

HERDING GROUP

not allowed above an imaginary horizontal line drawn from the elbow to the point of stifle. White should not extend into the shoulder blades or far into the upper arm. It should only appear as a thin strip on thighs. “Mismarks” have a normal body color but have white in unacceptable areas. They might have a splash of white on the back of an ear or white extending from the neck well past the withers and into the body, for example.

All of the above color faults are listed as very serious faults in the breed standard, and dogs with these faults should not be bred.

There are breeds that have brindle or red or blue merle as acceptable colors, but these colors can *not* appear in a purebred Pembroke! The most common Pembroke mix is with a blue merle Cardigan Welsh Corgi, although there are websites that openly state that blue merle or red merle Australian Shepherds or Australian Cattle Dogs have been used to create the “blue merle” and “red merle” “Pembroke.” There is at least one group which proposes to create an “American Corgi” wherein colors can be whatever is created by crossing the two corgi breeds, and another that calls their mixes “Cowboy Corgis.” Still another mix is called a “Texas Corgi.” The dog-buying public is further confused because these mixed-breeds

can be registered in alternative registries and earn championships there. A Pembroke Welsh Corgi registered with the American Kennel Club will *never* be merle or brindle.

The Pembroke’s eye-color is to be variations of brown and in harmony with coat color. “Rare” blue-eyed Pembrokes should be rare—the eye color is incorrect!

For more information about the correct Pembroke, see in particular the Judges’ Education section at the Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America website link below—but please take time to read through the entire site for correct breed information.

—Lynda McKee,
TifflynLDM@aol.com
Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America,
<http://www.pwcca.org>

Pulik

Guest columnist Gin McDaniel Martinez is a certified Master Groomer who has lived with Pulik most of her life. She offers her perspectives on the sometimes-difficult task of locating a good groomer who can also work on a corded coat.

HOW TO FIND A GROOMER WHO KNOWS CORDS

Basic information on working with the Puli coat is addressed in older issues of the AKC

GAZETTE (June 2010: “Corded Coat Basics”; March 2011: “Cutting the Cords” (<http://puliclub.org/puliarticles.htm>)). The PCA website has other articles (<http://puliclub.org/PCAGroomingGuides.asp>) as well as information on how to purchase a copy of *Striking the Right Cord*, a grooming guide written by Puli expert Stephanie Horan. However, not everyone with a Puli might feel comfortable enough or want to groom their own dog.

You are a proud Puli owner. You have done your research and gotten your Puli from a reputable breeder. You think taking care of their unique coat will be a breeze compared to a breed that needs regular appointments at the grooming salon.

So what happens when you start to feel overwhelmed, when your fur kid is in the middle of the matting stage and you have no idea what to do? You think, “Why don’t I call the grooming salon down the road?” Great idea, but here are some things you need to know.

Not all groomers are the same! The biggest nightmare for any Puli owner is that they take their dog to a salon and in return get a shaved dog because the dog was considered to be “matted.” Groomers who understand the coat of a corded dog are few and far between. Finding a groomer who is willing to learn can

be easier.

There are a few suggestions that I offer to someone who is searching for a groomer. Check to see if your prospective groomer is a member of one of the three grooming organizations: National Dog Groomers Association of America (NDGAA), International Society of Canine Cosmetologist (ISCC), or International Pet Groomers, Inc. (IPG). All these organizations have a “groomer locator” option. Even better is if your groomer is a certified Master Groomer with any of these organizations. Having accreditation and membership means that this person took time out of their busy schedules to learn about canine skin and coat, and have passed both written and practical exams while maintaining an 85 or higher throughout the testing process. If in your search for a groomer and there is no one with these credentials within a reasonable driving distance to you, then ask if they do continuing education.

After you have done your research, give your chosen grooming salon a call and arrange a visit. Does the staff seem caring? May you speak with the groomer who is going to groom your dog? A good groomer will listen to what you are wanting done and will give advice on how to best manage the coat. A few questions for you to ask include:

“Does the groomer use heated cage dryers?”

