

The Brouhaha **ABOUT BRINDLES**

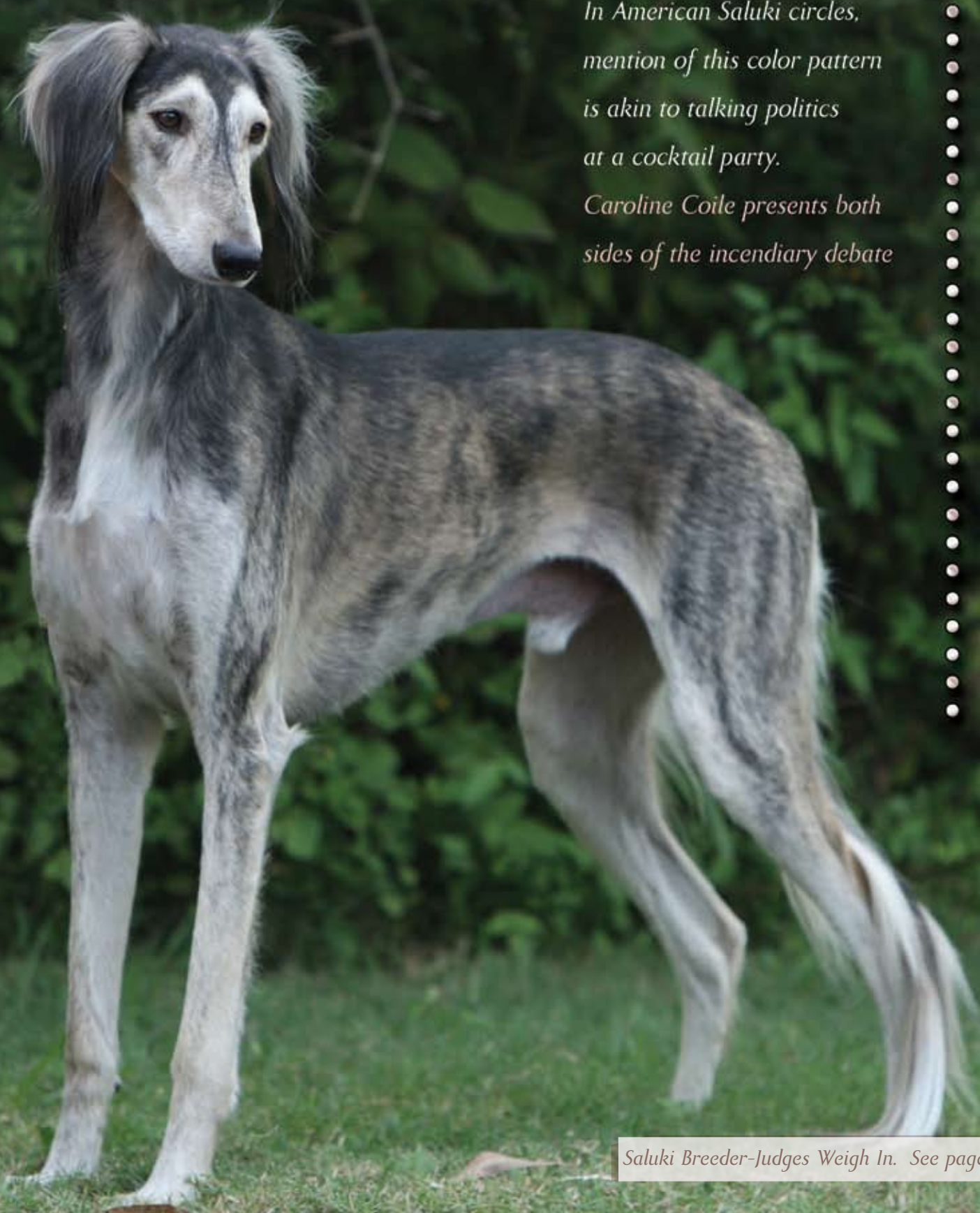
In American Saluki circles, mention of this color pattern is akin to talking politics at a cocktail party.

Caroline Coile presents both sides of the incendiary debate

A brindle grizzle in Australia. Ch. Baghdad Toghbar Bey

Zondeent

Saluki Breeder-Judges Weigh In. See page 75.



It is a controversy that began germinating decades ago when fanciers argued whether the few brindle Salukis spotted in the Middle East were an ancient but ignored pattern – or one recently introduced by Greyhound crosses.

