

HERDING GROUP

can be your best resource. She knows her bloodlines better than anyone else and spent a significant part of her life raising and training the puppy before you took it home. Turn to your breeder and veterinarian to answer questions and for help.

Active puppies are generally tired puppies, and tired puppies are generally well-behaved puppies. You might want to start exploring activities other than walks in the park and playing ball in the yard. A quality puppy obedience class goes a long way to helping civilize the youngster. Obedience is the foundation for other activities. If you enjoy being outdoors, your Corgi puppy will definitely enjoy tracking. Herding sessions will be short, and the point will be to introduce the puppy to livestock and build interest. Serious agility training is for older pups, but most facilities have some sort of an introductory class where the emphasis is more on introducing equipment and safety than on becoming proficient. You can contact your closest Pembroke club, as there will be members who will gladly help you find training classes. If your puppy is a conformation prospect, the members can help you find show handling classes. Other activities include therapy work, barn hunt, lure coursing ability, dock diving, and scent work. There are a plethora of activities in which you and your puppy can participate, limited only

by your time and checkbook!

Degenerative Myelopathy Clinical Trials

The University of Missouri Veterinary Health Center is currently seeking dogs with degenerative myelopathy (DM) for enrollment in a clinical trial. The purpose of the study is to evaluate a new drug as a possible treatment for DM, with hopes of slowing the progression of the disease. For more information, see the current [clinical trials section](#) of the neurology department, or contact Dr. Joan Coates directly at coatesj@missouri.edu. Her phone number is available on the website.

—Lynda McKee,

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[Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America](#)

Polish Lowland Sheepdogs

Russ Tesarz wrote the following for this column in 2008.

MODERN-DAY MENTORS

Defined as “a wise and trusted counselor or teacher,” *mentor* has become a modern-day buzzword. It seems that in this day and age, one cannot become proficient in any endeavor without having a mentor.

The dog fancy, where one is expected to have at least one mentor, is no exception. The sport

of dogs is so broad that in fact it would be advantageous to have multiple mentors.

Anyone who is new to the fancy, to breeding, or to a certain type of training or competition can benefit greatly from the advice of a mentor.

There are a number of avenues to explore in looking for a mentor. The Internet is an invaluable resource for locating and getting in touch with people. There are a multitude of online communities that offer opportunities to learn from others who have years of experience and knowledge in the sport. Books of course are also an excellent source of help from individuals with great experience in days gone by. Probably the most helpful mentor, however, is one who can be met in person. Membership in a club, where one can meet people having varying degrees of experience and areas of knowledge, is an excellent way to find others with similar interests.

The most important mentor is probably the breed mentor. This is most frequently the breeder from whom one has purchased a dog. A breed mentor is most likely to know the breed’s idiosyncracies in areas such as training, presentation, and reproduction.

The relationship with a mentor should be based on knowledge, trust, and friendship. One of the advantages to having a counselor is the avoidance of common pitfalls. However, learning is the accumulation of knowledge and

experience, and a wise teacher allows some lessons to be learned through the making of mistakes. A good mentor may not have all the answers, but they should be able to point to a direction where answers may be found. A mentor should not be dictatorial, with a “my way or the highway” attitude. A gifted teacher encourages the student to form opinions of their own and become independent.

Ideally there comes a time when a mentor is not only a counselor but also a friend. Perhaps at that point the student may have the opportunity to become a mentor to someone else. Everyone in the fancy should have the opportunity to “pay it forward.”

As always, ideas, comments and suggestions are welcome. — R.T.

[American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Club](#)

Pulik

2017 PULI NATIONAL SPECIALTY

The Puli Club of America (PCA) held its national specialty last fall at the Wilson County Exposition Center in Lebanon, Tennessee (approximately 25 miles east of downtown Nashville), on October 12–16. The specialty was affiliated with the Tri-Star Kennel Club of the Williamson County (TN) shows.

Breeder-judge Ms. Sherry L. Gibson judged

HERDING GROUP

the national specialty on October 13. With an entry of 41 Puli (11 dogs/12 bitches, two veteran dogs, one veteran bitch, and 15 Best of Breed—nine dogs and six bitches), and two Junior Showmanship entries, Ms. Gibson awarded the following:

Best of Breed: Ch. Bubbleton Thunderstruck (D)

Best of Winners: Wyldmor Cast a Spell (B)

Best of Opposite Sex: Ch. Wyldmor Whisper of Moonshadow (B)

Select Dog: GCh. Weatherby's Rough Rider (D)

Select Bitch: GCh. Moonshadow A League of Her Own, CDX, BN, RE (B)

Best Puppy in the Puppy Classes: Moonshadow Wonder Woman (B)

Best BBE: Noe Barkaja Kotel Hegy Kecse (D)

Best Veteran: Bubbleton Feel the Spirit (D)

Awards of Merit:

- Ch. Bubbleton the Beautiful Sinner CGC (B)

- Bubbleton Feel the Spirit (D)

- Ch. Weatherby Jack Flash (D)

- Ch. Moonshadow Mind Games (D)

Best Owner-Handled: GCh. Weatherby's Rough Rider (D)

Best Junior Handler: Christian Denk

Ms. Amanda Mills, from the U.K., judged sweepstakes for the national specialty. Ms.



