

AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO THE PULI



This Illustrated Guide to the Puli has been prepared by
the Puli Club of America for the purpose of clarifying
the official breed standard of the Puli.

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Table of Contents

Introduction to the PULI.....	2
Judging the PULI.....	3
AKC Standard for the PULI.....	4
Illustrated Guide to the PULI:	
General Appearance.....	5
Size, Proportion, Substance.....	5
Head.....	6
Eyes.....	7
Ears.....	7
Skull and Muzzle.....	7
Flews and Teeth.....	8
Neck, Topline, Body.....	8
Tail.....	9
Forequarters.....	10
Hindquarters.....	11
Coat.....	12
Color.....	13
Gait.....	15
Temperament.....	17
Faults.....	17
Ring Presentation.....	18
Resources.....	18
Acknowledgments.....	18

***A NOTE FROM THE ILLUSTRATOR:** The illustrations in this guide were produced by scanning photos or drawings into a Macintosh computer, then using Adobe PHOTOSHOP or Canvas to manipulate each image. Images were altered to create faults in some dogs, erase them in others, or create more artistic images of dogs or scenes. No illustration in this guide accurately depicts any Puli currently being exhibited.*

Introduction

This booklet is the official Illustrated Guide for the Puli Standard, approved by the Puli Club of America. The purpose of this Guide is to assist judges, breeders, and laypeople in better understanding the AKC Puli Standard as it applies to this unique and fascinating breed.



The Puli is the ancient sheepdog of Hungary. It is believed to have been introduced by the migration of the Magyars over one thousand years ago. Records indicate that the Puli was working the plains of the Puszta as early as the 9th century, but there are those who believe the Puli existed as a working sheepdog for thousands of years prior to this, perhaps as early as 4500 B.C.

The Puli has long held an almost mystical relationship with his owners. The shepherd was often heard to say, "It's not a dog, it's a Puli!" The nomadic shepherds of the Hungarian plains well understood the value of these dependable little herding dogs and were ruthless in their efforts to maintain the working qualities that we find in our dogs today. In order to survive the rigors of the Puszta, the Puli had to be physically sound and mentally capable. For generations the shepherds carefully

preserved the Puli's greatest attributes: agility and willingness to work. The Puli's coat is suitable to protect the dog while living outdoors and without amenities.

As with all breeds, the Puli has undergone changes over the years. Today the Puli is content to be both pet and protector, substituting his family for the former flock of sheep, adapting quite readily to home or apartment living. Fortunately the Puli today still retains the keen intelligence, ability and willingness to work that so endeared him to the shepherds of long ago, and this instinct and desire to work is being demonstrated successfully in herding trials throughout the country today.

The Puli's instinct to gather and to move livestock are a dominant factor in its temperament. Its sense of property and boundary is amazing. The Puli is extremely

intelligent, a deeply loyal dog devoted to his owners with a long memory for those he considers friends or foes. Wary of strangers, he does not seek attention from those he does not know. The Puli is a clown for his masters, bubbling with an energy he can scarcely control at times.

You will note in the following pages that the Puli standard uses the words “medium” and “moderate” ten times.

With the exception of the unique heavy coat and large teeth, the Puli is “medium” in all respects. This breed can sprint or go the distance in heat or cold, which is one reason why extremes in conformation are to be avoided.

This is a breed that is active and lively and at times intensely vocal. Despite the changes in lifestyle and the hundreds of years that have passed, we still say today: **“IT’S NOT A DOG; IT’S A PULI!”**

Judging the PULI

The Puli is a medium sized herding dog. He is hardy, agile, lively, intelligent, and enthusiastic; this combination makes him unmatched in his ability to perform his given task. His distinctive, profuse, weather-resistant double coat naturally forms cords, which protect him from the elements. In the show ring in the U.S. the Puli’s coat may be either brushed or corded.

No dog conforms to the standard in every way, but it is our intent to introduce you to the qualities which make a typical Puli and explore how these qualities contribute to the breed’s purpose.

The members of the Puli Club of America feel strongly that judging this heavily coated breed on the ground is



awkward and difficult for both judge and handler, and it is generally preferred that the Puli be examined on a firm, solid table, which will permit a more accurate evaluation of the Puli’s structure, balance, and outline.

For ease of reference, each subject is arranged in the following order:

- The official AKC Puli Standard appearing first in **bold** type.
- Explanation and discussion in regular type.

We hope that these illustrations and discussions will serve as a fundamental guide to breeders, judges, and laypeople alike.

In its application to actual dogs, the Standard is inevitably subject to interpretation. It is the intention of this Illustrated Guide to allow judges to base their decisions upon knowledge of the Standard and not on personal likes and dislikes. While reading this Guide, please keep in mind that the Illustrated Guide to the Puli Standard offers various interpretations and that only the BREED STANDARD personifies the IDEAL Puli.

Of key importance to our Breed Standard is the sentence that reads:

FAULTS: Any deviation from the following should be considered a fault, the seriousness of the fault depending on the extent of the deviation.

AKC Standard for the PULI

GENERAL APPEARANCE: *The Puli is a compact, square appearing, well balanced dog of medium size. He is vigorous, alert and active. Striking and highly characteristic is the shaggy coat which, combined with his light-footed, distinctive movement, has fitted him for the strenuous work of herding flocks on the plains of Hungary. Agility, combined with soundness of mind and body, is of prime importance for the proper fulfillment of this centuries-old task.*

SIZE, PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE: *Ideally, males are 17 inches measured from the withers to the ground; bitches, 16 inches. An inch over or under these measurements is acceptable. The tightly knit body approximates a square measured from withers to ground and point of shoulder to point of buttock. Medium boned.*

