



**2017 IHCUS National Specialty Judge:**  
**Valerie Hamilton**

Valerie Hamilton has had exposure to the dog show world since the early 1960s. Her family obtained their first sighthound, a Borzoi, in 1964. A few years later, they had a group winning Borzoi (one of the nation's top-ten Borzoi) and established the kennel name of Khiva. Valerie's parents purchased a Whippet for her in 1971 so that she could participate in junior handling. This Whippet went on to be the foundation bitch of Khiva's Best in Show line of Whippets.

Having always admired the beauty of the Salukis, Khiva purchased their first Saluki in 1975. Valerie continues to show and breed Salukis under the kennel name of Khiva. She has bred multiple Best in Show and Specialty winning Salukis (winning over 60 Specialty awards) and successfully owner-handled the Number One Saluki in America for 3 years in a row (in 2002, 2003 and 2004). Valerie obtained her judging license in 1995 and is licensed to judge 14 of the hound breeds. Additionally, she has judged internationally including in Sweden, France, Germany, Australia and Poland.