

## HERDING GROUP

have to do with grooming techniques, conditioning, or handling. You might ask about handling classes in your area or contacts for local kennel and corgi clubs, if you haven't found them already. Plan to attend the closest regional specialty. Add the national specialty to your "must do" list!

- Read All About It

There are many excellent books you can purchase and read about the sport of showing dogs. Some are about the sport in general and others concern learning how to show dogs. Read everything on the Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America website! (Go to <http://www.pwcca.org>) Subscribe to the *PWCCA Newsletter*. Purchase the latest books about the breed as well as older "classics."

- Surf the Internet

What we have now that I did not have in 1967 is the Internet. What a fantastic tool it is! It may well become your largest source of information. You can find out anything you would like to know about dog showing: the people who do it, the dogs who win, where the shows are, and how many of your breed will be there, as well as who is judging and what their qualifications are. Just Google "showing dogs," and many useful sites full of information will appear. Check out YouTube videos for handling and grooming hints. For information about specific dog shows, I recommend

using Infodog.com. It will give you complete information on all shows held on a given weekend throughout the country. Use the AKC Events Calendar at <http://www.akc.org> as well to find shows.

Showing dogs has been a rewarding lifetime hobby for me. I hope it will be for you too! — A.B.

Thank you, Anne!

—Lynda McKee,

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Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America,

<http://www.pwcca.org>

### Pulik

I invited Patty Anspach, Linore Cleveland, and Don Gold to share their experience with Pulik doing herding. I thank them for their input.

#### THE HUNGARIAN SECOND MAN: THE HERDING PULI

The Puli's outstanding herding qualities led to the Hungarian shepherds' assertion that "It's not a dog, it's a Puli." The shepherd considered the Puli to be the flock's "second man." At one time it was not an uncommon occurrence for a shepherd to save a year's pay to buy a good Puli. And in turn the most valuable gift a shepherd could give was that of a

Puli puppy. 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 Puli's greatest attributes: agility and willingness to work. Only a medium-sized, very agile, and sound Puli could move a herd of sheep, leaping over the terrain and bouncing off the sheep to get them moving in the right direction, and do that all day.

The AKC's Herding Program was implemented in June 1989. The purpose of the herding trial program is to preserve and develop the herding skills inherent in the herding breeds and to demonstrate that they can perform the useful functions for which they were originally bred. The program has two major divisions: noncompetitive tests intended for dogs with little or no prior herding experience, and competitive trials intended for dogs with substantial training. Although herding trials are artificial simulations of pastoral or farm situations, they are standardized tests to measure and evaluate the characteristics of the herding breeds.

In the early years of AKC herding, most of the judges came from Border Collie trials. It was an eye-opener for these judges when a Puli entered the arena. The Puli was not quite what these judges were used to, since the Pulik were fast and "loose-eyed" (that is, dogs who

don't try to make constant eye contact with the stock and who will turn away from the stock, use their body positioning for stock control, or have a very "upright" posture while working).

Many Pulik earned titles at the non-competitive test level—that is, Herding Tested (HT) and Pre-Trial Tested (PT)—with some going even further, into the competitive trial scene. The competitive trials offer something for every breed, with three distinctly different courses, A, B, and C, and three levels of difficulty to each course: Started, Intermediate, and Advanced, with three different livestock types (cattle [c], sheep [s], or ducks [d]). Once the dog moves on to the trial level, they have the opportunity to achieve suffixes that designate a particular level—Started, Intermediate, or Advanced—and the specific course and livestock type in which the dog competed for that title(s). For example, Herding Started Course A—Sheep would read HSAs, and so on. Once a dog has achieved an Advanced suffix title, they can continue to compete for the coveted Herding Champion prefix title.

No Puli to date has earned the Herding Champion title. This is likely due in large part to the herding style of the Puli that differs greatly from that of other breeds, such as the Border Collie (information on the Puli's herding style [here](#)). AKC herding titles are more

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difficult to attain than those awarded by other organizations, such as the American Herding Breeding Association (AHBA).