It is a controversy that began to heat up after the AKC approved Salukis from Country of Origin (COO) stock to be registered after three generations – and the first brindles in recent memory entered the AKC show rings a couple of years ago.

And it is a controversy that reached a boiling point following the 2010 Saluki Club of America National Specialty, when not only did a brindle win Best of

and during the intervening years the subject of brindle had become an issue. Club members took the opportunity to exclude it because they believed brindle was a sign of impure breeding, especially in light of reports of Saluki lurchers (sighthound x non-sighthound crosses) and longdogs (sighthound x sighthound crosses) being registered as purebred Salukis. The current UK standard reads: “Any colour or combination of colours permissible, other than brindle.” A 2009 attempt to have brindle listed as a disqualification was rejected by the Kennel Club.

Meanwhile, the FCI had formed a Saluki standard committee, which in 2000 changed the FCI Saluki standard to read: “Any colour or combination of colours is permissible. Brindles are undesirable.”

Those jagged stripes have come to divide the Saluki world, with accusations of cross-breeding from one side and close-mindedness from the other, with longtime breeders and judges split down the middle in their opinions.

Breed at the ASFA lure-coursing trial, but the conformation judge pointed to another brindle for Best in Specialty Show.

To further complicate matters, the brindles in question come from two unrelated backgrounds, one from COO stock and the other from the sudden appearance of brindle in registered stock.

Those jagged stripes have come to divide the Saluki world, with accusations of cross-breeding from one side and close-mindedness from the other, with longtime breeders and judges split down the middle in their opinions.

Proponents of brindle contend it is an ancient pattern that can remain hidden for generations, and that while the AKC standard doesn't explicitly mention it, it also doesn't explicitly mention other patterns and colors – such as parti-color, chocolate and silver – that are generally accepted in the breed.

Detractors of brindle believe the pattern is evidence of recent crosses to other breeds, that even if brindle can remain hidden it seems unlikely it would be as absent from the AKC gene pool as long as it has been, and that even though some other patterns aren't mentioned in the standard either, those patterns have been commonly accepted Saluki patterns throughout history.

THE STANDARDS

Under “Color,” the AKC standard reads: “White, cream, fawn, golden, red, grizzle and tan, tricolor (white, black and tan) and black and tan.”

The AKC standard, adopted in 1927, was copied directly from the English standard of 1923. According to breed historian Brian Duggan, the UK standard added “*or variations of these colours*” sometime between 1948 and 1952. The AKC standard was never changed.

In the 1980s, the Kennel Club reformatted all the breed standards, and, in so doing, made some changes that did not sit well with Saluki fanciers in the United Kingdom. It took until 1998 for the Saluki Club there to reword the standard,

So while the UK and FCI standards have fairly recently added negative language regarding brindle, the AKC, CKC and Australian standards don't mention it. But neither do they mention parti-color – and most fanciers and judges have no problem awarding top placements to parti-color Salukis. In fact, the number-one Saluki for several years in the early 2000s in the U.S. was a parti-color. Nor do the standards mention chocolate, which is a well-accepted color in the breed.

Most fanciers point to the missing U.K. phrase “*or variations of these colours*” to argue that parti-color is simply a variation, and thus acceptable. But brindle advocates do the same, saying that brindle is a variation of black and brown or red or fawn. We won't even get into the other colors that the standard doesn't mention, such as solid black or blue (which appears to be more of an agouti-type color) – and which also come from the same Iranian COOs that introduced the brindles.



Ch. Baghdad Be Still My Heart, winning the Saluki Club of America National Specialty this June. However faint her patterning, “Miss Bee” is a brindle.

THE GENETICS

Could mutations account for the occasional brindle? Probably not.

Geneticist and Boxer breeder Dr. Bruce Cattanach of the United Kingdom has documented at least two cases of brindle to fawn mutations in Boxers, but has never seen fawn to brindle, noting that the brindle mutation "is a very special mutation, being a gene duplication." He explains that "it's possible to lose one gene of a duplication [two genes together], but to recreate a new brindle gene with its two parts [one for black and one for fawn to give the stripes] is pretty hard ... It is therefore not the sort of genetic change that is liable to occur a second time. So, all brindles everywhere, in all breeds, however distinct and diverse, have the same ancestral mutation. It has a single origin. On this basis, it is totally unlikely that any brindle deriving from seemingly fawn parents could really be brindle." He adds that "either a brindle-looking dog coming from genuinely fawn parents is not brindle, or one of the supposedly fawn parents is actually brindle." It's perhaps noteworthy that the brindling on the SCOA National Specialty winner is so subtle that it would not be noticed by most unless looking at her from overhead.

