cull." The litter was called "Callie's eleven" and all the pups went to good homes, most in good open field coursing homes. There was actually tremendous interest in the puppies and they have far surpassed anyone's expectations. All of the pups that competed in the open field have been truly outstanding and we remain tremendously proud of them.



Reflecting over his experience in the open field, Rick notes with interest that over the years the blends of AKC with desert breeds have inevitably been outstanding coursers. He believes that the desert-bred influence has an awful lot to offer today's Saluki. The temperament of Callie's puppies alone makes them exceptional; all are stable, even outgoing. This in itself is a contribution to the breed.

Rohmany Callie min Bani Dawsari has been awarded the ASA perpetual Shahin Trophy twice: once for the 1995-96 coursing year, and again for this last season, the 1997-98 year. This trophy is awarded to the dam whose progeny accumulate the most open field coursing points during the calendar year. Of her eleven puppies born in 1993, all have been campaigned in NOFCA or NACA open field coursing, except Grassland Shane, who lives on his own 40 acres and hunts his own fields.

Of the ten coursed, all are NOFCA pointed, and eight have their Coursing Championships, with six also having their Courser of Merit titles. The individual accomplishments of the litter are listed:

Grassland TSH Sacket, CC/CM (Mason)  
 552 NOFCA lifetime points  
 Winner 1994 Mia Cup  
 Second in 1995 Top Ten NOFCA Salukis  
 #1 Saluki 1994-95 Grand Course  
 Third place 1994-95 Grand Course  
 Winner 1995 Hoppit Trophy, an ASA perpetual trophy awarded annually to the highest scoring male Saluki in NOFCA competition  
 Winner 1995 Shadrack Coursing Continuum, ASA perpetual trophy awarded annually to the highest scoring open field coursing dog under two years of age  
 Winner 1996 Christmas Cup  
 Eighth place 1996-97 Grand Course



Grassland TSH Mariah, CC/CM (Mason)  
 447 lifetime NOFCA points  
 Winner 1994-95 Ishtan Cup  
 Third Top Ten NOFCA Saluki 1994  
 Winner 1995-96 Fatimah Cup  
 Winner 1996-97 Ishtan Cup  
 Dam of the highest scoring NOFCA Saluki 1997-98,  
 TSH SummerHawke

Grassland POE (Process of Elimination), CC/CM (Kincaid)  
 239 lifetime NOFCA points  
 First place 1995-96 Grand Course Breed Hunt

Grassland Tampa Red of Greendale, CC/CM (Holder)  
 105 lifetime NOFCA points

Grassland the Diva, CC/CM (Vigneri)



187 lifetime NOFCA points

Grassland Bijou of HF, CC (Kryszczuk/Hughes)  
122 lifetime NOFCA points

Grassland Cairo of HF, CC/CM (Kryszczuk/Hughes)  
319 lifetime NOFCA points  
Winner 1996-97 Mia Cup  
Winner 1997-98 Fatimah Cup  
Winner First Annual AlMujali Trophy (IMECHA combined event)  
Winner Hoppit Trophy 1997 (top scoring NOFCA male Saluki)

Grassland Mica NACA CC (Reber)

Grassland Bresius (Schwent)  
NOFCA pointed

Grassland Pinetop Perkins (Kincaid)  
NOFCA pointed

Grassland Shane (Franke)  
Has never competed, hunts his own fields.

### **Midbar**

*Gail Goodman*

Dar and Div Tarabin were whelped in Israel in 1982. I had been in contact with Igal Sella since 1976, when I returned to the USA from Israel Salukiless and realized there was a wonderful opportunity to introduce Middle Eastern blood through the Israel Kennel Club membership in the FCI. My first Saluki had been a desert/AKC blend, and though she was responsible for my enduring love of the breed, I felt it was pointless to import genes that were readily available in the USA. The only person I knew of who



bred only direct Bedouin descent Salukis was Igal Sella. I told him of the AKC pedigree requirements, three generations with the pups being the fourth, and he agreed to tell me when such pups became available. In 1982 I got a postcard, “Your pups are born---when are you coming to get them?”