The three Pulik who have the highest levels of AKC herding titles are as follows:

- *Ch. Szeder's Making Headlines, CD, HI, HX, AX, OAJ.* "Cass," owned by Patty Anspach and Mary Wakeman, DVM, and bred by Mary Wakeman, DVM, was the very first Puli to earn both the Herding Intermediate (HI) and the Advanced Herding (Herding Excellent: HX) titles. Cass also was the very first Puli to go High in Trial.
- *Vastsjo L E of Talisman, HSAd, HSBd, HIAd,* "L.E.," owned by David Gold, handled by Don Gold, and bred by Tore and Kirsten Myreback. "L.E." had four High in Trial awards, the most for the breed.
- *GCh. Kitriana's Reggie Lass, RA, HSAd, HIAd, CGC.* "Reggie," owned and bred by Anne Kemp, is currently the number-one Puli in herding.

Special recognition also goes to another eight Pulik who have earned Herding Started titles from the AKC:

- *Ch. Trumpkin Coriander O. Prydain, HS,* "Cori," owned by Constance Peterson and bred by Richard P. and Denise Johnson.
- *Ch. Szeder's Go for It, HS, NA;* "Pete," owned by Marie and Randall Joyner and Mary C. Wakeman, DVM, and bred by Mary

C. Wakeman, DVM.

- *Bowmaker T. Csikos, UD, HSAs, OA, AXJ;* "Csikos," owned by Judith A. Mod-Lewis and bred by Sherry Gibson.
- *Bowmaker V. Pipacs, UDX 3, OMS, HSAs, NA, MXJ;* "Pipacs," owned by Scott Lewis and bred by Sherry Gibson.
- *Ch. Piroskai Frankly My Dear, CDX, HSAs, NA, OAJ;* "Rhett," owned by Joe Lapine and bred by Irma Szabo Fertl.
- *Ch./OTCH Bartok's Magyar Csardas, UDX11, HSAs;* "Pepper," owned and bred by Nancy C Kelly.
- *OTCH Bartok's Little Black Note, UDX2, OM4, HSAs;* "Eb," owned by Dottie Culpepper and bred by Nancy C. Kelly.
- *Ch./OTCH Bartok's Mikrokosmos, UDX5, OGM, VER, RA, HSAs;* "Kicsi," owned and bred by Nancy C. Kelly.

The Puli Club of America (PCA) recognizes the Top Ten Herding Trial Pulik every year with a write-up in the PCA newsletter, *Puli News*. The PCA is committed to having herding as part of its national specialties, and we hope to see more of our Puli friends (particularly those participating only in conformation) recognize the importance of maintaining the purpose of the breed and participate in herding events and support their continued part of the PCA national specialty. For many a Puli, the first introduction to herding is via a

Herding Instinct test, and it can be amazing to see a Puli's instinct kick in.

—Dagmar Fertl,  
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## Pyrenean Shepherds

David Clayton is our guest columnist for this issue.

### THE PYRENEAN SHEPHERD: MASTER OF THE FIELDS AND OUR HEARTS

I have been training herding dogs, primarily Australian Shepherds, since 1995 and have trialed in herding venues for many years. I became fascinated with the Pyrenean Shepherd as it is thought to be one of the foundation breeds for the Australian Shepherd. With origins in the Pyrenees Mountains of Southern France, the Pyrenean Shepherd is an old herding breed known as early as the medieval period. I was attracted to the Pyrenean Shepherd's ability to manage large flocks under the extreme conditions of the rough mountain terrain and the breed's characteristic windswept look. Always alert, the Pyrenean Shepherd guided the flocks and indicated intruders to the Greater Pyrenees, the guardian dog. After some research, we

added two rough-faced female Pyr Sheps to our kennel and started on a journey to train them to work our livestock and later trial them at herding events.

My first impression of the dogs was as described in the breed standard: "a fine-boned, sinewy dog of great intelligence and vibrant expression." Each possessed well-developed herding instinct and a keen desire to please. I was impressed with their great speed and natural ability to cover and control their livestock. This speed would have been critical in the Pyrenees Mountains to keep the flock from escaping to higher elevations and the ability to cover the flock quickly would help keep the flock together. The light bone and small frame is also important for the speed and agility needed to move sheep over long distances from the summer mountain forages to the winter and spring ranges in the low country. I was also amazed at the little dog's grit to meet a challenge from a ram, handle it with authority, and return to working the flock. I was pleased with how quickly the dogs learned directions, commands, and a basic outrun. Their great intelligence and desire to please makes training fun, but it is important to clearly present training objectives, as they are busy workers and often offer multiple behaviors in an effort to please. Occasionally it seemed the dog did