I
n 440 A.D., the Huns invaded
the Pannonian Plains of Hun-
gary. Under the leadership of At-
tila, they became known as the Puli
Hou or Destroyer Huns. The Chi-
nese referred to the Huns as the
people of the "dog kingdom."

Other migrating tribes from Cen-
tral Asia began to populate eastern
Europe, notably the Avars and the
Magyars. Dogs were known to have
accompanied these migrating
tribes of people. The Magyars ar-
ived in the area which is now Hun-
gary at about 895 to 896 A.D. It is
believed that the Puli was brought
to Hungary by the Magyars during
this period.

The ancient word puli has been
translated to mean destroyer or
drover. The plural for the breed is
Pulik.

Some researchers supposedly
have traced the Puli back to Tibet
and a relationship with the Tibetan
Terrier. Dr. Sandor Palfalvy has
written about his investigations
into the Puli's origins in ancient
Sumeria.

Invaders decimated Hungary dur-
ning the sixteenth century. People
from western Europe, along with
their merino sheep and sheepdogs,
began to repopulate Hungary in the
seventeenth century. The Puli inter-
mingled with the sheepdogs of
France and Germany and the Pumi
the result. The names Puli and
Pumi were used interchangeably
for many years, and the Puli breed was
nearly lost.

In 1912, Emil Raitisits began a
program to reconstitute the Puli.
Two types of coats were noted:
shaggy and curly. The first stan-
dard for the Puli was written in
1915 and, in 1924, the standard
was approved by FCI (Federation
Cynologique Internationale).

At the Budapest dog show in Au-
gust of 1923, the newly reconsti-
tuted Puli was shown. The Puli was
divided into three classes: ancestral
or working Pulik with shaggy coats,
luxury or show Pulik and dwarf
Pulik.

The 1934 standard for the breed
Photograph by Sally Anne Thompson

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For The Record</th>
<th>1989 Award Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Champions</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 1</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best in Show</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Companion Dog (CD)</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Companion Dog Excellent (CDX)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utility Dog (UD)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obedience Trial Champion (OTCh)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest Scoring Dog</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1989 Registration Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ranked 106 out of 130)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Related Reading
Benis, Leslie. This is The Puli. T.F.H. Publications (211 West Sylvania Avenue, Neptune City, NJ 07753), 1976, 320 pp. (out of print).

—J. Dorl