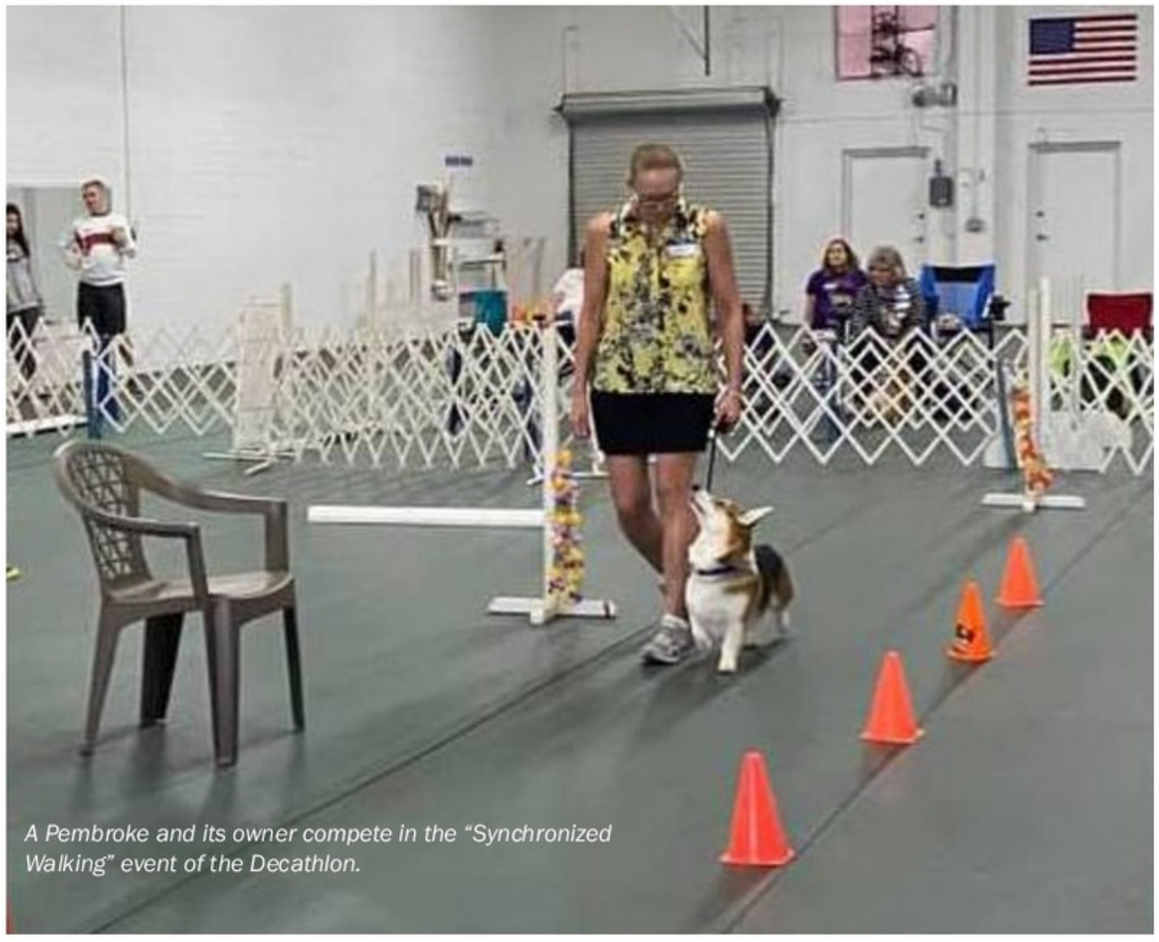
PURINA PRO PLAN

HERDING GROUP



A Pembroke and its owner compete in the "Synchronized Walking" event of the Decathlon.

encouraged to not let their dogs jump higher than they were comfortable. Several bowed out at the eight-inch mark for that reason.