And so the saga of Dar and Div Tarabin and Midbar Salukis began, and, with gratitude and humility, continues. Dar Tarabin, whose call name was Yahkar, meaning “dear or precious”,

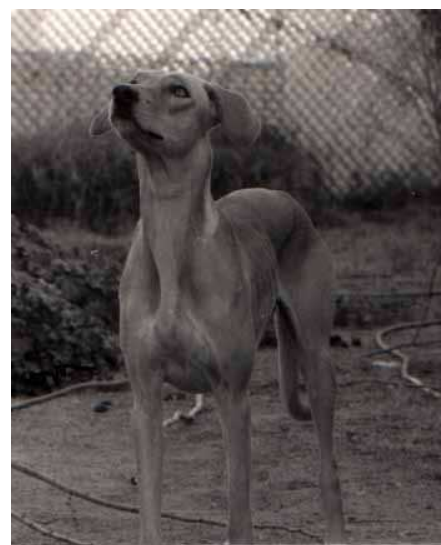


came to me at four months old and was my constant companion for over fourteen years. Div Tarabin came to me at about one and a half and was my constant companion for twelve years. They completely reoriented my understanding of the breed and had they not been imported, and not been the unique, complex individuals that they were, not only would there be no Midbar Salukis, *The Saluqi: Coursing Hound of the East* would never have been a thought, let alone a book!



Since the focus of these write-ups is NOFCA, they, like most of the other imports, competed very little though they did free course. They were superb hunters, terrifically intelligent, obedient, instinctively working an area with me—never running off or out of voice range. They were “programmed” for teamwork, with each other and with me. This was a remarkable quality and remarkably different from my Western bred hounds. Their offspring, most of them, though blended with Western lines, retain this “instinct” for hunting and biddable behavior in the field. As fast as they would take off after prey, that’s how fast they’d return to me; they did not stop running until they had returned to my side. Div and Yahkar taught me, because I had no experience with “real” hunting hounds until I got them, that a hunting Saluki, to be useful, must be controllable in the field.

Div had a wonderful nose which she used to all of our advantage---she would work the cover methodically, however, in addition to flushing game she would locate any dead creature not consumed by coyotes or hawks and promptly devour it---much to my son’s disgust. He’d always chase her, calling her name and swinging the leash to try to make her drop whatever prize she’d located. Div could run while chewing---quite a feat. Since our first Saluki (in Israel) was poisoned, I’m sure my son always worried she’d eat something lethal. She never did, but their little routine occurred every time we all went out together. Funny what things become fond memories.



As is clear, Div and Yahkar were terrific characters---they radiated a presence in our house, and they were full of enthusiasm in the field. Their recovery powers were impressive and the first time I took Div into the scrub desert, once she realized when I hollered “rabbit” I was not reprimanding her, she became a solid living mass of determination. The first cottontail she saw she chased towards a bush and leapt onto the bush catching the rabbit before it could enter its burrow. She ate it in one or two gulps. Div remained much more willing than her brother to run a course which appeared futile. Yahkar quickly figured out how fast jackrabbits were and at what distance he had a chance of catching one or not. He would run with speed and agility if he had a chance, but if in his estimation there was no chance, he just would not run. Div and Yahkar were real hunting Salukis, not competitive coursing material, though had we lived close to competition, I certainly would have given them the opportunity. Yahkar ran once in an Alpaugh “fun hunt” and had a strong showing against an aging NOFCA superstar; several people commented on his speed. But, Yahkar had his own opinion about everything he

did---and knocking himself out in the heat running after a hare which he never ate was not his idea of a worthwhile pastime. Since the Bedouin who produced Yahkar and Div's ancestors went out to catch creatures to eat, working with the hounds as much as possible, I always felt their behavior was true to their "practical" heritage as pot fillers not prizewinners.

