

Herding Group

Pulik

Dee Rummel was Puli Club of America secretary for many years and now edits "The Book of Titleholders." This column is adapted from the June-July 1982 Australian newsletter "The Global Puli."

The Beginnings of the Puli in the U.S.

So much of the Puli's history is veiled in mystery that separating fact from fantasy can be difficult. As well as can be ascertained, some of the first Pulik were imported by the federal government in the mid-1930s for

which he later sold, and then established a kennel with stock bought from Williams. Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph de Wardener had been on the mission to Hungary in 1936 that selected the government dogs and later established a kennel.

The first Puli was registered with the AKC in 1936. That Dec. 6, a Puli owned by the Kisses made the breed's AKC-show debut at the Newark Kennel Club show. The Puli was first a working breed, but was reassigned to the Herding Group when that group was created.

In 1948 Mr. and Mrs. Donald Cook established a kennel where Pulik could practice their herding skills. Skysyl, begun in '49 by Sylvia and Schuyler Owen, became one of the best-known Puli kennels in the country. Sylvia's love and dedication to the breed inspired many. The first BIS Puli was the gray brushed-coat bitch Ch. Skysyl Question Being Is It.

The 1950s marked the beginning of real growth. Some kennels from that decade and the breeders behind them who contributed greatly to the Puli are Keylend (Avis Prior), Pine Path (Mary Bell Devlin), Magyar Pusztá (Joseph and Hedy de Lengyel), Cedwood (Ellanor Anderson) and Gooseberry Hill (Lois McManus). Other influential kennels of the '50s and '60s were Marlise, Anka, Sczyr, Martin, Shagra and Woodsyl, few of which are still active, but their contributions to the breed live on in pedigrees of the dogs from the newer kennels.

The first AKC champion male Puli was Ch. Magyar's Bundas, and the first female was Ch. Czigany Tancos, CD. The first group-placing male was Ch. Skysyl Apeter-Pan, and the first female was Ch. Czigany Tancos, CD. The first Working Group I Puli was Ch. Cedwood's Anthony Gray.

Early Puli history was documented by Leslie Benis in "This Is the Puli"

and Sylvia Owen in "The Complete Puli." Since these hard-to-find books appeared, new kennels such as Hunnia, Wallbanger, Witsend, Prydain, Shana's Pebbletree, Mi-Tonka, Mystic, Walcroft and Zsiga's Puli-kountry were established in the late '60s and early '70s. Some had new lines imported from Hungary, others combined the best of both Hungarian and U.S. bloodlines. — D.R.

Thanks, Dee! — Patricia B. Giancaterino, 134 Mitchell Ave., Runnemede, NJ 08078; pulidog@aol.com ♦

Shetland Sheepdogs

Shelby Price is a Sheltie breeder-judge with over 20 years of experience.

You've Got to Know When to Hold 'Em ...

If you're in the dog game, you've probably heard of deals where either the buyer or seller felt they had lost. You can avoid finding yourself in this situation the next time you buy or sell a Sheltie if, like the title character in the song "The Gambler," you "know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em, know when to walk away."

If you're the buyer, do your homework. Check out the Sheltie you're considering for pedigree, sire and dam's health, temperament, health screening tests and so on, and the track record of the breeder with whom you're dealing. Try to speak to several satisfied customers.

If the breeder will not ship on approval, look elsewhere. Make sure the breeder will allow sufficient time for you to properly evaluate the dog. I would want at least a week.

What guarantees are offered and how will a refund or replacement be handled? If you buy an 18-month-old show/breeding prospect for a handsome price, and it falls short of fulfilling its original potential, will the breeder refund your purchase price or give you a replacement dog that's comparable in age and quality to the Sheltie you bought? How long



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Puli

an experiment to find or create a better stock guard/herding dog. After some crossbreedings, the project was interrupted by World War II. The purebred Pulik were sold to the various founders of our breed in this country. Mr. and Mrs. Louis Kiss imported five Pulik from Hungary in the late 1930s and bought some of the government dogs in the early '40s. Bronson Williams began with some of the government dogs, then imported some, eventually having almost 50 dogs, mostly black, some gray and, thanks to Ponor Boy, who carried the gene, some white. Nicholas Roosevelt was Minister to Hungary from 1930 to 1933 and brought back two Pulik,