

## Nan Bodine Critique

Thank you for the honor of judging your specialty this year. It is always exciting to get to pass on one's own breed. I was quite take back by the strength, depth, and quality of this year's entry. The dogs were a delight. And it was a treat to see some old friends from the past and renew those friendships. Good to see some newcomers added to our breed that is so special to us. Welcome to a wonderful hobby! I am pleased to see our breed is in good shape, judging from what I saw.

Sincerely,  
Nan Bodine

It was my pleasure to judge this year's PM specialty and pass on a beautiful entry. Salukis have been my breed of choice for 54 years. During that time, I have seen them go through many phases, both good and bad. If what I saw here is any indication, our breed is doing well. While fronts set on too far forward coupled with overdone rears continue to plague our breed (like so many others), I saw far fewer. I was blessed with many lovely outlines. Salukis are a series of curves where the neck should flow seamlessly into the shoulder, across the back, with a slight rise over the loin and dropping slightly into the tail which is set on low and carried in a curve. The deep moderately narrow chest should rise gradually into the tuck up and continue into a moderately angulated rear.

My winners reflected these virtues. My Breed winner (GCh Issibaa's Llickety-split) and my Select Dog (GChB Timaru Bandolier, JC) both epitomized these concepts. While of slightly different styles, both represented the standard, which demonstrates the diversity within our breed. These were tow mature dogs who stood their ground, hard and fit with nice deep chests, shoulders flowing nicely into toplines, which held on the side. Both smooth and light on their feet. The grizzle eventually edged out the red by showing a slightly longer reach in front. They could easily have changed places on another day.

They were pushed hard by the cream BOS bitch who came from the coursing class (DC Ch Khiva's Jondee Evenstar of Queeba, BN, RI, MC). She was everything I loved in my bitches, sweet, soft expression, small and compact, hard and fit, well-balanced and light on her feet.

Winners Dog: (Issibaa's Magical Moment) From the open class. A cream. He was clearly the most mature: balanced and put together allof one piece with a strong masculine head. While not a non-stop showman, he held himself together long enough to show off his virtues. He also had good boning and a firm topline. Close behind him was the Reserve Winners Dog, 2<sup>nd</sup> in Open (Issibaa's into the Mystic) who mirrored similar qualities, attractive head and very balanced. WD had a bit better reach. All four creams in Open excelled in virtues and could easily re-sort themselves as they mature.

Winners Bitch: (Timaru Geneva) From the Bred by class. Cream. She had the best overall balance and front assembly, with a lovely outline that epitomized the "series of flowing lines". She stood out in a class of 3 beautiful bitches.

The Winners line-up was a joy to see. It came down to maturity, balance and front assembly.

RWB came from the 12-18 class (Qirmizi Utelle). She was a very close runner-up. Her overall balance carried her to Reserve.

Select Bitch: (Ch Two Hearts A Light in the Desert, SC, RN, CGCA, CGCU) A red and white parti-color. Lovely in her maturity, well-conditioned and well put together.

First place in the rest of the classes

Puppy Dogs 6-9 mo: (Persepolis Zane) A black fringed red. Very promising puppy, nice outline and balance. Rocked his front coming in.

Puppy Dogs 9-12 mo: (Obi-Wan KJAX-SM Hurricane) a black smooth who while not behaving, still won on his lovely outline and tighter front coming back.

Dogs 12-18 mo: (Freespirits Freddie Mercury) A grizzle who showed better balance when moving.

Bred by Dogs: (Karanfil Nox) A black/tan with a lovely outline, moved better on the side, though his front was a bit narrow.

American Bred Dogs: (Timaru Gryfalcon) A black fringed fawn. Beautifully conditioned, smooth both coming, going, and on the side. But it took a bit of work to see it as he's rather be elsewhere.

Puppy Bitch 6-9 mo: (Persepolis Zahar) Cream. Promising youngster at this age, showed well, loose front coming in.

Bitches 12-18 mo: (Qirmizi Utelle) Four very nice cream bitches. First place had a better shoulder, more mature, in good muscle and was more balanced. Carried to Reserve

Open Bitches: (Albion's I Square I am the Chosen One) Cream. Very nice, pretty outline, but today she was overshadowed by WB and RWB.