

Hungarian Pumi Club of America

www.pumiclub.org

President's Message

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season, and that you're now ready for 2016 when the Pumi takes its rightful place in the AKC Herding Group! There will be lots of activity going on this spring as we train judges and get ready to hold our first AKC conformation show at Pumifest. This message is a long one because of all our preparations not only for the Pumi to be recognized, but for the HPCA to become an AKC licensed parent club.

HPCA web site: The HPCA web site has a new look, including a countdown to that all-important July 1 date. The new format also brings new capability to the web site – we now have a Members Only section that includes items like past newsletters, a complete membership list with contact information, a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws, Policies and Procedures, and copies of the Electronic Authorization form and Versatility application. In order to see the Members Only section, you need to have a username and password and be approved by one of the website admins (Meir Ben-Dror, Aida Dungan, and myself). Just click on the Members Only menu option and you'll be asked to create a new username and password, or if you've already registered, just enter that information.

Online auctions: We now have the capability to hold an online auction for registered members on the web site. If you remember the artwork that Roberta Scott sent to the Roberts Centre for the



Upcoming Events

February 13

Meet the Breeds, Piers 92
and 94, New York, NY

Help Wanted

It takes a village to keep a parent club functioning and we can use your help!

Meet the Breeds

The club is seeking volunteers to help showcase our wonderful Pumis at Westminster Kennel Club's annual Meet the Breeds event, which will be run in conjunction with the Masters Agility Championship in New York on February 13. Every year this is a popular and high profile event.

If you can help out, please contact Nancy Nelson at nelson@optonline.net

Pumifest auction that never got delivered, we'll be auctioning it off in the next few weeks. But you must be a registered member to bid on an item, so be sure to get registered!

Email communications: The club has relied on electronic communications very heavily during our growth since 2005, but now AKC wants us to make that official. In order for us to send you communications via email such as the newsletter, you MUST fill out an Electronic Authorization Form (a copy is in this newsletter), sign it, and mail it to the HPCA Secretary. **If the Secretary has not received this authorization by March 1, you will receive all future communications from the HPCA via snail mail,** which will cost the club money and you will receive information and notifications from the club from 2 – 5 days later than anyone who gets it via email. This includes the surveys that we do, too, like the surveys we've conducted in the past on who wants to volunteer for Pumifest jobs, what type of AKC events you've participated in during the last 3 years, etc. This will also slow our work down. So PLEASE, fill out the form and send it in. Thanks!

All-breed agility trial: We have another first for the club coming up shortly after July 1- our first all-breed agility trial in Minnesota. We're doing this on a trial basis to see if we can raise a little money to help us with Pumifest. See Ginny Hayes' article in this issue.

Constitution and Bylaws Vote: The Board has updated the HPCA Constitution and Bylaws in accordance with AKC's recommendations in preparation for becoming a fully licensed club. AKC has approved the changes and now it must go to the members for a vote. You have probably already received your ballot. Be sure to return it to the Secretary by February 15.

Volunteering: A dog breed parent club runs on volunteers, and we need you! There are lots of opportunities to serve on committees for both the club in general and for Pumifest. We have a Help Wanted column in every issue – please take a look and see if there's something that interests you. Or email Chris and let her know what skills or knowledge you can offer and we'll find you a spot! A survey for Pumifest will be coming up shortly, too. We need you!

- Chris

Help Wanted

Member Retention Committee

We are seeking 2 or more volunteers who are interested in finding ways to keep members energized, involved, and engaged with our club activities. This is a short-term commitment with several phone conferences only. If you are interested in this role please contact Debbie Thornton at cypressbaydlit@gmail.com.

Pumifest

A survey where you can volunteer will be coming out shortly, but in the meantime please be thinking about these important jobs for Pumifest 2016:

On-Site Trial/Show Secretary

- We need a person to be the on-site trial/show secretary for each event: agility, obedience, rally, conformation, and herding. All the paperwork prior to the event will be done for you, but we need someone to record the results and send them to AKC. You can compete in the event and also be the trial secretary (except for conformation where you cannot compete).

Invitation to Host Pumifest 2017 and Beyond

Pumifest 2017 will be on the West Coast, and then will move to the East in 2018. We have a National Specialty Committee that does most planning for Pumifest and recruiting of volunteers. There is a Local Host who is responsible for finding a venue for each of our events (agility, obedience, rally, conformation, and herding) plus a host hotel and locations for dinners and the banquet (which can be in the hotel). If anyone is interested in having Pumifest in their area and being the Local Host, there's a document on the Members Only web page "[Requirements for Hosting a Pumifest](#)". Proposals should be sent to the Board by June 1 for a decision at the July Board meeting. The Pumifest Committee is able to help and provide feedback during the preparation of your proposal.

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Help Wanted

Trial & Show Chairs - We need volunteers to be the Chairs for obedience/rally and conformation. We already have volunteers for agility and herding.

Public Education Committee Chair

This committee is responsible for all communications and public relations with the general public. This most specifically includes our Meet the Breeds events, the two biggest being in New York and Orlando, but includes other smaller HPCA-sponsored events. This committee is our public face and manages the communications materials such as our Pumi brochure and business cards along with the Meet the Breeds booth materials. The Committee should be able to respond to a request for information about the breed in the format of a magazine article or other breed information for web sites.

We could use more than one person on this committee, but still do need someone who would like to chair it. This is a very important role as we will get more and more inquiries during this year especially as AKC will provide exposure for us

HPCA All-Breed Agility Trial

First ever event will be held July 29, 2016

We are pleased to announce that the American Kennel Club (AKC) has approved the first all-breed agility trial sponsored by our parent club, the Hungarian Pumi Club of America (HPCA). We could not put on a sanctioned, all-breed trial until we were fully recognized by the AKC. That will happen July 1, 2016.

The one-day trial will be an add-on to a popular two-day trial in Burnsville, Minnesota. The Northstar Working Group Association (NWGA) thought that having another trial on their weekend would entice participants who drive some distance to compete in their event.

The two-ring trial will be indoors on turf with a capacity of 660 runs. We will have two popular local judges, Karl Blakely and Rod Ramsell, the latter a judge at the 2015 AKC Agility Invitational. Because our group is just beginning to grow in the north, we thought it prudent to start out small. We wish to extend an invitation to all Pumi agility handlers across the U.S. to join us at the event.

We hope this trial will help the agility community become more aware of our breed. Just having the trial on the AKC website will bring attention to the HPCA and the news that the Pumi will soon be an AKC-recognized breed. Our goal is to raise funds to help the HPCA put on two agility trials at Pumifest and the other events.

WHAT

HPCA All-Breed Agility Trial

WHEN

Friday, July 29, 2016

WHERE

Soccer Blast 3601 W 145th Street, Burnsville, MN 55306

TRIAL CHAIR

Ginny Hayes bleuzzie@netscape.net

Help Wanted

Newsletter Committee

We can always use reporters! We need people to write a column (or get someone to write something) in each newsletter on a particular subject, such as agility, nose work, conformation, health, etc.