Corgi Weight Lifting involved three Pembrokes on tables. Participants had to guess the total weight of the three without going over and without touching the dogs. Owners then weighed their dogs and gave the weights to the judge. Dumbbell Throw had participants throwing a dumbbell over an eight-inch high jump, trying to be the closest to the "X" on the floor.

In the timed Popcorn Toss, owners sat and dogs had to each catch five pieces of popcorn. It was surprisingly more difficult than we thought! Spectators enthusiastically counted the number of clean catches.

Another surprising event was the Speed Eating contest. We thought our voracious eaters would quickly down the pack of veggies. Oh, no! One corgi laid down and very fastidiously and carefully chewed each veggie! The Hot Dog Stare had two corgis locked in battle as they both obeyed the very good "Leave It" command. The winner was declared by releasing the dogs and the first one to eat the hot dog was the winner. In the Short-Legged Dash, corgis ran for time, with the top times progressing to the finals with a final run-off.

The events were designed so that *all* Pembrokes, even older puppies, could safely participate. No formal training was required for any event. For off-leash races, someone held the dog and the owner called it in the safety of an alleyway made by ring gating. There were no head-to-head competitions, so that the events were safe for all. Very few dogs participated in all the events—owners tended to select the events which were the best fit for their dogs.

Points were awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, along with points for participating. While final results were totaled, the dogs paraded their finest Halloween Costumes. Each participant got a goodie bag containing items for dog and human. Photos were taken, and there was much laughter throughout the day! It was so good to see everyone and hear the laughs! The Decathlon winner got a thermal mug with a Pembroke doing an Olympic high jump. Second got a calendar with the same logo. Third got a notepad.

We had such a great time that there are plans to make some form of the Howl-Olympics an annual club event!

Our annual national specialty takes place September 24 through October 1. Herding and tracking will be the first weekend, in Kentucky. The remainder of the specialty will be at the Roberts Centre in Wilmington, Ohio. For up-to-date information and premium lists, see http://www.pwccanational.com. Hope to see you there!

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

Pulik

IN APPRECIATION OF DON GOLD

Many parent-club members feel their efforts in performance events and community service are overlooked in favor of the highly publicized conformation events. This dissatisfaction can affect continuing membership in those parent clubs. It is time that par-

©COURTESY AMY CAPLE

PURINA PRO PLAN

HERDING GROUP

Don Gold with his Puli, Cricket; Cricket working sheep; Cricket and Don working ducks at the Advanced level.

ent clubs make a concentrated effort to honor and acknowledge those who pursue a different area of dog sports and service. Let us make a start to rectify that oversight by highlighting one Puli Club of America (PCA) member, Mr. Don Gold.

In the 1990s, Don Gold became fascinated with the breed after seeing a picture of a Puli riding the back of a sheep. That fascination resulted in acquiring Tasha, Sugarbear Annatasha Gold. After seeking advice from a PCA member, Don bred Tasha.

Her son became Don's second Puli, Barney (Ch. Talisman's Barnabus Betyar, CD, PT, NAJ, CGC, TT, VPA, JHDs, HTDIId, HTADIIId, OTDds, DThD, VPA). Barney helped newcomer Don through AKC titles in conformation, agility, and obedience. Of course, Don couldn't stop there. A friend introduced him to herding at Nancy Obermark's herding facility. Don was encouraged to try the Herding Instinct Test, and an aficionado was born. At 9 years old, Barney started a career that ended at age 13 with 10

COURTESY DON GOLD

PURINA PRO PLAN

HERDING GROUP

herding titles, including AKC titles—HT, PT and Advanced Duck. "Barney" was featured in the 2008 July issue of the AKC GAZETTE,and shortly thereafter Barney was recognized as the AKC Versatile Dog of the Month. To round out their resume, Don trained Barney to work as a therapy dog with the Delta Society.