HEAD: *The head is of medium size in proportion to the body. The almond shaped eyes are deep set, rather large, and dark brown with black or slate gray eye rims. The ears, set on somewhat higher than the level of the eyes, are hanging, of medium size, V-shape, and about half the head length. The skull slightly domed and medium broad. The stop is defined, but not abrupt. The muzzle is strong and straight, a third of the head length, and ends in a nose of good size. The nose is always black. Flews and gums are black or slate gray. Flews are tight. A full complement of teeth, comparatively large, meet in a scissors bite.*

NECK, TOPLINE, BODY: *The neck is strong, muscular, of medium length and free of throatiness. The back is level and strong, of medium length, with croup sloping. The loin is short, strong and moderately tucked up. The tail is carried over, and blends into the backline.*

FOREQUARTERS: *The shoulders are well laid back. Upper arm and scapula are approximately equal in length and form an angle of 90 degrees. The forelegs are straight, strong and medium boned with strong and flexible pasterns. Dewclaws, if any, may be removed. The round, compact feet have well arched toes and thick cushioned pads. The Puli stands well up on his pads. The pads and nails are black or slate gray.*

HINDQUARTERS: *The hindquarters are well devel-*

oped and muscular with well bent stifles, the rear assembly balancing that of the front. The hocks are perpendicular to the ground and well let down. Dewclaws, if any, may be removed. Feet as in front.

COAT: *The dense, weather resistant coat is profuse on all parts of the body. The outer coat is wavy or curly, but never silky. The undercoat is soft, wooly and dense. The coat clumps together easily, and if allowed to develop naturally, will form cords in the adult. The cords are wooly, varying in shape and thickness, either flat or round, depending on the texture of the coat and the balance of undercoat to outer coat. The Puli may be shown either corded or brushed. It is essential that the proper double coat with correct texture always be apparent. With age the coat can become quite long, even reaching to the ground; however, only enough length to properly evaluate quality and texture is considered necessary so as not to penalize the younger or working specimens.*

COLOR: *Only the solid colors of rusty black, black, all shades of gray, and white are acceptable; however, on the chest a white spot of not more than 2 inches is permissible. In the black and the gray dogs an intermixture of some gray, black or white hairs is acceptable as long as the overall appearance of a solid color is maintained. The fully pigmented skin has a bluish or gray cast whatever the coat color.*

GAIT: *The Puli is typically a lively, acrobatic dog; light, quick, agile and able to change directions instantly. At a collected, or contained trot the gait is distinctive: quick-stepping and animated, not far reaching, yet in no way mincing or stilted. When at a full trot, the Puli covers ground smoothly and efficiently with good reach and drive, the feet naturally tending to converge toward a median line of travel as speed increases. His distinctive movement is essential to the Puli's herding style.*

TEMPERAMENT: *By nature an affectionate, intelligent and home-loving companion, the Puli is sensibly suspicious and therefore an excellent watchdog. Extreme timidity or shyness are serious faults.*

FAULTS: *Any deviation from the foregoing should be considered a fault, the seriousness of the fault depending upon the extent of the deviation.*

Approved February 12, 1983
Reformatted June 19, 1990

Illustrated Guide to the PULI

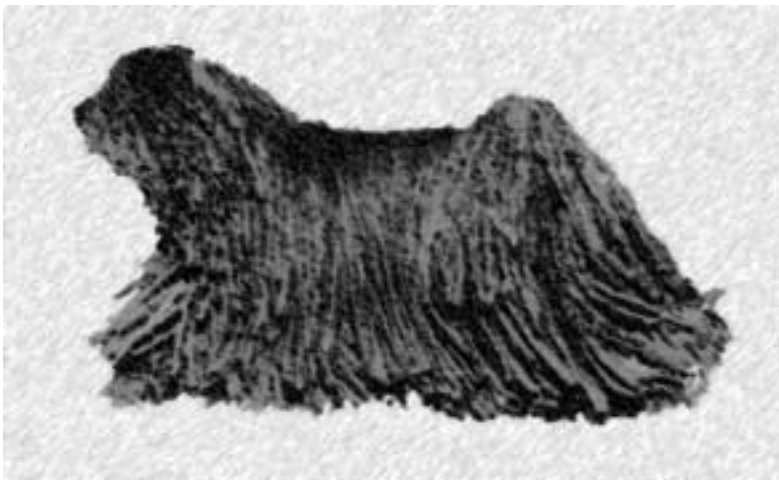
General Appearance

The Puli is a compact, square appearing, well balanced dog of medium size. He is vigorous, alert and active. Striking and highly characteristic is the shaggy coat which, combined with his light-footed, distinctive movement, has fitted him for the strenuous work of herding flocks on the plains of Hungary. Agility, combined with soundness of mind and body, is of prime importance for the proper fulfillment of this centuries-old task.

We emphasize that the Puli is medium in all respects (except for the coat, teeth, and nose) because the Puli is used for multi-tasked work and therefore exhibits endurance as well as agility. The Puli is an athlete for all seasons.



Faults: Any deviation from the following should be considered a fault, the seriousness of the fault depending upon the extent of the deviation.



The Puli should be strong, squarely built, compact and balanced. The Puli's agility is potentiated by its structure. The moderately short loin makes possible instant turns and pivots, quick starts and stops, and the Puli's characteristic strong, elastic action. When the Puli is collected, his gait is quick and elastic. When he extends himself, he should cover ground nicely, with lightness and strength. The topline should remain level at any gait. He should never lumber or appear cumbersome.

Size, Proportion, Substance

Ideally, males are 17 inches measured from the withers to the ground; bitches, 16 inches. An inch over or under these measurements is acceptable. The tightly knit body approximates a square measured from withers to ground and point of shoulder to point of buttock. Medium boned.

Hands-on examination is more important in this breed than in others in order to insure that proper proportions are present. A heavily coated Puli may appear disproportionately long due to the masses of cords on the front and rear, and the extension of the head and neck when in motion. Squareness should always be measured on the table and not when the dog is moving.



Dogs should appear masculine and ideally measure 17" at the withers.

