

cracies in areas such as training, presentation, and reproduction.

The relationship with a mentor should be based on knowledge, trust, and friendship. One of the advantages to having a counselor is the avoidance of common pitfalls. However, learning is the accumulation of knowledge and experience, and a wise teacher allows some lessons to be learned through the making of mistakes. A good mentor may not have all the answers, but they should be able to point to a direction where answers may be found. A mentor should not be dictatorial, with a “my way or the highway” attitude. A gifted teacher encourages the student to form opinions of their own and become independent.

Ideally there comes a time when a mentor is not only a counselor but also a friend. Perhaps at that point the student may have the opportunity to become a mentor to someone else. Everyone in the fancy should have the opportunity to “pay it forward.”

As always, ideas, comments, and suggestions are welcome. — *Russ Tesarz, Concord, N.C.; retesarz@aol.com* ♦



Pulik

## Breed Characteristics

I'm new to the Puli breed. We were fortunate to get Babe (Bowmaker's That'll Do Babe) in July 2007, after the sudden loss to heart failure of our Komondor, Harry (Unique Gabor Haarig).

Why a Puli? For us it was the coat and the size. The corded coat is what attracted us to the Komondor in the first place, and that coat is of course shared by the Puli. We had been thinking about acquiring a Puli for several years. We are nearing the “6-0” mark and hope that semiretirement is in our future. A 28-pound dog can travel more comfortably than a 110-pound dog, and if we move from a house to a condo, a Puli would meet most weight limits.

Just as I had spoken with several owners before I got our Komondor, I contacted several owners of Puli in my

research on the breed. In both cases, experienced owners shared both the joys and the challenges that each breed presents. I have been fortunate to have had two dogs that closely fit what I had been told about each breed.

Other than that they both are corded and are of Hungarian origin, the two breeds are very different, in our experience. I'm sure that this is partially due to the difference in the personalities of the individual dogs. We went from a 110-pound alpha male to a 28-pound cautious female.

At 8 years old, our Puli is bouncy and exuberant. When she wants something, she pounces, barks, and distinctly herds you in the direction she wants you to go. She will jump with all four paws off the floor just to see what is in the box or bag that came out of the pantry.

Our Komondor was more sedate, simply walking into the room, sitting down, and looking you straight in the eye to let you know he needed something. That sedateness ended, however, when the guard-dog instinct set in. Our Puli tends to “eye” a newcomer, and may show displeasure at the interloper, but does not give the formidable impression that our Komondor did.

Both breeds are thinkers. You need to be in charge, or the dog will try to make decisions for its “flock.” More than once I've caught that look from both our Komondor and our Puli that says, “I'll do it because you say so, but I'm not so sure about this.” As for the coat, it is not maintenance free, but can be managed as long as you devote a little time to it. I find more leaves and sticks in our Puli's coat than our Komondor's because of her closeness to the ground.

Both our Komondor and our Puli have focused on their flock—our family. Our Komondor was more aloof, spending time with the family when he chose but spending time elsewhere in the house when it fit his mood. Our Puli, on the other hand, is always near a family member. (I'll admit, we let her get on the sofa, but she would have easily learned otherwise.)

A Puli will be part of our family for many years to come.

— *Tom Motter, Salt Lake City, Utah; thomasmotter@comcast.net* ♦



Our guest columnist for this issue, Janet Moyer, grew up in Anchorage, Alaska, in a pet-loving family. A fan of the Albert Payson Terhune books, Moyer saved babysitting money to purchase her first show-quality Collie pup. While still in her teens, she not only finished the dog's championship, she also handled him to two all-breed Bests in Show. A retired professor, Moyer now lives in San Diego, where her life once more revolves around dogs—photographing dogs professionally, teaching dog-carting classes, and enjoying life with her husband and their five Shelties.

## Getting Started in Carting

“No, I'm sorry, your Sheltie is too small to pull a dog cart.”

I knew only one dog-carting teacher, and I'd spent two years trying to convince her to give us a lesson. Cloud, my oversize Sheltie, had six herding titles, bravely bossed around large flocks of 300-pound Dorset sheep, and swam regularly as part of his cross-training regimen. He was in top condition, and although Shelties are not a breed typically used for carting, I knew he could learn.

Historically, several large breeds, including Saint Bernards, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, and Bernese Mountain Dogs, pulled carts. In 19th-century Europe, farm dogs pulled loads of wood, feed, or tools. In urban areas, they pulled carts carrying milk cans. I'd seen Rottweilers and German Shepherd Dogs pull driving sulkies in our large city park, and I thought Cloud and I could have fun doing it, too.

Another teacher halfheartedly agreed to let us try. We started slowly, first introducing Cloud to the harness, then placing him between the shafts of the driving sulky and hooking him up. Finally, we began walking. Success! Cloud pulled the cart all around the parking lot, up and over curbs, on grass and on pavement. With amazement in her voice, the trainer said it

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