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when planning breedings, selecting possible show prospects, and then actively exhibiting their choices in conformation shows. People who have been seriously involved with the Pembroke breed will tell you that even after 20, 30, 40, or more years with the breed of their passion, they are still learning the standard. Newcomers may find the task of learning and understanding the breed standard to be a bit daunting. How to begin?

Find a mentor. The mentor may be the breeder from whom you purchased your puppy. She may be someone who is close to you in distance and who has dogs and breeding ideas that you admire. You may find several people to serve as mentors. Don’t exclude from consideration someone in a different breed. By learning differences among breeds, you can learn to better understand your own.

Study the written breed standard—don’t just read through it. Actually take the time to study it. The standard is available on the AKC website, the PWCCA website, in various books, and in show catalogs of specialty shows. Take the standard along with you to shows, and compare what you see in the ring to what you see in the standard. Don’t forget the Illustrated Standard as well. The line drawings and color photos along with enhanced descriptions will definitely help you.

Attend dog shows and seminars, especially specialty shows, and especially the national specialty and the seminars offered there. At specialty shows, you can learn to appreciate the finer points of the breed standard. You will be studying outstanding specimens of the breed. Your eye is being trained to seek and recognize quality.

Attend events in which Pembroke participants. Attending herding events will help you develop a deeper appreciation for the standard. Watching Pembroke working in such activities as obedience or tracking will help you understand the character of the breed.

Read books on the breed. Borrow or buy the older editions of the handbooks. Study the photos. Read books about structure and movement. Study the structure and movement of other breeds. What essential qualities are common to all herding breeds? Read the specialty critiques in the Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America’s quarterly newsletter, especially the critiques of the specialties that you attend. How do the judges’ comments compare to what you saw?

Use your own dogs to learn. Understand the terminology. How does the shoulder layback on your dog compare to the desired layback? Does your dog fall off at the croup? Are his head proportions the desired three parts muzzle to five parts skull? Is the distance from his withers to the base of the tail approximately 40 percent greater than the distance from the withers to the ground? Looks can be deceiving and measuring just for the fun of it may be quite revealing. Tape his movement and study it. Examine friends’ dogs. The Pembroke is a herding dog who must have the agility, freedom of movement, and endurance to do the work for which he was developed.

Judge and steward. Judge matches. Evaluate litters, and watch them grow on. Steward in a variety of events to watch the breed in action.

Seek out people with more experience than you have. Ask questions. Attend seminars on the breed, structure and movement, puppy development, conditioning, become a lifelong student of the breed.

Continue your education by joining us in Wilmington, Ohio, September 23–30, for the national specialty. Herding is in Nova, Ohio. Complete details can be found at www.pwcca-national.com. See you there!

—Lynda McKe
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Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America

Pulik

I have asked Jann Latusek-Nabholz (Latusek14@gmail.com), a biologist and a purveyor of essential oils, to share information on how essential oils can benefit your dog. This article specifically applies to dogs, while oils can be used with cats, birds, rabbits and other small animals. There are other safety precautions. Cats are especially sensitive to a variety of oils, so employ extra care when using oils in
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ESSENTIAL OILS AND YOUR DOG’S WELLNESS

By now, most if not all of you have heard about essential oils. These aromatic compounds are extracted from various parts of plants including (but not limited to) flowers, roots, stem, bark, resin, and seeds. Essential oils have been used for various medicinal, spiritual/religious, culinary, and perfume/beauty purposes for thousands of years.

Essential oils can complement traditional veterinary medicine as a part of your dog’s wellness plan. For both you and your dog, you should select only therapeutic-grade oils, since these are of a superior quality and purity, and therefore are deemed safe and effective to breathe in, put on the skin, and—if certified—even safe to ingest. Inexpensive oils may be found; however, with these there is no guarantee as to the quality of the oils. If not responsibly sourced, you could be getting oils contaminated with pesticides. Furthermore, if you select essential oils that are sourced only from their native habitats around the world, then you are using products that are of the highest therapeutic quality. Location, climate, and environment determine the composition of the plant and the superior products are collected from farmers who have traditionally grown plants native to their country for many years.

Single oils or oil blends (two or more essential oils together) may be used on your dog. When introducing essential oils to your dog, use caution, and consider ways to keep your animals safe. Allow your pet to participate in the selection of essential oils you are considering (like people, there might be individual preferences or dislikes). You can have your dog sniff the closed bottles to see if they exhibit an aversion to a particular one.

Consider the following single oils or oil blends that are popular selections of essential oils to use for your dog:

- **Geranium**—naturally repels insects.
- **Lavender**—soothes skin and promotes calm and relaxation, including restful sleep.
- **Lemon**—cleanses and uplifts; diffuses with cleansing blend to get rid of odors and freshen the air.
- **Peppermint**—naturally repels bugs and provides refreshing scent.
- **Honeysuckle**—calms emotions and promotes restful sleep.
- **Wild Orange**—cleanses and purifies; uplifts mood and energy levels.
- **Clary Sage**—eliminates unpleasant odors and freshens the air; soothes bug bite irritations.
- **Digestive Blend**—aids in digestion; soothes upset stomach from conditions like motion sickness, indigestion, bloating, and gas.
- **Novus Blend**—supports nervous system and emotions; use to promote focus and clarity during training or in social settings such as when visiting dog parks, having doggie day care or play programs, boarding dogs, or attending competitions.
- **Grounding Blend**—encourages emotional balance; diffuses to help relieve anxiety.
- **Massage Blend**—soothes muscles and joints and promotes healthy circulation.
- **Protective Blend**—promotes healthy immune function; combine with water and white vinegar to use as non-toxic surface cleaner. Some seasoned dog owners regularly use protective blend to clean around puppies.

- **Respiratory Blend**—supports respiratory system; diffuses in the air or on pet bedding, letting your dog smell oils on your hands, or placing a few drops of oil onto your air filter.

When diffusing oils with dogs in the home, follow these precautions:

1. Always leave a door open to the room where you are using the diffuser, so your pet can exit if they either do not want to be exposed to the aroma, or in the unlikely event that they would have an adverse reaction.

2. Monitor your dog for any discomfort or distress (such as drooling, increased breathing rate, panting, salivating, squatting, or other unusual activity). If you notice these changes, take the following steps: turn off the diffuser, air out the room by opening windows, discontinue use of diffused oil, and move your dog to another room.

The topical application of essential oils can be useful for therapeutic massage and to address skin irritations. Topical use facilitates the oils to pass through the skin for an immu-
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diate response. When topically using oils, always dilute essential oils with carrier oil, such as fractionated coconut, almond, or hazelnut oils. Avoid eyes, nose, and genital and anal areas when applying topically.

Below are some common do-it-yourself recipes that are usually of greatest interest to the dog owner.

**Spray for Bags**
- 6 drops clary sage
- 5 drops Cleansing Blend
- 8 drops peppermint
- 4 drops lemon
- 2 drops geranium
- 2 drops eucalyptus
- 8 oz purified water

Directions: Combine in a dark glass spray bottle, being sure to swirl the bottle before each use.

**Small Good Dog/Home Spray**
- 8 drops Cleansing Blend
- 2 drops lavender, peppermint, or wild orange
- 8 oz purified water

Directions: Combine in a dark glass spray bottle, being sure to swirl the bottle before each use.

**Relax Diffuser Blend**
- 1 drop lavender
- 1 drop cedarwood
- 1 drop vetiver
- 1 drop frankincense

Directions: Follow those provided by the manufacturer of your diffuser.

These books are recommended: *Holistic Aromatherapy for Animals*, by K.L. Bell, and *Spa Oil Your Pet*, by M.K. Frazee and J.C. Jeremias. Consult your vet about any holistic approach (including essential oil products) you are planning to follow. —J.L.N.

Thank you, Jenn.

—Dagmar Felt,
dfett@gmail.com

Puli Club of America

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**Spanish Water Dogs**

AND WHAT ABOUT COAT CARE?

Questions about coat care are very common from people unfamiliar with Spanish Water Dogs, and especially those who are searching for their “next breed.” When considering a dog for performance events or as a family pet, potential owners want to know what to expect.

As with all of the curly coated, minimal-shedding breeds, the SWD does require clipping on a regular basis. When not showing, I prefer to keep my dogs in short coat. For me, this means clipping them the same length all over, typically with a number 4 or number 5 blade. If the dog is matted or a short cut is preferred for the summer, a number 7 blade makes for a fast job that is easy on both groomer and dog. It is this “all over” that

Ready for summer, trimmed to all the same length.