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should include checking for hip dysplasia and Von Willebrand's disease, and screening for inherited eye defects. Many breeders also screen their Pembroke Welsh Corgis for elbow dysplasia, degenerative myelopathy, cardiac issues, and thyroid problems. The breeder should be able to provide written documentation of these results upon request. By doing health screens, the breeder is trying to produce the healthiest puppies possible.

Be sure to ask where the puppies are whelped and reared. Are they in the house, or are they raised in a kennel setting? In the house, they will hear phones, alarms, vacuum cleaners, and other normal household noises. What types of activities are done with the puppies on a routine basis? What worming and shot protocols are followed? At what age are you permitted to visit with the puppies? By actually visiting, you can verify what you were told in previous correspondences.

What sort of training will the puppies have before leaving? Are they started on leash and crate training, and are they making progress housebreaking? At what age are the puppies allowed to go to their new homes? What commands have the puppies been exposed to? Have they played with children, cats, other dogs, and other people? Was the litter temperament tested? You want to get a feel for how the puppies were raised and exposed to

new situations.

The breeder should also be providing complete written records of wormings, shots, and vet visits. You should expect a pedigree, registration materials, and handouts regarding puppy care in addition to a sales con-

tract. Read the contract carefully and ask questions.

Be wary in reading websites. Red flags include mention of multiple breeds, purposely breeding mixes of two or more breeds, being asked to wire money before many

details are provided, no registered names of sire or dam given, registries other than the American Kennel Club, additional cost for providing full registration, "rare" blue eyes, blue or red merle Pembroke Welsh Corgis (those colors cannot exist in the breed), and a low sale price that also includes shipping.

The puppy buyer will probably add more questions. As always, *buyer beware*.

—Lynda McKee,

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Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America



Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America National Specialty, 1980: Am./Can. Ch. Festiniog's Moonraker, HC, ROMX, owner-handler Margaret Burnett, judge Allan Taylor (South Wales), and presenter Anne Bowes

Pulik

HOTEL ETIQUETTE WHEN TRAVELING WITH YOUR PULI

Many of us will be traveling with a dog or two over the holiday season, and exhibitors are looking ahead to show circuits coming up in January in some areas of the country. So it's a good time to refresh ourselves on hotel etiquette when traveling with our Pulik. Following are some points that may be helpful to remember.

1. *Call ahead to check the hotel's pet policy.*

Always call ahead and talk to the hotel to make sure you know their current pet policies. Some hotels let dogs stay free; others require a deposit that will be refunded when management sees the room has not been damaged.

AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION

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1977: Puli Ch. Kallopusztal Apor, owner-handler Vilma Majoros, and judge Winifred Heckmann

Always do the walk-through before you move into your room and point out any existing damage. That said, if your dog damages the room, be honest and point out the damage and offer to pay.

2. *Ask for the right room.* For many of us traveling with dogs, we prefer a ground-floor room. The big benefit with this is that you do not have to deal with stairs or use the elevator every time you need to walk your pet. A ground-floor room may not be available in the case of a big dog show, when there will be many other people staying at the hotel who also want lower-floor rooms.

3. *Prepare a bag with all your Puli's necessities.* This will help you settle into the room quickly. Some items for the Puli "suitcase" include:

- Large bed-sheet(s) that you can place over each bed and any furniture in the room. For a few Puli national specialties, the hospitality committee would provide a bed-sheet with a logo as part of the welcome package; these actually became coveted souvenirs. Many people pull the comforters off the bed and fold and store them in the hotel's closet or above the coatrack to be sure the dogs don't lie on them.
- Plenty of bags to pick up after your Puli.
- A copy of your Puli's important records, including up-to-date vaccinations.
- Dog food, water, medication, and dog dishes.

- A crate that your Puli can stay in when you have to leave the room will provide your dog with a safe place to stay and ensure that no damage happens to the room.

- Chew items and/or favorite toys to keep your dog occupied in case you do need to leave him for a while and to make him feel at home.

- Leashes.
- Old towels in case you need to wipe dirty, wet paws (do *not* use the hotel's towels for this).

- Enzyme cleaner and paper towels in case of an accident (from either end). I even bring no-rinse shampoo to the hotel room in case I need to do clean-up on butt cords.

- A plastic sheet (such as a shower curtain, tarp) under the crate keeps hair, dog food, and dirt from getting on the carpet.

4. *Keep your dog on a leash.* Always keep your dog on a leash when you leave the hotel room. Do not allow your dogs to run up and down the hallways off-leash and bark (and yes, I've actually witnessed this firsthand). Always check the hallways and elevators before moving about the hotel with your dog.

