



New Leaf

The Official Newsletter of STOLA – Saluki Tree of Life Alliance

Spring, 2005

Celebrate!

On May 1, 2005 STOLA is turning five! While over sixty percent of nonprofit organizations fail within the first five years, STOLA is going strong thanks to YOU - our faithful volunteers and loyal supporters. Celebrate your kindness! Celebrate your generosity! Celebrate your willingness to reach out and help a creature in need!

We began STOLA five years ago with a dream – the belief that Salukis, being the wonderful creatures they are, needed a strong, viable and legally defined permanent organization to help them through the rough spots in life. We set up STOLA to be a safety net for all Salukis in times of need. We are thankful for all the individuals who help Salukis in any way they can, yet we felt strongly that Salukis are worthy of much more than depending on the kindness of individuals. They needed their own legally recognized organization that would always be there for them.

Our belief proved true on many occasions, but perhaps most notably when we were contacted by the courts of New Mexico to do a large scale rescue of Salukis to prevent them from being seized by animal control.

Some Salukis are in need of rescue. They have been in abusive or neglectful situations and often require extensive medical care, grooming, socialization and lots of love to return them to a healthy state of body and mind, ready to be adopted into a carefully screened home. To date, we have placed over 200 purebred Salukis and Saluki mixes.



While STOLA's primary mission is rescue, we also provide "rescue prevention" by offering mentoring services, by providing training manuals, on-line discussion groups, and educational materials which define both the joys and difficulties of living with a Saluki.

We have spent the past five years building a strong core of loyal volunteers and supporters. We have developed procedures and forms so effective that other rescue groups have asked for permission to follow our format, and we have been very pleased to help them.

Now, as we move into the future, our long term goal is to extend our fund-raising arm to seek foundation and corporate grants while continuing individual solicitations.

With our anniversary date approaching it is now time to renew your STOLA Buddy Memberships. Please use the enclosed form to keep receiving the New Leaf and to ensure that needy Salukis will have sufficient funds in the coming year.

To paraphrase a quote by Roger Carras: *Salukis are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole.* We look forward to our next five years of helping Salukis in need, confident that you will be there to work beside us in doing this much needed work.

–Cherie-Christine Fehrman

STOLA Salukis

For up-to-date information on available Salukis and Saluki crosses, please check the Open Cases on the website at www.stola.org or contact us by E-mail at stola@gazehound.com.

At the moment we have an unusual situation in that we have many great homes waiting for Salukis but these homes all have cats or small animals. The Salukis we currently have available for adoption are not cat or small animal safe, so we continue to seek out the very best homes in keeping with STOLA policy that the welfare of the Saluki always comes first. While the right forever home is being sought, these dogs are safe and happy in foster care with experienced Saluki volunteers.



Ruby

Ruby is a little camera shy, so her photo does not do her justice. A sweet, gold feathered female (spayed) approximately 9 years old, Ruby is good with most large dogs, but is not cat safe or small animal friendly.



Lucius

About three years old, Lucius is a very handsome gold/cream smooth neutered male. Sweet and playful, he gets along with other large dogs, but is not cat or small animal friendly.



Yazzie

Yazzie is a four year old female (spayed), gold smooth Saluki very affectionate and playful. She is not cat or small animal safe, but gets along well with other sighthounds.

What We Have Learned About Living with Salukis

by Sonia-Skakich Scrima

My husband, Larry, and I have lived with Salukis since 1982. We have extrapolated our thoughts on “learning to live with Salukis” and have included them below for your perusal.

- Sighthounds want to see everything. If you have blinds on windows, keep them at least half way open if you are leaving the house, or your saluki may pull them down trying to see out. Curtains in front of windows are not recommended unless you like “the shredded look”.

- Lock all gates from the inside. Fences should not have any large spaces underneath or between the slats because these will become Saluki “adventure exits.”

- Take all trash, including fast food wrappers and meat wrappings, to an outside garbage can that has snap locks to keep it locked. If you have a canister garbage in the kitchen (step on cap top) it may deter your Saluki for the first month, but if chicken is in there, the canister gets knocked over and opened with “Saluki ingenuity.”

