

Pumi Perspectives

Hungarian Pumi Club of America

Stacy and Chuy:33.53 seconds

Stacy Lehman with Yippy-Yi-Yea Giddy-Up-Go (Chuy) competed in the final champion round at the AKC Agility Invitational in Long Beach, CA December 5. With a sensational 33.53 second run. The team finished the competition in third place in a field of 87 20" dogs.

They were awarded the first ever HPCA sponsored AKC Medallion as the highest scoring Pumi in the Invitational. Karen Beattie Massey with Bella and Shirley Russell with Cricket also represented us well finishing with a ranking of 39 and 58 respectively. in the 16" class of 97 entries.



Shirley with Cricket, Karen with Bella, and Stacy with Chui

Photo: Chris Levy

Pumifest 2011 in South Carolina

Nancy Ben-Dror has been appointed by the Board as chairman of Pumifest 2011 and its associated National Specialty Show. Nancy and her committee of former chairmen of the Specialty are planning a 3 day weekend April 15-17, 2011.

A host hotel has been arranged at Days Inn, Columbus, NC (I-26 exit 67) The rooms are large and pretty, some with mountain views. Outside there is plenty of grass and parking.

Exact details and schedule will be forthcoming. but we have been promised a Hungarian welcome feast cooked up by Tom Levy and Meir Ben-Dror on Friday evening. The Specialty will be inside at the Spartanburg Dog Training Club building on Saturday. We will also end the weekend on Sunday with Herding Instinct Test opportunities at Possum Hollow Farm, Rutherford NC.

HPCA

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Sharp Barks...

- HPCA's Pumi Breed Standard has been approved by AKC as the standard for Miscellaneous Class.
- AKC Miscellaneous Class Parent Breed clubs like the HPCA may request licensing for hosted Performance events such as Herding.

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Driving to Carolina for Pumifest 2011

By Nancy Ben-Dror

South Carolina is divided into 3 topographical regions: the Coastal area, the flat Piedmont area and the Upstate, comprised of mountains and lakes. Pumifest 2011 will take place in the Upstate of SC in the foothills of the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. April is a beautiful month, at the height of our spring, which starts at the end of February.

In the immediate area of our house, one can find several state parks with great hiking trails, all of which allow dogs as long as they are on a maximum 6' leash (no Flexis). If you have to get a golf fix in, our banquet is located at a premiere public golf course.

For those of you who will take a few extra days for sightseeing, here are some suggestions for you to goggle, that are close by.

In SC, any of the state parks, Cowpens National Battlefield (one of the deciding battles of the Revolution), downtown Greenville with its magnificent pedestrian walking bridge over the falls of Reedy River. BMW has an amazing 1 hour plant tour, where the X-3, 5 & 6 are produced. You can actually order your BMW and pick it up at the plant and save the shipping charges.

In NC, there is, of course, the not to be missed largest home in America, the Biltmore Estate, and located near that is the gorgeous Chimney Rock State Park, with an elevator that goes right up the inside of the granite mountain. It was built only with mule power in the early '20s and has spectacular views (when you get out of the elevator, that is). There is even a live CR cam, which allows your friends to see you real time. Chimney Rock is where the Last of the Mohicans was filmed.

Next door to Chimney Rock, is the town of Lake Lure, where Dirty Dancing was filmed. I bet you thought it was the Adirondacks? You can visit the room in the hotel that was in the movie, but not inside the room unless you sleep in it. LOL The pontoon boat ride on the lake, lined with million dollar homes is very interesting and beautiful.

Asheville is a great place to visit and somewhat Bohemian in culture and restaurants. Hendersonville is also a lovely mountain city to visit, as is Saluda, which has the steepest regular gauge RR, I think, in the country. It stopped running a couple of years ago; but it is so steep, that when the train came down the mountain from Asheville to Tryon, it had to stop in Saluda, for a special engineer, to bring it down the mountain with two locomotives (for the return trip back up the mountain). If you are RR buff, this is not to be missed.

The last thing to note is that we are located in a Mecca for antiquers. Landrum, my town and Tryon, both 12 minutes from our house, are chocked full of antique stores with very reasonably priced items, in clean, easy to walk through antique malls and shops.

For those who are driving from the north, you want to get onto I-81 as soon as you can, to avoid all tolls and congestion of I-95 and be in for a visual treat of the mountains and valleys. Coming into Asheville, from the north, is like being in Switzerland. If you can make the drive in a very leisurely fashion, plan to spend some time on the magnificent Blue Ridge Parkway, that starts in Northern Virginia and ends by Asheville. You can get on and off at many points, so you don't have to take the whole thing, which at 45 mph takes a couple of days. The town in which we are really located is Gowensville, 12 minutes from downtown Landrum, SC and Tryon, NC. We are right on the border. Gas is \$.12/gallon more expensive in NC than SC, so make sure you fill up in SC.

Nominating Committee:

Volunteers are needed to serve on the nominating committee. They will be appointed by the Board by the end of December. The committee should have a member from the east, central, and western areas of the country. If you would like to serve, notify any member of the Board.

Prefer to Fly???

Besides the Greenville-Spartanburg (GSP) airport which is 20 minutes from our place, we have Charlotte (CLT) airport which is a hub for several airlines. It is 1.5 hours away. Asheville, (AVL) airport is 45 minutes from us. Another option is the Atlanta (ATL) airport which is 3.5 hours away. Southwest has recently announced service to GSP beginning March 15. Bargain introductory airfares may be available.