Newsletter Statistician

(under Newsletter Committee)

Find top rankings in various events (e.g. agility, obedience, conformation) and compile the list of top-ranking dogs to publish in the newsletter. This can be obtained from AKC or from various publications. This is a new job and the person will need to figure out the best way to portray this information.

Zsa Zsa Update

By Nancy Nelson

OH! It is so hard to find good administrative assistants these days! Mine procrastinates and has left transcribing my column for this newsletter to the last minute. I am just going to have to learn to type! I hope it doesn't ruin my manicure.

I hope everyone has recovered from the holidays, I spent several days in a state of bliss with all my new toys, but I am getting back to the routine. I am a party animal and love the holiday season, lots of parties and I can wear my bling!

I am currently concentrating on my indoor training with hopes of competing in obedience again. It is important to keep up one's studies year around. Training is like beauty treatments, skip a day and the wrinkles come back!! HORRORS!!

I live where it is cold, so we set up things inside. I have a set of small soccer cones that are in the living room. Mom put them there because, frankly other than Mom and I, no one goes in there. It is a very boring room. She even pushes the furniture around. We use them to work on some agility moves, and on our heeling.

If I am good, or if the weather is really bad, we set up three 2X2 sets of weave polls in the basement and practice our entrances. It isn't exciting as class or agility lesson, but it is so much warmer than the horse barn!! If it is nice and there is no snow, we spend some time outdoors with a mini course. Usually one of the ones from Clean Run magazine.

All this keeps my figure trim and helps me take off that extra holiday pound (I do love turkey and sweet potatoes). This is important when it is cold and snowy out.

Keep training!!

Love ZsaZsa

The 10 Most Important Things to Know About Canine Hip Dysplasia

By Carol Beuchat PhD

Originally published on <http://www.instituteofcaninebiology.org/>. Reproduced here with the permission of the author. * Revised 13 Dec 2015

Hip dysplasia is a hot topic in dogs, if it's possible to stay "hot" for 50 years. Researchers have been working hard for decades looking for solutions, and breeders have been doing their best to reduce the risk of producing affected puppies. But still the problem remains.

There are some simple things we could do to reduce the incidence of hip dysplasia now if we understand a few basic things. Here are the 10 most important things you need to know.

1) All puppies are born with perfectly normal hips

Hip dysplasia is not a congenital defect; it is not present at birth. Multiple studies have demonstrated that all normal puppies are born with "perfect" hips; that is, they are "normal" for a newborn with no signs of dysplasia. The structures of the hip joint are cartilage at birth and only become bone as the puppy grows. If a puppy is going to develop hip dysplasia, the process begins shortly after birth.

This is the hip joint of a 1 day old puppy. The cartilage tissue does not show up on an x-ray until the minerals are deposited that form bone. Proper development of the joint depends on maintaining the proper fit between the head of the femur and the socket (acetabulum).

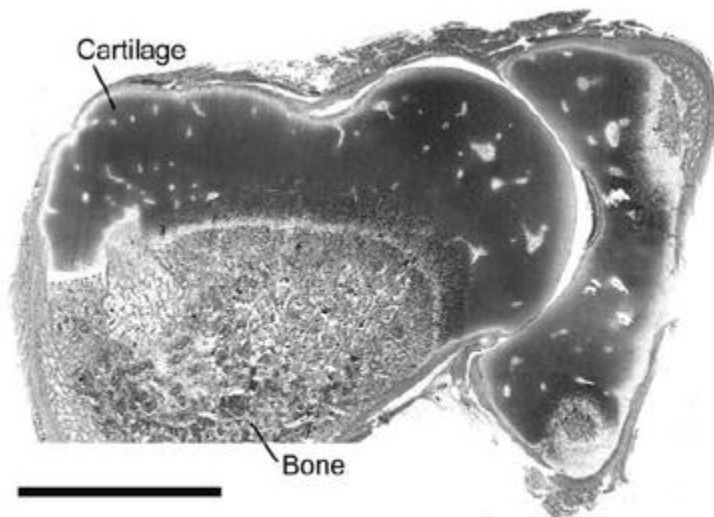


Figure 1. Hip at 1 d of age. Bar = 5 mm.

"The hip joints of all dogs are normal at birth. The joints continue to develop normally as long as full congruity is maintained between the acetabulum and the femoral head... The acetabular rims are stimulated to grow by mild traction applied by the joint capsule and gluteal muscles attached along their dorsal borders, and from pressure by the femoral heads upon the articular surfaces... The morphologic characteristics of the complex hip structure show that biomechanical behavior is the prime influence in the growth of this joint." (Riser 1985)

2) The genes that cause hip dysplasia remain a mystery

Hip dysplasia tends to be more common in some breeds than others and in some lines than others, which indicates that there is a genetic component to the disorder. However, scientists have been looking for genes that are responsible for the development of hip dysplasia in dogs for decades without success.

Genes that are associated with hip dysplasia have been identified in some breeds, but they are breed-specific; that is, the assortment of genes is different in every breed. (For example, see studies on the German Shepherd dog (Marschall & Distl 2007, Fells & Distl 2014, and Fels et al 2014), Bernese Mountain Dog (Pfahler & Distl 2012), and Labrador Retriever (Phavaphutanon et al 2008). Genes that could cause hip dysplasia have not been found in any breed.

It's unlikely that researchers are going to discover an easy genetic solution to the problem of hip dysplasia. It is a complex trait that is influenced by both genes and environment, and there is no simple solution just over the horizon. We should be able to improve genetic progress by using selection strategies that are as efficient and effective as possible such as estimated breeding values, EBVs. One great advantage of using EBVs is that the genes responsible for a trait don't need to be known; you need only a pedigree database and information about affected animals.

