

HERDING GROUP

like “surprise!” or “cheese!” Use the command to call the puppy from a short distance away. Heavily feed the puppy small pieces of a food that he will only get in response to the rescue call. Be sure to also verbally and physically praise him as he eats. Let him wander a few feet, repeat the command, and heavily feed. Train the puppy in the house first, and then train it outside in a safe location. Once the puppy has mastered the command, randomly use it from time to time to reinforce it and in face of various distractions. The puppy always gets his special food in the training sessions.

Your vet will love you for teaching your puppy a stand on command. Grooming is always easier if the puppy knows “stand.” Keep grooming sessions short. You might consider trimming toenails somewhere other than a grooming table so that the puppy does not associate a table with an unpleasant experience.

“Off” is not the same as “down.” “Off” is to prevent the puppy from jumping up on people or to teach it get off the furniture. “Leave it” can be used to teach the puppy not to touch an item or sniff another dog. For the super friendly puppies, “leave it” might mean not to approach a person or dog.

The “get it game” can be used to teach the puppy to come. Simply toss a cookie within

easy reach of the puppy. As the puppy gets and eats the treat, call it and then toss a cookie in the opposite direction. As he eats that cookie, call the puppy and back up a few steps. As the puppy comes to you, verbally praise it, give it some cookies, and play with the puppy. This command can be used to teach fronts, increase drive on about turns, or as a general release in any training activity.

Stays are necessary around the house as well as in lots of training venues. Have the puppy sit by offering it a cookie over its head. Pause and give the puppy the cookie. Then offer a cookie from the front. Should the puppy get up, a simple “ah ah” is all that is needed. Put the puppy back in a sit. You can lengthen the amount of time before giving the puppy the cookie. Take a step back. No stay means no cookie. Increase the time and the distance to a couple of steps and move the cookie towards and away from the puppy. He will learn to hold his stay for increasing periods of time.

Walking on a leash without pulling will later translate into heeling if in the obedience ring or gaiting if in the show ring. The puppy can learn to quickly pay attention to you if you simply change direction quickly and without warning. Any leash pop is caused by the puppy and he will soon catch on to paying attention to you. You can reinforce the attention with a cookie and verbal praise.

Your breeder or friends can recommend training books and classes. Other sources of information include local Pembroke and all-breed clubs. Happy training!

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

Pulik

BEST IN SHOW PULIK

2016 marked a year unparalleled in the history of the Puli—GCh.B/Ch. Mister Blue Sky (“Preston”) won Best in Show (BIS) at the largest-ever AKC National Championship! To add to the many honors he has received, Preston also finished 2016 as number-one dog, all breeds. He is owned by Ellen Charles, Jackie Beaudoin, Linda Pitts, Penny Kelly, and Sue Huebner. He was bred by Sue Huebner and is handled by Linda Pitts. Congratulations to all who are associated with Preston for this remarkable achievement. Such an accomplishment was a long time in coming, and this is the perfect moment to revisit some Puli history, in particular for BIS winners.

The Puli was recognized by AKC in 1936. The first AKC Puli champion was Ch. Magyar’s Bundaz, who was owned and bred

by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Cook, of Magyar Kennels. This Puli finished his championship on October 10, 1948, at the Bald Eagle Kennel Club dog show under judge W.F. Meyer.

It wasn’t until 1950 that a Puli finally was awarded a placement in the Working Group (at that time there was no Herding Group). She was Ch. Czigany Tanczos, CD, owned and shown by Mrs. Alma Nemes and bred by Mr. Bronson Williams, considered to be one of the founding fathers of the breed in the U.S. Tanczos also happens to be the first Puli bitch to become an AKC champion.

It then took another 18 years before a Puli was awarded BIS. On January 25, 1968, at the Palm Beach County Dog Fanciers show, Ch. Skysyl Question Being Is It (“Monday”) went BIS under judge Mrs. Augustus Riggs IV. She was a gray Puli owned by Prof. and Mrs. William Lilley, bred by Mrs. Sylvia Owen, and handled by Mr. Philip D. Fairfield. She was not a one-hit wonder, adding a BIS during September 1970 in Reston, Virginia.

Both Ch. Skysyl Question Being Is It and Ch. Czigany Tanczos were shown with brushed coats, as the corded coat at that time in the U.S. was deemed “unkempt.”

The first BIS for a corded Puli was in 1971, with Ch. Pulikountry’s Apro, CD (“Apro”), owned and campaigned by Mrs. Lois

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McManus, and bred by Robert and Anne Kennedy. Interestingly, “Apro” went BIS under Judge Mrs. Augustus Riggs IV (the same judge who awarded Monday her first BIS).

The first imported Puli to become a BIS winner was Ch. Sasvolgyi Puszi Pajitas (“Minka”), in September 1974. She was owned by Leslie Benis and Barry Becker and was handled by Leslie J. Benis.

The first Puli Best Brace in Show was in 1964. This brace was composed of Ch.

Gooseberry Hill Inkling and Ch.

Gooseberry Hill Jan-Jan, owned and bred by Mr. and Mrs. John McManus and shown by Lois McManus.

A team of Pulik won Best Team in Show at the Kennel Club of Beverly Hills in both 1973 and 1974. The Thunder Mount team included Ch. Thunder Mount Arpad, Thunder Mount Bajnok, Ch. Thunder Mount Burkus, and Ch. Thunder Mount Asci. All were full brothers from two matings. The team was owned by Geraldine and Augusta Planck.

The most BIS-winning Puli is “Preston,” with 89 BIS.

The most BIS-winning Puli bitch is GCh.B/Ch. Cordmaker Topsy Turvey (Preston’s mother, “Charlotte”), with 18 BIS.

In total, 60 Pulik have gone BIS. This is a testament to their breeders and is also due to the effort of the dedicated Puli pioneers (particularly in 1936–1955) who started with a small gene pool and with a desire to promote the Puli, persevering when setbacks occurred and thereby resulting in the quality Pulik we enjoy today. As noted by Sylvia Owen in the 1970s, “There is every reason to expect that more Pulis will be added to this distinguished group [BIS] as time progresses and judges recognize the best that the breed has to offer.”

Puli owners are proud of the versatility of our breed. There are BIS Pulik who are multipurpose, participating in herding, obedience, agility, and other performance activities. The best example of a dual-ring dog was Ch./OTCH Prydain Edyrnion (“Huggy Bear”), who received both a BIS and a High in Trial in obedience at the Mobile Kennel Club show on September 9, 1979. This is a statistic that very few dogs in any breed can claim—including no other Puli. Huggy Bear was owned by Barbara Edwards and Leslie Leland, bred by Constance Peterson, and trained and shown by Leslie Leland.

I wish to convey my sincere thanks to all those who helped compile this information.

—Dagmar Fertl,

dfertl@gmail.com

Puli Club of America,

www.puliclub.org

greater excitement and commitment to his job at hand would be witnessed if the dog were entering the barn door to start a day of chores of controlling an unruly herd of sheep or cattle, but the conformation judge has only the small empty square of rubber matting or manicured grass to acquire a glimpse of the breed’s character. It will be quickly apparent that the dog is devoted to his owner/handler as he frequently glances upward and makes eye contact, asking for further instruction on what the next move may be. This is a very deeply ingrained characteristic of the breed—devotion to the owner.

As the dog is placed upon the table for further review, the judge may sometimes notice a tensing of the dog’s body or a wide-eyed glare from the dog, as his body language voices his displeasure at being handled by an uninvited stranger, yet his ease of training and great desire to please his owner will usually express itself in his haughty resignation to remain still despite these unwelcome indignities. The calm touch of the owner’s hand on the dog will evoke a sensed relaxation, as the touch communicates their close bond and understanding.

Now the dog is asked to circle the ring to show off his utilitarian and economical movement, but it also clearly reveals his purpose and heritage. The curvaceous outline of the rough-faced variety now extends rectangularly,



Preston

Pyrenean Shepherds

Our guest columnist is Susan Buttivant, of Millbrook, Ontario, Canada.

ESSENTIALLY PYRENEAN SHEPHERD

As the Pyrenean Shepherd steps into the show ring, his character should become apparent by his actions and the manner in which he carries his body and head. Of course, a