

# Pumi Perspectives

*Hungarian Pumi Club of America*

June 2010

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## PUMIFEST 2010



**Judge Leslie A. Earl awards Best of Breed to ARBA, Argentine, Finnish Polish Mexican Hungarian, International CH Galla-Hegyí Gömböc, PT (Gumby) shown by Tom Levy. April 24, 2010**

**Photo: Chris Levy**

The HPCA's 6th annual Independent Specialty show was organized at Vallejo California April 24, 2010. The show was held at the Solano County fairgrounds next to the All Breed show of the Chief Solano Kennel Club. Ginger Butler chaired the event.

Ms. Leslie A Erle awarded Best of Breed to Intl CH Galla-Hegyí Gömböc (Gumby) owned by Chris Levy. The Best of Opposite Sex was IABCA Ch Vidám Kertész Zenéje (Treble) owned by Ginger Butler. Winner's Dog and Best of Winners was Abiqua Ficsur(Levi), owned by Pam Jackson. Winner's Bitch was Vidám Kertész Gyöngye (Pearl) owned by Chris Levy

Sweepstakes judge Ms. Dany Canino chose Galla-Hegyí Nyiko owned by Tom and Chris Levy as best in Sweepstakes. The Best of Opposite Sex was Nyírségfia Cserfes (Trumpet) owned by Ginger Butler.

The 3 day event included the annual banquet meeting and a Herding Day.

## Miscellaneous Class: January 2011

AKC has announced that the Pumi will be accepted in Miscellaneous Class at AKC Conformation Events beginning January 1, 2011.

While in miscellaneous class the Pumi will be allowed to compete in conformation and junior showmanship as well as continuing to compete in obedience, agility, rally, tracking and herding. During this time, we are currently unable to obtain most titles that go in front of the dog's name (Ch., HC, etc.) except for companion titles (MACH. & OTCh,) until the Pumi is fully recognized by the AKC.

While in miscellaneous class, we can compete for the title, Certificate of Merit, which allows us to use the letters CM after the dog's name on anything to do with AKC. To compete, an animal cannot be spayed or neutered. We are not allowed to use any foreign or non-AKC titles when entering a dog in an AKC event.

### Inside this Issue:

Misc class, cont.	2
Congratulations	2
President's Message	3
Puppy Socialization	3
European Adventure	4
Obituary	6
English Lessons	7
Meet the Breeds	8

As with performance events, a dog must be individually registered with AKC FSS in the owner's name to be able to compete. For competition at AKC shows, dogs in the Miscellaneous class are shown first at the breed level which is divided by sex and age, Puppy (6mos. to 12 mos.) and Open. At times, the puppy class may further be divided into two classes, 6-9 mos. and 9-12 mos. Be sure to check the premium list for the show that you are entering to see if the puppy classes are divided and enter the appropriate class. The only two awards in each breed will be Best of Breed (BOB) and Best of Opposite Sex (BOS). The dog winning BOB may then compete with the BOBs from the other breeds entered in the miscellaneous classes for Best Miscellaneous.

According to AKC rules, dogs earn points toward the Certificate of Merit (15 points required) based on the number of dogs defeated within their breed with no additional points being awarded for Best Miscellaneous. The points awarded to the BOB winner are based on the total number of dogs entered within the breed while the BOS winner gets points based on the number of dogs entered that are of the same sex as the BOS winner. The point schedule, based on the number of dogs in competition is shown in the table below:

Dogs Competing	Points
2	1
4	2
8	3
12	4
16	5

one bitch at shows, alternating BOB, it would take 30 shows to finish both dogs.

Beginning in 2011, any Pumi who has won a CM (certificate of Merit title) or at least three (3) Best of Breed, WITH COMPETITION or One (1) Best in Misc. class, WITH COMPETITION may be eligible for an invitation to the Eukanuba Invitational.