Bitches should appear feminine and ideally measure 16" at the withers.

Differences in density and length of cords will always affect the visual impression of squareness. A heavy coat will make a dog look larger than he is, and the judge should have some benchmark when judging. Likewise a heavy coat can give the illusion that the Puli is broader or longer than he really is.

Head

The head is of medium size in proportion to the body. The almond shaped eyes are deep set, rather large, and dark brown with black or slate gray eye rims. The ears, set on somewhat higher than the level of the eyes, are hanging, of medium size, V-shape, and about half the head length. The skull slightly domed and medium broad. The stop is defined, but not abrupt. The muzzle is strong and straight, a third of the head length, and ends in a nose of good size. The nose is always black. Flews and gums are black or slate gray. Flews are tight. A full complement of teeth, comparatively large, meet in a scissors bite.

The head is always in proportion to the body, appearing round from the front and elliptical from the side. The muzzle (measured from the tip of the nose to the stop) is one-third of the length of the head. The backskull (measured from the occiput to the stop) is an important part of proper head proportion, and equals two-thirds of the total head length. A strong underjaw contributes to a blunt appearance of the muzzle. Head proportions are best determined by a hands-on examination. The black nose should be of good size, but always in proportion to the size of the head.



Eyes: The almond shaped eyes are deep set, rather large, and dark brown with black or slate gray eye rims.

Eye rims should be tight with no evidence of haw. The Puli eye is always almond-shaped when the dog is relaxed. When the Puli is excited or acting clown-like, his eye can take on a round appearance. The Puli often uses and turns his eye rather than his head when looking from side to side. An almond-shaped eye that is too small is of equal fault to an eye that is round.

Ears: The ears, set on somewhat higher than the level of the eyes, are hanging, of medium size, V-shape, and about half the head length.

The ears are set on slightly lower than the top of the skull and are pendant. It may be difficult to find the ends of the ears due to the profuse coat that covers them. Hands-on examination will insure that the ears are set on properly.

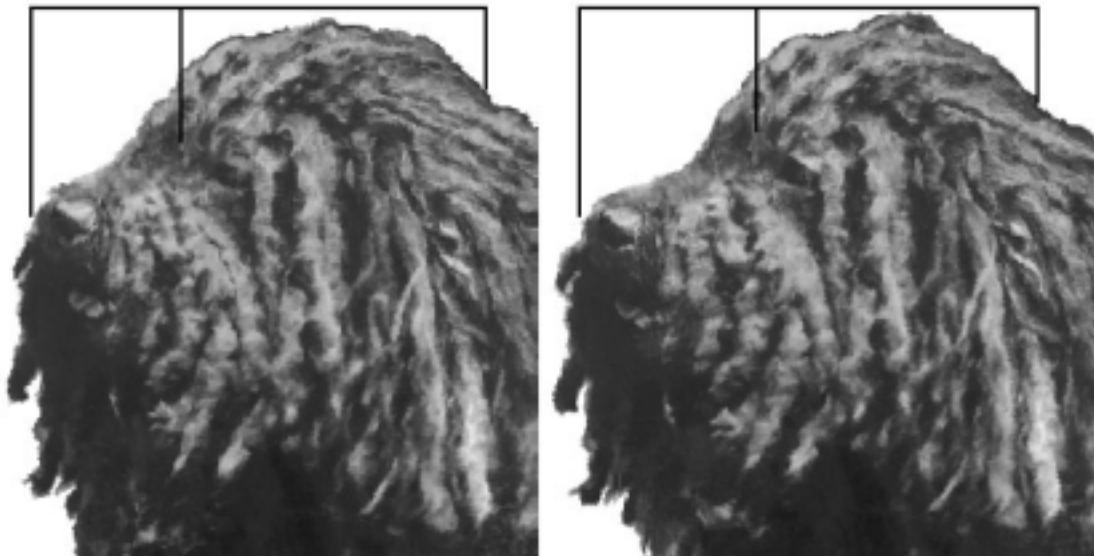
It is an important breed characteristic of the Puli that the ears not be set high or display a tendency toward standing up (long cords always help to disguise ears which have a tendency to stand up). Ear type and placement helps differentiate the Puli from the other Hungarian sheepdogs which may have been historically admixed with the Puli.



The highset ears and long muzzle of the PUMI clearly distinguish the head of this breed from that of the PULI. The Pumi is a related Hungarian breed.

Skull and Muzzle: The skull slightly domed and medium broad. The stop is defined, but not abrupt. The muzzle is strong and straight, a third of the head length, and ends in a nose of good size. The nose is always black.

The stop, while not extreme, should be defined enough to keep the hair from falling in the eyes. Neither dished nor downfaced, narrow nor snipey, the muzzle is broad with a strong underjaw.



This head shows the correct ratio of muzzle to skull, with the muzzle forming one-third of the total length of the head.

This dog's muzzle is too long (40% of the length of his head). In addition, he lacks adequate pigmentation around the eyes.

Flews and Teeth: Flews and gums are black or slate gray. Flews are tight. A full complement of teeth, comparatively large, meet in a scissors bite.

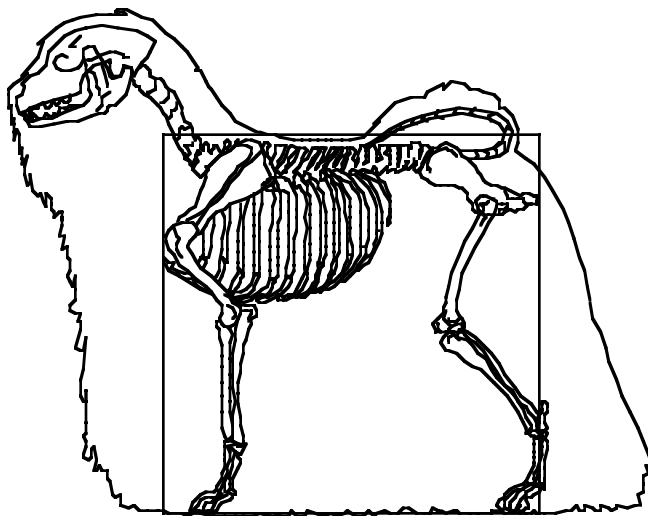
The Puli has a strong underjaw with a blunt muzzle in order to accommodate the large teeth, full dentition, and scissors bite in the correct one-third muzzle length.