Clarence Little, in his 1957 classic "Inheritance of Coat Color in Dogs," believed that brindle was part of the E series of genes, and dominant to e, which led many breeders to believe that it was a trait that could not be hidden as recessive through generations. Actually, because it can be hidden by alleles at other loci, that's not entirely true, and even more importantly, researchers recently found that the brindle allele is part of a separate series, dubbed the K series. Brindle (k^{br}) is dominant to fawn (k), but to express brindling, the dog must also have either an E (allows black or chocolate pigment) or E^m (mask, uncommon but present in Salukis) alleles. This means that a Saluki with an "e/e" genotype could carry alleles for brindle without it being expressed, instead appearing some shade from cream to red. Many Salukis are e/e, but nonetheless, the k^{br} gene would have to be rare in the Western population to remain essentially hidden – although there have been occasional reports of Salukis registered as brindle. But it is possible that the rarity of k^{br} combined with the commonness of e



A brindle tricolor – note the brindle on legs.



Critics of brindles argue that earlier breed references to the color pattern were instead misidentified grizzles.

Photo by C. Najera



"Nazee," Pyramid Cup winner (ASFA Best of Breed) at the 2010 Saluki Club of America National Specialty lure-coursing trial.

could explain the rare cases of brindles from cream/gold/red parents.

THE HISTORICAL RECORD

A major point of contention is whether brindle Salukis occur, both in present and past, in the Middle East.

Mary Beth Halsey-Rogers, of Melik Salukis near Richmond, Va., co-owns Nazee, the brindle BOB winner at the Saluki Club of America ASFA trial, and specializes in Salukis of Kurdish origin. She believes that brindle has been present in Salukis for a long time – possibly since ancient times. She points to depictions of clearly brindle dogs of Sighthound type dating from as far back as 224 B.C. from North Africa, Tunisia and China as evidence brindle did exist in the times and places that early Salukis did.

In Robert Leighton's "The New Book of the Dog," published in 1911, the chapter on Oriental Greyhounds was written by British fancier the Hon. Florence Amherst, one of the most influential of the early Saluki importers to the West. Under her description of color for the "Slughi, Tazi, or Gazelle Hound," she states: "The usual colours are golden, cream, white, fawn, black, black and tan, also blue and silver grey. Parti-coloring also appears, especially white clouded with yellow ..." She then goes on to describe countershading and black fringing, but never describes anything approaching brindle.

Florence Amherst is also credited as contributing to the entry on Salukis in Hutchinson's Dog Encyclopedia (1934). Here she states: "In the east the colour of hounds is selected by the tribes to suit the districts over which they have to hunt their quarry. The variations in colour are cream, fawn, pale golden, dark golden, red, blue-grey, black-and-tan, black-and-white, particolour, red brindle and grey brindle."

Supporters of brindle contend that the fact both brindle and parti-color were mentioned, yet neither appear in the standard, suggests that the standard listed colors, not patterns. Critics counter that were that the case, why list black-and-tan and other color combinations? They also wonder at Amherst's omission of grizzle in her description, and speculate that when she wrote brindle she may have meant grizzle.

Lin Hawkyard of Lorrequer Salukis, in Beeton, Ontario, Canada, who has an extensive registration database, says Amherst never registered any of her dogs

Colors mentioned in the AKC Saluki standard:

“White, cream, fawn, golden, red, grizzle and tan, tricolor (white, black and tan) and black and tan.”



White.



Cream. Photo by Caroline Coile.



Black-fringed fawn. Photo by C. Najara.



Golden. Photo by Caroline Coile.



Red.

Photo by Roger Shellard.



Grizzle.

Photo by M. Anti.



Black tricolor, with intense tan.

Photo by M. Anti.

as grizzle, but points out that most early Salukis were registered without color information. Although most of the Salukis registered in Amherst's time were labeled gold, fawn, cream, black and tan, golden white, light fawn, and red with cream shadings, Hawkyard does not believe Amherst would have confused grizzle with brindle, explaining that "in the early 1920s, when Florence was actively breeding, she would have seen a few grizzles being registered and shown by fellow breeders." In fact, breed historian Brian Duggan located a photograph of a grizzle bred by Amherst, but it's unknown what color the dog was registered as.

