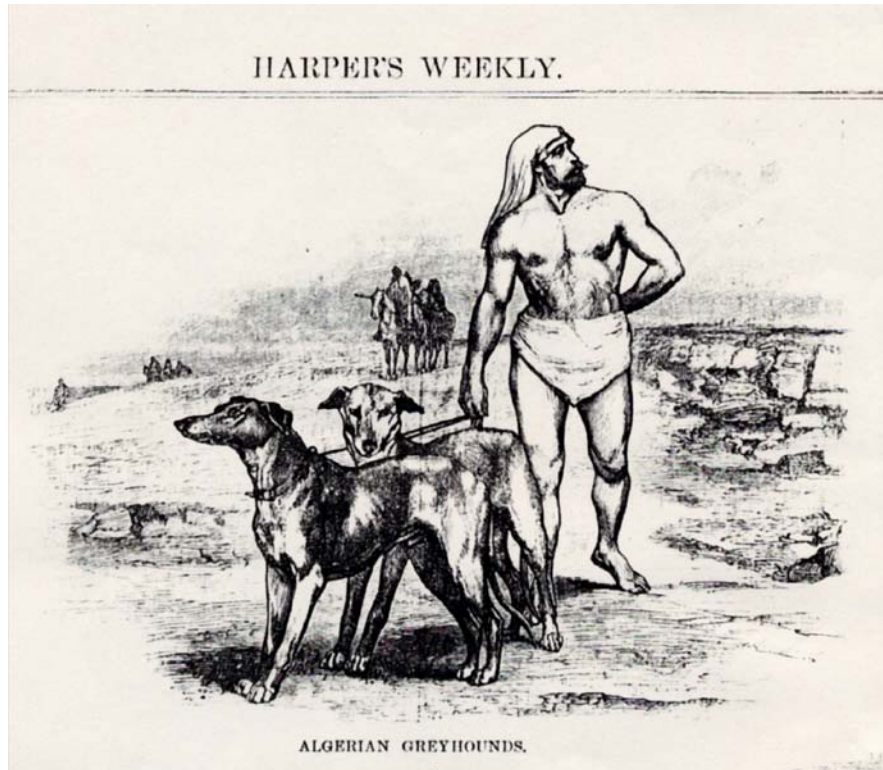


# The Sloughi in America

By Dr. Dominique Crapon de Caprona

The history of the Sloughi in America is relatively recent compared to the history of the breed in Europe, but the Sloughi has made its mark on this continent, and its history is therefore worth mentioning.



The very first representation of North African Sighthounds is found in the American Harpers magazine, published in 1882. This engraving pictures 2 Mountain type Sloughis on a leash. However, one had to wait many more years before live Sloughis entered North America. As will become apparent, their story on this continent was quite international from the very beginning. California is the State in which most of the major early events concerning this breed took place.

In 1973, probably the first Sloughi to enter the USA, was Tagiurie El Sian, a dog brought back by Kate and Carl Rodarty from Libya. The Rodartys acquired Tagiurie, and their Dutch friends van Duyvenbode his sister Djameela. Tagiurie went to the USA, he was sand with a faint mask, a typical Libyan desert Sloughi. While cherished by his owners, he was not bred because of his age and the absence of a possible mate. He died in 1979 and was put to rest at the Calabasas Pet Park. Djameela (Damiela in the Dutch stud book) had one litter in 1971 and a record litter of 13 puppies in 1973 when she was bred to the French International Ch. Sahib de la Ruine, and thus became a foundation bitch of the breed in the Netherlands.

In 1979 the next Sloughis were imported into the USA, again in California. Carole Cioce imported two German Sloughis, Picaro Schuru-esch-Schams, a sand male, and Nisa Schuru-esch-Schams, red /black mask. In 1982 Picaro Schuru-esch-Schams was entered in Mexican shows and won the first Mexican Champion title for the breed. Picaro also had the first Temperament Tested title. C. Cioce had also done some preliminary work to start an "American Sloughi Club", but this idea was not brought to fruition until 6 years later. In 1981 the first litter of Sloughis, of French bred littermates Phitoussi and Pharaonne Kahloul de la Treille, was born at the de Moreau kennel, then in California. In 1988 the first litter, out of which dogs were to be shown, is born at Mr.Rechzaid's home. The parents are Fahrhan of

Mumtaz-I-Javanadmi and Tounsia Kahloul de la Treille. One bitch of this litter Jaaram Nubia introduces the breed to the Sighthound fancy at the time.

