

# STOLA

*Saluki Tree of Life Alliance, Inc.*

3701 Sacramento Street #345  
San Francisco, CA 94118-1705  
E-mail: stola@gazehound.com



## **Adopting a Saluki Through STOLA**

STOLA is a nonprofit all-volunteer organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of Salukis. Our two main purposes are education about the breed and rehoming Salukis so that all will have appropriate homes.

Because Salukis have special needs we go to great lengths to make sure they will be placed in homes that are right for them. "Saluki people" need to be of a calm disposition. Although Salukis are hunters, they are gentle dogs who do not respond well to volatile outbursts. Training must be gentle and consistent, which is why we recommend Affection Training methods for Salukis, or other gentle reward-based training. Salukis respond very well to these methods which can benefit both dog and human greatly by fostering understanding and communication. While Salukis are often aloof with strangers, they bond totally with their people. You never own a Saluki, you have a relationship with one. To be truly happy, Salukis need to be respected, understood, and loved for their special qualities.

At STOLA we have devised policies which we believe enable both human and dog to make the transition of living together a smooth one. These include:

- ✓ an initial interview/application to determine your requirements
- ✓ a home visit to determine if the accommodations are safe and appropriate for the Saluki. If we find areas that are potentially dangerous, we will make recommendations that need to be corrected before a dog can be placed, i.e. lock must be installed on gate, broken fencing must be repaired, etc.
- ✓ follow-up to assure that the Saluki is being properly acclimated to the new home
- ✓ printed materials to help with the transition including our books, *Saluki Secrets: A Guide to Living Successfully with a Saluki*, and *Only Angels-How to Raise and Train the Perfect Saluki or Other Sighthound*.

The cost of adoption through STOLA is \$350.00 and includes spaying or neutering, up-to-date vaccinations, fecal and heartworm tests, grooming, an identification microchip so that if he is ever lost the chip can be scanned by humane societies nationwide and the Saluki will be returned to

STOLA. Your adopted Saluki also comes with a 6 foot leather leash, a custom-designed leather or suede sighthound collar for proper neck support, and copies of printed materials including Saluki Secrets and Only Angels.

Salukis are not for everyone. They require time, commitment, and a willingness to become truly involved with them. They are not a "backyard" or "garage" dog. They must have personal contact in a loving, nurturing environment. At STOLA we do our very best to see that goal is reached. If you would like to investigate the possibility of living with a Saluki, or if you would like opportunities to spend more time with Salukis through volunteer activities, please contact us.

### **Where Do STOLA Salukis Come From?**

A Saluki needing rehoming may come from a background of neglect, abuse or abandonment. He may have had to steal food to survive. He may have faced starvation, privation, and emotional and physical abuse. He may have spent his life in a cage, only to be walked at minimal intervals. As a result, the Saluki's behavior may suffer. He may not be housetrained. He may be "hand shy" from beatings. He may lack trust for humans (can you blame him?). He may steal food, urinate in inappropriate places, chew furniture, walls or woodwork or repeatedly try to run away due to disorientation. A Saluki taken from this type of background needs extra patience and kindness, but he also needs strong guidelines to establish appropriate behavior. Lavishly praise him when he does something right. A short, sharp "No!" or "Off!" is sufficient to let him know you disapprove of his behavior. Physical punishment is never called for. A human who resorts to physical punishment is simply showing ignorance of canine behavior and communication and has no place living with a Saluki. The Affection Training Method available through STOLA publications teaches you to effectively communicate with your adopted Saluki, to eliminate bad habits, to socialize him, and to form a lasting, loving bond with your new best friend.

At STOLA we also place Salukis who come from good homes, but through a change in their owner's circumstances, they may need rehoming. These dogs may have already been housetrained and socialized and with a little patience and love on your part should easily fit into their new home environment.