I have written this in an attempt to clarify what being in miscellaneous class means. If a person would have any more questions, they can email me at [tom@abiquadogs.com](mailto:tom@abiquadogs.com)

By Tom Levy Abiqua Pumik Salem, OR, USA

### Congratulations Yeager!



Greenfarms Wright Stuff, CD, CDX owned by Lucy Berninger earned his AKC Companion Dog Excellent title in May, 2010

### Congratulations Asztró!



U-CH Bohemia Vivace Ash, NA, NAJ owned by Nancy and Meir Ben-Dror earned his AKC Novice Agility Jumper title in April, 2010 and his AKC Novice Agility title in May 2010. He is also a UKC Champion.

**Be sure to report your Pumi's titles to the Newsletter**

# President's Message:

By Chris Levy

We have reached another milestone in the progress of the Pumi in the United States with the first newsletter produced by the Hungarian Pumi Club of America. It's been just six short years since a few enthusiastic Pumi owners founded the HPCA. At that time, we had just about enough members to populate the Officers and Board of Directors positions. Now we have over 40 members and a newsletter is a great way to communicate both the activities of our members and the goings-on with the club, especially in regard to our progress with AKC.

The Pumi was accepted into the AKC Foundation Stock Service in 2001, and the HPCA received a report in 2004 that they had 27 Pumik registered. AKC has changed their rules over the last few years to be more inclusive of their FSS registered breeds, so a year and a half ago they allowed the Pumi to compete in Agility, Rally, Obedience, Tracking, and Herding.

Recently AKC changed the rules again and lowered the number of registered Pumik needed to 150 in order to compete in the Miscellaneous Classes in conformation. We achieved that by rounding up our unregistered dogs and getting them registered. Within a few weeks (right before Pumifest this year), we had exactly 150, and so on January 1, 2011, we will be competing in conformation classes, too, albeit not for championship points, but the next best thing. AKC expects that we'll be in the Miscellaneous Classes for a number of years, but at least now our breed will get exposure to other exhibitors and the public via companion, performance, and conformation events.

So this newsletter is just another one of the milestones in the progress of our breed. It's great that along with all the other important milestones, that we have a newsletter to facilitate communication and education of our HPCA members. Thanks, Mary, for being our first editor.

## Pumi Socialization via Puppy Kindergarten

While researching the breed before purchase, there seemed to be much emphasis on socializing a Pumi pup, and I soon learned this was no over-statement. I began exposing my pup to routine socialization, taking him for frequent walks in the busy part of a park near here, where he was exposed to a variety of sights and sounds. There were cars, bikes, skateboards, baby buggies, occasional workers with chainsaws and other motorized equipment, and of course humans – walking alone or in groups – with or without their dogs.

He was fine with the wheeled things and noisy stuff, but very afraid of people and other dogs. Many walkers wanted to make friends with the little fur-face, but he wanted no part of them. And he was terrified of even the gentlest of dogs, quite possibly because he lived in our household of Scottish Terriers that let him know from the start that he was to be the last in line for anything. I decided something more was needed.

**He was fine with the wheeled things and noisy stuff, but very afraid of people and other dogs.**

The dog training club I belong to has offered a puppy kindergarten for years, which I never paid any attention to, but for this pup I signed up.

When we arrived for the first night's session, we found the place crowded with dogs, as it was going to be a big class, with another big class going on in a second ring. My dog was sure he didn't want to be there. I can't remember specifically what we did that night, or any of the following nights, but the instructor had us cover a lot of ground, teaching our puppies to sit, down, stay, and walk on leash. There was also a part where we were told to pass our pups around the room so each spent time being petted, talked to, or played with by every other person in the room. And while the instructor talked, our pups sat on the floor next to us with plenty of time to look around and size things up. Mine was still reluctant to enter the building for the second lesson, but by the third week, he greeted everyone like he was sure they'd find him too cute to resist, and was actively seeking their attention. If they were in a chair, he'd try to climb up in their lap. What a breakthrough! It took a little longer for him to trust the other dogs, but he did get so he wanted to sniff and make friends, and I let him play with the safer ones.

From the fourth night on, as we arrived on the property, he was out at the end of the leash in front of me, hurrying to get in the building to be where the action was. He clearly loved having his night out – his night in society. Although the trips to the park and other outings were necessary for acclimation to variety, puppy kindergarten was a better place to learn security with other dogs and people than daily life. It was a life changer.

