

# Lost in the desert

A Canadian journey into registering a desert-bred litter.

by Shelley Work

Like many enthusiasts, I find the Saluki's antiquity and history an integral part of the breed's allure. I also find it daunting. Integral because the Saluki's format and abilities are a tribute to the time-honoured traditions and tests they were subjected to long before we could have imagined such a creature; daunting because I wasn't sure I could choose as wisely as those who have done so before me! Despite my naïveté and trepidation, it was 2002 when I began entertaining the idea of incorporating desert bloodlines into my breeding program.

Why desert bred you ask? A desert-bred Saluki is defined as one who is directly imported from a country of origin or directly descended from such. Even though there are a lot of great Salukis right here in Canada, utilizing these ancestral lines appealed to me for several reasons:

- There are very few breeds/breeders fortunate enough to have access to the very stock that formed the basis of the breed; stock that has continued to be tested and bred in a similar fashion since the discovery of the 'breed' as we perceive it. I believe that this is an invaluable resource with which to promote

preservation, diversity and health of the breed as a whole.

- I find myself repeatedly drawn to the look of desert bred Salukis, both historic and current, and photos of early Saluki imports -- the athletic appearance, the inclination to moderation, and a more muscled format when compared to what I had produced thus far in my still budding endeavour as a breeder. Consequently, I decided using 'desert stock' may be a good way to produce a more robust, yet moderate build, and perpetuate the appearance of those who first came out of the desert.

- Lastly, I thought it would be cool to (quite possibly) be the first Canadian to breed a 'desert bred' litter and go through the evaluation/critique process to achieve AKC/CKC registration! Well... vanity does have its place.

Of course, one can make the argument that all Salukis go back to desert stock, and theoretically this is true, but that's not what this article is about.

For guidance on making this dream a reality, I turned to the Society for the Preservation of Desert Bred Salukis (SP-

DBS). Through a critique process, SP-DBS can register generation 0 through 3 desert bred and direct desert-descent Salukis, but the best part was that Generation 3 Salukis registered with SPDBS are eligible for AKC registration. This meant once they were AKC registered I could proceed to register them with the CKC! It all seemed pretty simple, but I certainly had no idea what I was getting myself into!

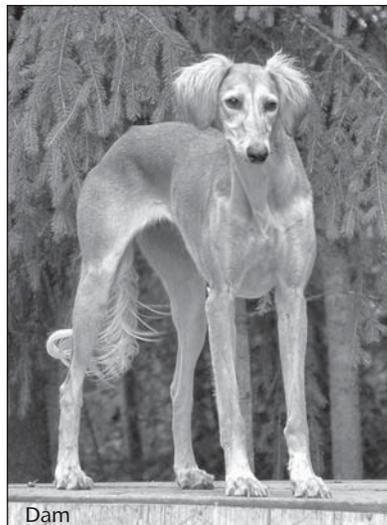
## In the beginning

And so the story begins ... In 2003 I imported a bitch that is 50% desert descent from a well-established breeder in the U.S. This bitch, Melik Gulshen, had the advantage of being a Gen 3 descendant already eligible for AKC registration. As she matured, I began searching for just the right male for her and in 2008 found what I thought was a great match in Santana Blackbird – a Gen 2 of 25% desert descent – whose format complimented that of my bitch. This breeding would produce a Gen 3 litter of 37% desert descent, that is eligible for AKC (and consequent CKC) registration once critiqued! What does this 'generation' stuff all mean? See sidebar, 'Defining the generations.'

The sire and dam were chosen and I had done my homework – or so I thought – and thoroughly read ALL the information on the SPDBS web site. Plans were now underway for the litter! Lucky for me, a good friend and mentor encouraged me to revisit the information since the SPDBS had recently become a domestic registry. I had no idea what that actually meant. As it turned out, I had wrongly assumed that anyone could breed a litter and have it critiqued, when in fact, as a domestic registry SPDBS must follow the requirements of the parent registry (AKC), which



Sire



Dam

meant that the litter needed to be born in the U.S. and to a resident of the U.S. Oh, the best laid plans ...