A Message from the President.....

By Chris Levy

December has been an exciting month for the Pumi community in the USA. It started with Stacy Lehman and her Pumi, Chuy, placing third in the 20" class at the AKC Eukanuba Agility Invitational. The Pumi were definitely noticed both in the agility ring (where Karen Beattie Massey and Bella aced 3 of their 4 runs) and in the Meet the Breeds booth each day where we had the opportunity to show off our Pumi while educating people on the breed.



Chris Levy presents Stacy Lehman the first ever AKC Medallion sponsored by the HPCA. She earned it with her best Pumi placement at the AKC Agility Invitational.

Ginger's puppies (the only Pumi litter born in the US this year) are going to their new homes all over the country in time for Christmas - to New York, Washington State, Minnesota, Oregon, and possibly more states which will develop more Pumi enthusiasts. This month the HPCA Board selected South Carolina as the location for Pumifest April 15-17, 2011. More information about this great Pumi event will be announced next month as plans are finalized.

The anticipation is growing over our entry into the Miscellaneous Class at the beginning of January. We're approaching another milestone in the history of the Pumi in the USA - our ability to show off our wonderful Pumi to the AKC world in the conformation ring at AKC shows. This is an exciting time for all of us as we watch the impact our breed will have on the long-time dog people and the spectators at the shows.

There will be at least two sets of shows with Pumi the very first weekend of the year in South Carolina and California. If the judges' reaction is similar to the rare breed shows, we'll be doing a lot of education in addition to going in the ring with them. All Pumi owners should keep a copy of the AKC breed standard handy to give out to those who ask about the breed. We're expecting full reports from the exhibitors, and in addition, keep those agility and obedience titles coming!

Let me take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season, and health, happiness, and success in 2011.

Pumi Support Fund Established

The Board of Directors voted to establish a 'Pumi Support Fund' at its December meeting. The purpose of the fund is to help pay the veterinary costs of rescued Pumi. The fund will be a Book Entry by the HPCA Treasurer in the club's current Bank Account.

In 2010 club members assisted in 3 rescue situations. In January Jason Ashley of Warwick, NY died after a long illness and his family was unable to care for his two 3 year old Pumi males. In July the County Dog Shelter in Meade County KY requested assistance in rehoming an owner surrendered 3 year old Pumi male. In November an owner in York PA asked for help for a 5 year old male Pumi whom she was no longer able to care for due to a change in living circumstances.

With the increasing population of our breed, it is expected that these situations will increase. The homeless dogs have both American and European breeding.

It was approved to add a line item to the annual dues statement to enable members to contribute to the fund. Disbursements will be authorized by the Board.



**Rescue Matszka needs a forever home.
Photo Blanch Couture**

For Stacy and Chuy It's all about the Gamethe Fun and the Games

At 18 months of age, Chuy chose Stacy. He waited for her, pacing at the back gate of his current owner's house every day hoping it would be one of the two days a week Stacy would pick him up and take him to agility class at Dallas Dog Sports where she was an instructor.

He had had a happy puppyhood. He was identified by his breeder, Taru Parvin, as the top agility prospect in his litter. He was toy driven, never tired of play, had respectful eye contact with people, and friendly relationships with his siblings. And he was not the alpha dog of the litter.

His 13 year old first owner was the granddaughter of an agility competitor who owned Papillons. She added Giddy-Up-Go to honor the cowboy traditions of her state of Texas, to Taru's kennel name Yippy-Yi-Yea. She gave him the call name Chuy (pronounced Chewie like the character in Star Wars) after her favorite Tex-Mex restaurant. She took him with her everywhere. He was socialized to kids, dogs, traffic, and puppy class. Everywhere he went people were asked to give him treats. But the teen-aged girl had to move and she could not take him with her.

His job was now guarding the back yard. He was too much dog for someone accustomed to running toy dogs in the agility ring, even an experienced handler like his current owner.

Stacy was a busy person, wife, mother of two teenagers, agility instructor, and music educator. Two dogs in the house was the max the family could handle. But Chuy pined for her. He needed more fun and challenge in his life and she could deliver. Finally she agreed, the bond between them was too strong to resist, and her family agreed to take a third dog into their home.

For Stacy and Chuy it's all about the game. They knew how to interact and play with each other. Through clicker communication, toys and food they built their team skills. For Chuy the challenge is to learn what Stacy is asking for, the obstacles, the contacts, the turns, the focus. Stacy needs to be creative and not predictable to keep his mind interested. He always wants to know what more they can do and she has to keep up!

Stacy uses toys to take their games to a higher level when the game is moving. She uses food to motivate Chuy when she wants him to stop and think more.

Stacy uses toys to take their games to a higher level when the game is moving. She uses food to motivate Chuy when she wants him to stop and think more, such as contact training or more precise movement skills. Each training run is a series of small games where Chuy has the opportunity to sharpen his focus, show off his skills and earn rewards. It's a game! He looks forward to the games throughout the course, not just at the end of the run.

They practice agility skills 4 or 5 times a week in short bursts, sometimes as short as 15 minutes. They also work on conditioning during the week with tennis ball fetch, walking, running, or leash-biking on trails, and even swimming. Stacy throws tennis balls for him to swim across the pool to retrieve..

