The Puli, in contrast, does not over-reach, but rather should exhibit an efficient ground-covering, low fall extension (middle figure). The test of the Puli can be further contrasted with the pendulum test of the Fox Terrier shown above.

From: "The Illustrated Guide to the Puli" produced by the Puli Club of America.

The German Shepherd Dog shown at the top shows the extreme reach and drive typical of this breed.

Puli with exaggerated long upper arms, with too much pattern slope (far reach), too short and/or too steep upper arms (short steps, missing gait). Therefore the answer to the title of this article is that Puli are not "short stepping" and are not "far reaching" at a normal gaiting speed! Hopefully all readers are convinced by now that steep shoulder blades are a very serious hindrance in movement and should be avoided.

The reach of the front legs is only one aspect of the movement of the Puli. In the above we only analyzed the virtue and faults of the Puli's front that can be best evaluated from a side view. Fastidiously the elbow and pattern area, the width of the Puli, can influence from movement almost as much as straight shoulders and can only be analyzed from frontal or from view. The energy for the forward motion is coming from the hind quarters. The correct rear assembly with its associated angles are as important as the correct front assembly. Within the limits of this article I could not deal with those details.

I have to mention here that I would defy any dog show judge or dog fancier to accurately estimate or even measure relative bone angulation on a live dog. Plus or minus two or three degrees are not measurable and can not be measured effectively. In the study of angulation should be important to the breeder. Five or six degrees are very significant, even to the inexperienced eye.

We have to realize that many dog books and articles, and this one is no exception, are oversimplifications of the actual anatomical happenings. Shoulder blades are not attached to the ribcage with a belt and connection. They are not rotating around a pinjointed fixed mechanical axis. With the help of the muscle, cartilage and tendon connections the shoulder blades also shift, slide, twist in addition to the obvious rotary motion.

Those who have had the opportunity to study a dog movement in its natural form have had the fortune to see Mrs. Rachel Page Elliot's movie "where a dog is running on a treadmill in front of a fluoroscope," to realize that not even sophisticated anatomical texts book describe completely the complexity of movement.

The age when we based the terminology and knowledge of dog movement entirely on the knowledge of how people are rapidly coming to an end with the advancement of modern technology. For one reason this modern technology is advancing much slower in the field of dogs than on any other. High speed still photography was used to analyze the movement of humans and horses since the beginning of the 20th century. High-speed cinematography is a more recent development. Rachel Page Elliot was the pioneer who started the use of this technique in analyzing and interpreting dogs' movement. Ultra high speed Biomechanical Cinematography is widely used in analyzing and projecting athletes' capabilities. However, to the best of my knowledge, to date no canine researcher had a chance to use one of these sophisticated, expensive cameras on dogs. I certainly hope it will happen sometime in the near future.

Statistics show the average dog show exhibitor or dog club member stage active in a breed for about seven years. Not counting those very few who get hooked on dogs for a lifetime, dog clubs have an almost complete turnover in membership approximately every third year. An obsolete terminology, inappropriate use of canine anatomy, etc, propagated by some of the novice dog owners reinforces in this same seven year time period accordingly. Therefore I would like to recommend that this and similar articles on the subject of movement be published and re-published at least every seven years, for the sake of the uninformed.

Many of today's show German Shepherds display a faulty pattern of about 45°. On the other hand, the Terrier front is an exaggeration towards the shortening of the reach of the front assembly. The shoulder blade, however, here again, is approximately 45 degrees and the angle between the shoulder blade and the upper arm is about 90 degrees. However, the upper arm in this case is such that the center of the lower arm falls in front of the theoretical rotation point of the shoulder blade. In order to act as a better shock absorber it would be ideal to have a slight slope of the pattern, but as it is, this type of angle does not seem to be in a static balance. The more the patterns would slope forward the farther the pads would fall out from the actual imaginary rotating points of the shoulder blade and the more out of balance the movement would become.

The reason for this, in both of these fronts, the shoulder blades rotate about the same amount and the upper arm rotates forward about the same degree, it is easy to see how much further a German Shepherd may reach than a Terrier type front.

The Puli's front, like most other breeds' front, is set lower in relation to the middle of these two extremes. It is extremely important that in the ring examination of the Puli's front under the coat while on the table a judge should look for the Puli to fall out from the coat by limited ring size, or is unwilling to trot briskly due to an unusual surface (rubber mat for example) the judge should either have an idea of what the front assembly is correctly or faultly.

From the above it should be easy to see that we do not want Puli with exaggerated long upper arms, with too much pattern slope (far reach), too short and/or too steep upper arms (short steps, missing gait). Therefore the answer to the title of this article is that Puli are not "short stepping" and are not "far reaching" at a normal gaiting speed! Hopefully all readers are convinced by now that steep shoulder blades are a very serious hindrance in movement and should be avoided.

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Mr. Les Benis, who is Hungarian born, was an eminent Puli breeder in Hungary before he settled in the United States of America. He is one of the foremost Puli experts at the present time and is the owner of the famous U.S. Puli prefix "Hunna" and "Hunna" in the Puli world.

Mr. Benis is one of the top Puli judges (and also other Hungarian breeds) in the U.S. When a judge examines the quality of the Puli, this unique image comes to mind. He is constantly raising the standard of excellence on the Puli. He produced many, many champions, and he is also the author of this "THIS IS THE PULI."