

A Case Study in Animal Hoarding

The Elektra Kennel

by The STOLA Education Group

Most of the Saluki community has been aware of the rescue of a large number of Salukis in Texas in the late 1980s. The story has been repeated so often that the facts have blurred over time, but one fact is clear - the person whose Salukis required rescue was known as Sandy Moss of the Elektra Gazelle Hound Kennels. At that time there was no legally recognized Saluki rescue group, just people doing rescue out of the goodness of their hearts. Nor were charges brought against Sandy for animal cruelty as her home conditions were never reported to local authorities other than occasional complaints of loud barking. At that time, a few friends in the Saluki community housed her breeding stock which helped Sandy to reestablish her kennels. While there were rumors that Sandy was mentally ill, animal hoarding was not recognized or known at that time.

Sandy changed her name several times, moved across the country, and under the name of Alexandra Shalmers, came to the attention of STOLA while living in Virginia. We often heard rumors that the dogs were starving and living in deplorable conditions. Alarmed, we contacted animal control and asked for an investigation. We were told politely, but firmly, that we needed an eyewitness before anything could be done. Alex still had loyal friends in the community who may not have understood her condition, felt sorry for her and wished to help her. It is of course understandable to want to help a friend in need, even if the motives may be misguided. Alex and her dogs were permitted to live in secre-

cy. We made futile after futile effort and contacted Alex directly on several occasions, but with her distrust of rescue we could make no inroads. We even offered to send food for the dogs with no strings attached. She replied "Don't ever contact me again!" and slammed the phone down. So now, STOLA was between a rock and a hard place. Efforts to contact the authorities resulted in needing an eyewitness to possible abuse. Alex refused all help. We kept trying with the authorities, but each time we got the same reply - you need an eyewitness. We asked a few nearby people to become eyewitnesses but Alex would not allow visits to her home, and the people were afraid to put themselves on the line. We received complaints and pleas from the Saluki community but our hands were tied. Without the help of animal control and the willing participation of Alex, all we could do was agonize about the dogs that needed help. Then something changed.

Two people new to the Saluki community appeared on the scene, Reba Curtis and Ray Dombkiewicz. They acquired two of Alex's Salukis and saw the condition of her dogs firsthand. For the first time in decades, finally, there were eyewitnesses willing to put themselves on the line. Over 17 months, Reba and Ray and a group of dedicated volunteers, worked behind the scenes, trying to support Alex to take care of her dogs, gathering evidence, tracking pedigrees, learning the location of each of the Elektra dogs and their progeny. More importantly, they were willing to sign a complaint against

Alex Shalmers which finally brought Animal Control and legal authorities into the picture. With a formal complaint finally in place, STOLA was able to swing into action, guaranteeing to accept and care for the Salukis seized by Animal Control. Through the dedicated efforts of volunteers who rescued some of Alex's dogs prior to seizure, STOLA was able to get 14 of the Elektra Salukis signed over. After serving a search warrant on Alex's residence, an additional 25 Salukis were taken into custody by the Brunswick County Animal Control.

The condition of the dogs was absolutely heartbreaking! Some were so starved they could not stand. There was blindness in some, there were flea colonies so extreme they looked like coat markings, and there were unattended broken bones which had healed badly. Their teeth and gums were in such bad condition that they could only eat soft food. The first question that ran through our minds was how could someone see their own dogs in this condition and not even accept the free food STOLA had offered? But, apparently animal hoarders see what they want to see, not the reality.

In spite of the challenges in caring for the dogs while they remained in custody, a group of wonderful people referred to as "groomers" volunteered to work with the dogs at the shelter. Not knowing what they would face in terms of aggressive behavior, it took courageous people and thick leather gloves on the first visits. Fortunately, the dogs proved to be more fearful than aggressive and would often urinate or defecate

just on the approach of a person. With their numerous rotted teeth, infected gums, tumors, poorly healed injuries and severe underweight condition it was a heartbreaking scene. But work began, first ridding them of flea infestations, getting the mats out of their ears, speaking gently to them, and teaching them that human touch was a positive thing. Gradually, each of them learned to trust and accept the touch of a human hand. Their flea infestations abated, their fur took on a new sheen, and some even began to welcome the groomers' visits.