3) Environmental factors are also important

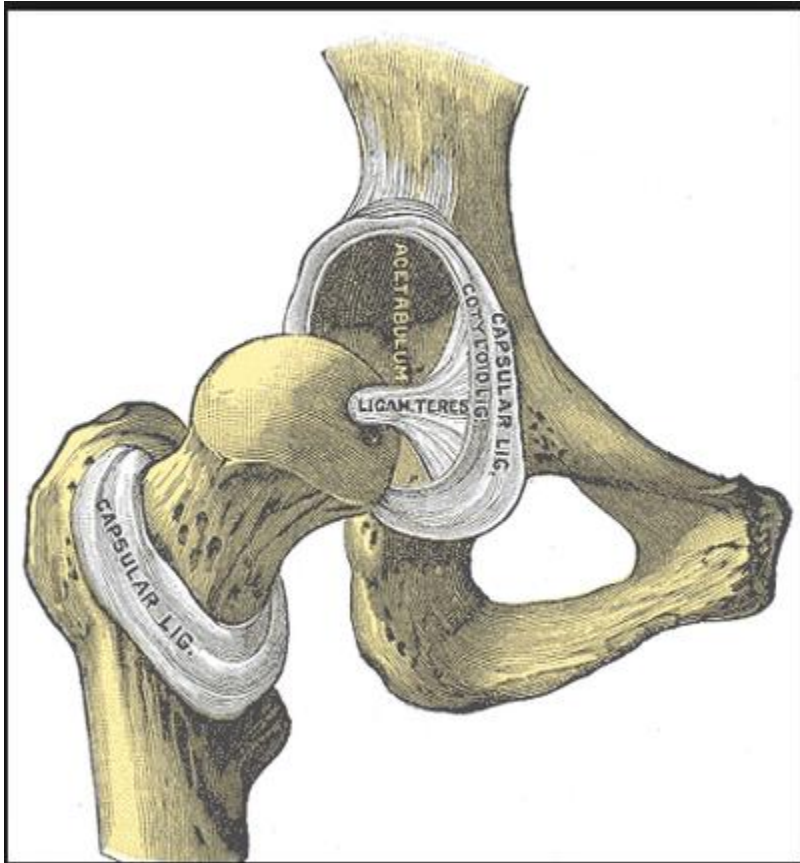
Although there is a genetic influence on hip dysplasia, the heritability of the trait is rather low. Many studies have shown that genetic variation accounts for only a modest fraction of the variation in hip scores, usually 15-40%. This means that some fraction of the variation in the quality of the hips is the result of non-genetic, or "environmental" influences. This is one reason why decades of strong selection has resulted in only modest reductions in hip dysplasia in some breeds. At the current rate of progress and selecting only by phenotype, it could take decades to achieve a meaningful reduction in the incidence of hip dysplasia (Lewis et al 2013).

Understanding the specific environmental factors that play a role in the development of hip dysplasia should allow us to reduce the number of animals affected by hip dysplasia even if the genetic basis is not yet understood. This would reduce significant pain and suffering as well as the expense and heartache endured by owners of an afflicted dog. There is no reason why we should not be taking active steps to do this now.

The top three environmental factors that have been found to play a significant role in the development of dysplastic hips are: a) joint laxity, b) weight, and c) exercise (see below).

4) Joint laxity is the primary cause of hip dysplasia

Puppies are born with perfect hips, and if the hips do not develop laxity the dog does not develop hip dysplasia (Riser 1985). Joint laxity occurs when the head of the femur does not fit snugly into the acetabulum. This could be the result of traumatic injury, overloading of the joint by weight, lack of muscle strength, or adductor forces (e.g., bringing the legs together). Joint laxity is the primary factor that predisposes a dog to the development of hip dysplasia.



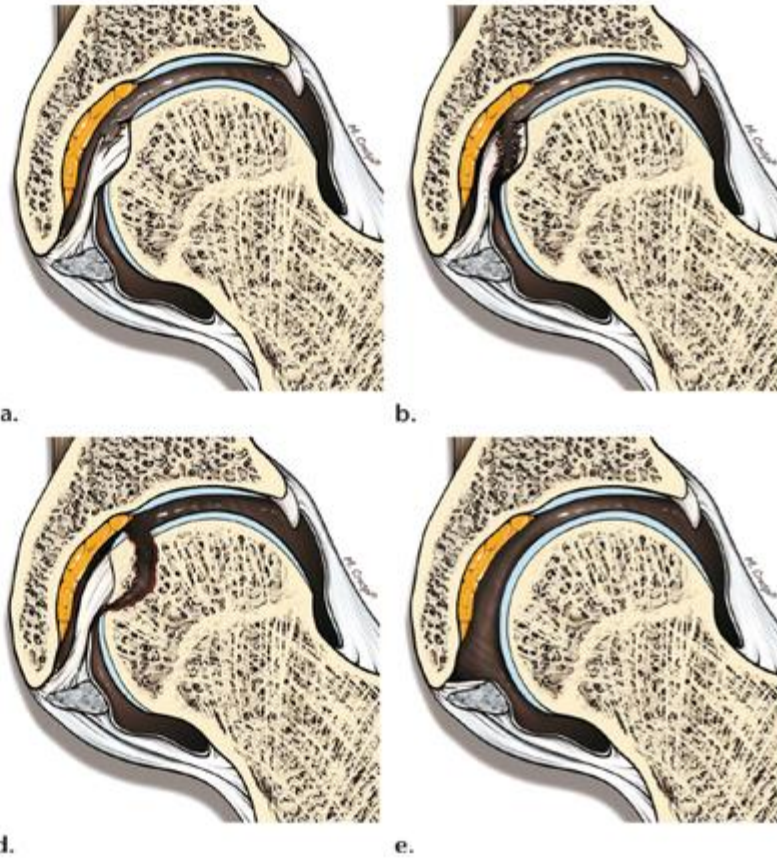
In dogs as well as many other vertebrates (including humans), the head of the femur in newborns is held securely in place by a strong ligament variously called the "round ligament" or "teres ligament".

One end of this ligament is attached to the head of the femur and the other end to the inner wall of the acetabulum (the cup-like socket on the pelvis).

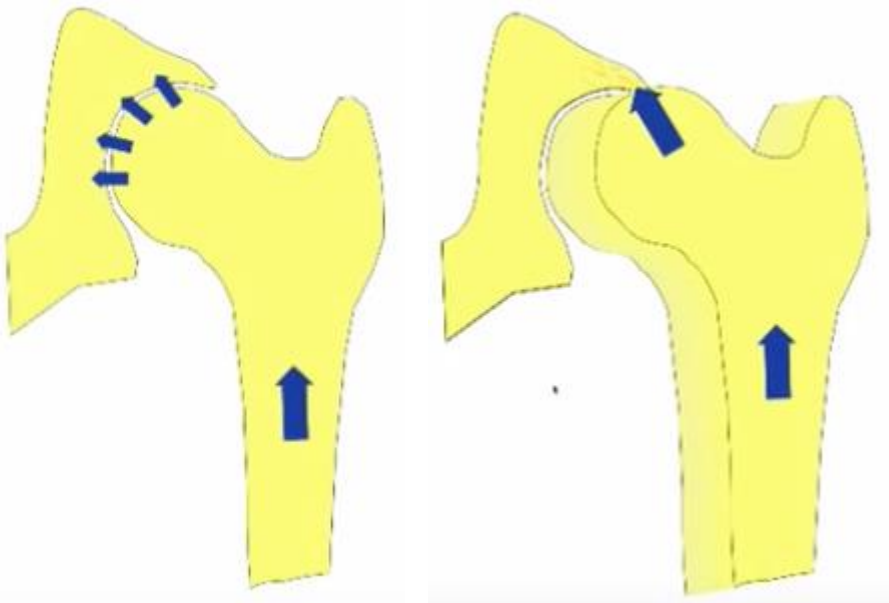
You can see the teres ligament in this illustration (labeled "LIGAM. TERES").