At this point, I almost called it quits until another good friend suggested that co-breeding the litter would satisfy the AKC's requirements! Yes, perhaps I am a bit thick since I didn't come up with that idea on my own. Problem solved – almost. I had no idea who would consider co-breeding the litter with me, but I had gone to all the trouble to import two lovely specimens of our breed for the express purpose of breeding (possibly) the first 'Canadian born' desert-bred litter – I wasn't about to give up that easily. With an air of desperation, I approached the sire's breeder and asked if they would consider a co-bred litter. Fortunately I was met with a resounding yes as they were happy to see one of their breeding used at stud as well as to see (another?) Gen 3 desert-bred litter gain AKC recognition. I was relieved to say the least.

### The paperwork

Things rolled along quite smoothly after that, but there was a lot of paperwork to do! It took several months back and forth



through the postal system to fill out, sign and send all the associated documents to the appropriate registries.

- We made sure that both sire and dam had their SPDBS registration papers in order. The sire had not yet received his Critique Registration Number 'CRN' (more on this later) and SPDBS registration certificate so that had to be applied for and granted before we would be able to proceed.
- I registered the bitch with AKC since she was already eligible.
- We filed a lease agreement with the AKC, to accommodate co-breeding. Apparently this was an unnecessary step, but the AKC had it on file when we eventually registered the pups.

- DNA samples were required from both parents, so I ordered swab kits from the AKC DNA Program and mailed them back nicely coated with dog spit.
- When received, the DNA profiles were forwarded to SPDBS to fulfill the DNA policy within the registry. All stock used for breeding from within the SPDBS must be DNA profiled!

Finally, whelping day arrived on a cold day in January 2009 and the bitch presented us with seven lovely babes – the Faridaat Eo Litter – in shades of cream, gold and black! The months flew by. During this time, we completed an SPDBS litter registration form and waited for the DNA profiles and other supporting documents to be processed and arrive.

## Defining the generations

**Generation 0** An original import from country of origin without an accepted registry

**Generation 1** The product of two Gen 0 hounds

**Generation 2** The product of two Gen 1 hounds

**Generation 3** The product of two Gen 2 hounds. This Generation has a "complete" three-generation pedigree and is eligible for AKC registration after it receives its CRN (Critique Registration Number).

These are listed in their most simplistic view with the assumption that each breeding is between two hounds of the same generation. That is not always the case. In the case of mixed-generation litters, the lowest generational number will always determine what generation the get will be. For example, if a Gen 0 hound is bred to an AKC registered hound, a Gen 1, or a Gen 2, the get will be Gen 1.

A complete three-generation pedigree is one in which there are no Unknowns in the slots for parents, grandparents or great-grandparents. Such a pedigree is the result of a breeding between a Gen 2 and another Gen 2, a Gen 3, or an already AKC-registered hound. Excerpted from [http://www.desertbred.org/public/reg\\_generations.htm](http://www.desertbred.org/public/reg_generations.htm).

Through March to May the pups made their way to the arms of their new owners. Each owner was provided with their pup's partially completed CRN application, critique form, AKC Open Registration form and instructions on how to have their pup critiqued. Having fulfilled all the necessary requirements to breed and whelp the litter, we could now focus on arranging for critiques in order to allow the pups to receive their own SPDBS registration!

### The critique process

So what does this critique process involve, you ask? The SPDBS requires that each candidate applying for CRN be critiqued by a panel of three judges in order to determine if the pup (or adult) is considered a purebred Saluki. The steps are simple:

- Download a Critique Registration Number (CRN) Application from the SPDBS Site;
- Have your Saluki critiqued;

- Return the completed application and critiques to the registrar with the appropriate supporting documents.

