

getting to know you... *Sandra Gahan*

**how did you first become interested in salukis, and when did you finally get your first hound?** I started out my 'doggy life' with Afghans. To be perfectly truthful, with Salukis I thought I would be getting an Afghan without the coat. How far from the truth that is! I think it is a misconception that a lot of people have – "Salukis are uncoated Afghans." Having lived with both for many years I know this is not so!

I got my first Saluki in 1979 with the help of Carole Adley and Nel Hyde. His name was Elektra Al Emir; he was bred by the then Sandy Moss. He came to me as a three-month-old and we had him until he died at 11. Even though I bought him as a show dog, 'Emir' was only shown a couple of times. He was extremely trustworthy off-leash, often wandering around with Larry while he shovelled snow. There was nothing Emir enjoyed more than standing outside in a raging snowstorm with it all blowing around him. It was hard to believe he was born in Texas – descendant of desert dogs!

**why do you prefer to have stud dogs rather than brood bitches?** Even though we've had Salukis since 1979, we've only ever had one litter, which was born in 2000. It was a huge litter of three – one female and two males. The parents were Can. & Am. Ch. Gafens Jedashi Sherpa and Ch. Jedashir Flair, FChX. We kept one of the males, Sandchris Jedashi El Dorado ('Elton'). He is pointed in Canada and major pointed in the U.S. He hated the show ring so I stopped showing him. He just likes to go along now for the social aspect of shows.

I was the co-breeder on one of Lin Hawkyard's litters. We co-owned the sire, Can. & Am. Ch. Timaru Melchior. Lin knew I liked to show in the Bred By Exhibitor class so as a courtesy, she put me down as a co-breeder of the litter even though the litter was really hers.

We broke the 'rules' when we got 'Jada' – Larry's smooth girl. I much prefer the male temperament. I just find them easier to live with.





Rhap

**how did you choose your kennel name?** Our kennel name is Sandchris (Perm. Reg'd). It is derived from my name and our son Christopher's name – very original!

**who were/are your mentors?** My mentor was not a Saluki person, even though she usually had a Saluki or two. She was a very long-time Afghan breeder who was always there for me through thick or thin with the Afghans. She also gave us 'Ramalah' (Can. & Am. Ch. Elektra Jelleybey Ramalah), 'Sherpa' and 'Flair.' Right now I just enjoy getting together with my Saluki friends and exchanging ideas/thoughts with them.



Flair & Elton

**outside of the ring, what other activities do you enjoy with your hounds?** I always take the puppies to one or two obedience sessions. 'Rhap' and 'Jada' have also been to agility classes. We also lure course them – even if it's just singles. They enjoy the chase. It's not that important to me that they get a coursing title, so I'm just as happy to run them as test dogs or in singles.



Elton

**what do you think is the most important quality in a saluki?** They have to be able to get along in the 'real world.' They are show dogs or coursing dogs or whatever for a very short period of their lives. Being family members is a much greater part of their life and they need to be able to adapt to whatever life brings.

**what do you love most about living with salukis?**

You can do a lot with them: show, course, play, race every night for the best chair in the family room for a relaxing evening in front of the TV or fight for bed space....

**what are your long-range goals?** To enjoy the dogs we currently have.

**what do you do in your other life?** In my other life, I work part time at Sears in the Inventory Control Department as Inventory Productivity Administrator.



Jada