In 1987, a rare breed exhibit sponsored by the Rare Breed Kennel Club (RBKC) was organized in collaboration with the Kennel Club of Beverly Hills. J. McGuffin represented the Sloughi with his bitch, Jaaram Nubia, and had a booth with information about the breed. Along with the contacts established before, during and after this show, the Sloughi Fanciers Association of America (SFAA) was officially founded January 1, 1988 and the Stud book opened in an attempt to keep track of the Sloughis being born in the USA at the time. The founders were Gisela Cook-Schmidt, Jack McGuffin, Carole Cioce, Mario Rechzaid, Kate and Carl Rodarty. Mrs. Moreau-Sipiere created the American Sloughi Association in 1989, after leaving SFAA.

In April 1993 the first litter is born at the Shi'Rayan kennel, out of Fehda Fayrouz Kahloul de la Treille, by German import Damir el Tahiri. Three of the 4 puppies of the Shi'Rayan "A" litter, Amir, Aswad and A'ssisa, established milestones for the breed in America.

The Sloughis owned or bred by Shi'Rayan, participated actively in dog shows and won top awards, following the effort of previous owners of Sloughis, in an effort to familiarize American and Canadian judges to the breed.



FCI,Ch. WW97A'Ssisa Shi'Rayân, SGRC, ORC, FCC  
First Beauty champion and first Best of Group winner in the USA

The Sloughis owned or bred by Shi'Rayân are also the dogs whose racing and coursing talent succeeded in getting the breed recognized by the National Oval Track Racing Association (NOTRA, non-commercial oval racing, 1994) and the American Sighthound Field Association (ASFA, lure coursing, 2001). As a result the Sloughi became a foundation breed of the Large Gazehound Racing Association (LGRA), created by Jack William Lewis (Rheata Whippets) in 1995, to satisfy the request of the breeders of Shi'Rayan to enable their breed and other non-Whippet breeds to compete in sprint racing – Whippets having their own sprint racing association. The very first LGRA race meet took place in 1995 in Utah at the Rheata Whippets Racing Group. It was launched by 8 Sloughis and won by Amir Shi'Rayân.



Amir Shi'Rayân, SORC, GRC, FCC coursing

In 2004 the American Kennel Club allows the breed Sloughi to participate in its coursing tests as demonstration and Sloughis start to participate to acquire the Junior Courser title (the only AKC title available for Sloughis at this time). Starting October 1 2006 the breed is able to compete in coursing AKC events.



Ch.Hayifa, SGRC, ORC, F.Ch, Ch.Ibtsama Haifa Shi'Rayan, GRC, F.Ch. and Ch.Laza Shi'Rayân, GRC  
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Several Sloughi trophies have been designed and donated to honor the achievements of Sloughis and dogs of other breeds who excelled in the various sports. Starting in 1995, the Nubia Memorial Cup,



donated to SFAA by Jack McGuffin, is awarded each year to the #1 performing Sloughi all venues combined. In 2002, the author and Dr. Bernd Fritzsch donated the Fabel Award to LGRA to be presented to the top bitch who has earned this position twice in her career, to commemorate the competition for top dog between their Sloughi Fabel and Michele Houghton's Greyhound, Horsea during the years 2001 and 2002. In 2003, the Amir Trophy is donated by the Sloughi Fanciers Association of America to NOTRA for the High Point Sloughi at the NOTRA Nationals each year. Last but not least, the Bouthayna Memorial Trophy is donated by the author and Dr. Bernd Fritzsch to the BOB winner of the International Invitational organized by ASFA each year

The Sloughi is also an official breed in hunting events of the National Open Field Coursing Association (NOFCA) with the help of Vicki Clarke, and of the North American Coursing Association NACA, for open field hunts. Only two Sloughis have competed in these events: Zayed el Tahiri (1991, K.Schirmer), and Isabella de la Horde d'Or (J. Burchard). In 2002, the Sloughi is the only Rare Sighthound breed (Azawakh, Chart Polski, Galgo espanol, Sloughi, Magyar Agar), not yet recognized for shows by the American Kennel Club, which is an official breed of all major Sighthound performance venues in the USA.