The critiques may be scheduled at one's own convenience, or puppies can be critiqued on several different occasions (such as at dog shows over a period of time) by the appropriate individual judges. We had hoped to arrange critiques before the pups were sent in all directions, but it didn't quite work out that way. Fortunately, in July all the American-resident pups were able to attend a critique panel in Nevada that was arranged by a friend. In March 2010, the three Canadian-resident pups were able to attend a critique panel in Washington thanks to the assistance of another generous friend who also acted as a judge.

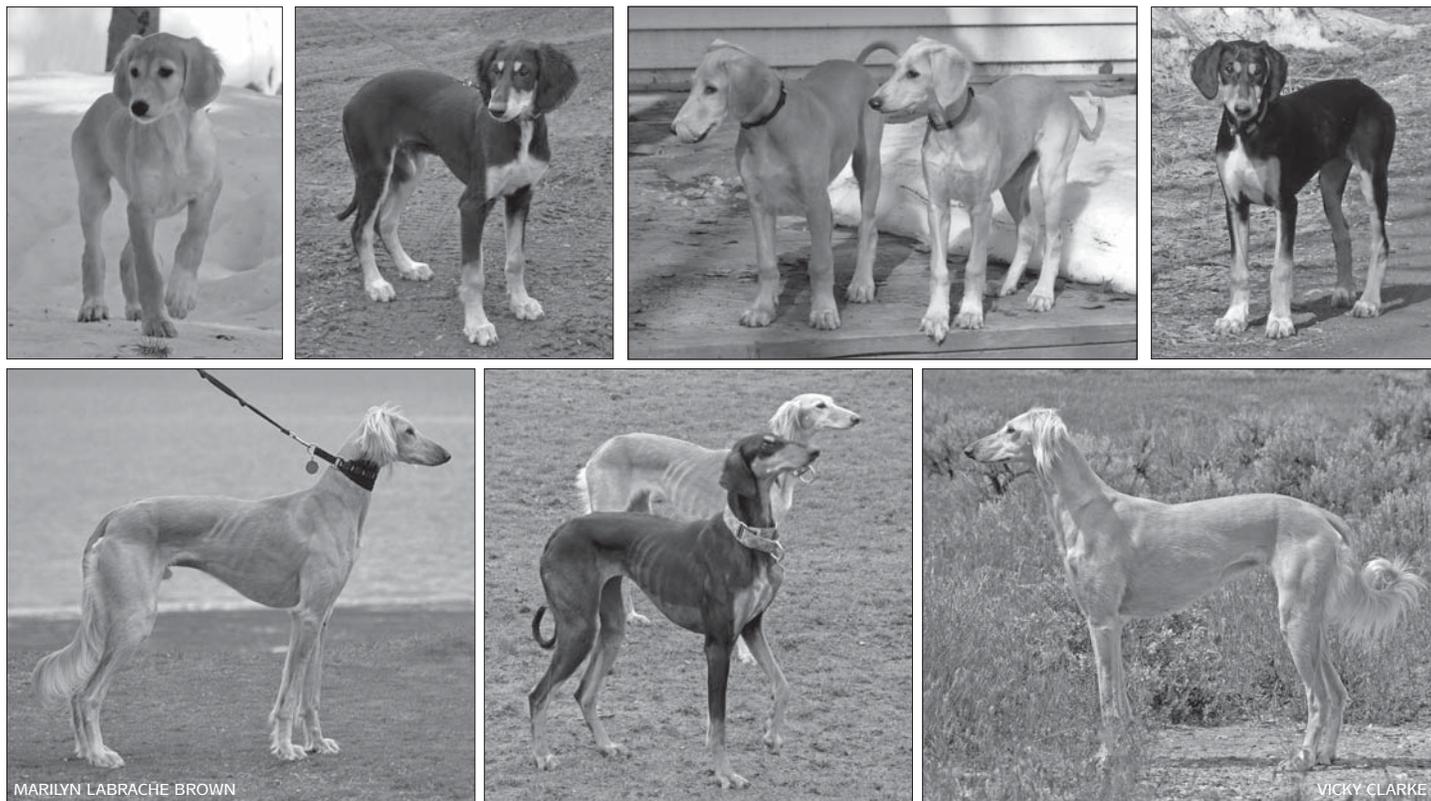
The judges must meet specific criteria (dependent on the generation being critiqued) to be approved for a critique panel. Their primary task is to determine, to the best of their ability, if the dogs being critiqued are or are not purebred

