



'Gigi' and 'Thomas'

Getting to know you... Jan Buchanan (Auldstone)



'Gabe'

How did you first become interested in Salukis, and when did you finally get your first hound?

Scottish Deerhounds were my first serious involvement in the purebred dog world and I would see Salukis occasionally at shows in and near Ontario where I lived then. Eva Stehr, of St. Just fame, moved to my area with her Salukis, Afghans, Whippets, IGs and Borzoi. Eva felt that any sighthound home was incomplete without at least one of each breed. I first met Eva on that memorable day when I won my first Group 1st (with a Deerhound).

Eva became a very good friend who would come to care for the Deerhounds when I was away showing. When she decided to move to Quebec in 1974, she said, "I want you to have Culana."

And so the brown grizzle gentleman moved in with the Deerhounds. He was two years old, a finished champion and so charismatic that his overshot bite (which corrected within a few years) did not stop his ring career. He became BIS, BISS Can. & Am. Ch. St. Just Culana, Eastern Canada's first BIS Saluki, and a group winner from the classes in the U.S.



When did you start breeding? Where did your foundation stock come from?

I never used Culana, but was able to acquire a young bitch who was closely related to him. Ch. Bowtrude Lia of Auldstane was mated to my BIS Ch. Bostone Auldstane Madrigal ('Carlos'), producing five puppies in 1979, and so I was deeply involved with Salukis. Though I had enjoyed some very exciting success with Deerhounds I ultimately went to Salukis only.

As an aside, while I never used Culana for breeding, he taught me how to show a Saluki, so much so that I have always owner-handled my Salukis with very rare exceptions and have enjoyed some considerable successes. Winning WD at the SCOA 1983 National under judge William Gravesmill with 'Doni' (BIS Can. & Am. Ch. Auldstane Chalcedony and winning WD again at the SCOA National with his nephew, 'Tomas' (M.B.I.S.S. Ch. Gazella Auldstane Affirmed) in 1999 under judge Lena Stahlhandske are very precious memories.

How did you choose your kennel name?

The Auldstane kennel name came from my stone house in Ontario where I lived for 25 years. It was a good home for Deerhounds and Salukis.

Who were/are your mentors?

Gayle Gerber Bontecou of Gayleward Deerhounds, NY, Anne Norah Hartley of Rotherwood Deerhounds in England and Eva Stehr were early and important influences, not only in show success, historical knowledge and

conformation, but also in provision of care at home.

I respect a number of Saluki breeders for different reasons, and have been privileged to meet many dedicated Saluki people in different countries

Outside of the ring, what other activities do you enjoy with your hounds?

Although I have been active in showing Salukis, their major function here is the business of everyday living. We show, but not as often as in Ontario. I haven't done much in lure coursing and would likely be enthusiastic about OFC if I lived where it was legal and more possible.

I do take my Salukis for free runs in open country here, and am becoming more proficient with a new camera. Watching Salukis in full flight is a great joy.

What do you think is the most important quality in a Saluki?

Because of my professional involvement with proportion, balance and excellence of design, I am very sensitive to the well-made Saluki when all the parts create a harmonious result. This is a creature formed in the furnace of time. I won't lecture to an informed audience about the purpose of the Saluki, and will say only that some contemporary digressions and exaggerations in the name of 'style' are intolerable.

What do you love most about living with Salukis?

I value a Saluki's quiet intelligence and companionship. I have little patience with those dog people who expect instant push-button reaction

to orders, and find that we do very well with a quiet request and ongoing conversation. Of course, at home, one makes allowance for the vigorous notice of passing coyotes and deer, and arriving vehicles. Saluki song is part of the whole package.

I love the adaptability of the Saluki in that they will respect territory in the house and will sleep on designated furniture (at least mine do). My Salukis have access to almost my entire house when I am home and are restricted to one room when I am away. I do not use crates in the home.

I never tire of looking at my Salukis and, being a tidy person, I value their cleanliness. We do not live in a 'doggy' house. My present male buddy here is the cleanest Saluki I have ever had, as well as taking enormous care in guarding 'his' ladies – me included.

What are your long-range goals?

Long-range goals include hopes for some beautiful puppies to arrive safely this spring. Because of my experience in seeing Salukis in many parts of the world, I have (of course) opinions about structure. I have learned something about keeping an open view and avoiding exaggerations, both too much and too little.

Our new home is still developing and I'm planning to build a Saluki

'jungle jim' in the paddock for climbing, running through and digging around, and to provide an elevated viewing platform to assist the coyote watch. The paddock does allow for good flat-out running, but we need a centre of interest.

There is so much to be discovered about Saskatchewan. The arts community is lively and welcoming and the two all-breed kennel clubs have full slates of activity. I have just joined the Hub City Kennel and Obedience Club – an involved and busy group.

What do you do in your other life?

Professionally I am a retired visual arts specialist. Architecture and interior design are an ongoing fascination, as well as work in sculpture and graphics. Moving west, buying property, designing my house and being present for most of the building process was most enjoyable. I was so fortunate to find a gifted builder who allowed me to be part of the process, and was therefore more able to understand the workings of its complex ecological technology.

And so, while we do live in a climate with some severe winter temperatures and sometimes disastrous storms, we are very comfortable. I hope to be able to continue here in my adventure with Salukis.



'Gabe' and 'Zia'