Chuy participates in other aspects of Stacy's life, helping out with almost any job Stacy is doing. He loves her piano students and lays down by their feet under the piano to listen with her to the student's lessons. He loves laundry time and helps pick up dropped socks and shirts and brings them to the basket or laundry room. He displays his digging talents, helping out with the garden or planting flowers.

They go to trials one or two weekends a month. Chuy knows when he is at a trial. His training and sequences come together. He understands his job and waits between game times in his crate. But he is ever alert to his master's voice. If he hears Stacy across the room, he may bark a greeting which she recognizes above the din of a noisy trial venue. Teamwork.



Stacy Lehman with Yippy-Yi-Yea Giddy-Up-Go (Chuy) at the AKC Agility Invitational.

Photo Chris Levy. .

Chuy is a big boy. At 19.75 inches, well over the Pumi standard, he can compete with the Border Collies and other big dogs in his 20" AKC class. He jumps high over the bars. This high hang time adds up over a 20 obstacle course so he has to make up time in consistency and precision in following his handler's instructions. His Achilles heel is the chute. He loves it and sometimes explodes out of it too far, missing the optimal signal position from his handler.

He earned the difficult ADCH title from USDAA at a young age. In USDAA a dog Chuy's height must jump 22 inches high and 48 inches long. These distances are congruous with international standards, and all breeds as well as mixed breeds may compete.

When AKC opened Agility Trials to the Pumi in January 2008, Chuy was turning 3 years old. Stacy was also new to AKC agility. It took her time to identify and adjust to the subtle differences in the design and flow of a course. Nevertheless, they quickly advanced to the excellent level. In December 2009 Chuy was the first Pumi to earn to an invitation to the AKC Agility Invitational. Stacy was nervous, not knowing what this competition situation was all about. They achieved a respectable finish but had only 3 clean runs out of 4., Chuy had a refusal due to handler error.

With another year of experience, they were better prepared to run the more challenging and technical courses of the Invitational in December 2010. Stacy set a goal of 4 clean runs. After 2 runs on Saturday night they were in 6th place out of the 87 teams. They were up at 4 am Sunday morning to get to the venue by 5:40 am and be ready for their 7 am run time. They had their third clean run. Stacy did not check the scores, she wanted to stay awake and focused for the next task and drank Cokes all morning. She was not nervous. She knew what was to come.

She stood at the start line for the 4th run about 2 pm. She zoned in on her dog and the 20 obstacles, 20 little games they were about to play. Done. A clean run. Goal Accomplished! Now the adrenalin began to run. Would they be one of the 10 teams in her class, and the one in her breed to be invited to compete in the Finals? Waiting again, she thought about all she had asked Chuy to do this weekend. He rode for hours in the cargo hold of an airplane, slept in a stranger's home, waited for hours in a crate in a noisy crowded place, all in the name of fun.

At 4 pm they stood at the starting line of the Finals. Chuy could feel the crowd, the excitement, this was a different and higher level of game. Stacy had accomplished her goal of 4 clean runs, so now this was Chuy's time. Hundreds of dogs had come here to play these games. It was pretty amazing that he was now in the spotlight. She told him "Let's have fun. Go ahead and run the contacts, I'll try to keep up."

Several days later back home, Stacy was still feeling the exhilaration. The success was more than she ever dreamed. They had placed 3rd in a field of 87 elite 20" dogs, most of whom had already earned at least one AKC MACH title.

This year's goal for Stacy and Chuy is to achieve the MACH title. They are half way to their goal.

Raising a Litter

By Ginger Butler

It begins way before a puppy is made... when you pick out your own first pup \$\$ you hope it will grow up to be a breeding prospect... then you test the hips \$\$, eyes \$\$, elbows \$\$... search for the perfect mate... which will lead you down a hundred rabbit trails... Search for homes, starting your 'waiting list'... and the search narrows.

You pick 'him' and negotiate with the owner \$\$, you travel a distance - great \$\$ or small \$... and drag your friend(s) along the way so you can talk 'dog' in both travelled directions. Hit and miss on the tie, once, twice, try again... success.... wait, worry, wait, worry, worry, wait and worry more. Is she or isn't she... increase the food \$, watch the belly, do you take her in for x-ray \$\$ or do you just wait it out... guess, hope, worry...

The day arrives.. .it goes, wait more, take the temperature over and over and over and over... it drops... call mentor... get excited... worry worry worry... get all settled in the whelping room, close your eyes for a minute - 4 am, just a minute... then some strange, but familiar sound startles you wide awake 4:30 am... puppy number one slips in and the drama begins. Excitement and sheer fear... the next 10 hours are painful... all the bending and stretching, tenseness, holding your breath... yes, fear that something will go wrong. Can you ever prepare enough? No.

With amazement, I look at Treble, the new mom as she wags her tail. She has complete trust in her eyes and is so proud of these THINGS that surround her.

With amazement, I look at Treble, the new mom, and she wags her tail. Complete trust in her eyes, so proud of these 'things' that surround her. She acts like this is more fun than stealing the chewies from Tango and Trumpet... the other two pumik in the family. She is so happy... and I am so tired and excited, too. halfway through , a tiny puppy comes - the cause of all that fear and worry - but in the end, he is fine. He is 1/2 the size of most of

his siblings, and he turns out to be the fighter. What is the Hungarian word for 'fighter'... "harcos"... I need to remember that. Ten hours, 8 puppies, no serious issues, someone was watching out for me - no question about that.

