

Herding Group

OLD ENGLISH SHEEPDOGS

Continued

and we thanked specialty chair Kathy Dhuey and her committee for hosting an outstanding event. We'll meet again in Denver Aug. 14 and 15. Details will be forthcoming. I hope to see you there.

— Diane Rau, P.O. Box 4548,
Warren, NJ 07059-0548 ♦

Pulik

Guest columnist Pat Guticz, an agility judge who shows her Pulik and English Setter in conformation, agility and obedience, has put a total of 51 titles on her dogs.

lation. I'd dismiss pups with poor angulation. Agility dogs must run fast, turn quickly, leap repeatedly and perform on the equipment easily and safely. They need proper angulation so as not to impose undue stress on their structure.

I'd also watch the puppies play together and would dismiss shy or overaggressive pups. I'd watch the remaining puppies play and look for the bold, inquisitive one that seems to be "all together" — running, jumping and playing with gusto.

Finally, I'd look for a high energy level. A puppy that tires easily or doesn't seem to like the rough-and-tumble of normal play should be dismissed from consideration.

The puppy I'd choose would be agile, well angulated, playful and

work, then put them all together.

Puppies as young as 8 weeks can begin obstacle training, on lead, of course, with lots of treats and praise. Don't pressure your puppy to perform or let any accidents occur, and don't allow your puppy to jump off a contact obstacle or have a frightening experience.

A Puli of any age can be trained for agility competition as long as it's physically sound. Agility is fun. Retired conformation dogs love to strut their stuff, owners enjoy spending time with their dogs, and both keep physically fit. Hope to see you and your Puli "on course." — P.G.

Pat, thanks for the tips. Agility is a hit at many dog shows. There are training groups throughout the country. If you and your Puli want to have fun, get started in agility!

B.B. at the Puli Club of America national Oct. 26 was the bitch Ch. Cordmaker Tennessee Waltz, owned by Carolyn Nusbickel and breeder Sue Huebner. BOS was Ch. Belrob's Front Runner, breeder-owned by James Belanger and Michael Connery. B.W. was Goosberry Hill XO Ice Queen, breeder-owned by Susan Maass. W.D. was Immerzu Quinguireme, owned by Zachary and Debbie Stadelman and breeders Terry and Stephanie Horan. HIT in obedience was Bartok's Miraculous Mandarin, breeder-owned by Nancy Kelly. Herding HIT Szeder's Making Headlines, C.D., H.X., owned by Patty Anspach and breeder Mary Wakeman, DVM, and Ch. Szedei Fekete Bors, owned by Randall and Marie Joyner and breeder Wakeman, qualified in agility. — Patricia B. Giancaterino, 154 Mitchell Ave., Runnemede, NJ 08078; pulidog@aol.com ♦



Pulik

How to Pick a Pulik for Agility Competition

With its keen mind, agile body and intense desire to please, the Pulik was designed for agility.

I've never kept a puppy based on behavior tests — I keep the one I get attached to and adjust my training to fit its personality — but if I were to select with agility in mind, I'd watch the litter for at least three hours and check each puppy's structure for shoulder and hind leg angu-

outgoing. Proper training will bring its attributes to their fullest potential. A Pulik should be play-trained rather than force-trained. All training involves some force, but motivational training will produce a much happier and more successful team.

Agility is a form of dance. If both partners perform their steps correctly and fluidly, the final performance will be beautiful to watch. To train for competitive agility, teach mastering the obstacles first, then team-

Shetland Sheepdogs

1996 National

At the American Shetland Sheepdog Association national in Spokane, Wash., Ch./OTCh. Cataway We Be Jammin', UDX, owned by Joanne Griffith and breeder Patty Page, was HIT (198½