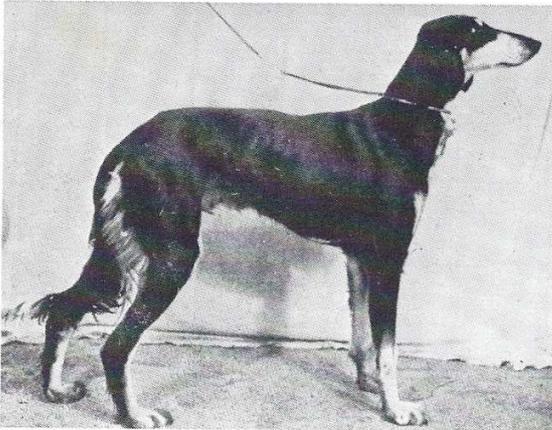


The Importance of the Pedigree and other Comments

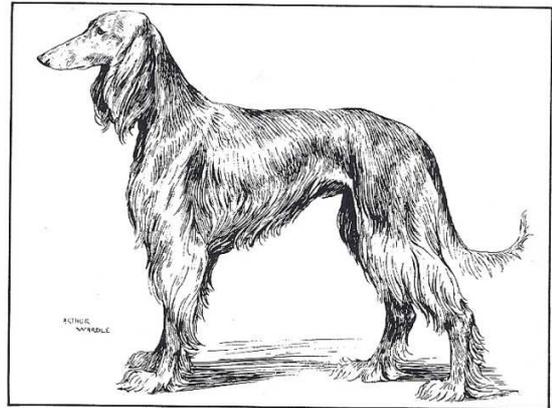
Hope Waters
Sussex, England

I found Conni Miller's article, "Search For Truth in Gazeounds," in *The Gazehound* November/December issue, extremely interesting as it covered some of the early history of the Saluki in England, and the leading breeders at that time. I am sure she is right in what she said about the Honorable Florance Amherst wanting to protect the breed and not wanting to publicise it. I only wish we had more with her sentiments today, and then we would hear less of Salukis being in the wrong hands and leading miserable lives. Where I did not agree with Mrs. Miller was when she described Brigadier General Lance as "flamboyant." I met him several times in his latter years and even stewarded for him once, and I would describe him then as quiet, modest and even self-effacing. It is true that he and his wife were proud of their Saluki imports, especially Saron Kelb, and were interested in showing and getting the breed recognised by the Kennel Club and forming a breed club. A well-known judge of the day stated that it was not until Kelb arrived on the scene that the show world took the breed seriously.



Brigadier Lance's eight year old Ch. Saron Kelb, born 1919, imported from Syria.

The photo of a rather long-haired black and tan Saluki on page 75 in Conni Miller's article was not a bitch as she said but was, in fact, a dog owned by the late Hans Jungerling of Holland. This was confirmed for me at this year's Crufts by a niece of his, and the dog went by the name of Saron Bin Kelb. This long coat is sometimes seen here and on the Continent. If the animals are not house-dogs and are kept in unheated kennels, they do grow a thicker, longer coat as a defence against the cold. This dog, Saron Bin Kelb, is not unlike Arthur Wardle's drawing of a Saluki done in 1908, which appeared in Theo Marple's book *Show Dogs*, published in the 1920's, and was used, I understand, advisably, as a guide when the points of the breed were drawn up, when the Saluki or Gazelle Hound Club was formed in 1923. I was lucky

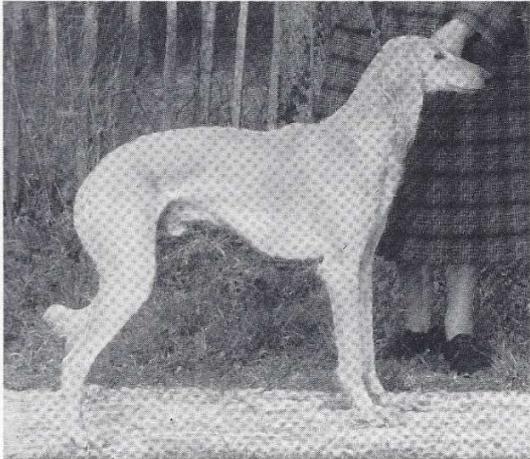


Arthur Wardle's drawing of a Saluki, circa 1908.