Then comes a couple of long nights of sleeping close - only watching - listening for one thing... a puppy in distress. Would she lay on a puppy that wasn't strong enough to cry loud enough? Is the pup big enough to be felt? Two nights pass and no incidents. Ahhhhhh sleep in my own bed on night three - rest at last. Then watch the little hamsters grow, weigh them every day, every single day for 4 weeks, note the pigment, worry about a lost ounce, cheer when the tiny mighty fighter gains a smidgen more than the others. Take care of mama - still wagging her tail - still wants you there to watch them with her, my companion.

People come visit... people go.

Off to the vet \$\$ - hind dew claws to remove... hind double dew claws to remove??? whaaaa. yep. doubles on a few... I hear grandpa may have been behind that! Pups are doing so well... time passes... then a little reality... the waiting list...

People come visit... people go.

The full list of names I had for those wanting a puppy - only 2 remain - 5 back out, or never materialize... a few more leads, 1/2 back out, a few more leads, back and forth, over and over again. This now becomes the new stress. You think you have it covered... and then you think you might be keeping 80% of the pups... you deal with it... you tell yourself... "I can raise them all" - yeah right! Your Pumi friends support you and keep you going.

Time to worm the pups - you can never be prepared for that... I will leave the details out - but OMG to that.

People come visit... people go.

Then more worrisome decisions - which food to feed the pups \$\$, when, how much, and when the kibble food begins... so does the mama's desire to keep the living area clean... What was it that Dr. Dunbar said, give them a toilet \$\$... a chew \$... a bed \$\$... OMG to that as well - but in the best way - he was right, and it worked fairly well. 8 bowls \$ for 8 pups - individual feeding avoids competing for food, which can lead to resource guarding... another Dr Dunbar trick. Purchased a few more dog crates \$\$ so these pups can all have positive exposure to crates and eat inside the crates and the last few nights... they sleep in them...

People come visit... people go.



The large litter had two white females and three white males. There were three born black, expected to gray, puppies, 1 female and two males.
Photo: Ginger Butler



The pup is 6.5 months old. Look for her at Pumifest 2011 in puppy class.
Photo Ginger Butler



**Vidam Kertész Zenéje (Treble) presents her litter of 8
Photo Ginger Butler**

An unexpected week long trip for work pops up - OMG OMG OMG what am I going to do??? This is such a critical time in the puppy's development cycle... Am I going to destroy their delicate personalities? Will they be scarred for life? Worry and fear revisit with a force. Lucky for me, my sister-in-law is out of work... and she loves puppies... and she really wants to come live in my home and take care of the puppies (8), and the adult Pumik (3), the Kuvasz guardian (1) and the cats (2).!

And so it goes... a whole week without my expert care and handling. It's out the window... and upon my return...what do I find?? The house sparkled, the puppies were huge, happy, and clean! They had grown so much. She did, dare I say it, a better job than I could have done. I owe her so much. She was a godsend. Truly!

Getting back into the routine, it is time to throw in a bit of clicker training \$, too. I had a clicker mentor that shared the work she has done with clicking litters - we didn't spend much time doing it. We followed her plan and found which ones problem solve and which ones whine... very interesting and worth so much more real estate on this write-up. Later.

Another trip to the Vet \$\$\$. This time they are going for their first set of shots\$, Health exams \$\$, health certificates for those that are traveling \$\$\$. Get their chips \$\$\$. Check their weight. Everyone is healthy!!!

Travel plans are finalized for long distance - everyone is flying into Oregon to pick up their

Was it worth it? All the expense, concern, work, exhaustion? YES, for me it was worth it.

pups. I take days off at work \$\$\$ to take the pups to the Airport, visit a bit, and send them off with strangers... nice strangers... I'm sure they will take such good care... but strangers are taking my babies off to their forever homes. Heartbreaking... tears... it is the hardest part, it is the most rewarding part. These little guys will change their lives... you know this with certainty... it happened to me just a few short years ago.

8 weeks - magic age... the puppy puzzle evaluations come... how will my precious little babies do with strangers poking and prodding in a strange place... and I can't be there, I can't watch... the longest hour of the whole process. Finally, I get to hear the results... no surprises... a few eyebrow lifts, but it all made sense... yes, I have picked the right one for me... and I know I picked the right one for each home. Purple girl is a rock star... she will stay with me... and travel to the next Pumi Specialty in South Carolina.

One has traveled to Queens, New York. I notice his absence in so many ways. The number of dishes is off, it is quieter... no really! and only two dark pups left - the rest of white.

Tomorrow, three more leave - all white, two girls, one boy... I am so happy for the new parents, and I know that my work will be cut in half in the blink of an eye... a teary eye. Two going to agility homes... one to brighten every day to a senior citizen - probably to become the most spoiled Pumi in America!

On the 25th, the fifth pup will travel to Minnesota. She will be the first in that State.. though it may be months before she touches the ground... before the snow melts... but she will melt the hearts of every soul that looks into her eyes. She will light up the life of two very Giant Schnauzers. She will be a rock star!

Two male pups will stay with me for a while. Their new homes will reveal themselves in time... and yes, I will raise them to adulthood if need be... that is a commitment you make before you ever breed your bitch. I suppose only by going through this entire process can I say - it's only three pups - that's nothing :)

Was it worth it - all the expense, concern, work, exhaustion - yes, for me it was all worth it. Will I repeat it - yes, eventually, but I want to enjoy the little ones that I have added to my pack and begin the rest of their, and my life together. It will be a while.



I spy Big Buddy Tango

photo : Ginger Butler

Choosing an Agility Puppy

By Nancy Ben-Dror

The criteria for choosing an agility puppy spans all breeds. There are, however, basic criteria when assessing a litter; even though the breeder should make the ultimate decision, as she knows the puppies best.

It is important to remember that a puppy who meets your criteria at 8 weeks, may not be the adult agility dog you envisioned, for many reasons. The litter can encourage boldness, independence, or shyness and dependency. Conversely, a puppy that may not meet all of your criteria, away from litter mates, and with proper training, may turn out to be the agility super star!

The best agility prospect is one that is confident, engages with you, explores, problem solves, is not body , noise or light sensitive , has drive and a sense of humor. A puppy should retrieve, be interested in toys(especially crinkly things like aluminum foil balls and empty plastic soda bottles). A puppy prospect should like to tug and have prey drive. Observe behavior with litter mates and apart from them.

A puppy prospect should like to tug and have prey drive.

Is the puppy too pushy and overly bossy or wimpy and submissive? Are the parents already agility dogs? How have other litters from these parents fared in the agility world?

Despite the popularity of temperament testing, very little objective follow up information is available about whether or not these tests predict anything. Temperament testing should always be done by someone the puppy doesn't know. Pamela Reid, PhD and Nathan Penny tested 46 litters, using Joaquim and Wendy Volhard's Puppy Aptitude test at the age of 49 days. A year later there was ZERO correlation with what the puppies became as adults. Puppies tested on different days had different results. This said, there are excellent test results for prospective seeing eye dogs; partly due to the fact that the test was created to test only those attributes needed for a guide dog.

According to Pat Hastings, author of *Puppy Puzzle* and a new book, due out soon, on selecting a performance puppy, " An owner of a puppy that won't allow being held upside down in your arms or look you in the eye, will spend the rest of the dog's life, trying to convince the dog that what the owner wants it to do, was the dog's idea."

No matter how great the dog's personality or temperament, without excellent conformation, the puppy may be doomed to not easily handling the demands of agility and often ends up with a career ending injury or arthritis at an early age. The puppy doesn't have to be a conformation champion prospect but should have a good front and rear assembly. The shoulders take the brunt of the landing force and the rear is the engine that drives the dog.

There are many variables on the road to having a successful agility dog. Selecting the right puppy goes a long way towards making this a joyous journey.

Health Notes

ACL Surgery

By Mary Reardon

The December 2010 issue of Dog Watch, (Cornell University College of Vet Medicine) featured an article on ACL rupture. It says that a disorder of the health and structural integrity of the Anterior Cruciate Ligament is common. It is the most frequently treated among all canine orthopedic problems.

"The natural skeletal conformation of a dog's rear legs, can increase the risk of rupture. Dogs with very straight hind legs, seem to be at greater risk than those with noticeably bent rear limbs. The main source of the vulnerability, however, is believed to be a genetic flaw."

Very active animals are at risk for a traumatic ACL injury, but it can also be chronic, with the ligament tissue fraying over a few months. Arthritis in the knee joint is inevitable. The pain can be eased with drugs, but surgery is needed to restore activity levels.

My 9 year old male, Boomer was diagnosed with this condition. He suddenly started walking on only 3 legs, lifting the one hind leg. He also could not sit properly. He leaned to the side, extending one leg out straight. The ACL limits hyperextension of the knee. Boomer and some of my other Pumi are very fond of standing very straight and tall on their hind legs, hyperextending, in order to see or smell their world.

The Cornell article says owners can expect to be charged between \$2500 and \$3800 for the procedure. My vet installed artificial fibers to replace Boomer's ligament for about \$1000. The recovery required 8 weeks of crate rest with minimal leash walks. followed by 3 months of additional rest with only leash walks, no free running. He was prescribed daily glucosamine chondroitin for life.

The Pumi, because of its structure and high activity level may be more vulnerable than the average breed to this serious disorder.

Farewell Eva

Tuway's Miss Eva, owned by Wayne and Tula Fessenden died at the age of 12 in August, 2010. Eva was born in the Rakenlov kennel in Finland. She was carried to her US home from Helsinki after the World Show in June 1998.

She was an early breed ambassador and may have been the first Pumi to earn the IABCA championship when she qualified in November 2001 in St. Louis. She also showed in UKC obedience.

Niko Goes to Class

by Niko as told to Pat Frost

MY mom still drags me to "eating class" and I have a hard time paying attention. The big poodle with a curly coat is fun and frisky, but a bit slow going over the jump for the dumbbell. So I started out to get it for her. Oops, not allowed.

Then after me jumping 5 times over the broad jump, and bored I was, I grabbed my leash and teased the yellow lab with it. I had to sit by the wall twice in one day!

I went to a seminar last weekend and learned you get more food if you do it right. We played a name "game" where we sat by Mom and someone called our name. If we looked, ok, but when we looked back into Mom's eyes, we got lots of food and a "yes"! Chris Bach, the teacher, said when we hear that yes word, it makes trainers smile and means we are right. It makes me feel so safe when I am anxious. And OK means we are done but can't run off.

We also learned where front is. The reward food is always given centered above and between Mom's knees and we must reach for it. Cheese is better than plain old dog food!

Pat Frost has been training dogs for 20 years but she still picks up tips at seminars like the one given by Chris Bach which she recently attended. The subject was listening to your dog.

After all this I was very tired. It's hard to nap with lots of dogs nearby. The puppies were the worst because they got the most attention and since barking was not allowed, they got into laps a lot. Mom was very tired too but showed the "old dogs" some of the tricks. We both slept late the next day.

Book Review:

ANIMALS MAKE US HUMAN

By Temple Grandin

Animals Make Us Human, by animal scientist Temple Grandin, is a true gift for animals, and we who want to understand them. It's a combination of her vast personal experiences and intuition, backed up by over a 100 scientific papers from many parts of the world, yet is easy to read by a lay person. It is also available in audio.

The book covers many kinds of animals, but the section on dogs is chapter 2, and I found it as much a mirror for humans, since "All animals and people have the same core emotion systems in the brain." They are: 1 Seeking; 2 Rage; 3 Fear; 4 Panic, and three special purpose ones – 5 Sex drive; 6 Care; 7 Play, and a core throughout is: "For animals to be happy, their social needs must be met."

The author has done all her work from a unique perspective, since she was born severely autistic. She says she *thinks in pictures* rather than in words, and found *school difficult, but animals easy*. Through heroic perseverance, Temple Grandin has achieved immense success academically and in the animal industry. She's written many books, is a frequent speaker, and a movie has recently been made of her life.

Competitive Grooming

by Mary Reardon

My first experience with competitive grooming came this summer when Kendra Otto invited Tracy to be her partner for a grooming competition near my home.

Competitors were divided into three skill/experience levels. There were four coat categories : Poodles, Sporting dogs, Terriers, and All Other Pure Breds.

Over the first three days there were two morning and two afternoon sessions for a total of 12 separate competitions. A panel of 3 judges evaluated the before condition of each dog's coat and compared it to the finished conformation ready grooming a few hours later. The results were ranked. Points and cash prizes were awarded and each participant got a detailed verbal critique

The fourth day offered an anything goes creative opportunity for the groomers as well as a finals judging of the earlier session winners.

At the end of the year the total points earned reveals the overall annual winners who may represent the USA in competitions abroad.



Greenfarms Tapestry Trace (Tracy) as groomed by Kendra Otto at PetQuest in Fort Mitchell KY. Photo: Kendra Otto

Reviewed by Lucy Berninger

On Becoming a Herding Team

by Ildiko Repasi

Five years ago we bought an old defunct farm in upstate New York that is today "GoatSheepShop". Our concept was to raise woolies for fiber production. We've built, fixed, cleared and fenced. We bought a bunch of sheep and goats and we've had daily adventures with moving them from point A to point B.

During the pioneering years we chased, threw ourselves after, grabbed and carried the sheep and goats to get them under control regardless of weather conditions. Finally the Eureka moment happened...."Why don't we get a herding dog?"

Ildiko Repasi and her husband Laszlo Sulyok live and toil (less and less thanks to Abiqua Csupasz and Felallo-Fulu Fruska, their two Pumik) in Delhi, NY. They are the owners of "GoatSheepShop," a 162 acre farm where they raise their 24 Angora goats and 34 Shetland Sheep (the Kashmir goats will be coming next spring...) for mohair and wool production that they use for making fashion articles, items for interior design, furniture, architecture, conceptual arts and for food.

I remember my childhood summers in the country, back in Transylvania. Farmers would stand outside waiting for their returning livestock from the pastures before sunset, the way parents today are waiting for the school bus bringing their kids home. The slowly approaching dust of the dirt road through town was always an exciting telltale sign that the animals were approaching home. First came the geese, then the pigs, followed by the sheep and goats and finally the cows. Herding dogs were around them without any human interaction. I was mesmerized.

But what breed to get? After some research we picked a four month old Abiqua puppy, whom we named "Csupasz" (Naked). On his first day on the farm, we walked to the pasture to show him the flock. His tail curled tighter, his ears pricked a bit, and the sheep moved away from the fence. This was his job interview and he got hired!

We are no strangers to dog training. We've chewed through books and DVD's, but herding training turned out to be different than we expected. I remembered the mantra of Bob Bailey, a Skinner associate, with whom I trained chickens in Arkansas: "training is a mechanical skill". But this simply did not add up. It was not the usual "a+b=c" where "a" is the dog, "b" is the command and "c" is the expected behavior offered by the dog. There was an additional factor, the livestock....

So we went back to school where we've learned about the intricate relationship of sheep and dog, the flight and herd instinct in relationship to the harbored predatory behavior of the dog and the invisible "threshold" which is the effect of the quiet body language of the predator on the flock. It seemed magic that resembled a silent cinema where out of running, chasing, shooting, and chaos suddenly order takes over the screen. As our learning curve has risen, our relationship to our flock started improving. Naturally we decided to take our experience to the next level-trials.

