



Pulik

Puli Proportions and Type

After June's column about breed type, I thought it would be useful to study some information on relative proportions in the Puli, based on the Hungarian standard and with further details in an article by Kubinsky and Szel in "Kutya" (1956) as translated in *Best of Puliknotes* published by the Puli Club of southern California. If a Puli has proper proportion, it should be stronger in type.

Try measuring your Puli. You will need one straight yardstick and a tailor's tape, or a piece of string that you can then measure against the yardstick. All the proportions are based on the height of the Puli at the shoulder, except for the finer proportions of the head which are based on the length of

the head. If you have calipers, they might be of additional benefit for these sorts of measurements. To measure the height of your dog, I recommend standing the Puli next to a wall and placing a book edge (which is a good 90° angle) from the wall to the highest part of the dog's shoulders (see the diagram). Place a mark on the wall and measure. If you have doubts of your accuracy, do this a few times. You must get the dog's feet squarely under him in the front, and in the rear, the back of the hock should fall in a line under the rear end of the pelvis. Don't let the dog slouch.

Let's assume your Puli is exactly 17 inches tall. Next, while the dog is still standing squarely, and without him *turning his head*, measure from the front point of the shoulder to the rear points of the pelvis. Use the bones for these points. You should get 17 inches, though most dogs that I have measured are a little longer; don't be surprised if this comes out to be 17½ inches.

Next, since you are at the shoulder, measure the depth of the chest. I find this is hard to do. You can use the book technique, or if this is unsuccessful, try going from the bottom of the chest down and subtract. The chest should reach to the elbows, and if it does that means that the leg, from the elbow to the ground, will be 55% of the dog's height or 9.35 inches and the chest 7.65 inches. Next, use your string or the tailor's tape and do the circumference of the chest. This is taken behind the front legs, where the chest is deep. This should be only 125% or 21.25 inches. The 1956 article put this

proportion at 117%, less than the Hungarian Standard of 125%—which is not big. Moving around to the front of the dog, measure the distance between the two points of the shoulder. This should be 33% or 5.6 inches on our 17 inch Puli. The width of the croup is only 20%, 3.4 inches, but this is taken as the width of the two upper and forward points of the pelvis. The hip joints set wider than this, so that the front and rear widths overall are about the same at the footfall.

The neck is about 30% of the height or five inches. Find the neck length at the top from the withers to the occiput, that bump on the base of the skull. Then there is the head. This is 45% of the height or 7.65 inches. The head is an area where there is a lot of variety in Pulik these days. The head proportions are further broken down in the 1956 article as proportions of the length of the head. The length of the muzzle is 35% or 2.68 inches, the skull then being 4.97 inches. The stop is found at the inner corner of the eye. If you can detect a slight bump in the inner rim of the eye socket, this is where the bones of the skull come together and is the technical "stop" to the muzzle. The width of the muzzle is 25% of the head length, 1.91 inches; the width of the skull is 50% or 3.83 inches. This helps pin down how refined is *too* refined and what qualifies as coarse. The width of the skull should be taken at the broadest point at the flare behind the eyes, the width of the muzzle at the canines. The ears are supposed to be 50% of the head length, again 3.83 inches. This is easily done by lifting the ear and measuring from the head to the farthest tip. The width of the ear should be 33% of the head, 2.53 inches and should be measured at the widest part, which should occur just beyond the bole of the ear.

To get a picture of how much bone your Puli is carrying, try measuring the circumference of the foreleg. Don't do this at the elbow joint as it is thicker there, use the middle of the leg shaft. This should be 20% of the body height, 3.4 inches. This helps define what we mean by *medium* in Pulik and the other relative proportions can help keep us on track and away from excesses and extremes that seem so desirable for the show ring but which lead us away from the true "Puli."—Sally Hines, 321 Eliot Street, Ashland, MA 01721 □

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