enough to be offered the original last year and on first seeing it I said it was not a Saluki but an Afghan as the early Afghan imports did not carry much coat by today's standards. When I was shown Wardle's reproduction drawing of the Afghan, which also appeared in Conni Miller's article, then the difference was plain to me, but it does illustrate how closely the two breeds resembled each other in the past. Whereas we have, for the most part, striven to breed Salukis embodying the best qualities of the breed, and this included a short silky coat on the body but long feathering on ears, thighs and tail, we have not exaggerated the show points as in the Afghan of today. The Saluki Standard does allow for "slight woolly feathering on thigh and shoulders," but we remove this for the show ring to give a sleeker appearance. It is very important not to breed exaggerated hounds, and this must not be lost sight of in the future, otherwise we shall end up with non-functional caricatures.

This leads me to say that it is not always the best looking dogs that make the best stud dogs, it is the pedigree that is all important. Here are two cases in point of dogs which appear in a great number of present-day pedigrees on both sides of the Atlantic: Burydown Uki and Wellington Krim. Uki was born in Berlin at the end of the war; he belonged to Lord Leconfield's adopted daughter, and was the result of a mother to son mating, but that was not known at the time. He went into six-month's quarantine as a puppy, and although, I was told, he started life as the runt of the litter, he survived hard pad there. But it did leave its mark on him, he was undersized for a dog and had a weak front with the result that his action was unsteady to say the least. Nevertheless he had a most beautiful head, as did his mother, Ganetti von Arabien, and he simply oozed quality. This dog came to stay with me a couple of times when his mistress was away, and after that he was a positive nuisance as he lived in the district and was allowed complete freedom. It was not long before he had worked out how to get to me, and although I lived on a busy main road, he

was always appearing and would come sailing over my gate into the garden. This led to his owner saying she would have to have him put down as she was going to London to live, and he would wander. I did not want the extra bother of a dog with my bitches but could not bear the thought of his being put down, as he was such a character, so I took him over and he lived here for the rest of his life; I might add that he never jumped the gates in the opposite direction! There are no really good photos of Uki, showing the whole of the dog, in existence; the one which is shown here does give quite a good impression of him but he had better quarters. Some of the early photographers took Salukis with a piece of cotton attached to the tail, which was pulled out to show the tail feathering; it certainly did not work with Uki, quite the



Burydown Uki, whose pedigree goes back to Kelb, was imported into Britain from Berlin at the end of the Second World War. Like Kelb he proved to be a notable sire.



Another view of Burydown Uki

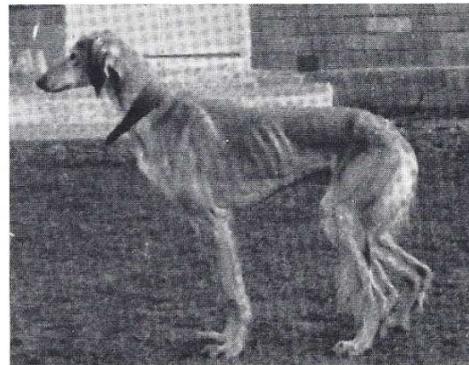
opposite! Uki first mated Burydown Saladina so was the sire of my first litter. Out of this litter came Ch. Burydown Asphodel, Burydown Aliya who was killed at two years old, having won two CC's, and Italian Ch. Burydown Anouk. When breeders saw the quality of this litter others began to use him. Later I repeated the mating and this time I got Ch. Burydown



From left to right — Burydown Saladina, Burydown Aliya, Burydown Uki and Ch. Burydown Asphodel in 1951. It is interesting to see Uki with his wife and two daughters.