After serving the search warrant and seeing the terrible condition of the dogs, Alex Shalmers was taken into custody and charged with animal cruelty in August 2005, and pleaded guilty under terms of a plea agreement. By October 17, 2005, the Salukis were released from the shelter into STOLA's custody and STOLA began its work to foster and care for them. What happened to Alexandra Shalmers? She was found guilty of 8 counts of animal cruelty, receiving a suspended sentence of 47 months, the suspended time to remain suspended for a "good behavior" period of 10 years from the entry of the court order. During that time Ms. Shalmers must abide by the following terms, in part, as noted in the court papers:

* Successfully complete 12 months of supervised probation with Southside Community Corrections while defendant remains a resident of the Commonwealth. Should defendant provide proof to her probation officer that she no longer resides in the Commonwealth, the requirement of supervised probation will terminate. Defendant will follow probation officer's instructions in all regards, including any referral for mental health counseling.

* That defendant agrees to the forfeiture of the 25 dogs seized from her Brunswick County residence on August 8 pursuant to the search warrant.

* That during the time of supervised probation, defendant shall allow entry of animal control officers at reasonable times to allow for inspection for any companion animals.

* That defendant agree to never have any companion animal(s) (including but not limited to dogs and cats) and that defendant not reside in any residence with a companion animal.

* The Defendant understands that failure to abide by any of the terms of this plea agreement could result in criminal charges for at least another twenty-five dogs.

It is noteworthy that Ms. Shalmer's probation is a requirement of the State of Virginia, meaning that she

is only required to complete probation while living in Virginia. With her sentence suspended, Ms. Shalmers moved out of state, and is no longer under the supervised probation requirement. Also, she is no longer required to receive mental health care, and her new home, wherever it may be, is not subject to local animal control inspections. So, while Ms. Shalmers, is a convicted animal abuser she is free to act as she chooses, including changing her name and location, and because of her mental illness she will undoubtedly attempt to acquire new animals and breed again, repeating the cycle of abuse. The pure-bred dog community now has the ability to foresee and prevent yet another rescue, if we all commit to vigilance and act in concert. We now have the law on our side. Only by working together can we prevent this tragedy from happening again, and prevent it from happening in other breeds. We must prevent a recurrence, for the sake of the dogs.

The detailed events leading up to the arrest and conviction of Ms. Shalmers are complex, intriguing, and shocking. The impact of a hoarder on the animals under her control may best be understood by the following personal account of one of the individuals directly involved in Ms. Shalmers' arrest and conviction. 🐾



The Elektra Rescue

A Personal Record of Events

by Ray Dombkiewicz

In The Beginning March 2004-June 2004

My wife, Reba, and I first met Alexandra Shalmers (Alex) in March 2004 at the Raleigh shows. We made introductions and spent a few moments in idle chatter getting to know each other's backgrounds in the breed. We found Alex engaging, very friendly, knowledgeable, and willing to answer all our questions, no matter how many we asked. After a while, Reba expressed interest in acquiring a feathered cream, whereupon Alex offered to show her examples from her kennel. Phone numbers were exchanged.

After that initial encounter we scraped together bits of information about Alex and learned she was Sandy Moss and cause for a Saluki rescue in Texas in the late 1980's. We didn't know the extent and horror of that episode and wondered how it happened; and if Alex had changed and was now a responsible breeder/owner. We thought, what harm could it be to look at her dogs, and if she was still doing wrong, wouldn't it be a good idea to take one of her dogs out of that environment and give it a good life?

We made arrangements to look at her dogs but she would not allow us to visit her kennel. She stated the house had been terribly damaged by the previous year's storms, and she didn't want visitors until repairs were finished. While true, we later learned that her house had also deteriorated due to neglect, and by years of wear and tear of hundreds of dogs.

Alex came to our house with

four dogs. It was hard to choose from among them, for they were underweight, somewhat weathered as if they had been in outdoor kennels their whole lives, and they moved unceasingly and anxiously around our kennel. They were matted with dull coats, and their ear and tail fringes looked like they had been chewed and cut off. None had been trained to obey a master's command, nor were they lead-trained.

We spoke with Alex about her reputation and the Dallas rescue. Unconvinced by her side of the story and feeling sorry for the dogs being returned to questionable yards, Reba suggested we had the room and money to take two males, thus, at least two would have a better life.

Initially unable to catch or control them, we had Alex help us take them to our vet for a checkup. The vet took us aside and asked if they were abused since they looked malnourished. Other than that one question and severe worms, the initial evaluation and subsequent test results revealed no further problems. We began the task of nurturing our new "boys" and making them part of our household.