Note the large teeth, scissors bite, and dark pigmentation of both flews and gums.

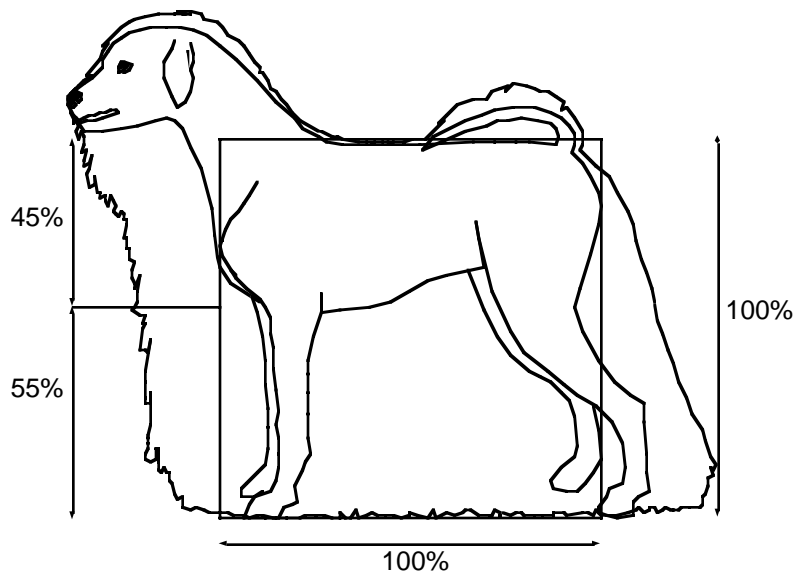
Neck, Topline, and Body

The neck is strong, muscular, of medium length and free of throatiness. The back is level and strong, of medium length, with croup sloping slightly. The chest is moderately broad and deep – the ribs well sprung. The loin is short, strong and moderately tucked up. The tail is carried over, and blends into the backline.



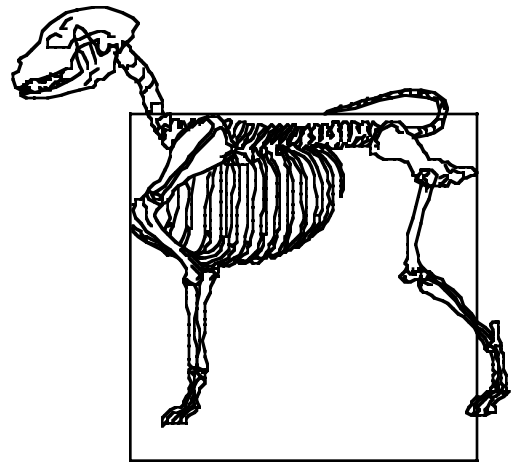
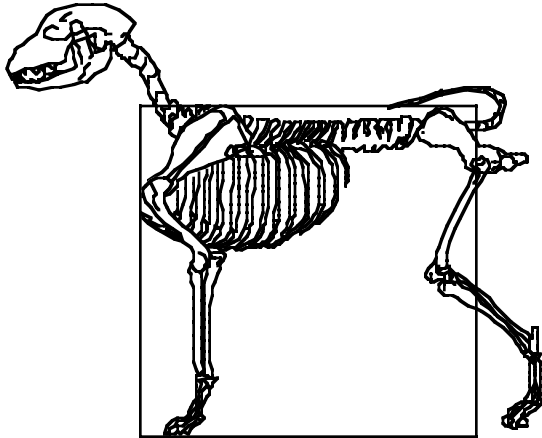
The neck is slightly arched, gradually blending smoothly into the withers, giving the impression of elegance and strength. The neck is free of throatiness.

The chest is deep and egg-shaped in cross section, and constitutes approximately two-thirds of the length of the back. The coupling is short. The Puli's height should be comprised of the proportions 45% chest to 55% leg. An upper arm equal in length to the scapula, with a slightly less than 45 degree angle, will place the elbow well back under the rib cage.



The croup slopes slightly toward the base of the tail. On a fully coated dog, the croup can only be examined when the tail is lifted from the back. These illustrations indicate how the distance from the withers to ground matches the distance from point of shoulder to point of buttock, approximating a square. When examining the Puli, the coat must be lifted from underneath to assess proper proportions more clearly. The Puli may have what appears to be only 4 or 5 layers of cords, when it is often closer to 40 layers of cords. It is impossible to assess bone and body by feeling over the top of this coat.

Top, ideal skeleton (natural stance). Bottom, ideal proportions (show pose).

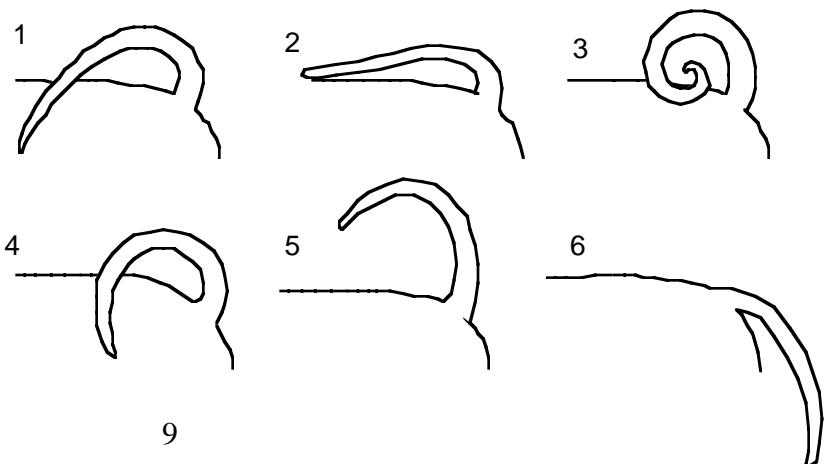


Both of these Pulis appear long, but they do so for different reasons. The dog on the left is long-backed, due to an overly long loin. In contrast, the dog on the right is well-coupled through the loin but is short on leg. The Puli must be examined UNDER THE COAT to ascertain squareness and proportions.