### **Salukis are unlike any other dog breed.**

Even if you think you know dogs very well, forget everything you think you know when it comes to dealing with a Saluki. Salukis are an ancient breed which is still closely related to their ancestor, the pale-footed Asian wolf. Salukis still retain many wolf-like characteristics such as remarkable intelligence and reasoning abilities which cannot be measured by the usual "obedience trial" mentality. However, wolves are wild animals while Salukis have been domesticated by humans for thousands of years. A Saluki will decide whether cooperation with you is in his best interests. Salukis are a very gentle breed but they can "spook" easily. They are clannish and prefer their own kind to other breeds (although they can form excellent friendships with other dogs,

given time and opportunity). They are gregarious, usually preferring to live in a pack (family) situation where they closely interact with their family members. Like wolves, they bond totally to the pack leader (in this case, you). If you learn to become a strong, fair leader you will find Salukis very easy to raise and live with. (The Affection Training Method can show you how.) If you are volatile and demanding, both you and your Saluki will be miserable. The worst mistake a new owner can make is to think Salukis are like other dogs-they're not! Salukis are a breed apart-with the aloofness of a cat, the curiosity and dexterity of a raccoon and near-human intelligence. They present a challenge, but once they accept you the bond is forever. Because of the Saluki's special needs, STOLA seeks to find appropriate permanent adoptive homes which will be right for both you and the Saluki.

If you decide to adopt a Saluki, there are a few additional facts you need to know:

*Salukis can fly-well, almost.*

Salukis can easily clear a 6 foot fence and have been known to scale 12 foot cliffs and walls with ease. Salukis have also been known to climb trees and cyclone fencing and to jump from balconies. You must exercise common sense in exposing them to potentially dangerous situations.

*Salukis are very fast.*

They have been clocked at 35 to 50 mph. If they are running from you, you won't catch one. It is vital to train your Saluki to return to you immediately on voice command. THE Affection Training Method offered through STOLA publications can show you how.

*Salukis can pick locks.*

Yes, they can! They can open most doors and cupboards if they are motivated. Child-proof latches may be needed on your food cabinets and refrigerator. All poisons and household cleaners must be kept under lock and key.

*Salukis can outdo Houdini as escape artists.*

If they want to escape from a crate, they usually can. (And you'll probably never figure out how they do it.) They can slip through amazingly small openings. Never leave a window open (not even a screened window) when the Saluki is home unattended. The Saluki can easily get through the screen (or even remove it) and escape. Salukis are very bonded to their people. They usually escape when unattended to try and find their people, just as wolves want to be reunited with their pack. Never leave your newly adopted Saluki unattended in a car. They have been known to escape from locked crates inside cars.

**Think of your rescue Saluki as a human infant for the first six months.**

- ✓ You wouldn't leave a baby at home alone with a window open. Ditto for the Saluki.
- ✓ You wouldn't leave a baby unattended by a pool. Ditto for the Saluki.
- ✓ You wouldn't leave a baby unattended in the backyard. Ditto for the Saluki.

- ✓ You wouldn't leave a baby with access to household poison. Ditto for the Saluki.
- ✓ You wouldn't leave a baby alone in the garage. Ditto for the Saluki.
- ✓ You wouldn't expect a baby to lie on a cold, hard floor. Ditto for the Saluki. They need a soft, comfortable bed of their own. (Of course, your bed or sofa will do nicely.)

At this point you may be saying, why on earth would I want a Saluki? Simply because they're fabulous! All of the problems mentioned can be remedied with time, patience, love and the appropriate training. You must allow the adopted Saluki about 6 months to completely adjust to his new home. He may test you time and time again the way adopted children do, just to make sure you are worthy of his affection and loyalty, but once the Saluki accepts you and you become his family you will be rewarded with a near perfect relationship. Once they learn what you expect them to do, Salukis are easy to live with, have no body odor, shed very little hair, and will provide you with possibly the best relationship you've ever had in your life. You never own a Saluki, you have a relationship with one, a relationship that is based on unfailing loyalty and trust. At STOLA we know the difficulties you may face, and the joy you will experience in living with a Saluki. We want to make the transition as easy as possible for you that is why we offer unlimited support during the first few months that the adopted Saluki moves in with you. Through STOLA we give adoptive Salukis a second chance, and we want to make your Saluki experience the rewarding, exciting event it should be.

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***STOLA Contact Information for this transaction:***

Region:

Regional Coordinator:

Allied Club or Organization (if applicable):

Address:

Phone:

Email:

STOLA Volunteer:

Volunteer's Address:

Volunteer's Phone:

Volunteer's Email:

Volunteer's Signature: