



BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

a talk about the breed and then doing some demonstrations of obedience, tricks, and agility. Our “Corgi Show” was attended by 200 or so people who never left, both standing and sitting in front of the staging area, and the show was pronounced a highlight of the day! As we walked back to our booth, all conversations centered around “next year we will ...” We have already been invited to the March 2024 celebration.

We had an outstanding day! At various times, one of us would take a dog and just meander through the vendor area. Doing so greatly expanded our presence and gave us plenty of time to answer all questions. Children could pet the dogs, and adults could get informed answers. At the booth, we answered questions all day long about diet, grooming, training, rescue, responsible dog ownership, and so on. Some people were seriously interested in buying a Pembroke and received

correct information—the good and the bad. (Yes, they shed! A *lot!*) Others just wanted to pet the dogs and tell us about their corgis at home. One lady held a very in-depth conversation with two members as she was seriously considering getting a Pembroke and finally had a chance to talk with knowledgeable people about all her concerns. The Pembrokes attracted a lot of attention, and they were later greeted by name as they walked around with their owners.

We all agreed that this sort of activity was far better than past Meet the Breed activities in which we participated. People did not have to pay an admission or parking fee. The crowd at the booth was never that large, so everyone got plenty of individual attention. We had enough dogs and members to keep the booth well manned. We agreed that the random walks that we took with our dogs throughout the day were a positive contribution to the festivities

(since we shopped and ate too). We have discussed a few changes to make for next year, including specific handouts and activities (maybe a “Have your photo taken with a Pembroke” or a “Pembroke Kissing” booth!). There are other heritage festivals, but only one WelshFest!

Our annual Pembroke family reunion is at the end of September. See www.pwccanational.com for all the details.

—Lynda McKee,
TifflynLDM@aol.com
Pembroke Welsh Corgi
Club of America

Pulik

BITING

A dog’s mouth is very important to them—it is a primary way that they connect to and explore the world. Puppies are constantly using their mouths to grab, manipulate, and bite things, and this is the time that dogs start learning to inhibit their bites. This knowledge will serve them

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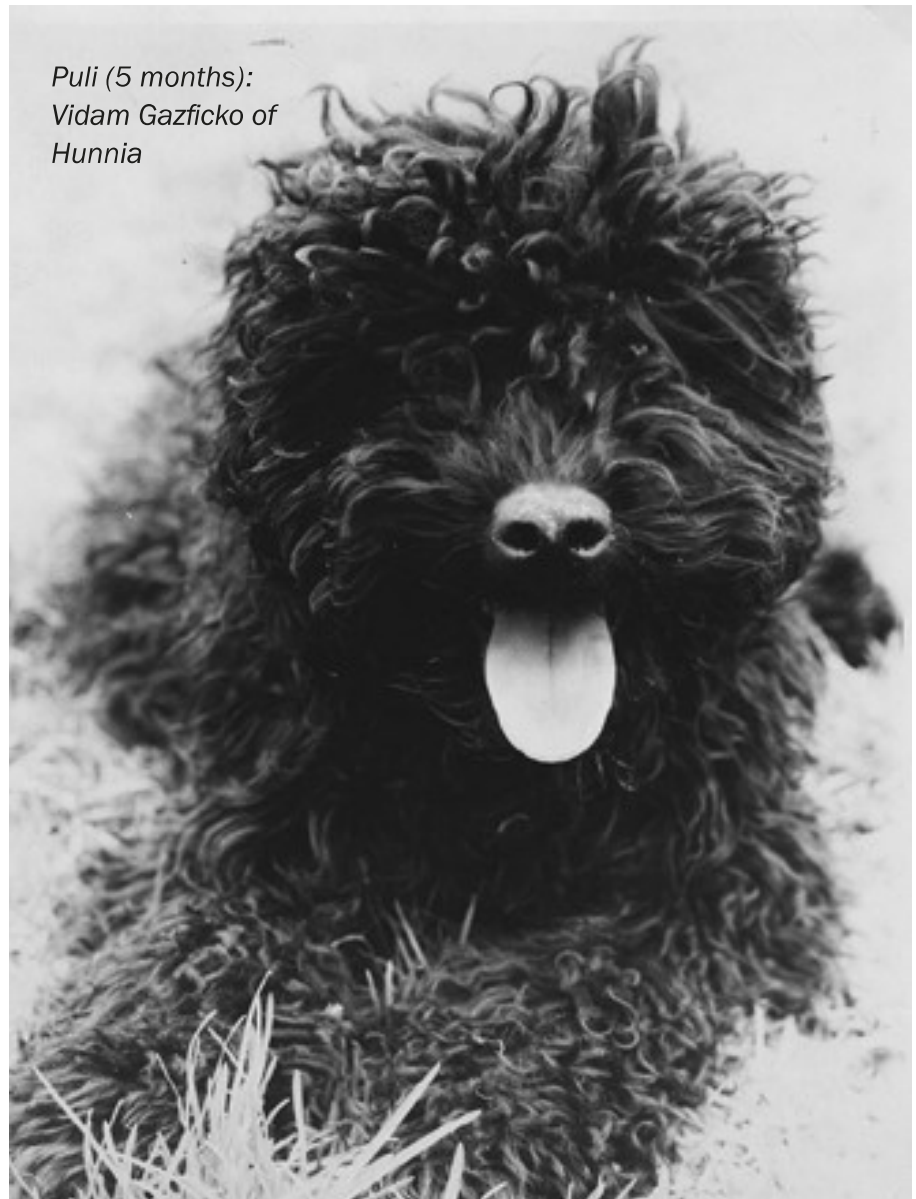
well in their future social interactions with other animals, including people.

