

This weeklong competition is open to everyone, from the beginner novice stepping into an obedience ring for the very first time to the experienced dog-handler team competing at the highest level of their respective sport. Pembrokes entered in performance events earn Triathlon points based on the score awarded by the judge, even if not a qualifying score. Since dogs entered in conformation do not receive scores, points are awarded based on the number of dogs defeated in competition.

The Pembroke earning the highest total number of points during the national specialty week will be the winner of the Triathlon Challenge and will be recognized at Saturday evening's banquet.

Do you have a talented Pembroke you think can do it all? If so, put on your training shoes, and start preparing for the fun and excitement of the Triathlon Challenge! Who knows? Your favorite four-legged friend may be the one to take home the honor of being the most versatile Pembroke competing at the 2012 national specialty!

We sincerely hope you will reserve the following dates and start making preparations to "Take the Oregon Trail" to Portland:

September 21 (Friday)—TD and TDX tests

September 22 and 23—herding trials and tests

September 22 and 23—all-breed agility trials (not eligible for Triathlon points)

September 23—VST test

September 24—agility trial

September 25—rally and obedience trials

September 26 and 27—sweepstakes classes

September 27 and 28—conformation classes

September 29—Best of Breed

Complete information about both the rules and the established point schedule for the Triathlon Challenge will soon be on the Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America website, pwcca.org. In the interim, please do not hesitate to contact me for more information at

vkirsher@comcast.net.—V.K.

Thank you, Vicki! —Lynda McKee; TifflynLDM@aol.com; Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America website: pwcca.org

Pulik Researching Health Information

We have previously spoken in this column about selecting the right stud for your female (December 2010 GAZETTE, "Selecting the Right Stud"). We will continue with that topic by guiding the breeder to find necessary health information about the prospective sire. It is important to consider not only the stud's health clearances but also to look at all available information about his close relatives. Specifically, the health issues of concern to Puli breeders are the following: hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia, luxated patellas, eye abnormalities and degenerative myelopathy. The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals maintains databases with information on Pulis who have been tested for these known diseases, as well as thyroid and cardiac problems. It is worthwhile for a breeder to spend some time perusing the organization's website, which can be found at www.offa.org. (Note the two "f's.")

The OFA website is easy to use once you know some shortcuts. Use the Quicksearch feature on the home page to quickly locate the dog of interest. You can enter all or part of the name or the registration number, then click on the arrow to search. Once you have found the individual dog's records, don't stop there. Click on the dog's name in the database, and you will be redirected to the dog's family information. This will tell you the results of any tests that were done on the following related dogs: sire, dam, offspring, siblings, and half-siblings. Thus, you learn about the individual dog's close relatives as well.

To see the results of all Pulik tested, you have to click on Advanced Search on the home page. You will be redirected to a page titled "Search OFA Records." On this page, click on "Herding Group" in the right column, and select Puli in the list of Herding breeds. Scroll down

the page, and select the specific database you wish to see. Next to Report Type you will find Hips, Elbows, and Patellas listed under "Osteopathic," as well as headings for Eyes, Thyroid, and Cardiac. Next to the heading "Rating," you can scroll down and find Degenerative Myelopathy—Clear, Carrier, and At Risk.

By holding down the Control key and clicking on all three DM lists, you will be directed to a complete list of all Pulik who have been tested to date. However, it is important to remember that the lists only display the names of dogs whose owners gave permission for release of results. That is why the Statistics Report for DM testing of Puli shows that 46 individual Pulik have been tested, but only 33 are listed with results of their testing. The Statistics Report shows that of the 46 tested, 33 are clear (72 percent), 10 are carriers (22 percent), and three are at risk (7 percent).

To find the Statistics Report for DM, on the Home Page, under Disease Info, click on OFA/MU DNA TESTS, then click on DM in the drop-down menu, scroll down to Information and Stats, and click on DM Test Results Statistics. Next, scroll down to the Puli statistics in the list of breeds.

It takes a little patience, but the information you will find is well worth the trouble. With a little perseverance, you can garner a wealth of information about the dog you are considering as a breeding prospect. —Sherry Gibson; gibsons@blomand.net; Puli Club of America website: puliclub.org

Pyrenean Shepherds Yes, They Can Do Well in Obedience

Since Pyrenean Shepherds excel so visibly in agility, obedience aficionados occasionally ask if the little herders are good prospects for competitive obedience, too.

The answer is yes, if that's what their handlers like.

The best-known obedience Pyr Shep among fanciers is the late RoseHaven Chica de La Brise, UDX8, OA, OAJ, HIC, HT, HSAs. Tyny Chica, who

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* Links to AKC Parent Clubs appear following Secretary's Pages *

BREED COLUMNS SCHEDULE

Sporting and Working
January, April, July,
and October

Hound and Terrier
February, May, August,
and November

Toy, Non-Sporting,
and Herding
March, June, September,
and December