Tail: The tail is carried over, and blends into the backline.

As a consequence of the slight slope of croup, the Puli has a moderately high tail set. The tail should blend smoothly into the back. The tail is a barometer of the Puli's mood; when alert it is carried over the back. When at rest or ill at ease it may be carried low. The tail may be carried straight over the back, to either side, or curled over the back. Young dogs should be judged on their best ring presentation in regard to tail carriage. The judge should be able to see the tail over the back at least once when judging.

Tailsets 1, 2, and 3 are all correct. The tail is set moderately high and is held over the back. Tailset 4 is faulty; the croup is too steep. The tail carriage in 5 and 6 are incorrect: tail 5 is carried too loosely, and tail 6 is hanging.



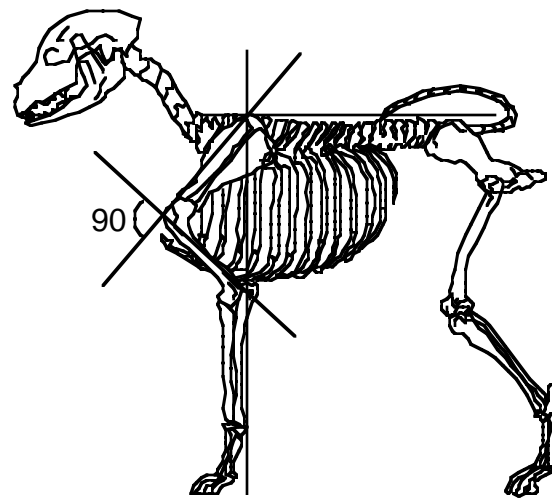
Forequarters

The shoulders are well laid back. Upper arm and scapula are approximately equal in length and form an angle of 90 degrees. The forelegs are straight, strong and medium boned with strong and flexible pasterns. Dewclaws, if any, may be removed. The round, compact feet have well arched toes and thick cushioned pads. The Puli stands well up on his pads. The pads and nails are black or slate gray.

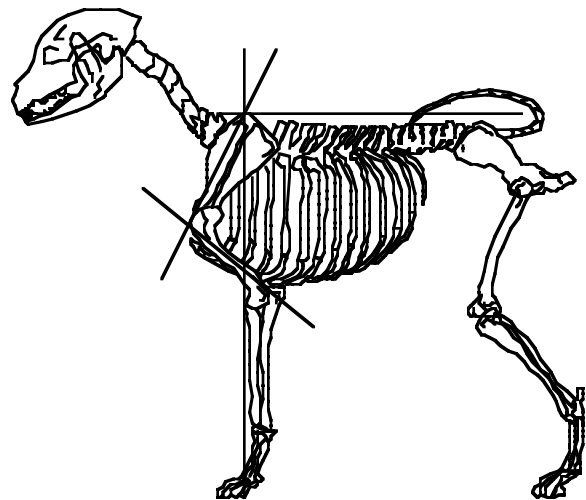
The shoulders are clean-cut and strong. Viewed from the side the pasterns should be directly beneath the withers. The top of the withers should be directly above the elbow joint. The distance from the top of the shoulder blade to the point of the shoulder is approximately the same as from the point of the shoulder to the elbow. With a properly laid-back shoulder there should be a discernible forechest.

The forelegs should be straight and strong when viewed from any direction. The second digital metacarpus bone is slightly sloping and springy to provide good shock absorption when the dog moves.

The elbows should be placed well back on the rib cage, and the depth of chest should fall to the elbows. The placement of the elbow at the chest wall should allow for enough flexibility for free, agile movement, and this is not to be confused with a dog that is out or loose at the elbows. Elbowing should be neither in nor out.



The puppy shown above has a well-angulated shoulder with good layback of the shoulder blade. The elbow is aligned directly underneath the withers. The shoulder blade of the puppy below is upright, and the shoulder is poorly angulated.



Hindquarters

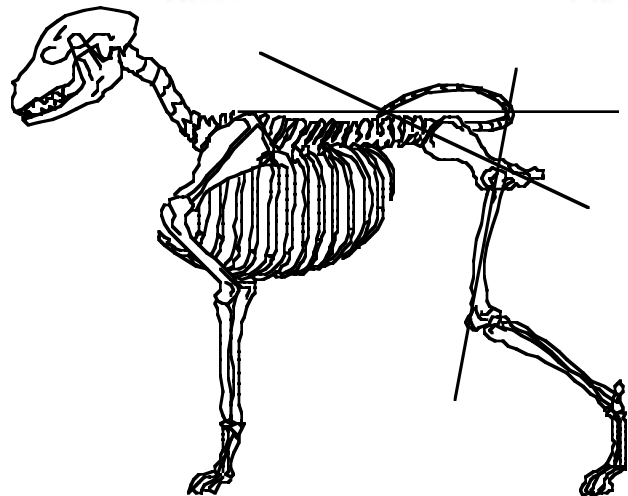
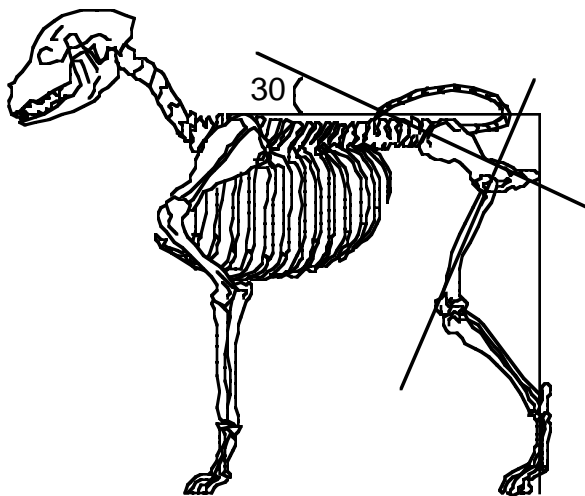
The hindquarters are well developed and muscular with well bent stifles, the rear assembly balancing that of the front. The hocks are perpendicular to the ground and well let down. Dewclaws, if any, may be removed. Feet as in front.