In the dog world, there is the pack leader. You and your dog(s) are a pack. You are the one that needs to set the rules, boundaries, and limitations. Keeping a routine, starting training early, and keeping your dog active (mentally and physically) are all very important to dogs.

There is no one kind of bite, nor is there any bite without a prompt, internal or external. To know what to do with a biting dog—to even know how to talk about what he did—we need to understand that context.

The AKC provides useful information on understanding why dogs might react by biting (<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/why-do-dogs-bite/>). It is generally accepted that biting often happens as a protective gesture or as stress-induced response by the dog.

The AKC has published regulations for show events, addressing inappropriate



*Puli (5 months):
Vidam Gazficko of
Hunnia*

dog behavior (refer to the AKC website for your show activity of interest to see the regulations). Within the ring, the judge handles decisions of either excusing or disqualifying a dog. Outside the ring, if the Event

Committee becomes aware of any significant act of dog aggression that takes place in association with their event, they investigate. (As a side note, no exhibitor complaint is required.) Any dog that, in the opinion of the

AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION



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Event Committee, attacks a person or a dog at an AKC event, resulting in an injury, and is believed by that Event Committee to present a hazard to persons or other dogs, shall be disqualified. A dog that is “*disqualified by a judge for attacking a person in the ring, disqualified by an Event Committee for attacking and injuring a person or a dog, has been administratively barred due to multiple excusals for aggression, or that is disqualified by a judge for a permanent change in its appearance by artificial means, is ineligible to compete*”—nor may it be on the grounds at any AKC events until the dog has been reinstated.

I have competed over many years in both conformation and agility (and to a lesser degree in other AKC events) and have heard a number of complaints about, as well as observed myself, bad behavior including nipping and biting that seems to go unchecked or unreported. Sometimes this behavior is regarded as

an accident or a one-time event, while in other cases handlers/owners have dogs that are repeat offenders. Such incidents paint our breed and show dogs in general in an unfavorable light.

In short, don't be a jerk and be oblivious to or unaware of what is going on at the end of your leash while you are presumably distracted and somehow do not have your dog on a short leash or with your full attention on it.

Not all dogs like each other, others really want that dog treat or toy another dog has access to, so spacing between individuals and paying attention to body language is key. In these cases, I try the best that I can to put distance between the other handler and their dog so that my own dog will not feel the need to respond in turn to bad behavior by another dog.

As a Puli exhibitor, you need to be prepared that people (as well as other dogs) are often curious about the coat of our breed

and will come up very close and startle the Puli. Also, keep in mind that while you may know a particular breed, that doesn't mean you know the individual dog, and as such, you should not assume that every dog is OK with being approached closely (in particular, during stressful or high-adrenaline situations such as shows or trials).

It is important to note that canine behavior is complex and influenced by an interplay of genetics, environment, and individual experiences. Remember, each dog, like a human, is an individual, and while they may share common traits with their breed, they also have their unique personalities. If you need help addressing biting and safely curbing the behavior, seek a professional dog trainer who has experience with cases similar to yours. You might also seek out a board-certified veterinary behaviorist.

It also cannot be emphasized enough to those involved in dog breeding,



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please pay attention to all aspects of a dog used in a breeding program. In my opinion, there is most decidedly a genetic component to behavior, and aggressive/unpredictable behaviors can be passed on by both the stud and/or the bitch. You should not just be breeding for a structurally sound dog, but also a temperamentally sound one.

—Dagmar Fertl,
dfertl@gmail.com
Puli Club of America

Shetland Sheepdogs

PRESERVING BREED HISTORY

It can be devastating when a breed continues to or begins to lose several generations of founders of the breed in our country. The knowledge that has been available with a phone call, or lately a text, diminishes with each loss. Each post that says another icon of the breed has passed affects everyone that counted them as friends, mentors, and/or teachers. From the early importers of the breed in

the early 1900s, to the latest losses we endured since late 2020, I have been pondering the vast amount of experience that has been lost.

Fortunately our national breed club, the American Shetland Sheepdog Association, started many years ago developing programs, seminars, and an archive of historical records to save much of the knowledge that was apparent in these people. I think the ASSA has done a commendable job of trying to preserve the thoughts and history of our early breeders. For many years, at the national specialty, seminars and panel discussions, and articles in the handbook have featured these giants of our breed and allowed many students of our breed access to these people.

Lately even social-media groups have provided platforms where any member of the group can pose questions about the breed or the standard and even ask for photos of examples of virtues mentioned in the

standard. It can be an educational tool if you join a group where longstanding breeders participate and offer answers and further the discussion in positive ways. This can be very valuable for those currently trying to absorb as much as possible from those who have been in the breed for a long time. Take care to be sure the advice you get is based on the person's duration in the breed. Strive for knowledge, not opinion.

The ASSA also offers financial aid to local Sheltie clubs that offer seminars centered on knowledge of Shelties, such as bringing in known Sheltie breeders to speak on specific breed topics. This is an excellent way that the parent clubs can support education across the country.

Most important is to always avail yourself to all the opportunities you have to learn. Stay at the show after you have shown your dog. Often it is when the dust has settled at a show and dogs are cared for that