However, there were nagging questions that could not be answered to our satisfaction. Why did Alex change her name and move across the country many times? Could she possibly believe that if she resumed her public activities she would not be recognized? What was the real extent of that Texas rescue and what was her reasoning? Why didn't she allow us to see her kennel and how many dogs did she really

have and were they in the same condition as our two, or worse? In those first four months, we began an intensive investigation of her history as well as her present conditions. We wanted to know what kind of person we were really dealing with, and if she was causing harm to any dogs. The difficulty was how to get at the real truth.

One fact, however, was clear and without dispute from that first rescue: many Salukis suffered and died a horrible death, and this weighed heavily on our minds. In no way did we want to encourage Alex to breed and recreate the conditions that led to the earlier rescue. Alex's answers to our inquiries were generally evasive, contradictory, and occasionally hard to believe.

Getting nowhere with our initial approaches and inquiries, Reba and I made a pact between us in July 2004: we were determined that no matter how bad it got, we would maintain contact with Alex to the end, find out exactly how she cared for her dogs, get her to stop breeding, and find homes for her dogs if they were in excessive numbers and/or not treated properly.

We didn't know exactly how to achieve these goals, as many previous attempts failed, and there were numerous legal hurdles to overcome. We also didn't know the extent of her mental illness, which was revealed in subtle ways over the ensuing months. We felt that the direct, forceful approaches used by others in the past would not work as Alex was distrustful of anyone in Salukis and Saluki rescue; but that she encouraged relationships with new people, or people who did not

challenge her, and people who valued her dogs and her 30-year breeding program. That was the hook that enabled us to play out the strategies that eventually led to the current rescue. We felt that if we could gain her trust, learn what drove her to make decisions, and understand her needs and wants, we could eventually persuade her to give up the dogs.

The First Steps July 2004-December 2004

Personally, we found Alex to be quite charming, sociable, and worldly in her better moments. From what we could gather, it appeared that she lived in the past--that is, she bore an obsession to recapture the past glory of her life and dogs prior to the Texas rescue without realizing that in her present state such goals could never be achieved. Later on, when we received a call from Alex in the mental institution, she told us they found her bipolar and paranoid. On occasion she would take some of her dogs to local shows, and everyone could see their ragged and unhealthy condition, let alone their lack of socialization and inability to be shown properly. Alex didn't see it, or when pointed out, she was quick with justifications and rationalizations. Couldn't we see the beauty, flowing lines and movement? As events unfolded, we came to realize that Alex was out of touch in every single facet of her life, and would not willingly give up control of the dogs for their own sake. A few examples of Alex's unusual behavior and thinking follow.

A typical week in Alex's life was heartbreaking for the dogs and stressful, rendering many a sleepless night for one or both of us. Every plan or agreement was met with reason, then changed by the next day. Alex would worry Reba about no food for her dogs, describe horrific illnesses and conditions, or show fears that someone was breaking in her house or cutting off the dogs' ear fringes. Every event was magnified by Alex's fears and emotions. She would call sounding out of

breath many times. Why? Because she had just finished scooping the morning's dead rats caught by the Salukis during the night and taken them out to the trash; or because the rats were lodged in her pipes and she had no running water and she had just finished carrying heavy buckets of water to her kennels so the dogs could drink; or because she just shooed the local teenagers away from the fences for taunting her dogs.

She called Reba daily to talk about her moment-to-moment problems or fears. She was hungry but couldn't fix anything to eat because she had no food for the dogs and if they smelled her cooking she would not be able to control them. She was terrified because she found a leaf in her hallway. It was a sign that STOLA would get all her dogs, one by one. "Didn't we understand," she screamed. "STOLA is the Tree of Life and someone had planted a leaf to warn me that they would take my dogs." Such episodes of paranoia would cause major setbacks and withdrawals. Each week that went by was the same, with only slightly different examples.

Another side of Alex revealed self-esteem issues for she needed to appear intelligent, classy and rich while in public. She would dress in expensive designer clothes, even if faded from age and stains, spend thousands on accessories, and her signature piece of clothing was a full length mink coat which she would wear well into warm weather and well before onset of winter. How could she spend \$2,000 on a pair of shoes and not feed herself or her dogs? We never got the answer, although Reba asked Alex many times over. She was also a collector of fine dinnerware, silver and crystal. She cherished these belongings and would not sell a single item for her benefit or the dogs. It seemed strange to accumulate so many dining and entertaining objects, yet never entertain. At times she would fully dress in evening wear and make-up, set her table, light the candelabras, pour wine in a \$500 crystal glass and dine alone.