Although competitions are based on the "real thing", they are more a choreographed and sanitized version of everyday farm life. While some non-farm dogs can flawlessly master the course, many working farm dogs get non-qualified due to unacceptable behavior like "flossing" or nipping based on the rule book.

I've spent this summer going to clinics while Laszlo stayed home chasing the flock in Csupasz's absence...These intensive sessions accelerated our bonding and ultimately fused us into a team. Soon we started mastering the basic idea, to get the flock to the handler in any situation. We have to negotiate this concept on the trial course against the draw (where the flock escapes to safety, usually the re-pen area). I've learned to control my stage fright and my vocabulary. More than once I gave the wrong command while Csupasz was already on the right course by himself. In response, I've gotten my share of dirty looks from him. I've learned that look.... In the same time, Csupasz's confidence has improved away from home. We have become a team. Skeptical looks from the side line have turned into friendly insider winks.

One of the basic principles of dog behavior that dogs have to learn is generalization, since every competition and new location is different. We learned that new exposure is essential to succeed in the long run. I've witnessed some high level dogs to non-qualify in droves, as a direct result of their "one venue" trial history. After successes and failures during this summer, we made it our objective not to blame the environment and the host flock, rather, be better prepared for each upcoming challenge.

We work routinely together every day on the farm where the stake is undoubtedly real, whether it is vaccinating, sheering, de-worming, or simply daily feeding. But the thrill of a competition challenges both of us; the ritual of traveling, walking the field, checking the host stock and the other dogs.

It is "just a game" but we play it together.



Csupasz herds his flock on the New York farm GoatSheepShop.

On Becoming a Grooming Team

by Aliz as told to Kendra Otto



Abiqua Aliz, (Aliz) owned by Asa Anden, with Sasha Riess (Serbia), Sally Hawks (USA), Kendra Otto, Christine Speerin (Australia) Photo: Barkleigh Productions

Kendra Otto is a member of GroomTeam USA since 2007. In addition to Aliz she has groomed Dessie, Mini and Tracy in competition. Kendra presents classes on hand stripping techniques necessary to maintain proper texture and color of sporting and wire coated breeds.

I would like to share with you a story about a new friend I recently have made.

Kendra and I started off our first journey together to Hershey, PA back in September, 2010. We had a nice drive out and had some time to play ball and my most favorite thing in the world, "frisbee":) We also had several discussions as to how we were going to impress our judges. Sasha Riess (from Serbia) was one of our judges, and he had handled and groomed many Pumik, his grandmother (from Hungary) has also been involved in showing and breeding them for years. Needless to say we were nervous about that, but knew we'd get a fair look because he knows the breed really well. I told Kendra that I would be a good girl and stand like a champ.

The night before my class, I had my nails, pads and ears done and was raked, brushed, combed out and then I had my bath. I air dried over night which was great for my partner in crime, Kendra, because normally when she competes, she only gets about 3 hours of sleep with all of the extra prep work involved.

The next day, it was our turn to shine. Everyone and I mean everyone wanted to know what kind of dog I was. They thought I was so cute, but I already know that, because I'm a Pumi. I actually think I look like a koala bear and Kendra agrees. Anyways, for an hour and forty five minutes I was groomed. Then we were judged and unfortunately we did not place, but we got a good critique and that really meant something. Sasha told Kendra that my head was absolutely perfect, but she over groomed me too much and my underline needed a bit of tweaking. Kendra was very happy to finally figure out the underline, because so many of the pictures she has seen are all so different.

She also realized how hard it was to make me look so rustic. She has been grooming since 1997 and has always made dogs look very neat and tidy, so you can imagine how hard it is for her to make me look rustic.

Sasha also told her to use a heavier conditioner on the coat to help the ringlets set and to also quickly cut in the body then spray down right away to help the ringlets come out more. Keeping this new knowledge in mind, we enjoyed our glory of the weekend and soon I headed home with a new friend that I really like a lot. Oh ya, I forgot to mention that there was a lady that knew what I was, she introduced herself to Kendra and said that she used to groom and handle Tracy. We both thought that was pretty cool.

After I got home, Kendra discussed with my mom, taking me to Kentucky in November. She found out that Sasha was going to be judging there again! Mom soon said yes and we were all so happy. I came to visit Kendra a few times at the shop before the contest so she could make sure my coat, ears and nails were in great shape for the show.

Soon November came and we were off to Kentucky. We were so ready this time, and very excited about it. This time, instead of the show being at a large venue, it was held at Nash Academy, a grooming academy. Kendra likes this show a lot because it is hands on critiques for everyone's dogs and they all get to listen and learn on everyone's dogs. It was a lot smaller, but more personable.

The night before my class, we went through the same routine as usual getting pretty, but this time we conditioned too. After a nice relaxing night of snuggling in a bed with Kendra we got our day started. We walked in and started setting up. I was on Kendra's table when I soon noticed that there were a lot more Pumik with us, oh no, wait, that was just my reflection in all of those mirrors. So we went through the prejudging process where the panel of judges go over all of the dogs that are competing in that class. During that process I continued to check myself out in the mirror the whole time, everyone thought I was so funny and they even took pictures.

We soon started the competition, I was so good on the table and soon our time was up. We went through the judging and this time it seemed longer than usual. The judges came back with their results and started the placements. 3rd place was an Old English Sheepdog and 2nd was a Bichon Frise, then they called 1st place and it was us!!! We couldn't believe it!, Kendra was so excited, she was jumping up and down and shrieking.