If this ligament is damaged or severed, the femur will not be held tightly in the socket, which will cause the joint to feel "loose".

Figure 11. Conditions of the ligamentum teres. Diagrams show a partial tear (a), complete tear (b), degenerative fraying or injury (c), avulsion fracture (d), and congenital absence (e) of the ligamentum teres.



If the femoral head is not positioned properly in the socket, the forces on the hip will be abnormal. Instead of being distributed across the inner surface of the socket, the forces on the joint will be concentrated in a smaller area on the weaker rim of the acetabulum. The result will be damage to the rim of the socket when a load is placed on the hip joint.



5) Controlling joint stability is key

The teres ligament should hold the head of the femur securely in the socket of the growing puppy while the muscles that will support the hip develop and grow stronger. But in some puppies, the ligament shows evidence of damage before they are even a month old (Riser 1985).

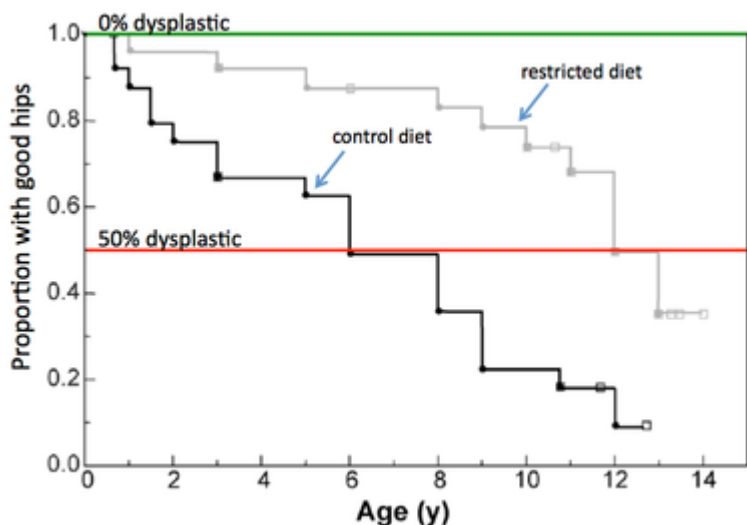
"The teres ligaments of the hip joints were edematous [swollen], a few ligament fibers were torn, and capillary hemorrhage dotted the surface of the ligaments at the point of the tears. These changes were considered the first findings that might be linked to hip dysplasia."

The abnormal forces on the femur and acetabulum that are caused by joint laxity result in the trauma that causes hip dysplasia and osteoarthritis of the hip.

"There is no evidence that a primary defect of bone exists but rather the disease is a failure of the muscles and other soft tissues to hold the hip joint in full congruity. This is further supported by the fact that bony dysplasia can be increased, decreased, or prevented by controlling the degree of joint instability and incongruity. No other malformations are associated with the disease. A causal relationship between muscles and soft tissue defects or pathologic changes other than lack of muscle mass or strength has not been established... Hip dysplasia is a concentration of factors from a pool of genetic weaknesses and environmental stresses that fall into a programmed pattern of progressive remodeling and degenerative joint disease." (Riser 1985)

6) Body weight is a MAJOR environmental factor

If there is laxity in the hip joint, the amount of damage done to the femur and acetabulum will depend on the magnitude of the forces in the hip joint. The heavier the dog, the greater the forces will be and also therefore the higher the risk of hip dysplasia and osteoarthritis.



Puppies that weigh more at birth as well as those with higher growth rates (so they get heavier sooner) have a higher risk of degenerative changes in the hip joint (Vanden Berg-Foels et al 2006).

As this graph shows, puppies kept on a restricted diet (gray line) have a dramatically lower risk of dysplasia and it develops much later in life than in puppies kept on normal rations (black line) (Smith et al 2006).

At four years old, less than 10% of dogs kept on a restricted diet (25% less than the control diet) were dysplastic, while at the same time more than 30% of the dogs in the control group were dysplastic. As an added advantage, dogs on restricted diets live longer, too (Kealy et al 2002)!

Unfortunately, many dogs (including show dogs!) are overweight (McGreevy et al 2005, Corbee 2013), and obesity could well be the single most significant environmental factor affecting the development of hip dysplasia and osteoarthritis. But body weight is a factor that we can control.

Although progress from genetic selection will take many generations, the incidence of hip dysplasia in dogs could be immediately and dramatically reduced simply by practicing better weight management.

7) Exercise is good and bad

Exercise strengthens the muscles of the legs and pelvis, and this will increase the stability of the hip joint. But all exercise is not created equal.

Puppies raised on slippery surfaces or with access to stairs when they are less than 3 months old have a higher risk of hip dysplasia, while those who are allowed off-lead exercise on soft, uneven ground (such as in a park) have a lower risk (Krontveit et al 2012). Dogs born in summer have a lower risk of hip dysplasia, presumably because they have more opportunity for exercise outdoors (Krontveit et al 2012). On the other hand, dogs from 12-24 months old that regularly chase a ball or stick thrown by the owner have an higher risk of developing dysplastic hips (Sallander et al 2006).

The most critical period for proper growth and development of the hip in dogs is from birth to 8 weeks old, so the type of exercise the puppies are exposed to is most important during this time.

8) Nutrition is important

While puppies are growing rapidly, it is critically important to get their nutrition right.

Growing puppies need to eat enough to support growth but they should not be fat, because any extra weight can increase the risk of developing hip dysplasia (Hedhammar et al 1975, Kastrom 1975). An additional problem is that puppies getting too much food could also consume too much of specific nutrients. Puppies provided a quality commercial puppy food that is fed in the proper amount will have a nutritionally balanced diet and should not receive any supplements. Dietary supplements, especially of calcium, are not only unnecessary but could cause serious problems. There is no evidence that supplemental protein or vitamins will reduce the risk of hip dysplasia (Kealy et al 1991, Nap et al 1991, Richardson & Zentek 1998).

9) Early intervention is critical

Most treatments for hip dysplasia are easier and more successful in younger dogs. If early symptoms are overlooked and screening is done only after 24 months or more, the window of time with the best prognosis in response to treatment will have passed (Morgan et al 2000). Signs of lameness usually first appear when the puppy is 4 to 6 months old, but after a month or two the dog will often seem better. This is because damage to the acetabular rim such as microfractures will have healed and the dog is no longer in pain, but development of dysplasia and osteoarthritis

will continue. From there, the dog might not display clinical signs again for years while the pathological damage progresses.

Laxity in the joint can be determined as early as 4 months old (either by palpation or PennHIP). If detected early, intervention to mitigate additional damage can include weight loss, modifying exercise and activities, or surgery - but it must be done early before skeletal growth is complete. Breeders should educate new puppy owners about the factors that can increase the risk of developing hip dysplasia and also advise them to get a veterinary examination immediately if there is any sign of lameness.