Research into animal hoarding on the HARC website confirmed some of our worse fears: it seemed that Alex fit the mold in all respects, hoarding and collecting dogs and objects of all kind; and defending, justifying, and excusing her actions as if the condition of her dogs, her household, and her own health were not caused by her or needed correction. Something had to be done, but what?

Hard Times in Winter January 2005-March 2005

Events escalated last winter, which made us more concerned about the dogs. Her "husband" left her and gave her a small monthly income to handle affairs, not enough to cover all expenses. She routinely did not have money for food for herself or her dogs. The utilities fell into disrepair and Alex could not afford to fix them. The house was heavily infested with rats, which ate through the electric wires. She lived without heat or air and running water throughout the majority of her house. She slept in the frigid cold completely dressed with a coat on, while the "upstairs" Salukis kept her from being bitten by the rats. Because of the untenable living conditions, we pleaded with Alex to get her life in order: find safe homes for the dogs and learn to help herself and get a job. She was incapable of solving her problems and felt she was doing the best she could to keep her dogs alive, often doing without food herself to feed them. But we couldn't force any decisions because we feared that Alex would close the doors on us; we had to let Alex believe she was making all the right moves and those moves were her decisions.

Two events took their toll on our patience and made us more determined and desperate for immediate actions. One of her bitches had puppies during the dead of the winter. All but two died during birth. The bitch, likely frantic from neglect and lack of nutrition, rejected the pups. Alex insisted she had to put the puppies with the mother for heat as there was no heat in

the house. The mother attacked one of the puppies furiously. Alex pulled the screaming puppy away from the mother, but it died in her arms during the night, and the other puppy froze to death.

The next event, Alex called Reba to tell her that one of her dogs had collapsed in her yard, its tongue hanging out, heavily panting. She was trying to squeeze water from a rag onto its tongue, for she had run out of fresh, running water. Reba urged Alex to take the dog to the vet. Alex had no money and had estranged all the vets in her local area with lack of payments. Desperate, she finally called a local vet who at first refused to see her. Alex begged. She took the dog to the vet who euthanized it in the back seat of her car. Alex drove home with the body in her back seat and called again because she couldn't figure out how to dispose of it. The ground was too hard to dig, she exclaimed. Finally, she bagged the poor dog and threw it in the dump. Even Alex, through tears, said that she now had hit rock bottom.

She finally agreed to start placing her dogs swiftly and in groups and asked if we knew of persons who might take them, with breeding as a requirement. Our first choice was an experienced saluki breeder/owner living in Maryland, who gladly agreed to help. It took time and patience to get Alex to trust another person, particularly with a Saluki background, but Alex agreed that we could visit her house and let this volunteer look at the dogs and make selections. Between March and May 2005, we visited three times and saw the real extent of the damage to humans, dogs, and the house. It is hard to describe the filth and stench we encountered and retain control of our emotions.

The volunteer helped by contributing food and money to Alex while trying to negotiate transfers with papers, and spent hours everyday supporting Alex on the phone, along with Reba. We also made inquiries to others on the outside chance that they would take some dogs. No one came forth.

Since Alex was convinced that her line must be preserved at all cost, she made stipulations in regard to breeding and co-ownership, and would not provide unconditional releases. Our first strategy was to create a team of intermediaries that would take her dogs out under agreed upon terms and then transfer them to STOLA. We kept bearing down almost on a daily basis. STOLA, in the meanwhile, began preparing for foster homes, permanent homes, food, and vet care in anticipation of getting releases. Negotiations between Alex and the volunteer stalemated.

Springtime: April 2005-June 2005

Winter turned to spring and a tremendous, prolonged heat wave enveloped southern Virginia. Alex was without air conditioning, and the house temps rose to over 100 degrees on a daily basis. Once, on a phone call to Reba, a distraught Alex dropped the receiver to one of her dogs to let Reba hear the dog's heavy panting, for it was overheated and without water. Over this time, four dogs had to be put down. Luckily, a number of fortunate dogs were released to persons other than our volunteer, so by June our estimate of dogs on hand was about 41.