- Be vigilant unless you are planning to offer your Saluki a buffet. Food that has been prepared or is being prepared (especially meat, butter, cheese) needs to be guarded at the table or kept in the oven, fridge or microwave. Salukis can get into cabinets, open sliding doors and are quite a sight when eating something from the counter or sink, up on their hind legs, leaning over as if they were at a salad bar.

- Learn to be hyper-vigilant about entrances to the house. When visitors enter, tell them that it is imperative to close the door behind them, but make sure you stay on top of it (shepherd that door and make sure it closes). Whenever you open a door leading to the outside, make sure you place your body between the Saluki and the door so he cannot run out. Salukis are so fast and they love to

run like the wind. No matter how much love you give them, there is that instinct to run/fly unfettered till they get tired (an hour or so).

There may be inevitable mishaps, through kids who have friends over who inadvertently let the Salukis out. Our neighbors marveled at the four of us going out after them pell mell: Larry in his car, me on a kid’s bike pedalling as if on a clown bike, while bearing some treat grabbed out of the fridge as lure, our son and daughter on foot, calling, yelling, whistling, cajoling till we caught up with the Salukis (they always went to the prairie dog field). On one of those occasions, Dash got hit by a car and had to have a rod inserted in her leg. In the last five years of their lives we were successful in avoiding letting them out inadvertently. We finally got fully trained.

Close each bedroom and bathroom door upon leaving the room. Salukis like to investigate bathrooms and bedrooms and sometimes also manage to close themselves in rooms, causing major destruction to doors and flooring attempting to get out.

Buy a doggy door - but only if you have a safely fenced yard with a locked gate! The door gives a Saluki full options all the time as to where they can go in the house or outside. A covered and enclosed patio or sunroom is also a great thing, especially if it is glass enclosed. Salukis can lay around curled up on their cushions and bolt through the doggie door whenever something interesting appears outside (e.g squirrel, passing cat, etc.).

Provide Salukis with comfy beds (big overstuffed dog beds). If you give them more than one (e.g. two stacked on top of each other), they may even make their beds periodically, fluffing them up and batting them around till they are satisfied.

It has been our experience that furniture upholstered with fabric is more likely to get used by Salukis as if it were theirs AND more likely to get destroyed than leather upholstered furniture. We remember coming home on Easter, years ago, after being away for a couple of hours for an Easter family dinner, and finding our couch totally

destroyed, with the entire room afloat with stuffing. Wooden furniture is fair game for teething puppies, who like to gnaw off corners.

Some items of furniture get adopted. For example, we have a wooden picnic table outside that became the sunbath and meditation platform for our Salukis on nice days.. They seem to enjoy pedestals.

Expect Salukis that have been abused to never entirely lose their fears or neuroticisms. Although their nervous behaviors will improve (less or fewer startle responses) they come back somewhat when they are stressed and especially when they are older and stressed or sick. But, the growth in trust is heartening. I remember my daughter and I sitting on the couch watching TV and watching Salukis and talking. Our abused adopted saluki (Mirage) came over and put her forepaws on our laps and just stared into our eyes, from about 3 inches away, then nuzzled, then jumped up into our laps to get lots of loving. It was so out of character and yet so heartfelt. Another Saluki adoptee we had, Lyka, lost almost all of her neuroticisms and became extremely affectionate, the only nervous behavior that stayed with her was her flinching and cringing when someone came her direction suddenly with arms raised up in the air.