10) We can dramatically reduce hip dysplasia now

Genetic selection should continue to produce modest progress in the reduction of hip dysplasia. But a significant and immediate reduction in the number of afflicted animals could be achieved by better control of non-genetic, environmental factors. Weight management, appropriate exercise, proper nutrition, and early intervention at the first sign of lameness are simple steps we can take that will dramatically reduce the pain and suffering caused by hip dysplasia. The research will surely continue, but we already have the information we need to tackle this problem.

You can learn more about hip dysplasia in ICB's 10 week course

["Understanding Hip and Elbow Dysplasia"](#).

The next class starts 4 January 2016.

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Conformation Shows for Dummies

By Nancy Nelson

Everyone is talking about Pumik moving up to the Herding Group, but for many that statement requires some translation. Dog show lingo is alien to most dog owners. I often feel this way when I am talking to programmers; we may be saying exactly the same thing, but we definitely speak two different languages to do so.

First, a disclaimer, as an accountant no document is complete without one. This article is not intended to be comprehensive. My purpose here is to provide an introduction to this type of competition for the novice. There are rules that I am not going to talk about, things I won't cover.

There are certainly more qualified people in our club to write on the ins and outs of Conformation shows. I am an amateur. I started with a show dog over 20 years ago because of an agreement to breed a puppy. One dog beget another and soon I was hooked. My first three show dogs (two Springers and a Smooth Collie) all were shown by professional handlers, one all the way to Westminster. Sure, I went to watch (or hide and watch) and understood how things worked, but I never entered the show ring.

So to the basics. Every fully recognized breed is assigned a group either based on size or function. Toy dogs go to the toy group, hounds to the hound group, etc. There are currently 7 groups: Toy, Terrier, Sporting, Working, Non-Sporting, Hound, and Herding. The number of breeds in each group varies. Dogs (and I am using this generically for both sexes) first compete to win their breed and go to "group" and then each group winner goes to Best in Show. In addition to competing to win their breed, dogs compete to earn points towards a championship or a grand championship. You do not need to win your breed to win points. A championship (and the designation CH before the registered name) consists of 15 points, however a dog must win at least 2 majors to achieve championship status. What's a major? A major is a win over a set number of dogs of the same breed (the number is set by breed and by region by the AKC) that nets 3 points or more. A grand championship requires more points and more majors.

Dogs are shown in groups by age: non champion boys (dogs in the dog show world) go first through each group and a winner's dog is selected. Then the girls (bitches) and the selection of winners bitch. Then the same for the "specials" which are dogs who have achieved championship status but continue to compete. Then the Winners Dog (WD), Winners Bitch (WB), the specials compete for Best of Breed (BOB). At the time of the selection of the BOB, Best of Opposite Sex is selected (BOS), so if a male wins the BOB, a female will be BOS and visa versa. A Best of Winners (BOW) which is a non-championship (meaning a dog or bitch without a championship) winner. Confusing? Absolutely. The only way to get the hang of this is to watch and keep score something like a box score in baseball. Championship points are awarded at each of the levels too. So WD and WB both get points. At the end of the day the BOB winner goes to "group" meaning they move on to the semifinals. Each breed winner goes to the group competition at the end of the

day. The “groups” are what you see on TV for Westminster and other dog show. One dog, representing each breed entered. A group winner is selected and then the 7 group winners complete for Best in Show (BIS)

You might wonder why I included all the abbreviations – they are part of the language of dog shows. If you follow Facebook or look at the ads in the Show Site or any of the other magazines covering dog shows you will see these abbreviations.

Now that your head is spinning, a few more things. There is also the National Owner–Handled Series (NOHS). The NOHS is relatively new, perhaps three to four years. Many dogs in the show ring are shown – handled by professional handlers. These people make their living by preparing and showing dogs. For many breeds having a professional handler at the end of the leash (or lead in show language) is necessary to make it to the top. Using a professional means you're getting professional grooming and presentation of your dog. Hiring a professional is expensive. Been there done that; I was fortunate enough to live nearby to my handlers so that I didn't have to pay them to keep my dog for weeks at a time. The AKC, in order to encourage owners to show their own dogs, created the owner-handled series to encourage dog owners to show their own dogs. The owner-handled winner competes in owner-handled groups and if they are also lucky enough to win the breed, the regular breed groups.

We all watch the dog show on TV, but I suggest you attend one, just to get the hang of it and see the breed judging. There are shows every week-end and sometimes during the week and you should not have to travel far. How do you find the shows? There are several places to look, AKC.org under events – you are looking under conformation for All Breed (AB) shows you can search by state and date. You can also look at the various Superintendent's websites; these are the people who manage the shows. Here in the North-east the largest is MBF (infodog.com), Jim Rau (Raudogshows.com), Jack Onofrio (onofrio.com), Jack Bradshaw (jbradshaw.com), Roy Jones (Royjonesdogshows.com) and Foy Trent (foytrentdogshows.com) are some of the others. All have various ways to search by location. Most importantly, like everything we do, the object is to have fun with your dog!!!!

If you decide you'd like to try entering a show, a couple of tips.

- 1) Find a handling class
- 2) Ask for help – I have not found anyone, regardless of breed, who isn't willing to help a newcomer
- 3) Remember it is harder than it looks
- 4) Don't forget – there is Jr. handling, which is a whole separate article for anyone age 7 -18. If a child loves working and being with the dog then this may be something for them.

And the most important thing: Have Fun with your dog!

Living With My Pumi

It's a typical day. The sun is still asleep, but my body says it's time to rise. As soon as I realize I'm awake, I feel three sets of Pumi eyes fixed on me, waiting for my next movement as permission to spring into action. Even though I definitely would rather sleep, I'm busted. They know I'm awake.

This is going to be an exciting day.

As soon as I begin to open my eyes, all three dogs leap off the bed, charging down the hallway. Running full speed ahead, they bank their turns on the throw rugs, using them as a launch point as the rugs slide on the wood floor. In a wild frenzy, they race to the back door, expressing their impatience in finding it closed. A chorus erupts. "Open the door, already!" My hand grasps the door knob. With some reluctance, they fall silent because that's the only way the door will open. Once the door opens and I say the magic word, all hell breaks loose. This is how every day begins.



If I'm lucky, after the initial display of enthusiasm subsides, I crawl back into bed, for a few more moments of relaxation. This, of course, doesn't last long. Before I know it, I feel pressure on my chest and a furry toy-stuffed Pumi-face staring at me. There is no such thing as a snooze button for a Pumi who thinks it's time for breakfast.

Living with a Pumi is a sure guarantee of plenty of

exuberance. Plenty of demanding your attention. Plenty of noise. Plenty of fun. They are affectionate, loving, and loyal. They love their people. They love their pack.

My little busy-bodies definitely keep me on my toes. When we are in the house, each finds a favorite place to chill until they know I'm headed for the door. Whether or not they hear my car keys or see me sit down to put on my shoes, I don't quite know. But that's all it takes for them to turn on and spring into action. Then the chase is on to be the first to the door and the first out the door.



The play is rough among them....gripping one another's hocks, barking and charging, leaping and lunging. Quick swift movements. Instant acceleration, turning on a dime. It's the Pumi herding style. Nothing in this world is more fun for them than a game of "chase me to get the toy," even if the toy is a stick or leaf snatched from the ground.

Although Pumi are herding dogs, they are not Border Collies. Many of my friends have Border Collies.

Everyone knows how a Border Collie loves to work. They obsess about work and will work for anyone. A Border Collie will happily play with whoever is willing to throw a ball. If a stranger picks up a ball and expects one of my Pumi to chase it, they will get a look that says "who are you and why are you throwing my ball?" My Pumi live to work and play, but only with me. And if the game is over and the ball is put away, they find their own special place to chill until it's time to spring into action again. I like that.



Pumi are not social with people they don't know. My Pumis have their favorite people, the ones they know and quickly recognize. These are people they greet with a lively chorus of barks, growly-type noises, and everything in between, leaping and jumping with excitement. All others are met with a bit of reservation, until they know these are people they can trust. It may happen in an instant or over a long period of time after several meetings.

The one thing people say when they meet my Pumi for the first time is "I just love their ears!" Once the words leave their lips, of course, my dog's ears start twitching back and forth. The second most common comment I hear is "They look like stuffed animals!" I assure them, they are not stuffed animals. Pumi are great dogs, but definitely not for everyone.

A Pumi is like the new kid in school. The new kid will watch and listen before they decide to interact with the people around them. They want to feel comfortable with the situation and the people first. Pumi are much the same.

Each of my three Pumi has their own distinctive personality. Zu-Zu is 6 years old. She is the most outgoing of the three when it comes to unfamiliar people. However, she is also the most reserved with unfamiliar dogs. She's my hall monitor. She keeps order and makes sure everyone obeys the rules. Every house needs one.

Pumi number two is Petey. He's 2 ½ and the first to initiate play within the pack and likes interacting with unfamiliar dogs. But, is the most reserved with people he doesn't know.

My youngest, Nagi, is not yet two years old. She pretty much follows what the rest of the pack does. If they approach someone or something, she does the same. If they bark, she does too. She is the most vocal and makes the oddest noises, a combination of a growl, a howl, and a bark. It's easy to over-face her, but she is young and still learning about her world. Nagi takes a good deal of time to size things up. In most cases, she settles nicely and adjusts well to her environment, once she realizes it's ok. She is very determined if it's something she wants.

My Pumi are the absolute best hiking companions. They always stay close and quickly alert me if there is something they think I should be made aware of. Most times it's a person in the distance or something on the horizon that doesn't look quite right. They are very aware of their surroundings. I have no doubt that if a real threat were out there, they would protect me.

Pumi are amazingly quick to learn and love to work. All of the focus, athleticism, and intensity that make them such a good herding dog also make them excel at performance sports. I have learned to be very thoughtful and careful with my training. If my dogs aren't giving me what I think they should, I take a step back. I've likely rewarded something different than I thought or was unclear about my expectations. When I train, I get further faster by using positive reinforcement and shaping behaviors. I reward for a good effort, even if it's not exactly what I'm looking for. I jackpot for things that are truly spectacular. If they are not engaged the way I want or decide not to do what I ask, I take a time out and regroup. Then, I bring them out later to try again.

It is thrilling to see my dogs thrive and excel in activities we have trained, whether it be offering behaviors and training tricks, teaching them to stack and gait for the breed ring, or running in the agility ring. Just by watching them, you can tell how much they love what they are doing. And I love that we are doing it together. This is my biggest reward.

When I stepped to the start line for the first time with Zu, not many people knew what a Pumi was let alone seen one run in agility. Since then, we have been doing our best to show just how good a Pumi can be. Five years later, we still turn heads when we run. Now, when I step to the start line with my young dog, Petey, I know people are watching.

I would like to think because of us, and the other awesome agility Pumis out there, interest in the breed is growing. I feel a small victory every time I hear of someone who gets their very first Pumi with the idea of going into the agility ring. I smile and hope that maybe Zu and I may have had a small part in making that decision.



But at the end of the day, it's all about the dog you live with.

When our work day comes to a close, we pack our three Pumis in the van and head for home. All are sleeping in a heap until we make the turn up the gravel road to our house. In an instant, all three heads pop up and the singing begins. First in yowls and yodels, then as we get closer to the house, the more

comparatively softer sounds break way for the loud barking...almost in harmony. These guys will never be able to sneak up on anyone. After one-on-one play time in the backyard and dinner, it's time to cuddle in front of the television. One Pumi is at my feet, one is on my lap, and the third is lying on top of the one on my lap. There is never enough of me to go around.

We will go to bed tonight and I will be completely surrounded by my three Pumis in a bed that will always be too small. One under the covers. One at the foot of the bed. And the third one curled up next to me. This must be what heaven is like.

Tomorrow we will get up and it will all start over again. And tomorrow will just as exciting as today. My Pumis will see to that!

Positive Training Methods and No Reward Markers

By Karen Beattie Massey

Many of us subscribe to positive training methods, where we reward our dogs for desired behaviors, with the idea that over time our dogs will prefer the desired behaviors and the undesirable behaviors will fade away. Rewards can range from food and toys to praise and physical interaction with our dogs. Scientific studies have shown that dogs that are trained with a reward-based system are better at novel training tasks, exhibit less fear about their environment, are less aggressive, and enjoy interacting more with strangers. It's hard to argue that a positive approach doesn't work, especially when the organizations training guide dogs, search and rescue dogs, and bomb disposal dogs have shown higher success rates in their training programs after switching to positive methods.

The road to teaching behaviors by rewarding only successes and ignoring failures may be a long one, especially if the task are complex. Many of us have worked through tasks that are actually behavior chains, such as scent article in obedience or handling threadles in agility, where the dog must successfully complete multiple behaviors to accomplish the task. Failure in one behavior means that the task cannot be successfully completed, and many, many repetitions may be required to get the entire task right.

Trainers may ask themselves is there a neutral way to let my dog know she is not going to be rewarded so we can reset and try the task again? Often we may use words like "Oops" or "Uh oh" as we bring the dog back to try again, and hope that the dog sees this as helpful feedback. This is known as a non-reward marker or NRM. Any of us who have been training dogs in agility, obedience, and many other activities probably know that NRMs can be heard quite a bit. Humans tend to verbalize a lot in training sessions and NRMs ... well they tend to slip out. The question is are NRMs actually the neutral marker that we hope in our positive training process? What is the impact of NRMs on our dog's motivation? Do NRMs speed up or slow down learning? Are they ultimately helpful in our training process?