We also made repeated attempts to contact Animal Control, and their outside inspections failed to come up with any adverse conditions. The problem was that Animal Control's only measure that would cause action was that the dogs had some food and water. They didn't inspect the inside for they needed a warrant to do so, and they didn't believe that the "outside" dogs were in harm's way despite their underweight appearances. Animal Control offered Alex food and water and flea and tick medications on many occasions. Alex refused, always acting like she was providing everything and not needing help. We were getting very anxious at this point because we feared that the heat wave would extend into the summer, and the dogs were slowly starving to death and tortured due to untreated medical conditions. All

attempts to get Alex to voluntarily relinquish control of her dogs failed, and her paranoia and fears mounted. She knew that her dogs needed help but she was unable to give up control. All we could think of was how these dogs were suffering and we couldn't help them. The days and weeks continued to pass without resolution as plan, after plan, failed. Alex's life was monitored on a daily basis by volunteers posing as friends and admirers of her dogs; and all such volunteers remained in direct communication with Reba so that new ideas could be discussed and acted upon.

We expanded our inquiries to local government agencies such as Social Services and Health Services, hoping they would examine the house, condemn it, and remove Alex due to her indigence. These agencies offered little help. It was difficult to match Alex's infractions to the rules of these organizations. To Animal Control, she had food and water; the law protects us against unwarranted searches; STOLA, not having the authority to seize dogs, needed legally signed transfers which Alex was unwilling to provide; Social Services requires a person to voluntarily seek their services; and the Health Department allowed one to live in horrific conditions with rats and no utilities as long as those conditions did not affect others.

Everything Comes Together July and August 2005

In early July, Alex rushed to our home with pleas to take two dogs to the vet for she feared the worse. I carried the dogs which felt like featherweights in my arms into the vet office, both weighing less than 34 pounds. Even now, I still think about them, remembering their faces, seeing the fleas crawl about, and the desperate look in their weary, sad eyes, as if they had lost all hope. The vet concluded that the dogs had to be put down. We became more desperate and felt each day was precious to the lives of the remaining Salukis, and feared that

Alex, left to her own devices, would wind up with all the dogs dead.

We decided upon more forceful measures. We felt we had enough evidence to accuse Alex of animal abuse, compiled a case with photos, matching all conditions as we knew them to specific Virginia State Animal Abuse Code, and then filed a 100-page brief to the State Vet's Office and other county and state governmental entities within Virginia, and to the AKC.

Needless to say, these entities were slow to respond. But we kept pushing each day, hoping something would break open. Reba sought volunteers agreeable to Alex that would take her dogs, posing as "breeders" to save them, until official actions took place. Reba also offered Alex an opportunity to turn over all her sick and worse dogs to her, that Reba would pay the vet bills and take care of them until they were healthy and then find homes for them. Alex at first agreed to transfer some of her dogs to Reba, then changed her mind the next day because she feared they wouldn't be bred.

Luckily, Reba found two persons who committed, under these circumstances, to work with Alex. It was no surprise that Alex took to these persons just as she had to us many months ago. They were willing to take her dogs under any terms, and in any condition, without judgment. Alex seemed desperate to find homes and became insistent that they take a number of her dogs over a two-week period. And yet, she still could not relinquish them to just anyone, to people who would not breed them, nor to STOLA or others who would spay and neuter them and therefore extinguish her lines.

Transferring the dogs was becoming a burden because of the dogs' severe conditions and sheer numbers. The carefully worded "breeder" transfers would allow the volunteers to transfer the dogs to STOLA who could then reimburse for temporary care and arrange for eventual transfer to foster homes. However, authorities warned that in our efforts to help we may be hurting ourselves as every time we took

a group of dogs out, evidence was being lost.

Reluctantly, we had to call off the volunteer "breeding" ruse. Meanwhile, the volunteers unknowingly had taken out more dogs under pressure from Alex for a grand total of 14 dogs removed from Alex's home. This last effort left 25 dogs on site.

At the same time, officials that received our brief decided that the abuse was "criminal" and our evidence would have to be submitted to the District Attorney for formal abuse charges. The District Attorney in Brunswick County accepted the case but since Alex did not allow entry into her home, he needed an eyewitness account, and further that the eyewitness detailed events within 72 hours of issuing the warrant.

We thought all was lost until we could scheme another visit to Alex's house. Maybe it was luck, or the DA's persistence, or Alex's driven and irrational behavior, but the last five transfers that Alex pushed on these new volunteers happened to fall within that 72-hour timeframe.

The volunteers took pictures and described conditions of the dogs last removed to the DA. It was enough for the DA to get the judge to issue the warrant.

