

HERDING GROUP

and conformation at the breed's next national specialty, to be held September 27—October 4. Herding is off site, but all other events will be held at the Roberts Centre in Wilmington, Ohio. Check www.pwcca.org for details.

—Lynda McKee,
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Pulik

I invited longtime Puli owner and boater Lorne Collingwood, who lives in Vancouver, British Columbia (Canada), to share his boating experiences with Pulik.

BOATING WITH A PULI

In 1992, my wife and I bought a twin-engine Tollycraft built in Washington state. We have now spent 32 years exploring the south, central, and north coasts of British Columbia, as well as many months in the San Juan Islands (Washington state). In all but two years, we had a

Puli on board, sometimes two.

While we introduced “Murphy Brown” to boating at the age of 7, all three of our boy Pulik were introduced to the boat at an early age. We took our current Puli, Gabor, down to the boat when he was 11 weeks old. We didn't go anywhere, just let him wander around it. Once our Puli puppy had finished exploring, my wife, Nicki, sat in a chair with him in her arms while I started both engines. I wanted to introduce him to the noise of diesel engines. Some dogs are frightened by the roar, but he was not.

It is important that your Puli wears a life jacket, even in a marina. For reasons unknown, our second Puli, Little Betyar, fell off a wide public dock while not wearing a life jacket, and it took two people to lift him out of the water. Since that day, all our Pulis have worn life jackets if there is any chance that they might end up in the water.

Not only will a life jacket help keep a Puli afloat, in

addition good jackets come with handles that make it easier to lift a dog out of the water. Life jackets for dogs come with adjustable straps and buckles and/or Velcro. Velcro works well on the collar, but designs that employ a lot of Velcro where the life jacket wraps around the belly can be frustrating for both you and your Puli, as Velcro clings to a Puli's cords. A little Velcro well-placed is fine, however.

The San Juan Islands and the Gulf Islands and Desolation Sound (southern B.C.) are popular summer destinations for boaters. The scenery is spectacular, and calm, dry weather is the norm. But there are two dangers: unruly dogs and wood ticks. Most dog owners keep their dogs on leash, but some persist in letting their dogs run free in the parks and marinas (which are confined areas). Ticks are a particular problem in the spring in the San Juans, and a Puli's coat can make a tick very difficult to find. On advice of our veterinarian,

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP



Pulik Csaba and Gabor enjoying the boating life on the British Columbia coast

Gabor receives a medication for fleas and ticks.

The North and Central coasts are quite unlike Southern B.C. There are a few small towns and villages, but they are few and far between. People come from all over the world for the

scenery and the wildlife—killer whales, humpback whales, sea lions, dolphins, black bears, and grizzlies. If you're lucky, you might even see a sea otter, cougar, or wolf. Fog and heavy rain, all day, is common in summer. It is a struggle to keep

a Puli dry. Murphy Brown tolerated a raincoat, but our current Puli, Gabor, has never liked one, because it has a hood that tends to slip forward such that he can't see where he is going. Now we just put him in his life jacket.

COURTESY LORNE COLLINGWOOD



HERDING GROUP

No matter what the raingear, your Puli is going to get wet—the tail, legs, and head (belly too, if there is tall grass). Bring lots of towels, and keep the hair on their legs and their cords trimmed short.

While some boaters train their dogs to use pee-mats and porch potties, we take our Pulis ashore. I believe they prefer that. So ashore it is, at least four dinghy trips a day, rain or shine, high tide or low (the difference between high and low tides can be as much as 18 feet!). I carry a knife and sometimes bear spray when we go ashore. I take Gabor to small islets because they are unsuited to large animals, I can circumnavigate an islet before taking Gabor ashore.

All four of our Pulis have all gotten a little nervous in rough seas, but all enjoyed living on the boat and cruising. Trips ashore are always a highpoint. There is so much to sniff, and so many interesting things to find. But a Puli's corded coat can be a problem. You can wash

down a Labrador Retriever that has been rolling in dead salmon (or something worse) and they will happily jump in the water for a nice, cleansing swim. That is not really an option with a Puli. So don't take your eyes off your Puli. You never know what mischief they are considering.

While boating with dogs can be so much fun, it's important to be mindful. Always clean up after your dog and respect local regulations, especially when it comes to wildlife and protected areas. With proper precautions and planning, a boating trip with your dog can create wonderful lasting memories.

Taking your Puli out on the boat does require some preparation. Safety should always come first, so a well-fitting life jacket for your dog is essential, even if they're strong swimmers.

Some dogs are naturally more nervous about boats, so getting them accustomed to the boat is important. Starting with short trips or

just sitting on the boat at dock can help your dog feel comfortable. And, of course, always make sure to bring along some water, snacks, and any favorite toys to keep your dog happy during the ride.

We encourage you to check out AKC's webpage that offers expert advice on boating with dogs: <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/travel/boating-kayaking-with-dogs/>

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Puli Club of America

Shetland Sheepdogs

2025 NATIONAL SPECIALTY

For the first time in several years, the ASSA decided to hold the breed's national specialty at facilities other than at Purina Farms. It was prophetic, as we would have been scrambling, as the week we held our show this year was shortly after the tornado that caused a lot of damage at the site in Grays Summit, Missouri. However, we