Neutral or Negative?

NRMs are given sometimes after a behavior and sometimes in the middle of a behavior or task. If the NRM is given in the middle of a task it will be perceived as an interruption. Completion of the task is associated with being successful and a reward so an interruption will be associated with being unsuccessful and a lack of reward. For example, I direct my dog to do the weave poles during an agility course. He enters between pole 2 and 3 instead of pole 1 and 2, and I say "Uh oh, Buddy," bring him back, and direct him to take the poles again. In this case I won't give him a reward until he successfully completes the weaves. If it's at the end of a task, for example my dog has jumped off rather than running through the end of the dog walk contact, then the NRM is given instead of the reward and I ask him to repeat the task. It's fairly clear that as much as we'd like the NRM to be neutral and indicate that we want to try again the dog will see it as somewhat

negative, because it is never associated with a reward. That's not to say that some NRMs based on tone and intensity of voice and body language won't be perceived as more negative than others. However, all NRMs can be perceived as at least a little negative depending on the sensitivity and training level of the dog.

How does it feel?

Given that the NRM is likely going to be perceived as at least a little negative, how is that going to affect my dog's motivation? The answer is "It depends ...". Take the example of my dog entering the weave poles incorrectly. In this case I am directing my more seasoned dog to take the weave poles. She is nearly always successful and confident in the weaves and routinely does difficult entries. However, she becomes distracted by a toy lying on the ground near the weave poles and consequently enters incorrectly. I mark the distraction immediately with a quick "Uh uh" in a quiet and neutral tone and redirect her to do the obstacle again. She focuses on the weaves with no change in speed or enthusiasm, completes them correctly, and receives a reward. In this case the NRM had minimal impact on motivation.

A different example is a dog who has struggled a bit with weave pole entries over his career and as a result can lose confidence. If this is a difficult angle where my dog is failing repeatedly and if I am giving multiple NRMs I can be fairly certain that he will slow down significantly in order to be successful and quickly lose motivation for the task. Depending on how the training session is going I may choose not to give a NRM or to even redirect the dog to do the weaves again (even repetition of a task without an NRM is associated with lack of reward). I may choose to continue on and reward him for successfully repeating other obstacles. Later on at home I may decide to set up a 2 pole scenario to ensure he is successful with the difficult entry and remains motivated and then build out the scenario to 12 poles again.

Yet another example is my dog who is still learning the weave poles. We have trained together enough that I know he wants and tries to remain engaged during our training sessions. However, at times he gets confused if the weave pole entry is not obvious to him and he tries to look for another obstacle to do nearby. I want to quickly extinguish this behavior of seeking out a new obstacle, so when I see him start to look away from the weaves I'll re-engage with him in a positive way, for example "Hey, Buddy!" in a cheery voice. I won't give him his primary reinforcer, which might be his toy or food, but I will reward attention to me with verbal and physical praise. In this way I am interrupting the behavior chain in the most positive way possible and helping maintain motivation. Obedience training guru Denise Fenzi calls this a Cheerful Interrupter (CI) rather than a traditional NRM.

Training Help or Hindrance?

So then we come to the questions of whether NRMs or CIs really speed up or slow down our training and whether they are ultimately helpful in our training programs. Again it depends ... In a perfect world we'd be able to carefully split up the tasks we want our dogs to do into rewardable

behaviors and then be able to precisely reward each behavior so the dog is almost always correct. Assuming the trainer is totally clear on the success criteria, this would be the fastest way for our dogs to learn. However, the reality of training is much messier than this. We as trainers often lump together training behaviors that could benefit from being split apart and taught separately. We often aren't as precise in our rewards as we could be. Our dogs may often be impacted by environmental factors that makes them not as engaged with us as they could be or as focused on their task. I believe that these mechanics of training – splitting rather than lumping, precise and well-timed rewards, and engagement with our dogs – all need to be optimized before we can look to NRMs or CIs to help us. CIs as a lower impact and more positive response are most appropriate during the learning phase where we don't want to dampen enthusiasm or discourage learning novel behaviors. On the other hand NRMs are most appropriate once we are certain a behavior has really been learned and it's a case of refocusing the dog on the task.

NRM are somewhat controversial in the world of positive dog training, with many trainers arguing that they are inherently negative and should be avoided. As I stated in the introduction we are all probably using NRMs both obvious and subtle in our training, some of which we're aware of and others that we're not. So I think it's probably unrealistic to say that NRMs will go away altogether. However, I do think we should become more aware of when we are using NRMs and become more intentional about it.

Neither NRMs nor CIs should not be used as a band aid for our own mistakes as trainers. For example, in training my young dog's weave pole entry I perceive that he keeps veering away to an off-course jump instead of the weaves. Even after a couple of CIs he's still doing the same thing. Luckily I am videoing my training session and a quick review of that sequence show that my handling position is on his line to the weave poles so the only obstacle he can see is the jump. I try again but I'm still on his line and he takes the jump so I reward him as he is right and I am wrong. I carefully walk my path again before retrying and this time we are successful so I reward my dog. In this case the CIs were less demotivating than a traditional NRM would be. However, they weren't helping my dog learn more quickly because the problem was with me and my cuing.

Next I am working with my seasoned dog on a difficult weave pole entry that is not one she commonly sees but I believe she understands how to do, and we're not having a good training day. Even with a well-timed NRM she is continually missing the weave pole entry. I am starting to get frustrated and she is starting to slow down in her weave pole performance. I decide to take 5 and review my training video. I can see that even though my cues and handling position seem to be correct she is having some difficulty with that entry. Also, to my dismay I can hear that the tone in my voice has become louder and it's not as neutral as it should be and I even threw my hands up in the air at one mistake. With that and the lack of rewards, no wonder she is becoming demotivated. So we move onto a different exercise where I know my dog will be successful so I can reward and re-energize her. We'll return to the weave poles later with some modifications to help make her successful the first time.

So as you can see there is no easy answer to the question of NRMs, whether we should use them, and if so when and where. The higher the skill level of the dog and the higher their drive the more a judicious and occasional use of NRMs can be helpful. However all dogs will become motivated with overuse of NRMs or when they become less neutral. Also, NRMs are not helpful if the trainer's cues are not correct or if the behavior has not been truly learned. If a dog is still in the learning phase for a behavior or you know she is more sensitive to lack of rewards an occasional CI may be helpful as long as the training mechanics and handler cuing is correct. The effectiveness of NRMs needs to be gauged by continually observing the impact on the dog's learning and motivation to continue working with you. And the more we're aware of our own behaviors as trainers, both verbal and non-verbal the more we can be intentional about using NRMs or not.