In the meantime, Don's son became enamored with Pulik and he acquired one from Sweden, L.E. (HTCH Vastsjo L E of Talisman, OFTDds, ATDd, OTDs, AFTDds, STDds, HTDIsd, HTDIId, HRDIIIs, RLFIIIs, HRDIIIsdm, HTADIIId, RLFIIIsdm, HSBd, HSAsd, HIAd, CGC, THD). Due to his son's work and travel, L.E. at age 7 started living with Don and his wife Maxine. No surprise, Don took L.E. along with Barney to his herding lessons at Nancy Obermark's facility. L.E. was a natural and was started in training. L.E. became the number-one Herding Trial Puli for the years 2010, 2011, and 2013. L.E. was renowned nationally and internationally (including the Swedish *Puli News*) for her herding prowess, earning 33 herding titles through the AKC, ASCA (Australian Shepherd Club of America), and AHBA (American Herding Breed Association). She earned many High in Trial awards before retiring at age 13.

As with Barney, Don trained L.E. in therapy work. The pair entertained kids at St. Jude, LeBonhuer Shrine School, Airport Youth Village, Mending Hearts Camp and many others, wherever was the need. They also began weekly visits to the Shelby County Juvenile Court in Tennessee to offer comfort. There, L.E. was sworn in by judge Dan Michael as an honorary sheriff's deputy and given a VIP parking space and a security badge. (She was not allowed to fix tickets and had to swear to not carry a weapon, however!)

Don became the proud owner of his current Puli, Cricket (Legacy for Prydain, HSAs, STDd, STDs, RLFs, OTDd, HTDs, FDC, THDX, CGC), when she was 1½ years old. She is now 7 years old and is working sheep at the Advanced level, as well as ducks. Cricket is following L.E. with international recognition and being the number-one herding-trial Puli. Cricket has six herding titles (not limited to AKC), including her AHBA Ranch Large Flock sheep (RLFs) title (involving 25 sheep) and also an AKC Farm Dog title.

Cricket is a strong competitor in the herding world; she recently was awarded first place at an AKC herding event working sheep at the Advanced level over all other breeds (including Border Collies, Shelties, and Corgis). Like L.E., Cricket has been featured in the AHBA's international publication. Don is so highly regarded that AHBA has published a number of articles on his accomplishments with his Pulik. Don is especially proud that recently AHBA president Linda Rorem came to Memphis, where Don lives, and to watch him work with Cricket. Linda Rorem and Don each worked Cricket on ducks on an Advanced course at Nancy Obermark's herding facility.

Cricket also brings smiles with her work as a therapy dog. She recently earned her AKC Therapy Dog Excellent title. "Cricket" also continues L.E.'s work at the Shelby County Juvenile Court. Cricket and a rescue Greyhound "Jude" are on call to assist kids and parents with fear and stress before entering the courtroom. In recognition of her service, Cricket is on staff at the Shelby County Juvenile Court with her own badge, as well as a VIP parking space. In 2019, Cricket and her partner Jude were awarded Outstanding Service Awards by judge Michael and Memphis chief of police Mike Rallings. The hope is that this particular county-level program will branch out nationwide.

At 85 years, Don is out training every week. (Don says that it's he who needs the training, more so than the Puli.) Don also is still competing in herding competitions. He is very proud of his accomplishments and says, "I have enjoyed and proven that with patience and good training, every Puli can learn to herd stock. I hope to leave a legacy for others to follow." There are a handful of PCA members who have been trying for many years to get Don official recognition thru the club for his lifetime of Puli accomplishments. My hope is that the PCA will officially acknowledge Don Gold's contribution as an ambassador to the breed (with 52 herding titles over the course of 36 years in Puli, and as many years involved with therapy work). He is someone who truly embraces the purpose-bred Puli.

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

Swedish Vallhunds

Our column that began in the March issue continues this month, written by Ivy Underdahl, Maria Gunderson, and Carol Wissler.

THE NOSE KNOWS PART TWO

Reflections from a NoseWork Trial, by Ivy Underdahl

We stand at the start line, Elfie (GCHS VSVX Solborg Elphaba St, SWM, SIAE, SBAE, CGCA, TKE) and I, my heart pounding as I tell her, "No matter what, you are the best girl ever." Elfie is already sniffing. She hones in on the scents: birch/anise/clove/