The Seizure and Morning After August 8th and 9th

On Monday, August 8th at 9:00 AM the Brunswick County Sheriff served the warrants. Two police cars with three police officers and Animal Control officials drove up to Alex's house. The Sheriff served the warrants.

The Animal Control warden told Alex she had no choice this time and demanded entry. Alex produced rabies certificates, food and water. She did not understand why they were going to arrest her when all her papers were in order. When she realized the inevitable, she just asked to put on clothes and went quietly, shackled, to the police car.

As soon as I received notifica-

tion of her arrest I informed the AKC General Counsel, and Reba notified STOLA. Throughout the day during the capture of the dogs, social workers, the State Vet, and AKC officials appeared on the premises. The State Vet examined the dogs and sent six to the vet immediately stating he thought 20 were in bad condition, 3 borderline and only 2 OK. AKC scanned the dogs for microchips and documented their findings. We later received a letter from the AKC Director of Inspections that based on the field reports, an official review had commenced.

In an interview, Animal Control personnel described Alex's home conditions as horrendous, the worse they have ever seen. The grass around the house and yards had grown over 4 feet tall. When they entered the house, the first thing they saw were dog bowls filled with kibble, but no dogs were eating, rather rats the size of squirrels were seated at the bowls. The officers commented their surprise to Alex who said all the people in the country have "some" rats. The house was filthy, barren of any food, and the kitchen was cluttered by objects, filth, and broken appliances with no sign of use in quite a long time. They referred to it as "horrific, hell's kitchen". Some of the dogs were outside in one of her fenced yards and others were in various rooms in the house. Some could not stand or walk. They further observed the condition of her house stating that although the walls and flooring throughout the house showed signs of dog excretions, all but one room had been picked up. They had to look for sick or dead dogs in every part of the house. They opened cabinets, empty of food, but lined with two inches of rat feces. There was no running water on the first floor as the rats lived in the pipes and could be heard scattering through the walls. The toilet, unable to function without water, was filled with human feces, forming a mound. The only room in somewhat of an acceptable condition was her bedroom. Every other room showed the neglect of time, dogs, roaches, rats, weathering and

water damage.

When asked what the officers found most memorable one stated Alex's attitude. She told the officer, "I have rare blood lines, those people just want my dogs." The other officer was shocked at the filth and smells the dogs created once at Animal Control. He said he could not describe the mess these sick dogs created with vomit, diarrhea, worms, blood from open sores, flea excretions, and mud. The first morning of cleanup at Animal Control was shocking, but it was the first day of a new and better life for the Elektra Salukis.

Summary

While animal hoarding is still relatively unknown to the general public, it is a very real mental illness which affects entire communities and takes the worst toll on its animal victims. Hoarders have chameleon-like abilities to present themselves as charming and functioning members of society while living in the most appalling conditions and causing the animals in their control to live a hellish existence.

Laws are antiquated and ill equipped to deal with the problem, and there is currently no effective medical

treatment for the condition of animal hoarding. Hoarders are highly likely to hoard again even if they are convicted within the legal system because the system fails to monitor their activities.

The burden for preventing and stopping hoarders lies with each and all of us who love our animals. We must speak out to update the laws and stiffen penalties for convicted hoarders to at least include monitoring. We must keep our eyes and ears open within the community for signs of local hoarders. And, if a hoarder is suspected, we must follow specific, well documented steps to close them down. 🐾

Sources of Additional Animal Hoarding Information

The Hoarding of Animals Consortium (HARC), Tufts University Veterinary Medical Center
www.tufts.edu/vet/cfa/hoarding

Pet Abuse - www.petabuse.com

More information and photos from the Elektra Salukis Rescue Case are available at the STOLA website - www.stola.org



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An IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity.

STOLA is the national all volunteer Saluki rescue organization

**Rescue
Welfare
Education**

Services Provided to Rescue Salukis:

Current Vaccinations
Neuter/Spay
Heartworm and Parasite Clearance
Veterinary Medical Screening
Sighthound Collar and Leash
Saluki Training and Maintenance Manuals
Microchip and Free Microchip Registry
Mentorship Services For As Long As Needed
On-Line Support Group
Transportation

Thank you so much to all the rescue groups, dog clubs, and individuals who helped in our recent rescue of 39 Salukies from the Elektra Gazelle Hound Kennels! The full story of this animal hoarding rescue is published on our website at www.stola.org