

The assistance of Julie M. Meadows, DVM, in preparing this column is gratefully acknowledged. Dr. Meadows kindly reviewed the text for medical accuracy prior to submission to the GAZETTE. Her position is in Small Animal Community Practice, Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, University of California, Davis.

—Joe Schlitt, [wylecotejs@earthlink.net](mailto:wylecotejs@earthlink.net)

Old English Sheepdog Club of America website: [oldenglishclubofamerica.org](http://oldenglishclubofamerica.org)

## Pembroke Welsh Corgis

The Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America's judges' education chair, Carrie Chase, provided this handout that is used in the club's seminars.

### Judging Procedure for the Pembroke Welsh Corgi

The priorities in judging the Pembroke Welsh Corgi, as taken from the breed standard, are general balance and outline; attractiveness of headpiece, with an intelligent outlook; correct temperament; and movement, particularly as viewed from the side.

In order to do an effective job of judging, keep in mind that Pembroke Welsh Corgis are a low-stationed, outline breed. Judges must assess outline and balance from at least 15 feet away from the dogs, both standing and gaiting.

When the class first enters the ring, make sure the dogs are lined up on a side of the ring that allows you the 15-foot viewing distance. Assess outline and balance from that distance.

Next, walk down the line close-up, approaching each dog from the front to assess attractiveness of headpiece and front construction. Then send them around the ring so you can assess side gait from at least 15 feet away.

The table exam comes next. Be

sure that the first and each successive dog is completely set up before you advance to the table. After viewing the dog's outline from the side, approach the dog and perform your breed-specific exam. Remember that the bite only (not the side teeth) is to be examined in the Pembroke, and that both scissors and level bites are acceptable. Please do not try to get upright ears and expression from the Pembroke while he is on the table—the ground is the best place to evaluate expression.

During the judging of the class, you may need to recheck for fine points between exhibits. In that case, you must put the Corgi back up on the table. Never bend over and touch a Pembroke while he is standing on the ground.

Since Pembrokes are herding dogs, they are more comfortable moving in a circle than in a straight line. Therefore, they gait best on the down and back when sent to the diagonal corner of the ring, instead of alongside the ring gates, where they will tend to cut into the middle of the ring. When the dog and handler come back to you, allow the handler to get the Pembroke's ears up so you can assess the correct ear placement and expression. Please do not throw keys or make funny noises. Remember to check both sides of the dog's body to assess the amount and placement of white markings.

After gaiting each dog individually on the down and back, send the dog around to the end of the line so you can again assess the side gait.

Pembrokes are alert herding dogs, aware of any nearby disturbance. Therefore, if there are loud, sudden noises outside your ring, do not be surprised if the dogs start barking! Give the handlers a minute or two to get the Pembroke's attention back on them, and do not penalize a Corgi for being very interested in his surroundings. That is what they were bred to do!

When making your final decisions, recall that the standard says that side movement is especially valued and therefore should be given more emphasis than front and rear movement.

If you remain undecided between two or three exhibits, before you make your class placements remember the importance of general balance and outline. If necessary, reassess the class again from across the ring to be sure of your decisions.

When judging Junior Showmanship, keep in mind that juniors should know how Pembrokes are usually presented in the conformation ring—"free-baiting," with the handler standing in front or to the side of them. Do not reward juniors who kneel beside their Pembrokes and hand-stack them. —C.C.

Thanks, Carrie!

[TifflynLDM@aol.com](mailto:TifflynLDM@aol.com)

Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America website: [pwcca.org](http://pwcca.org)

## Pulik

### What to Wear When Showing Your Puli

A well-groomed dog and a well-attired handler demonstrate respect for the sport and the judge. Handlers should choose outfits that are both professional and functional. Handlers in Junior Showmanship need to take special note of how they dress since they, and not the dog, are the ones being judged. Ladies may choose to wear dresses, skirts, or nice slacks. Stay away from long skirts that may blow into the Puli's face or that the Puli can accidentally hide under. Too short a skirt makes it near to impossible to gracefully bend down or over the Puli. Men may wear slacks, jacket, and a tie. A handler's outfit should have pockets for bait.

Wear clothes that will complement your dog and help him stand out from the rest. *It is important to not upstage your dog or for your outfit to*

*detract from the larger presentation.*

Choose lighter colors for dark dogs and darker colors for light dogs. With a black Puli, the handler shouldn't wear black, as the dog will become indistinguishable against clothing. Keep in mind this means no black on the bottom nor top half, since the Puli is often presented as a table breed.

Wear shoes that are comfortable, provide good support, and have good traction. Certainly sandals, open-toe shoes, or heels should never be worn when showing a Puli, because even if the handler can run in them, they can make the dog's movement look sloppy, since the handler usually cannot effectively move quickly in them.

Practice handling the Puli in show clothes—running and bending over. Be professional with appearances. If an outfit is too tight or low-cut or is distracting in another way, attention may shift to the handler instead of showcasing the dog. Don't wear anything that restricts movement—if the handler cannot move, how can the dog be expected to move?

Some miscellaneous thoughts: When showing a conformation dog, don't enter the show ring wearing any item of clothing that displays a name, a dog's name, any dog club logo, or anything else in the way of personal identification. Long hair should be tamed to keep it from falling into the handler's face or onto the dog. Excessive or dangling jewelry is not only distracting but can

also be dangerous to the handler or Puli. Some handlers keep keys or change in their pants pockets, which are a jingly distraction as they run through the ring. Also, a sports bra is recommended for some handlers who may be running. This eliminates any fuss with slipping bra-straps as well!

A more casual style is acceptable when competing in obedience and rally; however, as in conformation, don't wear clothes that present a poor image. At this time, handlers are not allowed to wear anything that has the dog's name, kennel name, or logos for training clubs, although there are several rules under consideration that will allow these items to be worn. Exhibitors are advised to verify final rules. It is best not to wear a skirt that can flap in a dog's face when are heeling. Pants (khakis or nice jeans) will allow the best flexibility. Comfortable shoes should be worn for walking and running. Frequently, exhibitors will wear pants that are similar in color to their dogs. Contrasting colors tend to accent any fronts, finishes, or heeling that is slightly out of position.

Handlers should be sure when training the various hand-signals that they wear something similar to what might be worn in the ring. For example, if a handler shows in short sleeves with bare arms, be sure the dog is used to seeing hand signals this way.

If handlers can determine in advance the show site conditions and

colors, they can think about what they will wear to distinguish themselves from their dog.

Thank you to Nancy Kelly for assisting with the obedience section.

No matter the sport to perform with a Puli, the most important part of anyone's appearance is a pleasant attitude, good sportsmanship, and treating canine partners well. This will go a long way toward making the handler and his or her dog a winning team.

—Dagmar Fertl, [dfertl@gmail.com](mailto:dfertl@gmail.com)

Puli Club of America website:  
[puliclub.org](http://puliclub.org)

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