

## Understanding ears in Sloughis

By Dr. M.-Dominique Crapon de Caprona

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Following mistaken disqualifications for alleged “rose ears” in Sloughis that folded their ears at a recent AKC show, by a judge unfamiliar with the breed, it has become important to explain how Sloughis actually carry their ears.

Let me start with what Sloughi ears should NOT be:

### What is a disqualifying “small rose ear” as stated in the AKC Sloughi standard?

The “rose ear” is a permanently tightly folded ear that cannot be unfolded into a lop ear. It is described as being “small”.

As I do not have photos of Sloughis with rose ears, let me present this type of ear set in a Greyhound.



### What is the correct ear-set in a Sloughi?

Lop ears at rest.



**Stating “lop ears at rest” in the AKC standard, does not imply “limp ears” hanging down on the sides of the head at all times.**

The ears of Sloughis are mobile, and they can carry their lop ears to the side when relaxed, forward when attentive, or towards the back when slightly worried.



In addition, Sloughis can fold their ears backwards depending on their mood - relaxed, nervous, or while gaiking.

**Ears folded back or “partly folded”, if not ideal, are NOT disqualifications**

Such ears are NOT small and they can be unfolded into lop ears. They are therefore by definition NOT “small rose ears”.



“Relaxed ear” left versus “nervous ear” right in the same Sloughia



Oftentimes Sloughis will have “partly folded” ears when at rest





Same male Sloughi with lop ears at rest on the left, and folded ears in movement on the right.



Same Sloughia with lop ears at rest on the left, and folded ears in movement on the right

#### About the author

M.-Dominique Crapon de Caprona, Ph.D., has shared 56 years of her life with the breed Sloughi (since 1962) She is the author of the only 2 breed books about the breed Sloughi ("Sloughi," Special Rare breed Edition, Kennel Club Books and "the Sloughi 1852-1952" published by the author).

Her article "Understanding the Sloughi", published in Sighthound Review, Winter Issue 2017, was nominated for excellence by the Dog Writers Association of America.