

major.

The point scale is the same throughout the country, and many trials do not have enough entries to make up a major.

Belli is the ninth HC Pembroke, the fourth one to also be a breed champion, and the first to have a championship in another discipline. With so few HCs in the breed, I asked Carol her thoughts. Following is her reply:

“I think it’s a function of availability, access (to training, practice, and trialing sites), and belief. The more of us who accomplish this goal, the more people believe they can as well ... and they can! Herding, although it has been around for over 25 years, is still an infant sport, just now beginning to see growth in the more suburban areas. When I first began in Corgis, I don’t think I knew anyone who worked stock with their dog. Now it’s a rare thing to not meet someone with a herding breed who has not at least seen an instinct test or knows someone taking lessons.”

Some of the problems that potential herding enthusiasts encounter include lack of training facilities, instructors, and trials. She feels that this situation has improved, and newcomers do not have the difficulties people faced even 10 years ago. The kind comments from fellow competitors as well compliments on Belli’s work from the judges themselves and each High in Trial or Reserve High in Trial award were affirmations of their ability to compete at the highest levels in herding.

If you want to add a triple championship to your goals, Carol had some suggestions. First, find a breeder whom you can trust if you yourself are not breeding your prospect. Traits to look for in the puppy include biddability, correct structure, and drive. Find instructors who have achieved what you aspire to do, whether it’s an OTCH, CT,

or a MACH in addition to the HC. Spend some time studying the psychology of winning. With both the OTCH and HC titles, you and your dog will have to beat others to get the needed points, unlike the MACH. Don’t course-train your dog in herding, as both of you will need to be able to think quickly on your feet and adapt to sudden changes. That takes a dog who understands the fundamental skills rather than just the pattern. Take the time to learn and to teach a firm foundation of skills.

From Belli to GCh./TC/MACH2 Sandfox Rags to Riches, CD, RA, HSAd, HSBd, HIAd, HXAdMsM, MXG, MJC, it’s been quite a ride! An inspiration to all of us, we can’t wait to see what other achievements await them.

To see our finest Pembrokes in action, plan to attend this year’s national specialty, September 26 through October 3 in Wisconsin. See [pwvca.org](http://pwvca.org) for full details.

—Lynda McKee,

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## Pulik What Does “Medium Size” Mean?

The terms *medium* and *moderate* are used often to describe the Pulik. What does *medium* mean with regard to a Pulik’s size?

In the late 1800s, the Pulik’s size was referenced as “lower than the highest point of the shepherd’s boots.” As with many other breeds, individual Pulik were used for different purposes, and different sizes resulted—or was it actually the different sizes of Pulik that drove the variety of jobs assigned of them?

More than 70 years ago, the Hungarian studbook recorded standards for the following classes: the police Pulik (19 inches plus); the

working or medium Pulik (19.7 to 15.7 inches); the small Pulik (15.7 to 11.8 inches); and the dwarf, miniature, or toy Pulik (11 inches and under).

When standardization of the breed began, it was decided that the medium-sized dogs were most representative of the traditional herding Pulik—they were established as the desired size—and during the past 50–60 years, Pulik have become more uniform in appearance.

The ideal Pulik male measures 17 inches from the withers (peak of the shoulders) to the ground, while bitches are 16 inches. An inch over or under these measurements is acceptable, according to the breed standard. Size deviating from the limits mentioned in the standard is not a disqualification in the United States.

The weight of a Pulik depends on his height, bone, and the amount of coat. A 15-inch female with a short haircut may weigh 23 to 25 pounds, while a 17-inch male in full show coat may weigh about 37 pounds (the coat will weigh about 5 to 7 pounds on this dog).

While size is one factor, one must also remember that the proportions of the Pulik are the most important. The Pulik is a square breed with slightly more leg than body. The distance from the top of withers to elbow is slightly less than the distance from elbow to ground, the proportion being 45 percent body depth to 55 percent leg length. (That proportion is not specified in the American standard but can be found in the original Hungarian standard and appears in the official *Illustrated Guide to the Pulik*, published by the Pulik Club of America, [pulik-club.org/JECIllusGuide.pdf](http://pulik-club.org/JECIllusGuide.pdf).)