Front and rear assemblies must be in balance. Both should have a foundation of medium bone, good muscling, and proper angulation. A slight slope of the croup should be present to enable the dog to achieve good thrust in extension.

The stifles and hocks are well bent. Viewed from behind in a natural stance, the rear legs should be strong and straight.

The dog shown below exhibits the proper angulation of the rear. The pelvis forms an angle of roughly 30 degrees with respect to the backbone, and the upper thigh meets the pelvis at an angle of roughly 90 degrees. The upper and lower thighs are of comparable length, and the hocks are perpendicular to the ground when aligned directly underneath the point of the hip.

This dog has an overangulated rear. The lower thigh is too long, and the hocks form a line perpendicular to the ground at a point too far behind the pelvis, throwing the front and rear out of balance.



A hands-on examination will insure that hocks are vertical, short and straight.

The Puli must be examined under the coat to assess structure.

Coat

The dense, weather resistant coat is profuse on all parts of the body. The outer coat is wavy or curly, but never silky. The undercoat is soft, wooly and dense. The coat clumps together easily, and if allowed to develop naturally, will form cords in the adult. The cords are wooly, varying in shape and thickness, either flat or round, depending on the texture of the coat and the balance of undercoat to outer coat.

The Puli may be shown either corded or brushed. It is essential that the proper double coat with correct texture always be apparent. With age the coat can become quite long, even reaching to the ground; however, only enough length to properly evaluate quality and texture is considered necessary so as not to penalize the younger or working specimens.

The most striking visual aspect of a corded Puli will be its unusual coat. Cords may be wide, narrow, flat, or ribbon-like – all are correct. Size of the cords may vary, those on the feet and head usually being finer. Texture on the ears and tail also departs somewhat from that of the trunk. Brushed or corded in the ring, the Puli should present a well cared for appearance. The amount of coat may be influenced by local climatic conditions, the age of the dog, and genetic factors. An open or silky coat is improper.



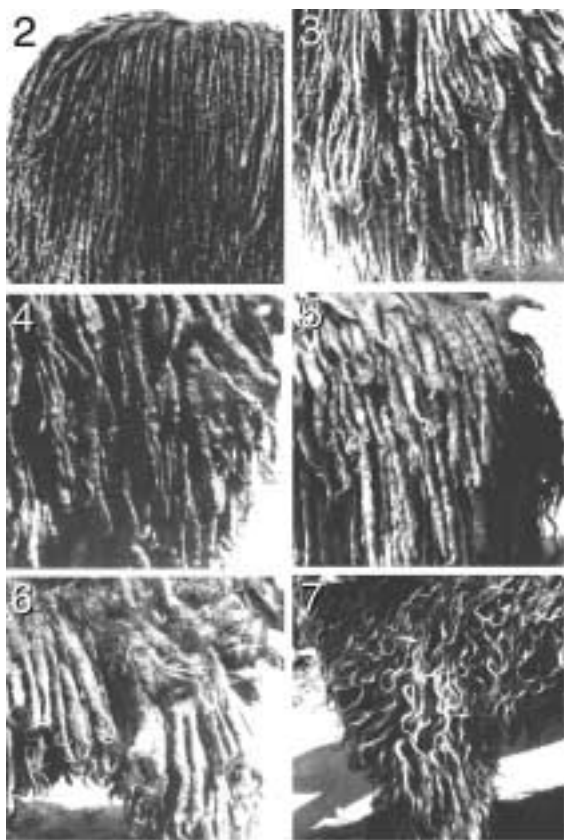
The Puli is NOT born corded. The puppy coat is of a softer texture, with the amount of curl varying among individuals. As a puppy loses its puppy coat, the soft hairs become entangled with the sturdy guard hairs, forming mats which at about 10 months of age begin to separate into cords. At maturity, it is the shedding undercoat which entangles with the long guard hairs to form cords. Cords do not usually reach the floor until the Puli is about 5 years old.

Cording usually begins at the rump and travels forward to the head. It is at this time that the coat will appear unruly and unkempt. This is all a part of the cording process and should not be penalized in younger specimens. Likewise the working Puli should not be penalized for lack of coat length or quantity of coat, provided the correct double coat is present. In each case the specimen should be clean and well groomed.



There should be no preference for either narrow or wide cords, nor for the brushed versus corded coat, as long as the necessary double coat is evident.

The following illustrations demonstrate the differences between cord types and formation, as well as the brushed coat:



1. Fully groomed brushed Puli coat (above)
2. Fully groomed corded Puli coat (top left), older specimen
3. Corded Puli coat (top right), younger specimen
4. Wide-ribbon Puli coat (middle left)
5. Ribbon-type Puli coat (middle right)
6. Tangled, ungroomed Puli coat (lower left)
7. Curly puppy coat (lower right)

Color

Only the solid colors of rusty black, black, all shades of gray, and white are acceptable; however, on the chest a white spot of not more than 2 inches is permissible. In the black and the gray dogs an intermixture of some gray, black or white hairs is acceptable as long as the overall appearance of a solid color is maintained. The fully pigmented skin has a bluish or gray cast whatever the coat color.