HERDING NAME

Heated cage dryers have caused more than their fair share of canine deaths.

“Are the kennels/runs cleaned between pets?” This is important to help control viruses such as parvo, distemper, kennel cough, and the canine flu.

“What shampoos does the groomer use?” Some shampoos can be irritating to the skin if it is not diluted properly, rinsed well or they have the wrong pH.

“Have they ever done a corded coat before?” If the answer is yes (even if it’s a Poodle), you have a head start in the process. If the answer is no, ask them would they be willing to learn about it.

Be sure to take the time to visit the salon and evaluate the facility for yourself before taking your dog there. Does it look and smell clean? Is the atmosphere chaotic? Do the groomers look rushed? Are the dogs left unattended on the grooming tables? Or do the groomers place the dogs either on the floor or in a crate if they have to move away? May you take a tour of the salon? You may not be able to move freely around all of the facility for insurance purposes, but most groomers are happy to show you around. Remember you are leaving a family member here. Do you feel comfortable with this salon? If not, don’t feel pressured to make an appointment. —G.M.M.

Thank you, Gin!
—Dagmar Fertl,
dfertl@gmail.com
Puli Club of America,
<http://www.puliclub.org/>

Swedish Vallhunds

TEMPERAMENT: NATURE AND NURTURE

The importance of early, appropriate socialization is unquestionable. Many breeders start socialization early, with people visiting the litter, and then it is up to the owner to continue that socialization, especially in the first four months of the dog’s life. To paraphrase authors like Ian Dunbar and others, more dogs die from the lifelong effects of inadequate socialization than ever die from disease, and I would much rather run the small (if managed sensibly) risk of having a sick puppy than deal with an undersocialized dog for 10 to 15 years.

I try to get a puppy to see new things and meet new people every day, I look for people of all sizes and physical attributes (and wheelchairs, crutches and so on), I take my pup to playgrounds, where they can see, hear and meet children, and following the advice of an agility mentor, get them to walk on different surfaces, at different heights, go under and through things, all of which help a

puppy learn that the world is full of different things, and that variety truly *is* the spice of life. In those first four months, I try to expose a dog to anything I think he or she might need to deal with in life.

However, all the careful socialization in the world cannot change a dog’s basic temperament. Socialization can make a dog much more comfortable in the world than it would have been otherwise, but it cannot change the dog’s innate predispositions. The AKC breed standard says that the correct Swedish Vallhund temperament is “watchful, energetic, fearless, alert, intelligent, friendly, eager to please, active, and steady”, that temperament is “of overriding importance” and that a Vallhund should possess “sound temperament, neither vicious nor shy.”

It can be difficult for a judge to truly accurately assess temperament in the breed ring, beyond extreme examples like dogs snapping and lunging, or backing off the table to escape examination. As such, it comes down to the breed fanciers and breeders to assess and maintain correct breed temperament, and to be brutally honest with ourselves about where our dogs’ strengths and weaknesses lie in all areas, including temperament.

Temperament is, of course, a continuum, and there is a lot of room for individual variation while still remaining within the overall

boundaries of correct, well-balanced temperament. As is the case with many herding breeds, there can be a fine line between “watchful and alert” and “hypervigilant and reactive”, and it is important to make realistic assessments of a given dog’s temperament as it compares to the breed standard, and not just excuse congenitally, fundamentally, incorrect temperaments as having been caused by one or two bad experiences (one only has to watch an hour or two of the animal cops shows to see dog after dog who has never had a *good* experience with a person, yet who still greets strangers with a wagging tail and friendly face).

As always, the total dog must be kept in mind: the most beautiful, typey, conformationally correct dog in the world is not truly a good example of its breed if it does not also possess the correct temperament and instincts.

Swedish Vallhunds should be both physically *and* mentally sound: temperament is one of this breed’s hallmarks, and it should be guarded as carefully as any other breed-defining trait.

—Amanda Lowery,
amanda@alkemi.org
Swedish Vallhund Club of America,
<http://www.swedishvallhund.com/>