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already has, that herding is indeed good for the soul.

Start planning now to attend (and possibly enter!) the national specialty herding trials, to be held the last weekend of September in Ohio. Premium lists will be available in the late summer.

Scholarship deadline: The deadline to apply for the PWCCA Scholarship is June 1. The scholarship is open to any high school senior or college student who is active with Pembroke Welsh Corgis in a variety of events and is enrolled in college. See the Events and Awards section of the PWCCA site for details.

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Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America <http://www.pwcca.org>

Pulik

FIRST AGILITY GRAND CHAMPION PULI

The Agility Grand Champion (AGCH) title has been around since 2016. A few Puli handlers

had worked tirelessly toward this goal. However, the title had remained elusive. Ch. AGCH MACH6 Piroskai Uppportunity Knocks for Mardi Gras, MXG2, PAD, MJC2, PJDP, MFG, TQX, T2B4 (Szabo), is the first Puli to successfully complete the requirements for this lifetime achievement award.

Szabo finished the AGCH on February 14, during an agility trial hosted by the Puli Club of America in Magnolia, Texas (courses by Debby Wheeler and judged by Paul Mount). Szabo is handled by longtime Puli agility competitor Joe Lapine. As a team, Szabo and Joe had to earn qualifying scores in either the Regular or Preferred classes or a combination of these classes for the following:

Master Standard & Master Jumper with Weaves—100 qualifying scores from each class

Master Fast—75 qualifying scores

Time 2 Beat—75 qualifying scores

Premier Standard and

Premier JWW—50 qualifying scores from each class

As noted at the AKC website by Carrie DeYoung (recently retired AKC Director of Agility), “We are looking forward to recognizing each of the teams who have demonstrated this relationship and depth of skill over their agility career.” A huge congratulations to Joe and Szabo on meeting (and besting) all the challenges set forth for the title. I’m so, so proud of both of you, as I’m sure many other Puli owners are.

When last (and first!) we reviewed Puli participation in agility for the AKC GAZETTE, 12 Pulik had earned AKC agility champion titles (MACH/PACH) (*AKC Gazette*, December 2014, “Pulik: The Flying Mop”). Since then, two Pulik on the previous list earned additional agility champion titles: Bliss (Ch. MACH5 Piroskai Nutn Bt Bliss 4 Mardi Gras, PT, MXC2, MJC2, XF), owned by Joe Lapine and Gil Martin, and handled by

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Szabo—otherwise known as Ch. AGCH MACH6 Piroskai Opportunity Knocks for Mardi Gras, MXG2, PAD, MJC2, PJDP, MFG, TQX, T2B4—is the first Puli to successfully achieve the Agility Grand Champion title. Szabo is owned by Joe Lapine and Dagmar Fertl, and handled by Joe Lapine.

Joe Lapine), and Piri (Ch. MACH3 Moonshadow Martuska Piroska, RA, MXG2, MJS2, NF, IT), owned and handled by Jane Slade Exum.

As a refresher, Master and Preferred Agility Champion

titles (MACH and PACH, respectively) involve both speed and consistency, with dogs being awarded these titles based on achieving 750 speed points (by running faster than Standard Course Time) and 20 Double

Qualifying Points (QQ; by qualifying in the Standard Class and the JWW Class on the same day). Since the December 2014 column's printing, a total of 20 Pulik (12 female, 8 male) total earned MACH/PACH titles.

The following list includes *only* the eight additional Pulik (the reader is referred to AKC Gazette, December 2014 for the previous listing. The complete list will be published this year in *Puli News*):

Shaker (Ch. OTCH MACH Bartok's Harvest Song UDX4 OM7 PT MXS MJS MXP MJP XF T2B), owned and handled by Nancy Kelly; George (Ch. MACH PACH Loakespark Too Hot To Handle MXS MJS MXP4 MXPB MJP4 MJPB PAX XF T2B); owned and handled by Alexandra Davis; Quip (Ch. MACH7 Piroskai Uberraschung FDC MXC2 MJB3 DCAT CGCA TKN IT), owned and handled by Dagmar Fertl; Szabo (Ch. AGCH MACH6 Piroskai Opportunity Knocks For

COURTESY DAGMAR FERTL AND JOE LAPINE



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Mardi Gras MXG2 PAD MJC2 PJDP MFG TQX T2B4), owned by Joe Lapine and Dagmar Fertl, and handled by Joe Lapine; Xena (MACH3 Xena Princess Warrior MXB2 MJC MFG TQX T2B5), owned and handled by Ronnie Cimprich; Sebastian (MACH Loakespark Worth The Wait MXS MJS MFB TQX T2B2), owned and handled by Alexandra Davis; and Simone (PACH Silkata Keep The Faith OA OAJ MXP4 MXPB MJP5 MJPS OF XFP PAX), owned and handled by Alexandra Davis.

Since the inception of AKC agility, 137 Pulik (67 males, 70 females) have earned agility titles. Of the 137 agility-titled Pulik, more than half (57% or 78) also are conformation champions (60% or 12 of the MACH/PACH Pulik are conformation champions). Only 37% (51) of the 137 agility-titled Pulik continued to earn titles in agility past the Novice and Open classes.

Lastly, I would like to address the sharply dwindling numbers of Pulik competing in AKC agility. Looking at numbers since the early 2000s, as many as 34 Pulik were competing in agility during 2004 with a shocking drop to single digits in recent years.

Agility competitions involve much training, effort, and expense. Many of the “original Puli agility handlers may have “aged out” of the sport, and unfortunately, it seems that there are not many young people interested in working with a Puli in agility. This certainly in part is reflected by answers to a 2022 international agility survey, where respondents often noted that “the gap between weekend warriors and professionals had increased, it had gotten harder for new ones to join in the sport and the variety of dog breeds had narrowed” (<https://www.aginotes.com/the-big-international-dog-agility-report#why-compete>).

If you are interested in

agility and the direction this sport is headed, I encourage you to review all the survey results.

Thank you to Cathy Pronzini (Agility Chair for the Puli Club of America) for her assistance in compiling the statistics presented herein.

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Puli Club of America

Shetland Sheepdogs

**2025 NATIONAL: APRIL 11–19
IN GREELEY, COLORADO**

Here we go again! The Sheltie national is convening in Greeley, Colorado, in April. On April 11, the agility event will be held at Progressive School for Dogs in Greeley. On April 12 we will hold the obedience and rally classes at Island Grove Fairgrounds in Greeley. On April 13, the events switch to herding, at Rancho Terra Norte in Wellington, CO.

Back in Greeley, on Monday the 14th there will be an Instinct Evaluation for herding, and Cadie Pruss