By Lucy Berninger





# Our Amazing European Adventure

"You have been honored with the request to take part in the BEST of SHOW ring! Congratulations!" These were the unforgettable words, most people never hear in a lifetime of showing and they were said to me. ME; the person who didn't even like conformation and had been in only one show months before, as practice for Europe. Here I was in the Best of Breed ring in Hungary, at my first European show and Asztró went Best of Breed, beating out Cseri-Subas Édes (Szikra) the girl we would be bringing home! I was on cloud 9. Not even the biggest most delicious piece of double fudge chocolate cake or the biggest, coldest Martini could duplicate that feeling! What a great introduction to FCI shows. Day 2, Asztró went reserve.

The first morning of the show, a woman came up behind me and said, "Why do I hear someone who sounds just like me?" I turned to find a young woman, dressed magnificently in Hungarian country style. She was from Philadelphia and had married a Hungarian professor of animal behavior, she met at a dog show, showing their Mudik, and now lived in Budapest. She was so happy to chat with an American and a Yankee at that! She said she never leaves the house without Peter, as she still can't speak the language after 6 years of instruction. Even the Hungarians think their language is difficult! That is the only thing I don't like about Hungary! Thank God Meir speaks, writes and reads Hungarian like a native!

In FCI shows, no dog can earn a championship until 18 months of age, so Asztró, 12 months, showed as a *Junior*. Juniors have their own championship, which does not carry over. This show, the first of two, that weekend, took place within the walls of an old fort in Komárom, a bit northwest of Budapest; on a picture perfect day, for an outdoor show. There were 36 rings, but so nicely spread out, they afforded loads of room.



Asztró herds Hungarian sheep.

Photo:Menyhárt Krisztina.

Szikra's breeder, István Menyhárt, had told us not to groom Asztró but to come from the airport directly to his house near Lake Balaton, and he would do it. Asztró's dad is István's breeding and he probably thought that I would bring Asztró looking like a poodle. You never know these Americans! Well, we never got around to the grooming as we were busy sightseeing, so István said he would do it at the Komárom show early in the morning. As things sometimes go, Szikra got car sick and Istvan had to clean her up so the Clerk of Records of the Hungarian Kennel Club, also a Pumi owner, put Asztró on his crate and gave him the first of 4 haircuts he would have to submit to on the trip.

A funny thing happened that first day of this show. István had to leave before BOS. He told me that all of the juniors eligible for BOS would gather in the smaller ring next to the beautiful, football field sized, white fenced BOS ring. We got to the ring with the others (there were about 40 Junior dogs, as each breed with a Junior win was eligible). Asztró was second in line as the Hungarian breeds went first

(home country). Group 1 (Herding breeds) is first in FCI, dogs go before bitches and the youngest goes first. So there we were at the beginning of the line. Asztró was having fun with me when I noticed everyone was stacking their dog. I asked a man next to me why. His reply was that the woman who just passed by was the judge. So the BOS winner was actually selected before we ran our lap in the BOS ring. Oh well. István forgot to tell me that part. Live and learn!

One of the most interesting differences between AKC and FCI is that each time you finish your class, you are handed a card with your rating on it: Excellent, Very Good, Good, Sufficient, or Insufficient. In addition, to the rating, you are given a hand written critique or report card. This is done while in the ring. The judge dictates to a scribe every aspect of how your dog meets the breed standard. So, even if your dog doesn't place, you know where you stand. How clever!

After the Komárom show each day, , we walked out the back door of our hotel, under the clear, cold, star studied skies a few paces and soaked in the beautifully, landscaped, outdoor thermal baths for which the region is known. Nirvana! That was worth the trip alone!

Meir and I spent a couple of gorgeous days a bit south of Budapest, with Krisztina Menyhárt, (no relation to István) along with some of her friends, for herding lessons. I videoed, Meir did the herding, with a huge flock of about 65 sheep. Józsi (Joe), the herd's shepherd, also herded with a Pumi, but just watched the lessons. Asztró loved it! Józsi said he was a real old world "hard" herder, not afraid of anything and was amazed that he was just a year and hadn't had much time with sheep! One evening, bathed in a gorgeous sunset, the dogs took the flock about a mile back to their barn for the night, as the fields aren't fenced or have water. On the way back they even worked a bunch of cattle. We picked thistle out of Asztró's hair for days but it was worth it!