5. *Clean up after your dog.* Quickly pick up your dog's messes, both in your room and on the hotel grounds. Many pet-friendly hotels have designated outdoor areas for dogs. Bring lots of poop bags on your trip (and *use* them). If your dog has an accident in the room, clean it up with paper towels—and again, *not* the hotel's

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bath towels. Ensure that your dog doesn't mark furniture (I bring a belly-band for my male Pulik to use, as an extra precaution). If your dog has an accident in the lobby or hallway, let hotel staff know immediately so that a proper cleanup can take place. Do not bathe your dog in the hotel's bathtub or shower. Place your dog's bowls in the bathroom, especially if your dog is a sloppy drinker or eater.

6. *About leaving your dog alone in the room.* Some quiet and well-behaved dogs can be trusted to stay in a room while their owners are away. It's still a good idea to leave them in a crate so they don't destroy anything in the room. I always leave my dog crated if I leave the room for more than a few minutes, for the dog's safety and my peace of mind. If you can leave your quiet and well-behaved dog in a crate while you step out, turning the TV on helps decrease the possibility of alert barking at slight noises in the hallway or parking lot. Hang the "Do Not Disturb" sign to decrease the possibility of housekeeping coming in and disturbing your dog. Consider doing take-out or room service for meals, if you think your dog might have separation anxiety and disturb other guests. As a responsible dog owner, there is absolutely nothing more irritating than to be sitting in your hotel room with your dog while you hear other guests' dogs howling and barking until the wee hours of the morning while their

owner is out partying.

7. *Tip the staff.* A surefire way to say thank you for letting dogs stay is a cash gratuity for the staff at the end of your trip (maybe also with a nice message). You might consider leaving a daily gratuity for the hotel housekeeping staff.

To conclude, we should remember it is our responsibility as responsible dog owners to put extra effort into demonstrating "model" dog-owner citizenship when traveling.

—Dagmar Fertl,

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[Puli Club of America](#)

Pyrenean Shepherds

Our guest columnist this month is Katherine McGuire. She can be reached at trainer@katherinek9.com.

SOCIALIZATION OF THE YOUNG PYRENEAN SHEPHERD

The Pyrenean Shepherd standard describes the breed as having a "high energy and intelligent, cunning, mischievous attitude," and being "naturally distrustful of strangers", requiring proper socialization from a young age. The combination of the breed's alertness and intelligence is invaluable in many respects; it offers a dog who has quick problem-solving capabilities, takes in their environment and understands it,

and can easily adapt their knowledge to deal with the situation. Without proper socialization, however, the Pyr Shep can easily become worried or fearful about situations he has never gained the knowledge and confidence to figure out. This is why the socialization of the Pyr Shep is so crucial, and in many ways unique.

Good socialization plans must include exposure to new experiences (including different sights, sounds, and textures), other animals, and new people. It is important to gently encourage puppies through normal fear periods, which can happen at varying ages and can range from almost unnoticeable to extremely obvious. The first one occurs between 8–11 weeks, a second crops up anywhere from 4–8 months, and the third is generally seen around 6–14 months. These are very broad timelines, so it is important to be observant of a puppy's reaction to new stimuli in order to recognize these periods.

The Pyrenean Shepherd's naturally alert observation causes him to become aware of things that most other dogs (and people, for that matter), would never notice. Therefore, these "fear" periods act as a cautionary realization of what is happening, or what something is. It is crucial that a Pyrenean Shepherd is exposed to new stimuli without force, but allowed to explore and discover the new experience.

This breed wants to understand things, so if they startle at a sound or strange sight, encour-

age them to go to the source and investigate. Use treats to help prompt your puppy to brave the new experience. If the stimulus is too frightening, keep a distance from it, and give praise and rewards for confident behaviors. Ask for known behaviors like a sit or down to help the puppy think about working with you, and not become transfixed on the strange new thing. Be careful not to coddle the puppy; be cheerful and encouraging, but don't add to the fear by seeming concerned by the situation yourself.

My favorite trick is to teach a "go check it out" cue to help build confidence and trust in the handler and the environment. Start with an item that the puppy is comfortable with, point to it, and say, "go check it out." As the puppy moves toward the item, say "yes" and reward with praise, play, or treats. When your puppy is confidently going up to items when asked to, start using this skill in new environments, with new objects.

Meeting new people can often be a source of stress for Pyrenean Shepherds during these phases as well. As with other new experiences, having the puppy approach the new person, rather than the person coming to them, will greatly increase the probability for a positive interaction. In most cases though, it is not necessarily crucial for the puppy to go and greet every person they see. Many times it would be more beneficial to teach confidence through