Salukis. At this time, neither DNA nor any other method of scientific testing can determine if a dog is/is not purebred so this is determined the 'old-fashioned' way through visual observation and background information on the dog. To make reasonable and accurate assessments of the dogs presented, the judges must have experience and knowledge of the breed and the AKC standard. The judges may ask questions of the owner and use any and all information available to make this assessment.

Our Gen 3 litter required the following judges:

- An AKC judge licensed to judge Salukis;
- A performance judge licensed to judge Salukis (lure or open field coursing);
- A long-time Saluki breeder or owner.

During the critique, the judges asked us to stack the pups for hands on examination and we moved the pups around similar to the way they are exhibited at a dog show. The pups were measured for height and length. Judges are required to



write their comments while the dog is being presented, but they are not allowed to make comments comparing one to another as they might if they were judging a dog show. The dogs are judged on their own merit against the standard. Once the judges have evaluated the dog in question they must then indicate whether they consider the dog to be a purebred Saluki, and explain why. This is the sole purpose of the critiques.

Once the pups have been critiqued by three approved judges, the completed critique forms (one per judge per dog) and supporting documents are submitted to the SPDBS. The required supporting documents vary depending on whether the registrant is an import, has parent(s) from another registry, or is bred from within the SPDBS registry by virtue of having SPDBS registered parents (such is the case with our litter). In this case we were required to submit four photos of each dog, DNA profiles and all fees. The Registrar and committee then study each case. If all registration requirements are met, and the Registrar and committee consider the Saluki to be purebred, a Critique Registration Number (CRN) is assigned and an official SPDBS Registration Certificate issued.

I'm happy to report that all of our pups were granted their CRNs and received their SPDBS Registration Certificates! With the hardest part over, it was then a simple matter of submitting the AKC open registration forms and awaiting their official AKC registration certificates. By virtue of having an AKC registration certificate the pups residing here in Canada are now eligible for registration with CKC, but I admit after all that paperwork I haven't quite managed to submit my CKC foreign born (yes, I had to concede defeat on 'Canadian born' aspect) application yet.

Was it a lot of work? You bet it was. Was it worth it? Absolutely! Would I do it again? Let me think on that. I'm very pleased with the pups from this litter and I believe this affords me the dubious honour of being the first crazy Canadian to try it! Now, there's no going back!

For full details, please consult the SPDBS Registration Handbook on the SPDBS web site ([www.desertbred.org](http://www.desertbred.org)). ♦

Society for the Perpetuation of Desert Bred Salukis

**SOCIETY FOR THE PERPETUATION OF DESERT BRED SALUKIS CRITIQUE FORM**  
(The SPDBS reserves the right to share all information gathered on this form with other registries)