It has been our observation that Salukis adopt more of the personalities of their human housemates and adapt more to their circumstances of their homes than other dogs. We remember visiting a saluki home where the Salukis had the run of a concrete basement (seemed like a bunker) and a barren back yard, but not the house. The Salukis were extremely wild yet weirdly neurotic, all of them. Their owner struck us the same way. We remember visiting a Saluki home of a gentleman who had large kennels and Salukis in his home. We stepped into his home and eventually noticed 4 Salukis sitting very quietly and regally in different areas of the room, observing us with only some droll interest. Then there were our Salukis, one who bounded out to greet each visitor profusely,

with unlimited interest and no discretion whatsoever, begging to be petted, the other (who we had adopted and who had been abused) would carefully sniff each visitor and watch them, making sure they were okay. Not sure what that says about us, but it's awfully interesting, isn't it?

We have only had one saluki from puppyhood, Dash. Dash was the eternal puppy, always looking for adventure, mischief, a garbage can to knock over, a jockstrap or bra to parade around the house, etc., even in her last months, at age 13. Still, even she slowed down a lot when her companion, Mirage died, and lost a lot of interest in the world around her. One day a neighborhood cat came to the family room window to goad her (and squirrels did the same for a month), wondering what was going on with the zestful Miss Mischief. It was as if they couldn't believe that she was not out chasing them down by the fence and had to come see for themselves. When our daughter went off to college, she used to talk to Dash occasionally on the phone. The last time she tried this Dash looked up and then buried her head in her paws, as if it was too much of a taunt to hear her but not see her. She had such an expressive, emotional, diva personality. Dash even mastered tool use. If we were watching television and not paying enough attention to her, she would go get the can opener used to open dog food, go through the dog door with it in her mouth, and then bang on the window to the room we were sitting in.

Mirage, on the other hand was like the older sister: noble, wise, and more careful. She would observe Dash's antics with some interest and some disdain, as if she were rolling her eyes. Mirage was all white and had brown-black eyes that could see right through mere mortals. She could contemplate the infinite, which she did regularly. When this otherwise nervous saluki sensed a threat outside the house or when Dash annoyed her purposely one time too many she would let out a long very deep roar, a very lion-like sound. On the other hand, when Dash was taken to the vet for an emergency, Mirage howled at the window for hours in sympathy.

Our very first Saluki, Lyka was adopted in Miami in 1982. With all the violent crime all over Miami and me home with our then toddler son, I wanted a dog to feel more secure. We went to an all-breed rescue. My husband picked out a scrappy mutt with half an ear chewed off, who gave off a “what do you want to make of it?” aura - just the ticket for a guard dog. Then I saw Lyka. We named her Lyka, thinking of the first dog in space, since she seemed other-worldly. She was a shy, tawny beauty. My son and I went over to pet her and fell in love. We had no idea what a saluki was. We were told she had been found downtown under a building, half starved. She was a wonderful soul, but took a great deal of time and love to get her to stop wincing and covering her head whenever we approached too suddenly. In fact, we spent a thousand dollars (gulp) taking her to a trainer an hour away, who helped “bring her out” by desensitizing her to noise, getting her to play and become more territorial. It worked, sort of, even though for all intents and purposes I took over the role of “family guard dog”; it did make her less tense and neurotic-acting. As she got older she became a little more protective of us and more adventuresome. We slowly learned about Salukis and Tazis. Lyka definitely looked like a Tazi, broader build than most Salukis and with a slightly larger muzzle. We realized that they may make great watch dogs, but guard dog would be a big stretch. We learned to be our own guard dogs, guarding our Salukis.

Reading about Salukis was fascinating - how they were trained to hunt with a falcon/hawk, ridden to the prey area, etc. After reading everything we could find about Salukis, my husband, Larry used to love to relate all this lore to neighbors or anyone who came to visit. I remember him telling a neighbor in Arkansas about how Salukis were bred to hunt gazelles, and the neighbor replying that must be why he hadn't seen any gazelles in our neighborhood lately. Having Salukis is like having children who have been around the karmic block. They watch everything you do and everything you

feel and think, with eyes as big as saucers, but calm, non-judgmental, accepting, and wise. I have always thought of them as moonbeam dogs, other worldly (from a better world, where all beings know that they are equal) and simply disguised as dogs, beings who bring out the best in their human companions. Of course, they are also beings who bring out the wallet in humans.. vet bills, repairs, home additions such as an enclosed patio, training, more vet bills, etc.. but this helps us humans get our priorities straight.