Europeans have a whole different view of the canine world. One night, Meir and I splurged and ate in a really fine restaurant in Budapest. The owner overheard us talking about Asztró and the shows and asked us where he was. When we said he was in the car, he insisted that we bring him in. So Asztró spent a couple of hours under the white linen table cloth, at our feet, as good as gold. He was even given his own very fancy water bowl. We stayed in a beautiful B&B in Budapest that had lovely gardens, where Asztró could run free. When I asked where I could deposit Asztró's poops, I was told not to worry about it. They would clean up after him. I could get used to that!

Once we knew that we were going to Europe, we started practicing with Asztró to prep him for the trip. I met Meir downtown Greenville (SC) for lunch. He worked downtown so it was fun. Greenville is very much like a European city, with loads of outdoor restaurants. We ate in outdoor cafés where Asztró had to get used to dogs, kids, bikes, waiters etc. and not get up or be protective of us. After lunch we took long walks in the beautiful park, where again he had to learn to ignore kids, bikes, dogs etc and be polite to inquisitive people. I think our hard work paid off as he was well behaved on the trip.

## Europeans have a whole different view of the canine world

On to the World Dog Show in Bratislava, Slovakia, the following weekend, a fairly short drive from Hungary. All of the Pumi owners had booked rooms on a permanently moored riverboat, on the Danube, directly across from the show. It was wonderful to hang out on the deck with all of our new Pumi friends and the dogs. Everyone spoke English, so that was no problem. We were an eight minute walk to the old city, where all of us and the dogs had great dinners every night. I just can't get over how dogs are so welcome in Europe!

The original judge for Pumik at the WDS was Finnish and likes long hair, so all of the dogs were somewhat shaggy. The night before the show, when everyone learned of the change to a Hungarian judge, all of the Pumi people were out on the benches along the Danube clipping their dogs. Asztró got another haircut from Chris and one of the Swedish moms. That was now three haircuts.

We had to be at the show by 9:15am but didn't show until the afternoon, so we had lots of time to spend with everyone and shop, of course. It was a lot of fun to meet so many Pumik and their owners from all over Europe and to meet Asztró's breeder, Kamila, her mom, Irene, Asztró's mom, Jassy, and his littermate sister, Annabelle, and his littermate brother, Akim, who was in his class. Asztró was happy to see his old family, submitting to lots of hugs and kisses, but let them know he now had a new family, thank you.

5,000 dogs per day strutted their stuff for 5 days. I thought 1,500 at my local shows were a lot! We were scheduled for Day 1, also a magnificent day, weather wise, which was good as our ring was under cover but outside. This was the largest WDS ever and they ran out of indoor space. So there were about 20 rings outside.

So here we are finally, in the ring, at the World Dog Show! The dénouement of our trip! I thought I would be nervous but once I got in the ring, I was fine. Asztró and his brother made the cut. That's when the judge really ran the two of us ragged. Even the two dogs were exhausted. The judge took a long time and finally gave first to Akim. The judge was talking to us afterward and when Kamila said the two were littermates, the judge told us that was why it was so hard for him to choose. He actually said Asztró had better structure (Akim's back was a bit too long) but Akim showed better, which was true! I was thrilled to lose to my breeder and Asztró's brother.

The next day was the Slovak National Show at the Bratislava Race Track in the pouring rain. We put a poncho over Asztró's crate and I went to sit in the grandstands, while Tom and Meir stood guard over the dogs. It rained so hard, the grass was turning to mud. After I saw a woman fall, I decided not to wear my nice show shoes and went in the ring wearing my agility shoes. Asztró took first. So in the four shows, he got 2 firsts and 2 reserves, four excellent ratings and all excellent report cards. I have to admit, I was pretty damn proud of myself and Asztró! Me, the one who swore would never get in a show ring! I guess all of those handling lessons paid off!

