



BREED COLUMNS

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for them.

For agility training, she progresses using this basic concept to build a lot of value for being with her, chasing her, coming to her, interacting with different objects, and so on.

These early behaviors then lead into body awareness games such as walking on raised planks and different surfaces, pivoting, and placing their front feet on items. These activities form the foundation of the dog learning to use and control its body and helps as they progress through their agility training.

The theme of growing simple behaviors while increasing their confidence and desire to work transfers to all aspects of agility training.

Currently, the duo goes to a class once a week to run courses. When preparing for a big event, they also do some sessions of skill training once or twice a week reinforcing dog walk criteria, jump skills, obstacle discriminations, proofing

verbal cues, and so on. The skill sessions are usually less than 15 minutes and include breaks.

The only thing that really changes on trial weekends is that they do not train, and Chelsea always gets at least a day off from agility after an event. Off weekends are spent hiking for fitness.

Janelle offered some other advice: “Do not be ashamed to get help! Training and knowing where to begin can be daunting. There are tons of online resources, like the Facebook page Agility Corgis, as well as on-line courses that you can take.

... Take responsibility for your dog’s performance and understanding of skills. If they are not doing something the way that you think you have taught them, please believe that they do not understand. Go back to foundation layers, and try to figure out where the breakdown is in understanding. Do not beat yourself up about it; every dog will provide unique challenges and surprise you with how they

learn. That is part of the fun! Enjoy their uniqueness and the process.” Thanks, Janelle!

We invite you to watch Pembrokes run agility and compete in other events the last week of this month at the national specialty. Events take place in and near Bowling Green, Kentucky, with agility in Watertown, Tennessee. For more information, [click here](#).

—Lynda McKee,
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Pulik

IS FAILURE TO EMBRACE FUTURITY A FAILURE TO EMBRACE OUR BREED’S FUTURE?

Futurity is a longstanding core event at national specialties for many AKC breed clubs. It was designed to provide a “look into the future.” The futurity provides a platform for breeders to showcase young dogs and bitches produced through their breeding programs. It

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Puli

is also an opportunity for others to compare, contrast, and learn from each other's efforts.

Futurity is a nonregular event best described as a competition with prizes. Futurity is almost identical to other conformation

competitions, in that judges look for the individuals who most conform to the breed's approved standard, except that no championship points are awarded. Futurities are essentially a breeder's bet made at the time of breeding; entries are

made well in advance of the national specialty. In entering the futurity, breeders are expressing confidence in the quality of a particular breeding.

Futurity is entered by nominating a litter. Individual puppies from a nominated litter are eligible to compete in the first Futurity held on or after the date they reach 6 months of age. Some AKC breed clubs offer both futurity and maturity stakes. Maturity competition has slightly different rules from Futurity: In Maturity, any puppy from a Futurity-nominated litter is eligible, but they must be nominated in the year following their "Futurity year."

The first Futurity held by the Puli Club of America (PCA) was in 1989, with the last in 2007. The following is a list of the winners of Best in Futurity (BIF) and Best of Opposite Sex in Futurity (BOSIF). Information is from archived issues of *Puli News* (available at the PCA website), where specialty

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information was published.

Apologies to anyone I might have missed in my efforts to produce this compilation. Pulik are listed here with their adult titles as they appear in PCA's Online Book of Titleholders (pedigree information is also found there):

1989 – BIF: Ch. Szeder's Show Girl; BOSIF: Ch. Wallbanger Abo Thunder

1990 – BIF: Ch. Mi-Tonka's Midnite Obsession

1991 – BIF: Ch. Szeder's Terminator of Tordor; BOSIF: Ch. Csatar Mopsa of Woolrider

1992 – BIF: Ch. Moonshadows Home Alone; BOSIF: Ch. Pajkos Murphy Brown

1993 – BIF: Ch. Tordor's Big Mac Attack; BOSIF: Szeder's More Trouble

1994 – BIF: Ch. MT Hood's Sparkler; BOSIF: Ragg Mopp Winter Night

1995 – BIF: Ch. Tordor's Kirivo Kirohanas, CDX, RE, PT, MX, AXJ, MJP2, TT, CGC, VPM; BOSIF: Bartok's String Concerto

1996 – [no information posted] (no Futurity entries?)

1997 – BIF: Ch. Tordor's The Divine Miss M, CD

1998 – BIF: Ch. Prydain Lightning Strike twice; BOSIF: Ch. Prydain Love at First Sight

1999 – BIF: Ch. Catsun Colusa; BOSIF: Ch. Moonshadows Mind Over Matter

2000 – BIF: Ch. Bowmaker Southern Belle

2001 – [no information posted] (no Futurity entries?)

2002 – BIF: Ch. Loakespark Pretty Smart; BOSIF: Bowmaker U Da Man

2003 – BIF: GCh. Weatherby Great Expectations; BOSIF: Ch. Bokar Polly-Wolly-Doodle

2004 – BIF: Ch. Prydain Dobby; BOSIF: Ch. Prydain Trade Secret

2005 – [no information posted] (no Futurity entries?)

2006 – BIF: OTCH Bartok's Little Black Note, UDX2, OM4, HSAs, VP

2007 – BIF: Ch. MACH PACH Loakespark Too Hot to Handle, MXS, MJS, MXP4, MXPB, MJP4, MJPB, PAX, XFT2B

These Pulik represented not only the best efforts of PCA breeders but also the future of our breed. Since the Futurity competition for the Puli was inaugurated, many of its winners went on to become Top Ten Pulik and outstanding producers of new generations.

Interesting trivia includes:

- There was no sex difference noted for likelihood of being awarded BIF.

- The vast majority of BIF or BOSIF went on to finish their conformation championship titles.

- A few Futurity winners finished championships not only in conformation, but also in obedience (OTCH) and agility (MACH, PACH).

- Some Futurity winners went on to be winners of national specialty Best of Breed, Best of Opposite Sex, and/or Award of Merit. Some individuals were



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multi-group or even multi-Best in Show awardees.

- A challenge trophy was offered, starting in 2003, the Grand Futurity Breeder's Cup, donated by Deb and Zach Stadelman and Stephanie and Terry Horan. Sadly, the trophy was not able to be retired; its current whereabouts are unknown.

- Best in Maturity was offered starting in 2005, with the winner being [adult title listed] Ch. Casablanca Mr. H. Bogart. Unlike all the futurity winners over the years who were black, this was a white Puli. I found no other maturity winners mentioned.

Futurity is one of the most exciting events that may be held during a national specialty weekend. Other breed clubs have noted that Futurity is “part of the glue that holds this national club together.” Many PCA members have told me how much they enjoyed Futurity, being able to have a pedigree in hand while watching the puppies in the class, laughing at puppy

antics, and feeling a great rush of pride and hope for our breed and for its future. There was a real sense of camaraderie during those days. Many great Puli breeders/owners/handlers have lamented the lack of Futurity (as well as other events) at our specialties.

The recognition of quality Pulik is important for breeding programs to flourish. I have much appreciation for all the breeders who have worked tirelessly in their efforts to preserve and improve our beloved breed. It became very apparent that certain breeders and their kennel lines have made significant contributions to where we are with the Puli in the U.S.

Breeders should take great pride in participating in any opportunity to showcase their accomplishments, including championing Futurity.

In nominating a litter for the Futurity, PCA members were casting votes in their breeding decisions and indicating their com-

mitment to improving the quality of our dogs (and the breed). Futurity sought to encourage highly selective breeding practices and to reward breeders for their achievements in attempting to breed the best possible Puli. Without responsible breeders, there is no future for our breed.

Many thanks to Patty Anspach and Linda Hall for their assistance in tracking archived information.

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Puli Club of America

Shetland Sheepdogs

LOSING HISTORY

It can be devastating when a breed begins or continues to lose several generations of founders of the breed in our country. The knowledge that has been available with a phone call—or lately a text—diminishes with each loss. Each post that says another icon of the breed has passed affects everyone who counted them as friends,