

HERDING GROUP

They *shed*—and shed, and shed! We want prospective owners to read about coat care and understand that it is *never* correct to shave or sculpt the Pembroke's coat. The double coat provides protection from the weather, both hot and cold. Shedding is controlled by hormones and Mother Nature, and it can never be stopped.

They *bark!* The barking comes from their heritage as a dog bred to drive and monitor the Welsh cattle of centuries past. "Force barking" is used to make the cattle (or other livestock) move, now! Unsuspecting owners do not understand that the force barking is a means to getting something—probably a cookie to be quiet. In turn, that reward just provokes more barking to get yet another cookie!

They are *smart!* This is an intelligent breed, and early, consistent training is a must. The intelligence bred into them to handle a herd of cattle (or other livestock) will enable the Pembroke to easily train unsuspecting owners, whom they may perceive as another form of livestock. The breed is clever and learns quickly. The Pembroke is not a lap dog and should always be respected for the working breed that it is.

They *nip!* Not all of them, but pet owners are often surprised when they do. If a bull didn't want to move, a well-timed nip at the heels, or

possibly the nose, could make the bull change its mind. A Pembroke will chase anything that moves, and the nipping behavior may come out when they play with the children running in the yard. The breed on the whole has retained its herding instincts, with some individuals having very strong herding tendencies.

They *love* food! An adult Pembroke does not need a lot of food, yet owners will often continue to feed them the amounts they got as puppies. Or worse, the amounts listed on the dog food bag! Obesity is a real problem. Rescues have received Pembrokes weighing 75 pounds—that is the weight of *three* Pembrokes! Pay attention to the weight ranges given in the breed standard.

They are *short!* This is a medium-sized dog on short legs. As an achondroplastic breed, all those ligaments and muscles do not have as much room to attach as they do on a normal-sized dog. Strenuous activities put a lot of stress on those short legs and should be closely monitored. Though rare, the breed can get panosteitis and have issues with growth-plate closures.

So, a Pembroke is a short, barky, bossy, and intelligent herding breed who takes shedding to a professional level while he begs for food. He will train his human family to do his bidding if limits are not set and followed starting in puppyhood. Pembrokes make wonderful

companions, as well as great performance dogs who can and will do whatever is asked of them. They are happiest with jobs to do. The prospective buyer needs to do their homework and find reputable breeders who can select the puppy best suited for the home. The buyer also needs to be ready to provide regular exercise and training. A tired Pembroke sleeping upside-down on his back is a very happy dog!

—Lynda McKee,

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[Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America](#)

Pulik

TIME TO RALLY YOURSELF AND YOUR PULI FOR RALLY VIRTUAL!

As the coronavirus pandemic continues and people continue to look for things to do with their dogs, it seems appropriate to talk about a titling activity offered by the AKC that can be done virtually: Rally Virtual. First, you might ask, what is Rally obedience (also known as Rally or Rally-O)? Rally is based on obedience principles (though I personally find it to be much more fun than regular obedience). In Rally, you and your dog navigate side-by-side a course of 10 to 20 different signs, each of which provides instructions regarding the next skill that is to be performed. Unlike regular obedience

(and I love this part), in this sport handlers are allowed to encourage their dogs during the course, especially at the Novice level. The team of dog and handler starts with 100 points, and the judge deducts points for mistakes. After qualifying three times under two different judges, the dog earns a title.

The basic concepts of Rally were conceived by Charles L. "Bud" Kramer (who also is credited as the "father" of agility), as derived from the obedience practice of "doodling" (doing a variety of interesting warm-up and freestyle exercises). The "doodles" were usually parts of obedience exercises that taught the skills and improved performance and accuracy.

There are four levels in AKC Rally: Novice, Advanced, Excellent, and Master. Additionally, there is an optional Rally Intermediate class, with the dog on leash but with the Advanced skills. And there are advanced titles: the Rally Advanced Excellent title, in which the team has to qualify in both Advanced and Excellent in 10 trials; and the Rally Championship title, in which the team has to qualify in Advanced, Excellent, and Master.

The Rally Virtual pilot program is designed to have the Rally competitor set up a pre-designed course, video-document the team's performance, and submit it to

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the AKC. The AKC website has pre-designed Rally courses from which the exhibitor chooses. There also are Rally signs that can be downloaded, and instructional videos to help you learn each skill. Just as with in-person trials, teams must earn three qualifying scores with three different courses. To participate, follow instructions provided at the AKC website. Once the entry form is received, the video link will be assigned to a judge for review. The AKC notifies exhibitors of the unofficial scoring results, and all eligible qualifying scores are applied toward the relevant Rally title.

As of early December, 157 Pulis have earned Rally titles since 2005, with one title earned virtually. The AKC recently extended the Virtual Rally program to now end on December 31, 2021. So there is still plenty of time to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity with your Puli. Many advantages to Rally Virtual include less distraction for the dog in the ring than at a dog show, and you being able to set your own schedule, which means you are not tied to an AKC event schedule.

[Rally Virtual: further details/
how to participate](#)

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