Hawkyard's records show that Amherst did register one of her own dogs as brindle: the Middle Eastern import Amherstia Nazarat O'Redledge (born 1929: "red brindle with cream markings"). Two other dogs associated with Amherst (but not necessarily registered by her) were registered as "grey brindle": Nazarat's daughter, Tanoomah (born 1932) and Amherstia ibn Darak (born 1934). Interestingly, at least one of these dogs, Nazarat, descended from the Tahawi tribe's Salukis, and a photograph on page 1,558 in Hutchinson's shows what appears to be a smooth brindle crop-eared dog with the Tahawi tribe, and which (despite looking somewhat Greyhoundish) is described as a Saluki. Nazarat changed hands several times, so she was owned (and registered as brindle) by at least three well-respected Saluki kennels of the day (Redledge, Amherstia and Diamond Hill), and had litters for the latter two. Existing photos of Nazarat are not sufficiently clear to prove or disprove her brindling.

Several other early Salukis, such as the "black brindle fawn white" Hakim (1935) or the "white with brindle marked" littermates Cavama and Kasim Baba (1939) had either parents or littermates that were registered as grizzles, indicating that their breeders knew the correct terminology.

In 1968, Esther Bliss Knapp registered a brindle, Emir el Tigre of Pine Paddocks, born of two non-brindles. Knapp advertised him but never bred from him.

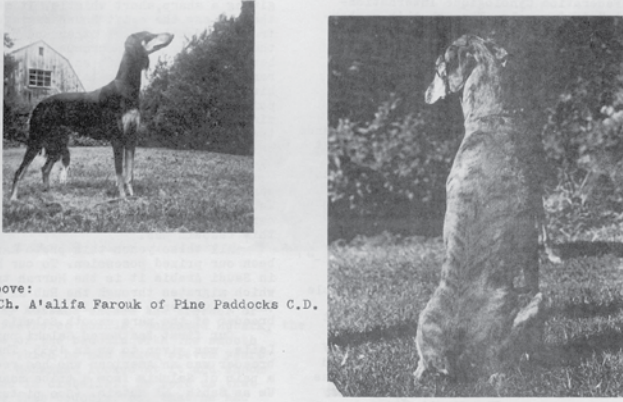
A year later, she commented about the pattern. "The next 'new' color came in the early 60's, with a feathered brindle, here, and as of mid-summer, '69 I have added two smooth brindles to my collection, one from Libya and one home-bred," she wrote in *Saluki World* magazine. "I know of no others in the country, which is rather odd in a way, with assorted brindles quite common in the closely related breeds such as Whippets and Greyhounds ..."

Amherst and Knapp were the most well-known owners of Salukis registered as brindle, but far from the only ones. In fact, Hawkyard counts 43 Salukis registered as brindles in her records of AKC, CKC, KC, Dutch and German registrations, spanning dates from 1924 to 2008 (or 38 until 1984, if the five or so dogs involved in the current controversy are not included). It's almost certain that some are misidentified; in fact, a 1991 article by Diane Parnham ("Colours through the years" in *Saluki Heritage* magazine, 20: 44-46) shows a picture of one of these dogs, a clearly grizzle Saluki born in 1981 whose owner registered her as a grizzle, but which the KC's computer changed to "brindle." Parnham states that "brindles recorded in the later KC registrations are however now thought to be in fact grizzles."

BRINDLES IN THE MIDDLE EAST TODAY

Some of the current "controversial" brindles, along with blues and solid blacks, come from Iranian lines, some by way of Germany.

Compliments of
Pine Paddocks



above:
 Ch. A'alifa Farouk of Pine Paddocks C.D.

Emir El Tigre
 "Please excuse my back, but I just wanted
 you to admire my herringbone coat."

Mrs. Esther Bliss Knapp
 1866 Marks Road
 Valley City, Ohio 44280

An advertisement for Esther Bliss Knapp's Emir el Tigre of Pine Paddocks, a brindle born of two non-brindles in 1968..

Because the AKC will register Salukis descending from Country of Origin (COO) imports after three generations, these dogs can now be shown at AKC events. Their advocates maintain that brindle Salukis have always existed in the Middle East, and the fact that they were essentially ignored by early breed historians was simply because they were not uniformly distributed across the huge expanse of Middle Eastern lands from which Salukis hail, and that early importers obtained their Salukis (and Saluki knowledge) from a more limited area.

Their critics claim that these dogs are not pure Salukis, at least not as we currently label them. They point to the importation of other breeds into the Middle East, including experiments with Greyhounds, and to the increased transportation allowing mixing with neighboring Sighthounds such as Tazis and Sloughis that do come in brindle. But according to Mary Beth Halsey-Rogers, who has imported several dogs of Kurdish descent, "the areas of Kurdistan these hounds were imported from are not exposed to Western imports – this is a Gulf phenomenon and not true for the villages of the north. There have been no importations of brindle from the Gulf area."

Few, if any, Westerners have experienced the wide variety of Salukis in the Middle East as has Sir Terence Clark of London during his extensive travels. He says that in the past 25 years he's seen many hundreds of Salukis in their countries of origin, but only a few brindles.

"From my observations, brindle seems to occur more in the northerly parts of the Saluki's range, i.e. in Iraq and Iran, where the breed may have been more exposed over the centuries to Central Asian influences, for example to the hounds of the area now called Afghanistan, where brindle is established in the hunting hounds from that region," he says. "In all the cases that I observed in Iraq and Iran, there were no other Sighthounds known to show brindle, such

as Greyhounds, Whippets, Sloughis or Galgos, present, nor did the breeders, for the most part poor farmers, have access to such exotic breeds. The hounds that I saw were far from centers of sophistication."

The brindles that Clark reports seeing had no evidence of misalliances, although in several cases one or both parents were not available for him to see. In the cases in which he did see both parents, neither was brindle. "In all these cases the owners made no distinction of the brindle stripes," he recounts, "as appearance is generally secondary to performance, and accepted them as they would any other color or marking. Most of the COO breeders whom I questioned had never seen brindle but none took objection to it."

What about the possibility of recent mixes? "With the spread of affluence in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf, some hunters have imported Sighthounds and some of these have been crossed with local Salukis," Clark says. "It is possible to find therefore brindle crossbreds in some of the large kennels that the shaikhs maintain. In general these crossbreds do not seem to be successful, having neither the speed of the Greyhound nor the stamina of the Saluki for the traditional form of hunting, especially for gazelle. However, I have not come across any evidence to suggest that such crossbreds have penetrated to areas outside the Gulf. I have not seen any brindles in Jordan or Syria."

Dr. John Burchard of Tepe Gawra Salukis now lives in California, but has lived and hunted with Salukis in the Middle East, reports that brindles are common in Iran, and "not rare" in Central Asia. He says he has seen first-, second- and third-generation Saluki-Greyhound crosses, and that "you would never mistake them for Salukis."

THE PARENT-CLUB POSITION

The Saluki Club of America first addressed the brindle question in January 2000, when a color committee was formed in order to address the computerized choices to be included on registration slips. A motion that "the Board will accept 'brindle' as a color identifier at this time" was unanimously defeated. A note was added that "The Board recognizes that there are no known AKC registered, brindle Salukis at this time but realizes that this may change in the future."

Currently, a petition has been presented to the SCOA demanding that the brindle matter be brought up. Among its statements is the following: "Section



"The first brindle that I saw was in a hamlet in northwest Iraq on the farm of a highly experienced and passionate hunter with a pack of smooth Salukis," remembers Sir Terence Clark. "A tricolour bitch and a red dog had produced a litter of eight brindle puppies ... The breeder had never seen the striped marking before and in so far as he could explain it he thought that the bitch had some Turkish blood in her. Turkey is not far from that area and hounds are traditionally traded or gifted across the border. However, though I have searched hard in Turkey, I have not so far come across a brindle." In this picture, the brindle is in with puppies from another litter. Photo by Sir Terence Clark.

Other patterns and colors not mentioned in the standard:



Parti-color. "Rafi" (MBIS MBISS Ch. Baklava's Rafi Rasil of Khiva), the top-winning parti Saluki of all time, and the number-one Saluki from 2002 to 2004.



Black and tan parti-color. Photo by M. Anti.



Black.



Sable. Photo by M. Anti.



Chocolate puppy.
Photo by M. Anti.



Blue.
Photo by Sylke Steinmoeller

2.c. of the SCOA Constitution clearly states that the objective of the SCOA shall be 'to promulgate the Standard of the Breed as approved by the American Kennel Club as the only Standard of excellence by which Salukis shall be judged.' The registration of brindle Salukis is in clear violation of the AKC approved Standard and supported below," referring to the minutes of the 2000 Board meeting.

When contacted for this article, the SCOA Board put forth this statement: "It is the Board's responsibility to facilitate a membership resolution of this issue through the provisions of our By-Laws, the laws of the State of Connecticut and the requirements of the American Kennel Club. We received a petition for a special meeting of the Club on July 30th and the Board is working to set up that meeting." – Jay Kappmeier, President, Saluki Club of America.

Members of the Saluki community and the SCOA take pride in the fact that their standard has never been changed since it was adopted in 1927. They also fear that if one item is changed, it will open the door for other changes. Thus, it is highly unlikely that the SCOA will opt to address brindle (pro or con) in the standard. Suggestions that it be addressed by way of a memo to judges or in judges' education are possible, but at this time are just conjecture.

The current judges' education material states: "The Standard lists a number of coat colors and patterns. There are many more possibilities as well, all are to be treated as equal in merit ... When judging Salukis, color and coat type are immaterial."

WHAT'S THE HARM?

On one hand, if the brindles are true Salukis, and they are essentially forced out of competition and the gene pool, that may be arbitrarily narrowing the gene pool. Salukis do have a much higher number of foundation animals compared to most breeds, and the ability to register COO hounds after three generations allows its continued expansion. Even were brindles disallowed, their non-brindle littermates and offspring could continue to be registered – although this points out the fallacy of excluding brindles on the basis of impure breeding, since non-brindle littermates would be equally "impure" and yet be perfectly admissible. Many fanciers believe that once the breed community agreed to accept COO Salukis into the AKC gene pool, they implicitly accepted the risk of some non-Saluki genes. And many share geneticist Dr. Cattanaach's opinion: "I despair of this madness [regarding] purity. If there ever were crosses, and the derivatives have been so successful, the breed is very lucky to have some introduced diversity, however small."

Not everyone feels this way. Critics fear that if the brindles are not true Salukis, and they are allowed to compete and enter the gene pool, we have inadvertently let one of the oldest breeds of purebred dogs become one of the newest designer dogs. They point out that Salukis already have one of the greatest levels of diversity, both as estimated from number of founders and genetic studies, of any breed. Some worry that crosses to non-Salukis could introduce genes for disorders not currently widespread in the breed.

Many people say, "If you don't like it, don't buy it, don't breed to it," but what if these brindles were actually longdogs that had some advantage in competition? For example, what if they had an advantage in lure coursing or racing? Lois Snyder of Impala Salukis in Wisconsin, who competes in open-field coursing, lure coursing and conformation, believes the running style of the Kurdish imports hints at Greyhound background.


"These Kurdish hounds are not Salukis in conformation or in running style," she says. "Their great success on the track in Germany is at distances of 400 to 500 yards and on a groomed sand surface, conditions more appropriate for Greyhounds. These hounds possess the great acceleration of the Greyhound combined with the heavy rear muscling and disproportionate muscle-to-bone ratio that, like the Greyhound, results in frequent foot injuries. The heavy muscling also, like the Greyhound, produces a hound that is heat intolerant ..."

Lyndell Ackerman of Camp Carma Salukis, whose subtly brindled bitch Ch. Baghdad Be Still My Heart won the 2010 Saluki Club of America National Specialty, disagrees, saying her dog is "a Saluki in every way. I have owned, shown and bred Salukis for 40 years now, and I do not see any difference in her type, just color," she continues. "If she runs like a Saluki, steals like a Saluki and cuddles like a Saluki ... then she is a Saluki to me."

Many proponents of open-field coursing Salukis tend to be more accepting of brindle, contending that a good hound can't be a bad color. At this time,

there's not been a large enough sampling of dogs from the Iranian brindle lines competing in open-field coursing to make sweeping conclusions. But as mentioned earlier, Best of Breed at this year's national ASFA lure-coursing trial was the Iranian brindle, Nazee.

What is a Saluki? Is it any Middle Eastern Sighthound? Almost all Saluki fanciers would say no. Sloughis, Azawakhs and Afghan Hounds are similar to Salukis in many ways, but they are dissimilar enough we consider them separate breeds. When dealing with a breed that glories both in its diversity and antiquity, drawing a line becomes difficult – especially when the decision has already been made to welcome COO Salukis to the AKC gene pool.

Diversity is not the same as "anything goes." But what goes – and what stays? Where do fanciers draw the line in the sand? And will it be a brindle stripe? 

BREEDER-JUDGES WEIGH IN

SIGHTHOUND REVIEW PROVIDED AKC SALUKI BREEDER-JUDGES WITH FOUR CHOICES REGARDING HOW THEY WOULD JUDGE A BRINDLE SALUKI IN THEIR RING, AND GAVE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT.

WITH ABOUT HALF THOSE QUESTIONED RESPONDING, THE RESULTS WERE MIXED:



I WOULD CONSIDER BRINDLE A NON-ISSUE.

