

## HERDING GROUP

stayed with me. I look forward to what their lives hold for them. I do look forward to showing my girl once she is ready to go in the rings, whether they be conformation or performance. The best tribute to a cherished dog is to continue on.

And a year later, I still miss my Clipper.

Don't miss the annual Pembroke national specialty to be held October 8–15, in and near Mesquite, Texas. Check <http://www.pwccanational.com> for complete details.

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## Pulik

### ESTATE PLANNING THAT INCLUDES YOUR PULI

**M**y mother, a Puli breeder and AKC conformation judge, passed away last summer. Her Pulik were very important to her, and in order for her to spend her remaining time with her corded loved ones, I moved into her house permanently. As a result, she had peace of mind in her remaining time. Her special Puli “Lexi” was faithfully at her side until her last breath.

I had agreed to take on all of her Pulik in addition to my own, so my mom always knew

the plan for her Pulik and also had made legal provisions with a Pet Trust that stipulated that I would be their caregiver and make all decisions for them.

Have you made written plans, and made them known, for your own Pulik? We all like to think our time will not be up soon. In March 2016, the sudden passing of Alex Fokine, a Puli owner and the administrator of the Facebook group Happy Global Puli Tales, was a wakeup call to all of his friends in the group. You see, Alex was a young man, and he had nothing in writing about provisions for his beloved Pulik Curly and Gypsy. In a truly moving and inspirational period of time, Kelly and Stephan Legault, friends of Alex, and living in Florida, offered to add these two Pulik to their current family that already included two Pulik. Friends of Alex and members of the Facebook group came together in an amazing effort to secure the future of Alex's beloved Pulik by making arrangements to obtain custodianship of the dogs and then, in a relay system, drive the dogs from New York to Florida, where they now permanently reside. Group members around the world obsessively watched postings to the group, watching the progress on a map and through postings, to a happy conclusion.

This should be a cautionary tale, since this had a happy ending. Not every Puli is so

lucky—perhaps ending up in a animal shelter, or worse. There's no doubt that no caring Puli owner would want this to happen to their companion(s).

In our current legal system, an animal cannot own property. Some human has to be in charge. While owners may simply include their pets as provisions in their wills, you need to remember that wills may take weeks to be executed and could be contested, but a living trust can be written to immediately take effect. A Pet Trust is a legal document—recognized in at least 39 states and the District of Columbia—that outlines the continued care and maintenance of domestic animals and names new caregivers or directs trustees to find new homes for pets. In short, a Trustee has a legal duty of carrying out your wishes. The June 2008 issue of the AKC GAZETTE printed an article entitled “Estate Planning for Breeders,” by Lisa M. Curry, Esq., that simply lays out additional information in an easily understood manner.

Creating a pet trust does take time. Select a pet-friendly lawyer or estate planner, and expect to pay from \$500 to \$1,000 for their services. Be sure to consider your pet's financial future—many owners don't want a financial burden placed on their pets' caregivers. Some owners make outright gifts of cash for their animals' care, while others leave money

to be distributed over time—monthly, annually, or as reimbursement for expenses. Trustees may have explicit instructions to use their best judgment to find homes for the pets; for example, the dogs should be kept together, and the new caregiver will receive X amount of dollars per month, plus money for veterinary bills and other expenses. In the event an animal falls ill, the caregiver and vet may jointly decide their end-of-life management.”

In short: Just as you would if you were picking a guardian for a child, talk to potential caregivers for your Puli(k). Find someone you trust. After all, what you really want is someone who will love your Puli.

And please also remember, that if your Puli comes from a reputable breeder, refer to your contract. Breeders who are members of the Puli Club of America (PCA) follow a Code of Ethics (see “Code of Ethics for the Puli Breeder” in the June 2014 issue of the AKC GAZETTE). Contracts should have a clause that your breeder requests that they be informed that the Puli needs their help, and they will take the Puli back. A good breeder will most likely be very willing to allow your choice of caregiver, but bear in mind the contract that you signed.

Additionally, the [PCA Rescue Trust](#) will assist with locating the breeder initially and assist in locating a new, proper home as

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needed. The purpose of the Trust initially was to help animals whose owners have died or are sick and dying. Ideally, the owner will have contacted PCA Rescue Trust to let them know a possible placement is needed, but failing that, they provide some direction to their heirs to contact the PCA Rescue Trust. Rescue has worked with terminal patients to find their Pulik loving homes and eliminate that particular burden from weighing on their minds. In the case where the owner dies or is suddenly incapacitated, paperwork needs to be easily accessible to first responders so that the owner's wishes may be followed.

As a parting thought, be sure to have your AKC registration paperwork in a secure but easy-to-locate spot. The AKC website has a page that will easily guide you through the process of [transferring ownership in the case of death](#) of the Puli's owner. I also found that any time I have had to call AKC with questions as relating to this topic, I have received polite and accurate information from the person(s) on the phone who have helped me navigate such aspects.

Thank you to Jane Slade Exum for information on the PCA Rescue Trust's role.

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## Pyrenean Shepherds

The following was written by breeder Olivier Matz, of Pyrénées Hautes, France, and was translated into English by Michele Cousineau, of Canada.

### PYRENEAN SHEPHERD EXPRESSION

Originally, this was a working dog who constantly performed the job of a mountain sheepdog in difficult conditions (including the nature of the work itself, difficult terrain, challenging weather conditions, long distances to travel, and so on). He was the working tool of the farmer and was often required to take the initiative and use his intelligence. For a long time, the remoteness of the valleys, with scarce means of communication with the outside world, would have meant a rough and lonely life in the small hamlets and towns. This remoteness would have led to wariness when faced with the unknown. Any unusual event would have seemed extraordinary. The Pyrenean Shepherd has certainly inherited this trait. This highly contained way of life has definitely had an effect on the breed's character (wariness of strangers) and genetics (inbreeding). This trait has been strengthened by the lack of outside stimuli over the generations and become ingrained in the breed.

Everything new puts the dog on alert, which explains his tendency to bark and have an

ever-watchful attitude. The dog never stays still; he is constantly in movement, always watchful, always curious. This nervous energy and sense of duty translates into a dog who

tenses up and becomes rigid, with his head held high in watchfulness. His eyes sparkle with liveliness, and his whole face takes on a look of defiance, intelligence, and cunning.



*Pyrenean Shepherd*

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