Because we took first place in our class, we were now going up for best in show! We ended up not taking best in show, but with our win and the other classes that Kendra placed in over the weekend, that made her the Best All Around Groomer for the weekend. We were so happy!! We got to take our winning photos and they used the magic word "frisbee" to get my ears up, I even had my own photo shoot in hopes that my picture will be used in a magazine someday. We ended up getting our critique from Sasha and he said over all I was beautifully groomed, but that my cheeks should have been a bit tighter and to soak my coat even heavier next time to get better ringlets. We were finally winners and it felt great! I'm so glad I made a new friend and had a lot of fun!



Abiqua Aliz (Aliz) owned by Michael and Asa Anden notices there are a lot of Pumik with her!

Photo Kendra Otto

Merry Christmas!

Happy New Year 2011

Christmas in Hungary

by Meir Ben-Dror

The December Holiday season traditionally opened in Hungary with Luca's (St. Lucia) Day. According to the legend, on December 13 St. Lucia turned into a witch during the dark, long winter night. To scare away witches, it was customary to stuff garlic in keyholes, to stick a knife in the door jamb, to draw a cross on the door with garlic, or put two brooms together in the shape of a cross. Country folk didn't borrow or give anything on this day, so that it won't fall into the witches' hands. According to tradition, women didn't work on Luca's Day so that their hens won't stop laying eggs.

Single young men went to visit homes of their acquaintances and expected to receive gifts in exchange for their good wishes, otherwise they'd put a curse on the household.

The Advent season starts on the fourth Sunday before December 24, and those four weeks are the busy time for Christmas preparations.

Santa doesn't come on Christmas in Hungary but on St. Nicholas' Day, on December 6. He's called Mikulás in Hungarian, borrowing the Slavic form of Nicholas. He carries presents in a backpack, and deposits them in the boots and shoes placed on the windowsill. Naughty children get a bundle of twigs called Virgács, (from the Latin virgule – switch). Mikulás is accompanied by his devilish gnome of a helper, Krampusz who's supposed to frighten naughty children. Actually, all children get both gifts and virgács...Children generally consider Krampusz a funny figure, rather than scary.

On Christmas Eve, (December 24) the Christmas tree is erected and decorated, and gifts are exchanged with family members in remembrance of the three wise men bearing gifts.

A unique Christmas treat known only in Hungary is a candy called "szaloncukor" (salon candy, which is a fondant based candy in different flavors and a fancy wrapper) is used to decorate the Christmas tree, together with ornaments commonly used in the West as well.

The festive Christmas dinner traditionally started after the rising of the first star. The Christmas table was unimaginable without fish, strudel (beigli in Hungarian), walnuts and an apple which symbolized the togetherness of the family. Housewives put out everything on the table because dinner had to be consumed without having to get up until the end.

On Christmas day it's customary to make noise, to wear masks, costumes and animal hides in order to scare away bad spirits. During the day groups of children and young men perform "Bethlehem plays" from house to house where the story of the birth of Jesus is reenacted. In some localities this is done with puppets. The performers receive treats from each household.

There are countless different local Christmas traditions in Hungary and it'd be impossible to present of all of them here. I hope that this short cross-section of Christmas customs inspired the readers to want to experience the holiday season first hand in Hungary.

Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year to all.

All I want for Christmas is a Tripto Paris or Salzburg

The FCI World Show will be in Paris July 7-10, 2011. The World show routinely has 10,000 dogs with each breed shown once over the four days.

The group judging at the end of each day will include an astonishing parade of beautiful dogs of both common and rare breeds.



There will be hundreds of vendors selling breed items, books, supplies and art work.

In 2012 the show will be May17-20 in Salzburg.

Photo Montage by Blanche Couture



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Meet the Breeds

The fall meet the Breeds season kicked off with Nancy Ben-Dror in Raleigh, NC at the AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day in September.

This was followed in October by the New York City team for the huge Meet the Breeds which AKC organized with the Cat Fanciers. This show is geared to attract the general public. We won a 4th place in Miscellaneous Class for our booth presentation.

Nancy and Meir Ben-Dror joined the parade of Breeds at the Piedmont Kennel Club Show in Charlotte NC. In December they took a 2nd place prize for their information booth.

West Coast people took a turn in the FSS Breed booth at the Eukanuba Championship Challenge in Long Beach CA in December.

All together we distributed hundreds of club informational brochures, Pumi Standards, and informational materials.

Of course the stars of any successful Meet the Breeds event are the dogs themselves. Thanks to all our friendly, or at least willing canine ambassadors and their dedicated owners.



Long Beach: Row 1 Vinton Balagot with Nadia, Shirley Russell with Cricket, Michael Kroeplin, Shirley Erle with Jami, Chris Levy with River owned by Barbara Miller, Row 2 Karen Beattie Massey with Bella, Tom Levy in Hungarian shepherd costume
 Photo Chris Levy



Meir Ben-Dror with Asztró, Nancy Ben-Dror with Szikra

Photo Nancy Ben-Dror



Dina Cooper with Soho, Andrew Cooper with Egres, Mary Reardon, Blanche Couture with Swing in New York.
 Photo: Blanche Couture