Having lived with Salukis, we look at dogs that dutifully follow their Masters off leash, come instantly when called, sit, lay down, do tricks.. and that seems so foreign and unimaginable and also, in the final analysis, rather boring. Salukis don't really have masters, they have co-inhabitants, in an exciting, complex world of ever-changing possibilities. They are full of surprises. Living with a saluki adds a not-quite-describable extra dimension to living, a dimension that enhances one's sense of beauty, wonder, love, sense of humor, and feeling of serenity; an indescribably fine *je ne sais quois* that is hard to be without once you have experienced it.

So, Larry and I are walking around the now Salukiless house, feeling strange as we continue to “secure” the garbage, block the entrance door with our bodies as we enter the house, quickly close the door behind us, make sure that we close the bedroom and bathroom doors as we leave them, put away food... the dog beds still not vacuumed and put away (this weekend, I keep telling myself), the bones and dishes still out. I guess we're still saying goodbye to two very wonderful souls that we shared more than a decade with, while wondering about taking in another saluki rescue...or two...

Celebrity Auction Update

Thanks to all who participated in STOLA's Celebrity Auction on Ebay, we raised nearly \$5000 for our Saluki rescue programs. Stay tuned for the Saluki Art, Books & Crafts Auction coming this fall.

Bites, Burrs, and Bugs

By Cherie-Christine Fehrman

Ah, it's Spring! Your Saluki will love to get out in the wild for a romp - or even a few laps around the back yard, but even a safely fenced yard can still hold some avoidable risks for a stalking Saluki.

Hopefully your property is secured so no other animals can get in, but occasionally critters can jump, burrow, or almost miraculously arrive in your garden. I live in a major city but we have encountered raccoons, foxes, skunks, and a slew of cats prowling in our garden. Sometimes our Salukis just can't resist investigating that intruder which can end up in scratches or bites. If your Saluki does get bitten, always seek professional help. "Bites are often deep, and they are loaded with bacteria that can quickly start an infection," says Joan E. Antle, DVM. "It's best to take your pet to the vet as soon as you discover a bite, and let him clean the wound properly." Washing bite wounds at home often drives dirt and bacteria in deeper, making the injury even worse. Rabies is very common in skunks, raccoons, foxes, bats, and other wild animals, so make sure vaccinations are up to date.

Late summer into fall is the season when burrs and foxtails are a menace. These prickly seedcases of plants can latch onto your Saluki's fur. Depending on where burrs lodge, they can cause matting, skin irritation and infection. Foxtails are even worse, their pointed ends easily burrowing in between toes, into ears, up noses. An ignored foxtail can mean severe infection, abscesses and necessitate surgical removal. If you see a foxtail on your Saluki, remove it immediately. If a foxtail has already begun burrowing into the skin, you may require veterinary intervention to remove all of it, since your attempt to pull it out can leave a section embedded into the skin. Foxtails can travel in the bloodstream and become lodged in a major organ. They are a true menace and nothing to take chances with. If in doubt, always see your vet.

When your Saluki comes back from a walk or a romp in the garden, always check between his

toes, on top of the feet, around the testicles and in the armpits - check anyplace where there is a little crevice - since that's where burrs and foxtails will hide.

Salukis, like all dogs, typically approach the world nose first. As a result, they often get stung on the face, or in the nose or mouth. If you notice insect pests in your garden such as wasps, consider a professional exterminator to get rid of them, and be sure to tell the exterminator that you have pets so they will use appropriate pesticides that are not harmful to your Salukis.

Porcupine quills are another hazard for your Saluki depending on where you live. Usually porcupine quills will require a trip to the vet, although I must pass along a trick learned from my time working with wolves in Canada. Sometimes wolves would come into the preserve covered in porcupine quills. We discovered that in most cases if you take a pair of strong scissors and clip off the tip of the quill, it will then slip out easily. Clipping the quill releases air from the shaft which deflates it and makes removal quite easy. Quills must be removed promptly or they can work their way deeper into an animal's body causing further injury.

And then there is the glorious aroma of skunk! It is an understatement to say that skunk spray is very hard to get rid of. The smell gets even worse when it rains since water reactivates the odor. Even after deodorizing, your pet may still smell intermittently of skunk for up to six months. Keeping a spray bottle of equal parts red wine vinegar and water handy can help dispel the skunk smell. Be sure to avoid spraying directly into your Salukis face so protect his eyes. If you have a light colored Saluki he may look like a punk rocker for a while with pink tinged hair. You can also use commercial de-skunk remedies such as the one made by Nature's Miracle. It seems nearly everyone has a favorite method for removing the skunk smell from using tomato juice to a vinegar and water solution. Mixing 1 quart 3% hydrogen peroxide, 1/4 cup baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) and 1 teaspoon liquid soap works well. A little care and common sense can ensure that your Saluki can safely enjoy spring, summer and fall.

Dogs Help to Fight Fat

By Dana Martin-Newman, Ed.D

Looking for a way for you and your Saluki to lose weight? A first-of-its-kind experiment at the Northwestern Medical School in Chicago partnered people and their dogs with a diet and exercise program. It was found that both the dogs and their owners lost weight and kept it off, although the dogs did better than their owners.

With two-thirds of Americans and one-fourth of dogs overweight, Dr. Robert Kushner contends that, "If you are looking for motivation and social support to lose weight, you probably don't have to look further than the pet in your own home."

Hills Pet Nutrition (Science Diet and a dog food prescription diet), funded Dr. Kushner's experiment. They asked the doctor if he thought pets could help people lose weight and visa versa. Dr. Kushner, who has conducted obesity experiments for twenty years, and veterinarian Kimberly Rudloff, enrolled three groups: fifty-six people, fifty-three dogs and thirty-six dogs and their owners.

The dogs ranged from pudgy poodles to husky Huskies. People attended weekly counseling sessions at Northwestern on diet and exercise, and were encouraged to walk at least twenty minutes and to limit calories to one thousand four hundred per day. The dogs were fed the prescription diet and target weights were set according to a "doggie BMT" or body mass index, taking into account the dog's breed and age.

All participants were followed for one year. The dog owners did slightly better than the dieters who walked and dieted alone. Overall, people lost an average of eleven pounds, or five percent of their body weight, in the first four months and kept it off for the next eight. The most anyone lost was fifty-one pounds. It was found that the diet was less burdensome for the dog-walkers.

The average weight loss for the dogs was twelve pounds, fifteen percent of their starting weight. One dog actually lost thirty-five pounds! Dog owners said their dogs had more pep and wanted to go outside for walks and play activities.

Kathleen O'Dekirk, a Chicago lawyer, said that her Cavalier King Charles, Winston, "bounds up the stairs three and four at a time, whereas before he used to just crawl up". Dennis Jewell, a Hills animal nutritionist, who conducted the dog diet part of the experiment, found that, "Begging behavior did not go up".

Natural Balance Pet Foods = Cash for STOLA

Do you feed your animals Natural Balance foods? If so, you can earn cash for STOLA by saving the product UPC code and cash register receipt. Natural Balance will provide bona fide nonprofit organizations with cash in exchange for their product receipts. This includes all Natural Balance products including dog and cat kibble, canned foods, treats, organic foods and their new raw diet. For each UPC code and receipt you save, STOLA can earn between 50 cents and \$2 per product. If enough people use this food, it could mean considerable funding for Salukis in need.

So, if you use Natural Balance please save **both the UPC code and the retail receipt** and forward them to us at the following address:

STOLA
3701 Sacramento Street #345
San Francisco, CA 94118-1705

Questions? Please contact Cherie-Christine at stola@gazehound.com or fehrman1@earthlink.net



Note: Flint River Ranch foods purchased through 7DogBazaar.com also help to fund STOLA.

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Mr. Bark says.....

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