Since the 1970s, other Sloughis have been imported. They came from France (Kahloul de la Treille, de la Cité du Guerrier, de la Horde d'Or, Min Ahrar al Magrib), Holland (Mumtaz-i-Javanadmi), Germany (Schuru-esch-Schams, el Tahiri, Sheik el Arab, Mahanajim), Sweden (Syringa), Tunisia (Rym Cassandra, Tarfa) and from Algeria (Richa & Ramla). Through these dogs other lines were represented such as French Ben Bahram, Dutch Min Darazja Loewwla and El Cid, Swiss el Djerid, Moroccan G'zel Ouled Laouichat, and Libyan Dukal umm bersheba el Abid. Thus most European, as well as country of origin, bloodlines are represented in the American Sloughi today.



Ch. l'Saar Shi'Rayân, ORC, SGRC4, #1 Sighthound in American Sprint Racing 2006  
© Big Paw Prints

The Sloughi in America is more active in racing and coursing than it is in showing, because it is now able to compete in all official Sighthound sports in the USA. The dogs which participated, or are active today, in these events have the following kennel names: Mahanajim, Schuru-esch-Schams, Sheik el Arab, Shi'Rayân, Syringa, and 2 are direct imports from North Africa. America is a huge continent and the distances that one needs to travel to participate in racing and coursing are many hours of driving away. For this reason, the Shi'Rayân Sloughis Amateur Racing Association was created in 2004, and developed its own sprint racing track to enable Sighthounds to participate actively in sprint racing events, and hopefully in oval track racing events in the future as well. The track is situated on the top of a hill, in one of the few hilly areas among the wide plains of the Middle West, in the central state of Iowa. It is

surrounded by Shi'Rayân's private natural refuge. At other times than the racing events, coyotes, foxes, deer and wild turkeys can be seen walking through the mowed grass, and many flocks of wild geese use this hilly landmark for their migrations in Spring and Fall.

Sloughis continue to participate once in a while in shows, to further present the breed to American judges. Specialties on this vast continent are very difficult to organize because of the huge distances- equivalent of Madrid to Moscow- that the few people who own Sloughis have to travel to meet in the same place and show their dogs. However there are a number of American show circuits which enable owners to show their Sloughis in various parts of the country. The closest FCI shows available are in Puerto Rico and Mexico, which in most cases represent several hours of flight or many miles and hours, if not days, of travel.

During all these years and until more recently, the Sloughi and the Azawakh, were met with a lot of skepticism and downright antagonism by a small faction of the Saluki Fancy- the misconception being that these 2 breeds are just another version of the Saluki. This attitude has considerably undermined the efforts of Sloughi and Azawakh owners in America. However, it seems that the new millennium has brought with it a more tolerant, and knowledgeable attitude towards these 2 breeds, as open minded people exposed to these dogs see the differences, and also because of recent DNA findings.

At this point in time, although the breed is no longer perceived as a smooth Saluki and has found its own appreciative supporters, its future remains uncertain in the USA.



Ch Chamisa Schuru esch Schams, GRC, ORC, FCC  
with sons Ch Fahel SORC, SGRC6, FCC, F.Ch and Ch. Fa'iq Shi'Rayân, ORC, GRC  
Best Brood bitch under judge Bo Bengtson, SFAA National Specialty, Lompoc, California 1999  
© Cook



First FCI International Ch. Aswad Shi'Rayân, ORC, SGRC, FCC, TT 2 BISS, 6 BIS,32 BOG, and 4 BIS Veteran, 10 1/2 years old ©Meyer