All of the accepted coat colors should be judged equally. The black Puli coat is unique in that often it appears dull or weather-worn, its intensity faded by time and the elements, giving it a rusty appearance, particularly on the outer layers. The Puli may also exhibit an intermixture of gray or white hairs with the black coat, but never in a pattern.

Gray Pulik can range from dark steel gray to light silver gray. Gray Pulik are born dark and begin the graying process at various ages. Generally, the lighter the color at maturity, the younger they are when they begin getting gray or silver hair. The gray or silver coat may appear rusty or brown-tinged due to exposure to the elements, just as the black weather-worn coat mentioned above. In order to insure that the gray or silver Puli is in fact a solid-colored dog, the judge needs to examine the coat color at the skin. The coat color at the skin must be a consistent shade of gray throughout the dog. Slight variations in shades of gray do exist in the adult, particularly on the legs and feet of gray Pulik. This is acceptable provided the overall impression of the dog is that of a solid color. Even on the dark gray or black Puli, the leg coat is likely to be a shade lighter than the coat on the body. It is only more noticeable on the gray specimen.

The puppy on the left is already starting to turn silver. He will grow up to become the silver-gray adult Puli shown at right, while his black littermate will remain black as an adult.



White Pulik are born white. As with the intermixture of white or gray hair on a black Puli or the shading in a gray, the white Puli may have a minimal intermixture of yellow or cream-colored hair; however, the overall impression of the coat must be that of a white color. One need only ask oneself whether another color other than “white” best describes the coat. The coat color at the skin must be a consistent shade of white, and the dog must give the overall impression of a solid color. The skin of the white Puli is as fully pigmented as that of a black or gray dog.

Whatever the overall shade of the Puli coat, from white to black, to appreciate the changes in coat color over the 4 or 5 years it takes to reach the ground, the judge must examine the color of the coat emerging from the skin. Even the blackest of dogs will show oxidation at the ends of the cords. Holding the ends of the cords up to the new growth at the skin will always show ends that are either diluted in color or rusted to some extent. Remember that the adult Puli coat will always be weathered.



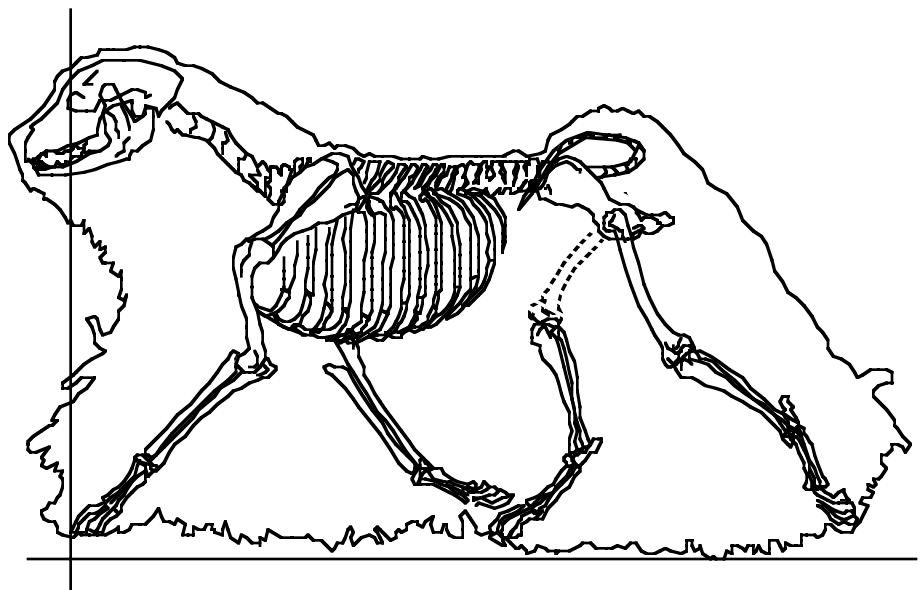
A white spot of not more than two inches is acceptable on the chest of the black or gray Puli. No other white markings are allowed. The ultimate decision of what color the dog is should be made by examining the color of the coat at the skin, where it should appear a uniform shade on all parts of the body.

Gait

The Puli is typically a lively, acrobatic dog; light, quick, agile and able to change directions instantly. At a collected, or contained trot the gait is distinctive: quick-stepping and animated, not far reaching, yet in no way mincing or stilted. When at a full trot, the Puli covers ground smoothly and efficiently with good reach and drive, the feet naturally tending to converge toward a median line of travel as speed increases. His distinctive movement is essential to the Puli's herding style.

