



Official Standard of the Sloughi

General Appearance: The Sloughi is a medium-large, short-haired, smooth-coated, athletic sighthound developed in North Africa (in the area including Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya) to hunt game such as hare, fox, jackal, gazelle, and wild pigs. It is an ancient breed, treasured in North Africa for its hunting skills, speed, agility, and endurance over long distances. It is a robust, but elegant and racy, pursuit dog with no exaggeration of length of body or limbs, muscle development, angulation, nor curve of loin. The Sloughi is not a fragile dog, but is also a dog with class and grace. The attitude is noble and somewhat aloof, and the expression of the dark eyes is gentle and melancholy.

The Sloughi's head is long and elegant with drop ears. The body and legs show defined bony structure and strong, lean muscles. The skeletal structure is sturdy. The topline is essentially horizontal blending into a bony, gently sloping croup. The tail is long and carried low with an upward curve at the end.

Size, Proportion, Substance: A male Sloughi is very slightly taller, measured from the top of the withers to the ground, than it is long, measured from the point of the shoulder to the point of the buttocks. A female's body may be slightly longer, proportionally, than that of the male. Males are typically larger than females. Height at the withers for males is normally 26 to 29 inches. For females it is normally 24 to 27 inches. Somewhat taller Sloughis are allowed.

Head: In profile, the *head* is long and refined with a deep and sturdy character. From above, it has the shape of a long wedge, tapering from the cranial area to the tip of the nose. **Expression** - The expression is gentle, slightly sad, and melancholy. **Eyes** - The eyes are large, dark, well set in their sockets, and oval to almond-shaped. The eye color is shades of dark brown to dark amber. The eye rims are pigmented.

Ears - The ears are set at about the level of the eye and droop close to the head when the animal is at rest. The ears are of medium size, triangular in shape, and slightly rounded at the tips. Disqualifications are ears erect, or small and folding backwards in a "rose ear." **Skull** - Viewed from above, the cranial area is rather broad, measuring approximately 4 to 5 inches between the ears, and is rounded at the back and curves harmoniously on the sides. In profile, the top part of the cranial area is flat, the brows are scarcely projecting, the frontal groove is hardly marked, and the occipital crest is barely visible. **Stop** - The stop is barely pronounced. **Muzzle** - The muzzle has the shape of an elongated wedge and forms about half the total length of the head. The jaws are strong and regular. **Planes** - The profile is straight, with the lines of the muzzle and skull approximately parallel. **Nose** - The nose is black and strong, not pinched. The planes of the nose and the muzzle are almost the same. The nose leather, not being supported by the skeletal structure, is slightly inclined down towards the tip. **Lips** - The lips are thin and supple, black or dark brown, and completely pigmented. **Flews** - The lips just cover the lower jaw. The corner of the mouth is very slightly visible. **Bite** - A scissor bite is preferable; a level bite is allowed. An overshot or undershot jaw is a disqualification. **Teeth** - Full Dentition; the teeth are healthy and strong.

Neck, Topline and Body: **Neck** - The neck is long and springs well up from the shoulders. It is slightly arched at the crest. Its length is similar to that of the head. It should be elegant and powerful. The skin is fine, tight, with no dewlap and the hair is very smooth. **Topline** - The topline of a Sloughi is level (horizontal) or essentially level between the withers and the hip bones; the hip bones may be slightly higher than the withers. The withers are apparent. **Body** - **Chest** - The chest is not too wide and almost, but not quite, reaches the level of the elbow. **Ribs** - The ribs are flat, long, and slightly curved in the posterior third of the chest. **Underline** - The underline starts as a straight line at the sternum and rises up in a smooth curve to the belly. **Tuck-up** - The belly is well tucked up. **Back** - The back is short, almost level (horizontal) between the withers and the hip bones. **Loin** - The loin is short, lean, wide, and slightly arched. **Croup** - The croup is bony and oblique with apparent hip bones that project above the line of the back to the same height as, or slightly higher than, the withers. **Tail** - The tail is long enough to reach the point of the hocks, thin, set in line with the croup, and carried low, at or below the line of the back, with a typical upward curve at the tip when in the resting position. When excited, the upward-curved part of a Sloughi's tail may rise above the line of the back.



Forequarters: Angulation - Well open. Shoulders - Shoulder Blades - The shoulder blades are long. Legs - The forelegs are straight, bony, and muscular. The forelegs appear long. Pasterns - The pasterns are slightly sloping, supple, and strong. Dewclaws - Dewclaws are present, but may be removed. Feet - The feet are lean and have the shape of an elongated oval. In many lightly-built Sloughis, the foot is shaped like a hare-foot. Toes - The toes are pointed forward with the middle two toes distinctly longer than the others. Nails - The nails are black or pigmented.

Hindquarters: Angulation - Open angulation, stifle and hock well open. Legs - When showing, the hind legs should be left in their natural, upright position so that the level (horizontal) line of the back remains apparent. Upper Thigh - The upper thigh is lean, flat, and muscular and, at rest, is nearly vertical. Second Thigh - The second thigh is long and well muscled. Hocks (Rear Pastern) - Hocks are strong and well bent without closed angles. The rear pasterns are also strong. The tendons are well chiseled. Dewclaws - No rear dewclaws. Feet - The feet are lean and have the shape of an elongated oval. Toes - The toes are pointed forward with the middle two toes distinctly longer than the others. Nails - The nails are black or pigmented.

Coat: The coat of the Sloughi is always smooth. The hair is short, tight, and fine all over the body. The Sloughi is presented in natural condition. Disqualifications are coat other than short, tight, and smooth and/or feathering on the ears, tail, and/or legs.

Color: The coat colors are all shades of light sand (cream) to mahogany red fawn, with or without brindling or with or without black markings such as black mask, black ears, dark overlay, and black mantle, with no invasive white markings. Small to medium white marks on the chest or toes are allowed as is white, anywhere on the body, due to aging or scars. Disqualifications are color not in accordance with the standard and/or solid white extending above the toes or white anywhere else on the dog except the forechest.

Gait: The Sloughi has a supple, smooth, and effortless gait with long strides, covering plenty of ground. The tail is held low, the head at a moderate angle to the body.

Temperament: The Sloughi is a dog with class and grace. The attitude is noble and somewhat aloof.

Summary of Disqualifications: *Ears erect, or small and folding backwards in a "rose ear." An overshot or undershot jaw. Coat too long and/or feathering on the ears, tail, and/or legs. Color not in accordance with the standard and/or solid white extending above the toes or white anywhere else on the dog except the forechest.*

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