### Milestones in the show ring

first exhibit in the USA: *Jaaram Nubia* (1987)  
 first FCI Champion: *Picaro Schuru-esch-Schams*  
 first American conformation Champion and first Best Of Group winner: *A'ssissa Shi'Rayân* (1994)  
 first Best In Show: *Aswad Shi'Rayân* (1994)  
 first Best In Show bitch: *Faraasha Shi'Rayân* (1998)  
 first Best In Specialty Show in the USA: *Aswad Shi'Rayân* (1997)  
 first Best In Specialty Show in Canada: *Ghali Shi'Rayân* (1998)  
 first Best Puppy in Show: *El Emin Schuru esch Schams* (Canada, 1996)  
 first Best In Specialty Show bitch: *Shi'Rayân's Iswaar at Mazoe* (2001).  
 First United Kennel Club Ch. *Fa'iq Shi'Rayân* (2003) (UKC is the largest and oldest registry with the American Kennel Club)  
 First best Stud in USA and Canada: *Aswad Shi'Rayân*, 1998, with sons Batal & Bassel Shi'Rayân,1999, with sons Fa'iq and Batal Shi'Rayân.  
 First Best Rare Breed in Show: *Ghali Shi'Rayân* (1999)  
 First Best Brood Bitch: *Farissa Fediha Kahloul de la Treille* with daughters Dounia & Dalal Shi'Rayân (Canada, 1998)  
 First Best Brood Bitch in the USA *Chamisa Schuru-esch-Schams* with sons Fahel & Fa'iq Shi'Rayân(Lompoc 1999)  
 First Best Brace in Show: *Aswad & A'ssissa Shi'Rayân* (Puerto Rico, 1996)  
 The first American bred FCI International champions and Temperament Tested were *Aswad Shi'Rayan and A'ssissa Shi'Rayân*, who also became the first American bred FCI BOB World Winner in 1997







Ch. Fahel Shi'Rayân, SORC, SGRC6, FCC, F.Ch; #1 Sighthound in American Sprint Racing 2001 & 2002  
# 1 Sighthound all years combined in American Sprint Racing

**Milestones in racing NOTRA (oval Racing) LGRA (sprint racing)**

**National Oval Track Racing Association**

3 Supreme Oval Racing Champions, 15 Oval Racing Champions

First Oval Racing Champion, first Supreme Oval Racing Champion, highest pointed Sloughi in NOTRA 1995-2001: **Amir Shi'Rayân**

First Supreme Oval Racing Champion bitch, #1 Sloughi in NOTRA 2002-2005: **Bouthayna Shi'Rayân**

**Large Gazehound Racing Association (sprint racing)**

1 Superior Gazehound Racing Champion (SGRC) V,& VI; 2 (SGRC) IV; 2 SGRC III; 6 SGRC

31 Gazehound Racing Champions

First Gazehound Racing Champion and first Superior Gazehound Racing Champion bitch: **A'ssissa Shi'Rayân**

First Superior Gazehound Racing Champion: **Aswad Shi'Rayân**

First Sloughi Superior Gazehound Racing Champion II & III, first Sighthound SGRC IV & V, only Sighthound SGRC VI, highest pointed Sighthound in LGRA 2001-2005, first Sloughi number 1 all breeds in sprint racing, only Sighthound # 1 All breeds in sprint racing twice (2001-2002): **Fahel Shi'Rayân**

Highest pointed Sighthound in a given year (since 1995-2005)and # 1 Sighthound 2005: **I'Saar Shi'Rayân**

First European import oval and sprint racing champion: **Syringa Happiness at Shi'Rayân**

First country of origin Sloughi sprint racing Champion **Rym Cassandra**

First European import sprint racing champion Sloughi male: **Bi-Na Mahanajim**



Ch. Syringa Happiness at Shi'Rayân, SGRC, ORC



Ch Bouthayna Shi'Rayân, SORC, GRC, FCM and Ch Balsam Shi'Rayân, ORC, GRC, FCC  
California © Rick Todd

**Milestones in Coursing ASFA and AKC**

**American Sighthound Field Association (since 1996)**

9 Foundations Coursing Champions, 1 Foundation Courser of Merit

5 Field Champions since 2001

First Foundation Coursing Champion: *A'ssissa Shi'Rayân*

Only Foundation Courser of Merit, highest titled Sloughi: *Bouthayna Shi'Rayân*

Highest pointed Sloughi in ASFA: *Balsam Shi'Rayan*

First European import Foundation Coursing Champion: *Chamisa Schuru esch Schams*

First country of origin and first Field champion since the official recognition of the breed by ASFA: *Rym Cassandra*.

First European bred Sloughi Field champion: *Bahlwaan Sheik el Arab*.

**American Kennel Club (since 2004)**

First Junior Coursers *Shi'Rayân Nayyir at Mazoe* and *Najeeb Storm Shi'Rayan*



Bahlwaan Sheik el Arab, GRC, F.Ch. © Shot on Site