Freyha who won 16 CC's and ended her show career, except for winning a few veteran classes, by winning Best Bitch in Show and Reserve Best in Show at Crufts in 1964, in an entry of over 8000 dogs. This brings me to Wellington Krim and his son Tabarka Sirocco, who were impressive sires but not show dogs.

Asphodel was owned by Mrs. Jean Burns who took "Asphodel" as her prefix and bred a successful litter by mating Asphodel to Ch. Sovereign of Daxlore, a Uki son. From this mating she bred Asphodel Alybe, whom she in turn mated to Mazuri Knighttellington George; this produced Ch. Asphodel Almanza, Ch. Burydown Asphodel Alanya and that very successful sire, owned by Mrs. Carin Lindhe of Sweden, Int. Ch. Asphodel Arabis. Before Arabis left for Sweden he accidentally mated his sister Alanya, and their offspring, being somewhat of an embarrassment, were sold off cheaply to coursing people. After Freyha's success at Crufts I put my brain to work to pick the best possible stud for her. Knowing about the Arabis-Alanya mating I set out to try to trace one of the dogs from this litter. Eventually I found Wellington Krim, owned by a coal miner in the Midlands and arranged the mating, not having seen the dog. He had a very unfortunate start in life as



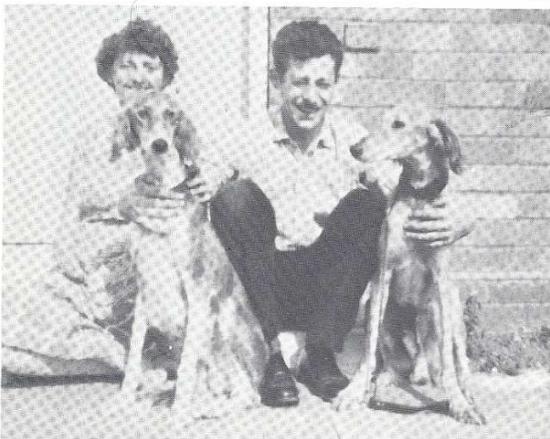
Wellington Krim, whose quality cannot be denied, despite the effects of his unfortunate start in life, left his mark on the breed.

his owner, knowing that the mines were shortly to close in Durham, went in search of work in the Cannock area and left his family and three Salukis in Durham. His wife did not understand how to rear a puppy; it was also an appalling winter so he was kept in a shed with the adults and not given any extra food; he just had the one meal a day like the adults. The result was that he was a pathetic sight, splayed feet, weak pasterns and loose elbows, he also stood crouched from lack of exercise. I must admit my heart sank and I felt apprehensive when I saw him and wondered if he would be fertile, but felt it was too late to take avoiding action so the mating took place. The litter was duly born, five in number and all except one became champions.



Wellington Krim with his owner. His bride, Ch. Burydown Freyha, is in the car.

Krim, before his death, sired another litter, this time with Yasmin el Rahna, also owned by Krim's owner, and this resulted in two very nice-looking dogs who were just kept for coursing. As Krim was dead I then used one of these dogs,



Yasmin el Rahna and Wellington Krim mated together and produced Tabarka Sirocco.



Tabarka Sirocco, sire of the Burydown "V" litter.

Tabarka Sirocco, by name, on another of my bitches, Ch. Burydown Inanna, and from this mating the famous "V" all black and tan litter appeared. This litter included Int. Ch. Burydown Vasha, owned by Mr. Tim Teiler in Holland, and the dam of many Continental champions, Ch. Burydown Vasara, Mrs. Ormsby's foundation bitch (she now holds Yazid as her prefix) and my Ch. Burydown Valmiki. These are true representatives of the best Continental and British type and testimony that it is the pedigree of, and not necessarily the appearance of, the sire or dam that counts.



Burydown Jehan, Mrs. Tessa Abbott's young winning bitch, closely resembles Wardle's Saluki of circa 1908. Her pedigree contains all the hounds mentioned in this article.