Bottom line, one *must* always consider the original purpose for which the Pulik was bred: *shepherding*. Only a medium-sized, very agile, sound Pulik could move a herd of sheep,

leaping over the terrain and bouncing off the sheep to get them moving in the right direction, and *do that all day*. Remember also, there is more to a Puli than his coat. A short-legged Puli with a heavy coat would not be very effective in his job. Too big or too heavy, a Puli wouldn't last the day.

I always like to think of a Puli as being a big dog in a "medium" package.

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## Pyrenean Shepherds Follow That Nose—You May Find More Than a Glove

One of my first columns for this space talked about tracking with puppies, of any breed. My reasons for starting the little fellows in a dog sport so young include building confidence in the puppy, since he or she is in charge when it comes to finding a scent. While I've watched pups enjoy tracking and grow in confidence as they figure out that they're essential to this new game, I had never thought about what tracking successfully might do for an adult dog.

This last winter and spring I resumed tracking with one of our Pyr Sheps, Speed. Speed has suffered from anxieties for most of his life, and we have spent much time on desensitization and counter-conditioning. He had improved in terms of being able to tolerate more environmental challenges but still had some distance to go when we once again started working on his Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) skills.

As we worked through the complexities involved in training for a TDX (a track at least three hours old, three articles, more length, cross-tracks to ignore, and obstacles of different kinds, among other difficulties), Speed became more and

more skilled at solving the problems. I enjoyed watching his skills improve and seeing him concentrate, but I had no idea that something else was changing at the same time.

We made it into a May TDX test, and Speed started his track with authority and assurance—as businesslike as I could have wished, despite three strange judges behind him and a small group of onlookers. He crossed a ditch, went under a fence, barely blinked at his first set of cross-tracks, and indicated his first interim article with nary a glitch.

Unfortunately, his errant handler remembered a much less trustworthy and younger Speed. I let him down by assuming what no handler should: that I knew more about the job than my dog did. I simply did not give him credit for all the information that he had absorbed.

Once I was set straight, he completed his track with no need at all for human help—mine or the track layer's—and it was obvious to all the observers that he knew exactly how to do his job, provided the biped behind him didn't get in the way.

However, it turned out that I had not taken into account something even more important. Solving all those problems over months of training, and taking charge of figuring out each time we worked where the track really did go—whether through water or woods, up hill or down—had had a huge impact on more than my smart little dog's tracking. His confidence in his ability to solve complex scent-problems had increased his belief that he could cope with the world around him.

This delightful revelation about the new Speed came when he found the glove at the end of his TDX track. I praised him exuberantly; he was ready to go right on tracking, and he ignored the track-layer and bounced around happily as

she came up behind us. As the four judges came up to talk about his track, Speed ignored them, too, still as cheerful as could be (by now he was eager to get his juicy chicken reward back at the car). Before our recent work, he would have been very nervous to have several strangers within a few feet of him.

This time, he was unfazed. So, if you have a worried older dog, think about the possibility that a quiet, complex job like tracking might make a difference!

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## Swedish Vallhunds Screening Homes

There really is no breed that is right for everyone. Certainly there are some breeds that are suitable for a wide variety of homes, and others which have a more narrow range of suitability, but no breed can be perfect for everyone.

One of the challenges faced by fanciers of any breed is that sometimes you have to be the bearer of bad news and help people see that yours really isn't the breed for them. Certainly some people have done their homework and know what they like about the breed, and come to us to learn what they might not like, and educating people about your breed's less-charming aspects is a responsibility we share. (As I have heard someone in another breed say, "They only shed twice a year: January to June, and July to December"—which is of course an exaggeration, but not too far from the truth in some breeds!)

One of the first questions I ask a person when they contact me about my breed is "Have you managed to meet any Swedish Vallhunds in person yet?" With less-common breeds, it is pretty rare for people to have just run into one on the street. More