Next day, Meir and I headed south to pick up Szikra at her breeders and then farther southeast to Baja, to meet up with Tom and Chris, Ginger and her Mom for a herding seminar and a taste of authentic porkolt, cooked outdoors for hours in a kettle. This is a main meal and what I grew up hearing my Hungarian grandmother calling goulash. What the Hungarians call goulash is really just soup. So much to learn. Meir enjoyed seeing the building in Baja's town square that was owned by his great--uncle and where his father worked summers as a teenager.

Although we had been to Hungary before, we did manage to see a few new things. We had a very cold and rainy trip back to Budapest for the trip home with our newly extended family. Krisztina gave us a farewell dinner, with her friends, at her house the night before we left and gave poor Asztró yet another haircut. There were 11 Pumik in a very small space and they all got along!

It continued to pour all night and the morning we flew home and I couldn't get Szikra to potty. I could only imagine what her crate and she would look and smell like back in the US. They survived the two flights home and much to our surprise, dogs and crates were clean and dry. Szikra and Asztró had spent about five days together before we left and she was madly in love with Asztró, her new big brother, which I am sure, made her flights more bearable.

We made so many new friends, visited old ones and are looking forward to the World Dog Show in Budapest in 2013. Won't you join us?

By Nancy Ben-Dror

## Greenfarms Velocity — 2004-2010

Jack, my liveliest most affectionate Pumi boy died today, Thursday, March 11. He failed to wake up after elective surgery. I see his happy tongue panting face in the rear view mirror as I drove him in this morning. I feel his bony butt on my lap as we wait our turn in the waiting room. I see his swishy tail as I send him off with the assistant through the double doors.



What happened? Error in the surgery clinic? underlying medical condition? reaction to a pharmaceutical? Were 3 small surgeries too ambitious? Answer unknown. Autopsy pending. But they won't find anything. They never do.

From his earliest days in the whelping box, I knew this lively little chatterbox was going to be one of my favorites. He was slimly built with excellent movement and a perfect tail. He had an old time look with a raggy silver black coat and ears a bit too upstanding. He had a love for toys and playtime.

But for all this action, Jack was never mean. He was a lover not a fighter. Although he did fight for lap time. I wasn't the only one who loved him. Tracy, my most beautiful show dog chose him as the sire of her puppies. Twice. The first time I had chosen another dog but Tracy refused to flag her tail, and the other dog showed no interest for a bitch in heat. I took her back to the kennel. Jack leaped, nose to the top of the 6

foot chain link door. Choose me! I can do it! She backed up to the door and flagged. For two days they were too excited, but inexperienced to figure out how to make it happen. On the third day we went to the vet for an AI. Two years later there was an unauthorized coupling after breakfast one morning. They had learned.

Jack's show career was so-so. He had 7 of the 9 winner's dog ribbons required for an ARBA championship.

But at an ARBA show in January he charmed a herding judge into a Reserve Best in Show, defeating the ever present mini-aussie and several other popular ARBA breeds. I see his zest for life, counter surfing, gentlemanly approach, friendly focus, and vocal expression in some of his offspring. That will have to do for now.

Addendum: The autopsy report concludes "Death in the peri-anesthetic period is most commonly seen in Idiopathic Anesthesia Reaction (IAR). IAR is a condition where animals succumb to heart failure during the peri-anesthetic period following induction, and when no gross or microscopic cause for that heart failure can be found.

It is thought to be a cardiac hypersensitivity in the electrical conduction system by some individuals to the anesthetic at its accepted and standard dosage.