Host Club PSSC City Spurlington State LA Date 21 March 2010

**Part 1—General and Statistical Information for the SPDBS database**

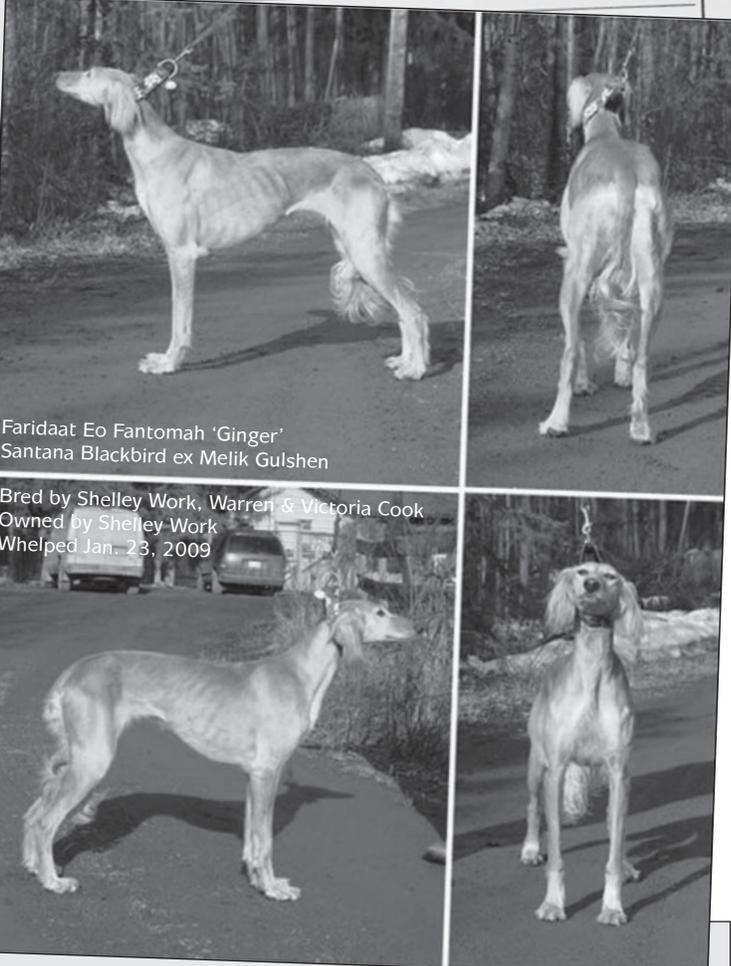
1. Full Name of Saluki Faridaat Eo Fantomah (aka Ginger) 2. Case Number (CCN) \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. SEX: Male  Female  4. Date of Birth 01/23/2009 5. Age \_\_\_\_\_ 6. COAT: Feathered  Smooth   
 7. Color and Markings Gold

MEASUREMENTS:  
 8. Height \_\_\_\_\_ measured from top of withers to ground  
 9. Length \_\_\_\_\_ measured from point of shoulder to point of buttock  
 10. Circumference of chest \_\_\_\_\_  
 11. Weight \_\_\_\_\_  
 12. Countries and Organizations where Registered n/a

13. TITLES AWARDED: Coursing, racing, conformation  
 14. Percent Desert Bred (presumed) 37.5 % 15. Country of Origin USA  
 16. Number of Generations from the Desert Gen 3 (import=0, first generation=1, second generation=2, third generation=3, etc)  
 17. Eastern Country of nearest DB ancestor Saudi Arabia  
 18. DNA test performed no 19. Country of Origin USA 20. Registration CRN 0586-008-2  
 21. Country of origin USA 22. Registration CRN 0502-005-3  
 23. Registration Cook & Shelley Work

**PART 2—JUDGE'S COMMENTS, GENERAL IMPRESSION and EXPLANATION**  
(Record additional comments on the back)

Well put together, square, nice expression when relaxed, nice movement



Faridaat Eo Fantomah 'Ginger'  
Santana Blackbird ex Melik Gulshen

Bred by Shelley Work, Warren & Victoria Cook  
Owned by Shelley Work  
Whelped Jan. 23, 2009

PHOTOS: VICKY CLARKE

## About SPDBS

The Desert Bred Saluki Critique Program, which recorded information about Salukis imported from the Middle East and their direct Middle Eastern descendents, was organized during the early 1970s. This became the *Society for the Perpetuation of Desert Bred Salukis* in 1987. The records of the Society formed a domestic registry, recognized by AKC in 2002, providing SPDBS-registered Salukis with a complete three-generation pedigree entrance into the AKC studbook. SPDBS registration is open to Salukis imported from their countries of origin and to direct descendents of these Salukis that do not already have complete AKC acceptable pedigrees.