"The pattern has occurred in the past in association with grizzle. Breed type and quality are priorities; color should be immaterial." – **Karen Archibald, Jidda Salukis, Hesperia, Calif.**

"Any good dog is a good color/pattern." – **Jo-Ann Van Arsdale, Chubasco Salukis, Stanley, N.M.**

"In some tribes in their countries of origin, the brindle coat pattern was/is common. The problem in western Salukis is there tend to be popular color trends and coat patterns that come and go, and the folks get their undies in a twist. Twenty years ago, the rage was the chocolate color. What's all the excitement about?" – **George Bell, Bel S'mbran Salukis, Central California**

"A good Saluki is a good Saluki." – **Bill Brown, Basra Salukis, Mesquite, N.M.**

"Since there is nothing in the AKC standard to disqualify the brindle pattern, as a judge, I would judge them only on merits in the standard. I do not know all the standards around the world, but if in

any country, the brindle pattern is excluded, then that would mean I would not consider that Saluki." – **Mary Ellen Gorske, Kenmar Knoll Salukis, Modesto, Calif.**

"Several acceptable colors are not listed in the standard. I think it should be re-worded to say 'any color is permissible,' *but*, regardless of the color, the Saluki must have the specific type and qualities that make this breed special. They need to look like a Saluki!" – **Valerie Hamilton, Hounds of Khiva, Lewisburg, Tenn.**

"Unlike other judges, I have made my position crystal clear. I gave Excellent evaluation to a brindle parti in Finland. All colors are acceptable in my book. The nonsense that is going on is crazy-making ... Like the '70s issue of the desert-breeds; if you don't like it, don't breed to it or incorporate it into your line." – **Sharon Kinney, Issibaa Salukis, Orange Park Acres, Calif.**

"Some points: 1) The 1923 English standard did not specifically mention the color brindle until it was changed to reflect brindle as not being permissible; 2.) The Mediterranean breeds do have an ample amount of brindle in their standards; 3) It is safe to assume that interbreeding and nomadic life allowed for the color brindle to seep into

the Saluki population. The Mediterranean trade routes were a primary way to disperse the canine populations, and did; 4) Saluki lore is something we consciously have to balance as fact or fallacy; 5) The color brindle has manifested itself in the indigenous population and has manifested itself in early breeding programs; 6) Many Saluki color and morphologic aspects have been swept under the carpet in previous years, i.e., brindle, smooths, parti-colors ... ; 7) Variance and a Saluki standard to adapt to it; 8) The threat of colonization of the breed standard." – **David Miller, Shandell Salukis, Mentor, Ohio**

"I don't consider 'opinion' to be of any value when addressing the standard. Any change must be determined *only* by using scientific methodology and historical consideration." – **Robert Place, Arabesque Salukis, Placitas, N.M.**

"Having shown smooths before they were popular, and breeding parti-colors (which some people have tried to claim are not purebred), this is merely one more issue. The General Appearance part of the standard asks for a swift and agile hunter with the appearance of grace and symmetry. Color/pattern/coat should be the last factor in choosing a Saluki." – **Monica Stoner, Sacre-Tyana Salukis, Edgewood, N.M.**





I WOULD WEIGH THE BRINDLE PATTERN DIFFERENTLY WHEN JUDGING AT AN AKC SHOW VS. AN FCI SHOW.

"I would judge to the standard of the country that I was judging in; and since there are no disqualifications in the American Saluki standard, color should be immaterial. If the parent club were to make a statement, such as in their judges' materials, that brindle is undesirable, I would consider that information and judge accordingly. But the only way to make brindle a disqualification is to change the standard, and that I adamantly oppose." – Wendy Duggan, Kyzyl Kum Salukis, Turlock, Calif.

"You must always honor the standard of the country in which you are judging." – Linda Scanlon, Aarakis Salukis, Eagle, Colo.



I WOULD CONSIDER BRINDLE A FAULT TO BE WEIGHED AGAINST OTHER VIRTUES.

No responses with attribution.



I WOULD CONSIDER BRINDLE TO BE A MAJOR FAULT THAT WOULD PREVENT AWARDED THE DOG POINTS.

"Award withheld, lack of merit." – Nan Bodine, Shahtani Salukis, Powhatan, Va.