The blend of this wonderful intelligence, hunting instinct, desert physiology, and physical soundness and toughness with the speed, muscle, and tremendous prey drive of The Archives Azal of Davijoya, a Saluki of unique pedigree as well as superb coursing conformation, put Midbar Salukis on the "breed map", so to speak. Competing from tremendous distances, seven out of eight of the Azal x Div litter earned NOFCA recognition and Bosem was pointed and had her kill credits. Their open field coursing distinctions, in summary, are:

Midbar Bedvi Tarabin, CC/CM

Winner of the ASA Scramble Cup, 1986

Midbar Tarabin Beershevah, CC/CM (Netboy/Goodman)

Winner of the ASA Shadrack Coursing Continuum, Christmas Cup, and Ishtan Cup, 1986

From the 1986 Grand Course catalogue, listed as the youngest Saluki to earn a CC title (20 months old).

Midbar MishMish bot Tarabin, CC/CM (Imre/Goodman)

Winner of the ASA Mia Cup, 1988; Grand Courser 1988, 1990, NOFCA Top Ten Saluki #5

Midbar Tarabin Azal ben Azal, CC

Winner of the ASA Suki Cup, 1988

Midbar ben Tarabin Ha Matoke, CC/CM

Grand Courser, 1987, NOFCA Top Ten Saluki #10

Midbar ben Tarabin Ha Zahav, CC (Imre)

Grand Courser, 1988, NOFCA Top Ten Saluki #6

Midbar Barbor Tarabin, CC

Midbar Bosem Tarabin, 30 points, 1 placement, multiple kills

Beershevah, Bedvi, Bosem, Azal ben Azal, and MishMish have celebrated their thirteenth birthdays.



This current year, two of Yahkar's grandpups (linebred on Div), from the Knighttellington Wizz x Midbar Tarabin Shovov litter (cobred with the Betlachs) earned NOFCA titles, and were invited to the Grand Course. Magic was injured the week before the hunt, but Khalil tied for 5<sup>th</sup> place in the Saluki breed hunt. The Tarabin line, blended with the Davijoya and Knighttellington lines has produced consistently competent open field coursers and some really stunning hounds to look at as well. The fact that Midbar Salukis are AKC registered has allowed them to compete in the show ring and they are beginning to gain recognition there, too.

Div and Dar Tarabin were typical Bedouin looking Salukis, typical of hounds from traditional nomadic tribes with inbred livestock and hounds. I recently had the pleasure of meeting and photographing a young Bedouin bred bitch from Saudi Arabia, given to the son of an American family by the Bedouin breeder during a visit to his camp. Judah min Judah could have been a littermate of Dar and Div Tarabin they were so much alike in appearance as well as temperament. However, their particular type of Eastern Saluki is not recognized as "typey" by most Western fanciers. I doubt strongly that such hounds would be certified "breeding quality" by Western dog show judges, or even "purebred" on critique forms. Yet these hounds are absolutely authentic in type and as genetic resources---they are precious beyond measure because the world they emerged from is slowly fading into memory and legend.



I often despair that it seems that what will outlast the great nomadic cultures is the arrogance of Western Saluki breeders and some kennel clubs which remain blind to the enormous potential value of these Eastern hounds. Dan Belkin's admonition at his presentation in Kentucky in 1993 is perfectly relevant in this context: *I want you to leave here with this idea: things you cannot see are more important than things you can. There are many things about Salukis you can't see and can't feel, and functionally, those things are more important than the visible and palpable ones.* (FAN, Nov./Dec. 1993, p. 26).

Every desert progenitor of the outstanding open field coursing Salukis listed in this write up proves how true Dr. Belkin's statement is and how valuable such Salukis are to the breed. And for those of us who have and still do live with these hounds, hunted with them, loved them---each was or is as beautiful as a companion as they are genetic treasures to our breed. Nothing could be more absurd than closing them and their like, still plying their trade in Eastern lands, out of the Western gene pool.