Puli Club of America 2017 national specialty: Best of Breed under judge Mrs. Sherry Gibson was Ch. Bubbleton Thunderstruck, with Barbe Pessina; High in Trial in Obedience was Ch. Bartok's Harvest Song, UDX3, OM5, PT, MXJ, MX, "Shaker," handled by Nancy Kelly; and High in Trial in Agility was Ch. Loakespark Too Hot to Handle, MX, MXB, MXJ, MJB, T2B, OF, "George," with Alex Davis.

COURTESY PULI CLUB OF AMERICA

HERDING GROUP

Mills awarded Best in Sweepstakes to Moonshadow Vagabond (D), and Best Veteran in Sweepstakes to GCh. Szeder's Little Miss Sunshine (B).

At the regional specialty, on October 14, judge Mr. Merle Taylor awarded Best of Breed to Ch. Weatherby Jack Flash (D), who then went on to win Best in Show (also under Mr. Taylor). At the October 15 PCA-supported entry, Ch. Moonshadow Mind Games (D) was awarded Best of Breed under judge Mr. Charles E. Trotter and then received a Group 2 under judge Mrs. Patricia V. Trotter.

On October 12, the PCA hosted an all-breed agility trial at the Never Go Back Ranch in Watertown, Tennessee—a fabulous facility. The trial was judged by Mr. Dan Faulkner. Twelve Pulik participated that day, for a total of 29 runs (T2B was also offered that day in addition to JWW and Standard). High Scoring Puli was Ch. Loakespark Too Hot to Handle, MX, MXB, MXJ, MJB, T2B, OF. “George” was handled by Alex Davis.

On October 13, obedience and rally trials were held before the conformation judging started at the Exposition Center. Eight Puli entries participated in obedience, and seven entries participated in rally (to note the versatility of the Puli, some individual Puli participated in both obedience and rally). Both venues were judged by William R. Parrill, Jr. High

in Trial in Obedience was Ch. Bartok's Harvest Song, UDX3, OM5, PT, MXJ, MX, “Shaker,” handled by Nancy Kelly. Highest Combined Scoring Dog in Rally was GCh. Moonshadow A League of Her Own, CDX, BN, RE. “Ivy” was handled by Nancy Guagenti.

Herding was held on October 16 at The Stables at Belle Meadow in Wartrace, Tennessee. This fantastic facility is set in the picturesque hills of middle Tennessee. The PCA was able to offer two different herding tests: a Herding Instinct Test (IT) and Farm Dog Certified (FDC). Judges were Doyle Ivie and Rick Hardin. By having two judges, some Pulik were able to start and complete a title in one day. In fact, six Pulik were able to do just that. There was only a small but very enthusiastic turnout. It would have been hard to determine who had more fun—the Pulik or their owners!

The Puli Club of America wishes to congratulate all the winners and to send a special thank-you to all who participated in the week of Puli events. Specifics on the entries and placements for the various events may be found at the PCA website's [national-specialty page](#).

Other activities associated with the PCA's multi-day event included the annual board meeting on October 12. The annual meeting

included having committee chairs submit their annual reports; the viewing of new club challenge and perpetual trophies; recording of ballots; and the introduction of new officers and board members. The social aspect of the specialty weekend began with a welcome pizza party on October 12, and the annual banquet held on October 13 was followed by a very spirited auction.

A very special acknowledgement must be made to specialty chair Glen VanDerhart and to his committee and other volunteers for making the 2017 PCA national specialty the success it was. I appreciate the input of Patty Anspach, Nancy Kelly, and Cathy Pronzini for this column.

—Dagmar Fertl,
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[Puli Club of America](#)

Spanish Water Dogs MENTORSHIP IN A “NEW” BREED

“But have you *been* to Spain and *seen* the breed there in the pastures and fields?” asked my very good friend, with some exasperation, during a heated conversation about elements of breed type. Of course she knows that while I have been to Europe to observe the breed, I have not been to Spain (and she has). Ultimately we agreed to dis-

agree on the point of contention; but really, who is correct, and how will we find out?

Despite a slowly increasing breed community in both the United States and Canada, the Spanish Water Dog remains largely a rare and little known breed on this continent. As yet, there are no breeding programs with generations of depth in pedigrees of home-grown champions and/or performance titles or, in many cases, even breeding stock. The names in our pedigrees are often still primarily dogs that were European bred and owned, with the majority unknown to us other than through pictures and pedigree databases.

Those of us with a deep commitment to the breed pursue our passion with the best of intentions and to the best of our abilities, but of course also with our own biases. Not all of our breeders are even willing to get involved in conformation and performance, citing disillusionment, cost, and travel constraints. Other breeders get underway with one or two litters but then decide for various reasons to discontinue breeding. We can count on one hand the number of breeders in the U.S. and Canada involved in the breed for more than 10 years who are still actively breeding and also promote the breed on an ongoing basis through involvement in AKC and/or CKC conformation and/or performance events.

There are breed fanciers in North America