Studies put incidences of IAR at around 1 in 400-800 anesthetic inductions. IAR occurs in humans as well but at a lower rate Death can occur anytime within a 48-hour period of anesthesia administration. Pre-existing conditions may contribute to IAR, but are not believed to be causative. IAR has no detectable predisposing factors, does not appear to favor one breed or species over another, is not revealed during standard screening laboratory tests, and as such is impossible to predict in advance."

by Mary Reardon

## Just Doin' My Job, Mom



**Dale brought two lambs up to the house to vaccinate them. Mini, who is now MY house dog, promptly put them where she wanted them, and kept them there. She has had no training related to herding. Lilly, our MinPin wanted to know if they were new bottle lambs for her. NOT!**

Photostory: Louise Martin



# PUMIFEST 2010: Vallejo California



From Left: Tom Levy, Larkin Martini, Chris Levy, Shirley Erle, Soni Jager, Ginger Butler, Kristen Coppola, Mary Reardon, Jacque Martini, Pam Jackson, Alexa Maros

Photo: Chris Levy

## English Lessons with Food and Wine

My name is Niko and I am a Pumi. I usually come when I am called, or else. Usually I get a treat or a pat on the shoulder. If something gets in my way, a squirrel or bird, I make the big decision. A leash is popped if I forget and the squirrels go up the trees, anyway.

I learned that when you remember to do your "business" outside you get an "atta boy" and then a dog is ready for class. I thought it would be English lessons but it is an eating class instead!

The first thing I learned was to watch Mom and make eye contact. Wow, that means food! It's hard to walk and watch her but I try. I like the word GOOD and I often hear a "click" and here comes the food! Attention lessons takes up much of the first lessons and is fun. Sometimes I do a 2 footed dance and no reward. She just turns away.

My English is improving and that means more rewards. The word HEEL is hard to do when there are so many big Dobermans to watch. How do they get those long legs? I bet I run as fast though. Heel is very short when you begin because we stop when I look at those Dobes again. I wonder what they get to eat. We also heel past food dropped on the floor and that is a no-no and when I only look at Mom, I get a lot of treats.



I do a good sit and stay but Mom is watching. Click and more food for my ignoring the big dogs. Sometimes Mom gets in trouble for luring me and that is not an reward for us. She has to be careful to decide between a reward or a lure.

Last week I got to go over the jump and it was fun but I learned you go only one way and not back and forth. I should be ready for shows in 2015! No food in the ring.

I noticed Mom gets a glass of wine after class and she doesn't get an "atta girl" first. Why does she want that?

By Pumi Niko with Pat Frost

## HPCA

*Hungarian Pumi Club of America*

President: Chris Levy  
Vice-President: Mary Reardon  
Secretary: Kathy Donovan  
Treasurer: Tom Levy  
Board Member: Asa Anden  
Board Member: Ginger Butler  
Board Member: Meir Ben-Dror

**WWW.pumiclub.org**

Send Information for the newsletter to  
pumiohio@fuse.net

Contact any member of the club for  
more information



The objective of the HPCA is to encourage and promote quality in the breeding of pure-bred Pumi and do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection.

The club members will do all in their power to protect and advance the interests of the breed and to encourage sportsmanlike competition at dog shows, companion events, performance events and other dog related activities where the Pumi is suitable to participate.

The club is not operated for profit.

## Meet the Breeds in New York, Portland, Detroit

HPCA members participated in 3 Meet the Breed Events in the last year. In October 2009 Diane Bushwick and her two Pumi, Zha Zha and Hudson participated at the AKC sponsored Meet the Breeds event in New York City. and built a 10 X 10 foot booth with a Hungarian theme. She was helped by Andrew and Dina Fazio, their son and their two Pumi Egres and Soho. Over 30,000 people were reported to be at the event. Diane said people were lined up 3 deep at times to pet the dogs.

In January 2010, the members from the Pacific Northwest set up a display at the Rose City Classic, an AKC All Breed Show in Portland Oregon. This is one of the largest shows in the country with 3000 dogs entered. Tom Levy dressed up in his Hungarian shepherd's costume to add an authentic flavor to the day.

In March, 2010 the club accepted the invitation of the Detroit Kennel Club to participate in a special FSS area at their annual All Breed benched show in downtown Detroit, Michigan. A special carpeted ring was provided as well as presentation time. Mary Reardon and Pumi Tracy participated. People of all experience levels came by to meet more than 30 FSS Breeds.

Any HPCA club member who would like to present the Pumi at their local Meet the Breed shows will be supported with handout material and booth decorations. It's a fun way to introduce our Pumi to the dog lovers in our local areas.



Zha Zha and Hudson in New York

photo: Dina Fazio