**Photographs by page number:**

- Page 1: top Moty and Barbor, photo Goodman  
 bottom, left to right: Egyptian Priestess 1922; unidentified Saluki, cover of *Time Magazine*, USA, ca. 1950; Saudi Arabian Bedouin hound, 1960s, photo G. Rex Smith
- Page 2: Jamilla, photos Goodman
- Page 3: Al Ahad, photo Goodman
- Page 4: one of the Bella x Al Ahad litter, photo Goodman
- Page 5: Musdiy, photo Goodman
- Page 6: one of the Musdiy x Durak litter, photo Herb Wells
- Page 7: one of the Musdiy x Durak litter, photo Herb Wells
- Page 8: top, Loofah, photos Susi Burchard  
 bottom, Shaalah, Loofah, one of the Loofah x Arezu litter
- Page 9: top, Thabiya, photo Diane Avery  
 middle, Tepe Gawra coursers, photos Burchard  
 bottom: Brandi Bint Dawsari, photo Elizabeth Dawsari
- Page 10: top Brandi, bottom Kahaylah, photos Goodman
- Page 11: top Hadid, photo Goodman; bottom, Sheikh, photo Susan Netboy
- Page 12: top Callie, photo Kincaid; bottom Dahlia, dam of Callie, left; right, Sir, believed to be the sire of Dahlia, photos Goodman
- Page 13: offspring of the Callie x Talus litter, photos Goodman
- Page 14: Div and Dar Tarabin, photo Patterson
- Page 15: Div Tarabin, photos Goodman
- Page 16: the Azal x Div litter, photo David Goodman
- Page 17: top, Dar Tarabin, bottom ben Azal, photos Goodman

**Postscript, 2010**

In 1999 the Society for the Perpetuation of Desert Bred Salukis (SPDBS) was designated by the American Kennel Club as a "domestic registry." This designation has allowed offspring from each of the family groups represented in this essay to enter the American Kennel Club Saluki stud book. Hence, though Midbar Salukis were the first Middle Eastern imports since those of Pine Paddocks in the 1950s to receive AKC registration due to the four generation Israeli/FCI pedigrees of Div and Dar Tarabin, today all of the family groups here have continued on, generation upon generation, to contribute in positive ways to our breed and the fancy in all arenas including the AKC show ring.

According to Elizabeth Al-Hazzam Dawsari (*American Saluki Association Newsletter*, Winter 2010, A brief history of the SPDBS, pg. 85), referring to the domestic registry status: "Thus, the Society provided the mechanism by which Middle Eastern Salukis imported directly to the United States, and their descendants, might be deemed eligible for full entry into the AKC Stud Book." The SPDBS falls under the AKC Special Registry Services, which, in addition to SPDBS paperwork, and that of other domestic

registries, they evaluate the credentials of all breeds imported into the USA with pedigrees from foreign registries.

Whether from a foreign or a domestic registry, AKC registration requires a full three generation certified pedigree. A three generation pedigree is one in which all of the cells on the pedigree have ancestors that have official registration numbers. So, for most breeds petitioning the AKC for acceptance into the stud book, it is the fourth generation that is entered into the stud book.

Though at its inception most of the Salukis critiqued through the SPDBS process were imported into the USA from Middle Eastern countries, today the SPDBS also documents Salukis descending from eastern imports that were first brought into countries other than the USA. Some of these eastern imports have received FCI registrations, or their offspring have received FCI registrations, but the pedigrees were not the full three generations with the import being the fourth. Once in the USA, SPDBS is able to build on the FCI pedigrees through the critique process.

For those who hope to someday share their lives with a direct desert descent Saluki, and to possibly compete in AKC events, it is critical to understand that though the term "generation zero" is used by some to refer to foundation stock, the certified pedigree must have a registered ancestor in each and every cell of the three generation pedigree and your Saluki, the fourth generation, must have an SPDBS certified number.

Zero counts for zero and if any cell in your pedigree has a zero, or if your Saluki does not have an SPDBS number, you will not have the required four generations for SPDBS to consider issuing the necessary certified pedigree to submit to the AKC. Oddly, though clearly four registered generations are necessary for AKC acceptance, a term "Gen-3" is sometimes used to identify these Salukis. So, make doubly sure that you count your registered generations, beginning with one.

If you import a direct desert descent Saluki or, for that matter, any Saluki from an FCI member country, if that Saluki has a full three generation FCI pedigree and is itself registered, it is my understanding that you can submit your paperwork directly to the American Kennel Club, Special Registry Services.