"Brindle has not appeared in documented pedigrees, [and] as we are upholding Salukis as a purebred dog, I cannot consider them as such. However, that being said, should they appear in a litter that the pedigree can be documented and DNA tested, I would at that point consider them." – Terri Fortner-Jackson, Hidasar Salukis, Spring, Texas

"I am going to approach this brindle question as a very serious fault, enough to put the animal out of consideration for awards. This is based on how I see the color/pattern question – that it is totally alien to the concept of Saluki type. I do not see it as signifying type. It makes me wonder about parentage in dog's pedigree. It is known that in the countries of origin with the concept of being able

'to bring home dinner,' function bred to function is more important than breed bred to breed." – Bob Frost, Karob Salukis, Greenfield, Ind.

"Brindling is not part of the heritage of the purebred Saluki. The Kennel Club states: 'Any colours ... permissible, other than brindle.' AKC lists permissible colors, brindle not listed. We now have dogs in AKC pedigrees – ancestor unknown. Brindle had to come in from a pariah dog, Azawakh or Sloughi cross, which all permit black brindling. A brindle should be excused: 'Not in accordance with breed standard.'" – Ed Gilbert, Tazi, Paradise, Calif.

"Brindle is not an accepted color and, until recent 'imports,' did not exist. I will excuse a brindle Saluki from my ring as 'not in accordance with the breed standard.' Even FCI states 'COLOUR: Any colour or combination of colours is permissible. Brindles are undesirable.'" – Patricia Gilbert, Tazi, Paradise, Calif.

"The AKC standard for the Saluki does not include pattern, and brindle is a pattern. Pictures do not validate purity. I need more validation than pictures and the word of mouth from ME [Middle Eastern] Saluki owners of the past that I have been reading about. Some pedigrees aren't worth the paper they are written on." – Jackie Harrington, Jatara Salukis, Oshkosh, Wisc.



NONE OF THE ABOVE:

Two judges added "None of the above" as an option, and included detailed comments:

"I have been showing dogs for 54 years now, and was a professional handler for 33 years of them, attending over 100 shows per year. I showed my first Saluki in 1957. I was approved to judge the Hound Group in 1990 and since then have been approved for three more groups. My judging takes me all over the U.S. and the world every year for around 60 to 70 shows. I personally saw my first brindle Saluki in approximately 2007. The question in my mind is: 'Where have they been all this time?' As an AKC judge, I am required to judge *all breeds of dogs according to their AKC standard*, as set forth by their parent club. Therefore, since the Saluki standard does *not* call for a brindle pattern in the standard, I will not allow a brindle in my ring to be judged. That also applies to any and all other colors and/or patterns that do not conform to the AKC standard, of all breeds. My position is not based on my personal feelings, nor is it directed or intended to be targeted to anyone personally. When I am in the ring as a judge, I am obligated to follow the rules, regulations and standards set by AKC. Thank you." – Eugene Blake, Aurora Kennel, Tulsa, Okla.

"A brindle that encompasses the qualities of a good Saluki would have to be considered, until the official standard states its position more clearly.

I have been a Saluki fancier, breeder, exhibitor and judge for close to 40 years, and have judged desert-bred shows approximately 25 to 30 years ago. In all this time and close exposure to this wonderful breed, I never saw or heard of a brindle pattern in the Saluki. The first time I became aware or heard of a brindle pattern was at the 2010 Saluki National Specialty.

I am afraid the brindle factor is not just color related. I do not want our breed changed by outside influences after being pure for so many, many years. *Brindle is a pattern, not a color.* When the Basenjis opened their breed to include brindle ... they did not address that the brindle pattern would migrate into the tan points and their standard does not allow for it at this time ... but their tricolors now have brindle points where the tan points exist. This will happen in Salukis as well.

England does not allow the pattern and the FCI 'discourages' it. The brindle factor is obviously from Sloughi or Afghan Hound ... this is much akin to how the 'grizzle' or 'domino' pattern came into Afghan Hounds via the Saluki in the '50s ... The Afghan Hound parent club didn't address it, and we now have grizzle patterns that still have evidence of fuller eyes, thinner tails, softer coats, smaller feet, flatter skulls and higher ear set. But we judge them and sometimes I still see the faults (as per the Afghan Hound standard) that come with the color pattern at times.

It should be up to the parent club to vet these changes to the best of their ability. As judges we have to follow the standard. I for one do not place color over the grace and symmetry that some of the breed is losing due to the enthusiasm placed on the word(s) 'moderate' Saluki ... Moderate is and should be 'balance' ... so that we do not lose the curves and athleticism in the breed." – Lee Canalizo, Kandahara, Palm Harbor, Fla.



"Nazeer," pictured in Bokan, Iran.