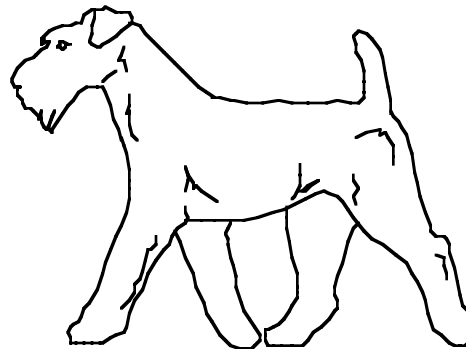
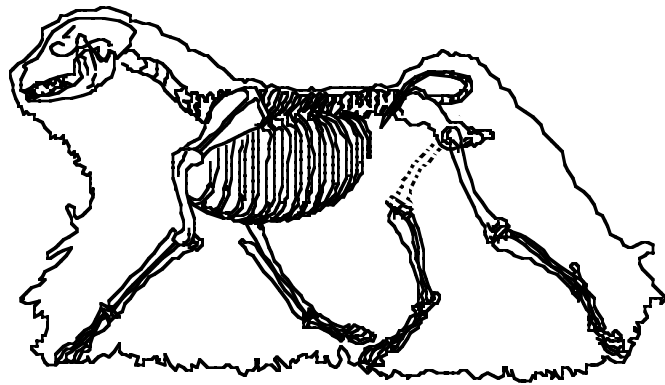
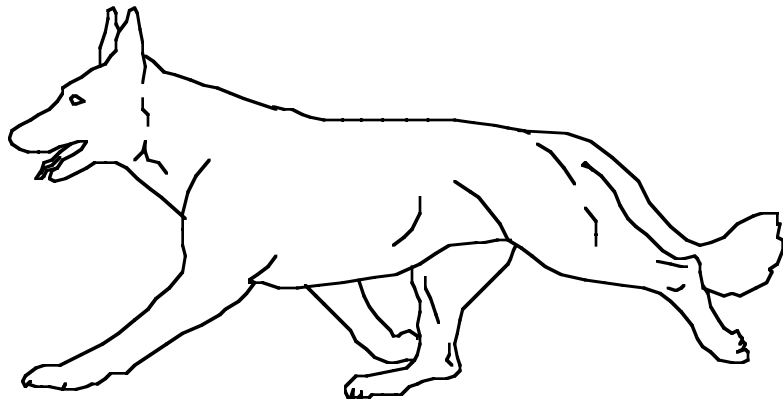
The remarkable versatility of the Puli's gait cannot be fully illustrated in the limited space of the show ring. Pulik performing their intended work as herding dogs are amazing to watch. The Puli's agility allows it to run, jump, and change directions instantly, even in mid-air.

The Puli's working trot is effortless and economical: in full extension, the Puli's front and rear feet just clear the ground. Excessive high stepping in the front or kicking up in the rear are signs of imbalanced angulation and are not desirable in a working animal. The pads of his hind feet should be clearly visible when going away, and they should push out straight and strong. The front feet should reach out and pull the ground under them, with no hint of lifting. In motion or standing, the topline should always appear level.



This figure shows the Puli in a full working trot, at the moment just before front foot set-down. The neck is moderately extended and the topline is firm and level. The set-down point should fall under the eye, as is typical of an efficient trotting dog. At full extension the front foot does not extend past the nose. Front and rear are balanced in harmonious, efficient movement.

The German Shepherd Dog shown at the top shows the extreme reach and drive typical of this breed. The Puli, in contrast, does not over-reach, but rather should exhibit an efficient, ground-covering trot at full extension (middle figure). The trot of the Puli can be further contrasted with the pendulum trot of the Fox Terrier shown at the bottom.



The quick-moving contained trot so distinctive to the Puli is unlikely to be demonstrated very often in the typical American show ring. This is the impatient gait of a dog being held back from chasing full tilt after sheep. The gait of the Puli is “in no way mincing or stilted.” To see this gait demonstrated one must have a very impatient Puli.

On the immature Puli, the coat may show some indication of rolling from side to side as the Puli moves. Careful attention should be paid to the feet and the overall body balance in side gait to determine if this is a structural fault or not.

The Puli must show sound movement. Strength, flexibility, and agility combined with a light and effortless free-moving gait will produce an effective herding dog, capable of being on the move from dawn to dusk.



This young dog exhibits a balanced, ground-covering trot. At this age, it is natural for the coat to fly up from the back, even when the topline remains strong and level. Care must be taken to distinguish this from a faulty, rolling topline.

Temperament

By nature an affectionate, intelligent and home-loving companion, the Puli is sensibly suspicious and therefore an excellent watchdog. Extreme timidity or shyness are serious faults.

The importance of sound temperament cannot be overemphasized. Well developed inner qualities – courage, intelligence, independence, and determination – put life into the well-formed body. This is the formula for the Puli's lasting appeal both as a herding dog and as a companion.

The Puli should demonstrate interest in the proceedings and allow a judge to examine him without fear. The Puli need not be effusive nor need he seek attention from those he does not know. The Puli's instinct to protect his owners is very strong and he frequently endures the show ring with an air of tolerance; his attention is generally focused on his owner and rarely on the judge. When standing still, vision is limited because of the hair over their eyes. When moving, this coat flows away from the face, allowing better vision. Consideration for young and inexperienced dogs should be exercised.



Faults

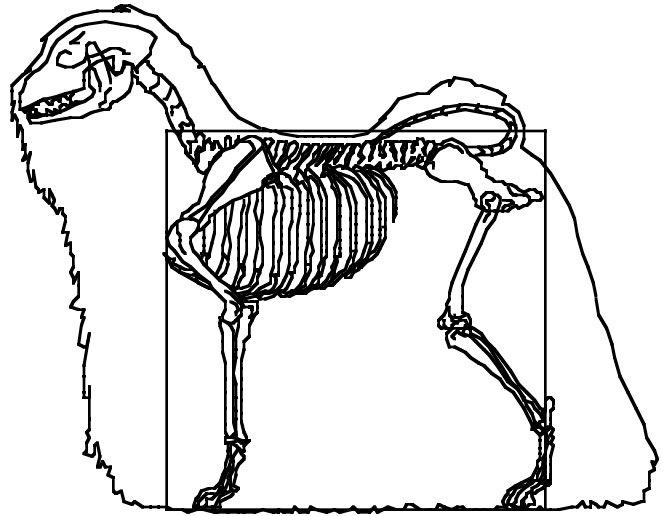
Any deviation from the foregoing should be considered a fault, the seriousness of the fault depending upon the extent of the deviation.

Ring Presentation

It is generally preferred that the Puli be examined on a firm, solid table which will permit a more accurate evaluation of the Puli's structure, balance and outline.

It is important that the Puli be examined under the coat, finding the forechest and pelvic bones with both hands to ascertain squareness.

The Puli is a natural breed and should be presented that way. He should not give the appearance of being sculptured or overgroomed. The coat may be trimmed on the feet back to the nails and the bottom on the coat trimmed to clear the floor. The Puli should always be exhibited in typically clean condition.



Resources

For further information, please contact the Puli Club of America.

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