There are many resources on positive training and NRMs. Here are just a few that you might find helpful:

<http://thehappypuppysite.com/the-evidence-for-positive-reinforcement-training-in-dogs/>

<http://denisefenzi.com/2014/05/01/behavior-chains-part-10/>

<http://denisefenzi.com/2014/05/05/behavior-chains-part-11/>

Just Say Thanks

By Alice Lawrence

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A few months ago, we wound up being among the last exhibitors to leave a lovely New England show, set on a beautiful location with brilliant orange and yellow trees surrounding the site . We were in no particular rush to leave and had a lot to assemble . As I passed the food vendor, I stopped to chat for a minute . These are folks that feed us at most of the outdoor shows in this area and offer fresh made-to order Greek-American style food . Surely not gourmet, but more than adequate for dog show food . Starting with breakfast and running all day . Then in the evenings they cook for the next day, preparing homemade tabouli, babaganoush, baklava, Greek salads and a dozen other items I can't spell . It may not be to your liking but it is fresh and healthier than most other venue options . They work very hard set- ting up and breaking down and I appreciate being able to buy food from them that is edible, fresh and offers healthy options . So, I stopped and watched them for a few minutes and I took a moment to thank them for coming to our shows, week in and week out; good weather and bad, long lines and no lines . Sure, they make money . But they work very hard . Well, you would have thought I handed them a check for a million dollars . They were stunned and appreciative that anyone took the time to just say, "thank you."

I come from the generation which was taught after "mommy" and "daddy" to say "please" and "thank you." (In my parents' home, "thanks" was not an option . It was "thank . you" or nothing.) But it seems that even my generation has forgotten this primitive lesson along the way . So now a simple "thank you" or even just "thanks" has become an obsolete expression in our vocabulary.

So, at this time of year and all year long, young or old, exhibitor, handler, or judge, think about taking a minute to sincerely:

1. Thank the show set-up crew for taking the time to put the extra tape on the mats.
2. Thank the show superintendents who work non-stop from morning to night running to the rings to pick up judges' books and entering results which are accurate more times than not. (And they usually do so with smiles on their faces!)
3. Thank the AKC Field Reps without whom, in spite of their own human frailties, these shows and judges would falter considerably. As the years pass, I have an increasing respect for what they do and for the difficulties they endure, day after day.
4. Thank the concessionaires who pay a lot of money for their space and often don't have even one person buy anything from them. But they are there just in case you do need something.
5. {To Judges} - Thank each exhibitor in your ring for spending the money to enter and to come all the way to the show just for your opinion! Without them, you wouldn't be there. However, don't give that sophomoric, cloyingly sweet, canned speech in the Best In Show Ring that begins with "Thank you all for being here. This is the BEST group of dogs I have EVER judged" and ends with "the winner today is... (the same dog that all the other judges have put up this week- end.)" And, by the way, please, acknowledge, with a polite "thank you," every photo you are sent, or return it to the post office as "refused."
6. {To exhibitors} - You enter to get a judge's educated opinion; if you feel the judge has fulfilled your expectations, thank the judge - EVEN if you don't win!
7. Thank the ring steward, who for the most part is an unpaid volunteer. Stewards are there to help the ring run smoothly. Be patient with inexperienced stewards who are often (but benignly) befuddled and acknowledge the stewards in the many rings which they run flawlessly.
8. Thank your families and non-dog show friends for understanding why you no longer attend their weddings, funerals, showers, bar mitzvahs, holiday dinners, or birthday parties. Remember, you risk them not being there for you when your dog showing days are over.
9. Thank the photographers who usually show infinite patience while you work to set up your wriggling puppy and who see your dog's faults and diplomatically urge you to correct for those faults. {I don't ever hear them say, "hey you, that top line is sagging--punch him in the gut to get him to stand straight!"}

10. Thank the cleaning crew in the bathrooms. Some facilities do have a staff there to pick up the towel you carelessly tossed on the floor and to flush the toilet you were too busy to be concerned with. Thank them. Be grateful you have a nicer job than they do.

11. Thank the parking folks. They are there to help you. Let them know that chaos would reign if they weren't there to get vehicles efficiently situated. Without them, I would have drowned in my van a few years back.

12. Thank the grooming area 'marshal.' In New England, we are fortunate to have someone who goes out of her way to make sure we each have our territory. She makes it work, under some awful conditions. Without her, our lives would be far more difficult.

13. Thank the Show Chair for having a show at all. Show sites are getting expensive and venues are harder and harder to secure.

There are many people in our lives who go unacknowledged and seemingly unappreciated. Stop for a moment. No matter how important you may think you are, a simple "Thank You" is very much appreciated.

And ... thank you for reading this!

Pumi Versatility Program

Just a reminder to HPCA members regarding the Pumi Versatility Program.

We'd like to see applications for the Versatility Awards!

The HPCA has a Versatility Program since October 2015, which recognizes the inherent versatility of the Pumi. The award recognizes dogs that participate and achieve certificates/titles in various types of competition, including conformation, herding, obedience, agility, tracking, and other dog sports and activities in a total of 16 different categories. Non-AKC certificates/titles can count towards this HPCA title.

The program is open to Hungarian Pumi Club of America members who are in good standing with the club.

There are 4 levels of versatility awards:

VP1 (Versatile Pumi Level 1)

VP2 (Versatile Pumi Level 2)

VP3 (Versatile Pumi Level 3)

VP Gold (Versatile Pumi Gold)

Go to the new web page for more information at <http://pumiclub.org/club-info-2/hall-of-fame/hpca-versatility-awards/>.

Please contact Meir Ben-Dror, (email mbendror@ws19ops.com) Versatility Chair, if you have any questions.



Authorization - Use of Email

Please mail this form to
Karen Tria, HPCA Secretary
30 Ray St, Bridgewater, NJ 08807
by **March 1, 2016**

You will receive ALL official communications from the HPCA via SNAIL MAIL if there is not a signed copy of this form on file with the HPCA Secretary by this date.)

The Hungarian Pumi Club of America, Inc. has adopted email communication as a method of notification for club meetings and other club notices which may include but are not limited to dues notices or reminders, judge selection, minutes, newsletters and surveys. This is to comply with AKC Club Relations Policy: http://www.akc.org/pdfs/clubs/club_policies/ALL CLUB EMAIL NOTIFICATION Policy-Jan 2006.pdf. This will also apply to balloting/voting, should the club elect to follow the AKC's rules on electronic balloting at https://images.akc.org/pdf/clubs/club_policies/Electronic Balloting.pdf.

Members must sign this authorization to receive email communication or to elect to receive only hard copy notifications via the US Postal Service. Such authorization is revocable. The Club is released from any liability should notifications be received late or not received by a member or board member due to circumstances beyond the Club's control.

Member's Authorization:

Name: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

____ I will accept notifications by e-mail – please list e-mail above.

____ I do not wish to receive notifications by e-mail. Please mail to the following address:

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Second Household Member's Authorization:

Name: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

____ I will accept notifications by e-mail – please list e-mail above.

____ I do not wish to receive notifications by e-mail. Please mail to the following address:

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

For Committee Use Only
Date Received: