

Hungarian Pumi Club of America

www.pumiclub.org



President's Message

Time is marching on....to July First! As I'm writing this, there are only 82 more days until we can show our Pumi in the regular classes, and if we win Best of Breed, go into the Herding Group! For Tom & I, it's been 17 long, fun-filled years of having a rare, unusual, odd, and not-quite-legitimate (to AKC) breed unless of course we showed in an FCI country where we could compete

with the "real breeds". We've cheered on the US Pumi owners who were able to fully compete in agility, obedience, and herding, all the while just waiting (sometimes not so) patiently. The conformation judging process will be different from the Miscellaneous classes and there's an article in this issue about how it works.

Members Only: There is a lot of good information in the Members Only section of the website, but only 42 members have signed up for access to those pages. There is a full membership list with contact information, club policies and procedures, Constitution and Bylaws, past newsletters, Board minutes, and a lot of other information. If you haven't signed up, just go to <http://pumiclub.org/members-only/> and provide your own username and password. It's easy!

Email communications: Some of you are receiving the newsletter via snail mail, and that's because we don't have a copy of your Electronic Authorization. If you want to get timely notification from the HPCA, please fill out the form included at the end of this newsletter and return it to the club secretary.

Upcoming Events

- 7/1/16 AKC Recognition
- 7/29/16 HPCA Agility Trial (MN)
- 10/12-16/16 Pumifest (TX)

Help Wanted

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

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.

Club Recognition: The new Constitution and Bylaws was approved by the membership and has been sent to AKC for final approval. The only remaining item is a membership list with all members and their activities with their dogs. Please be sure to fill out the survey form – it should only take about a minute – click [here](#). Our recognition will determine whether we can have an AKC licensed show at Pumifest, so **it's critical that you send in your dues before May 1**. We still need those 100 households for this accreditation. You can pay dues by clicking [here](#).

Meet the Pumi video: AKC wanted to make an introductory video on the Pumi as part of our recognition process, so while I was at the New York Meet the Breeds, I went to the AKC offices and they filmed a video. You can see it [here](#). There is also a link to the video in the April 8 issue of the AKC *Communicates* email if you received that.

Pumifest: Pumifest plans are coming along. You may have heard that we had some trouble with the original herding venue so have changed it another site and it will be on Wednesday, October 12. Obedience has moved to Friday, October 14. See the full schedule in this issue. We've never had herding first before, so we'll have to see how it works out.

Statistics: We have a new item in this issue – the top ranking Pumik in each AKC venue where there are Pumi competing. Even if you don't compete, or only in one venue, it's nice to see how others are doing.

At the time of the next issue, we will have full recognition!

- Chris

Help Wanted

Pumifest

A volunteer survey is posted on <http://pumiclub.org> and we are still seeking volunteers for these important jobs for Pumifest 2016:

- Grounds
- Ribbons (all events)
- Trophies (all events)
- Judges Gifts
- Decorations
- Vendors
- Judges Hospitality
- Publicity
- Registration (on site)
- Auction
- Videographer
- Ring Hospitality

Newsletter Statistician

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.

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Zsa Zsa Update

By Nancy Nelson

Spring has sprung and I am so excited. It is time to spend as much time possible out of doors, start gardening, new projects, and of course, review the wardrobe and toy box to dispose of old, unused and unfashionable items.

What am I thinking? Let's start with time outside. I live where the winter is cold and snowy which means I don't get out in the yard as much as I would like. When I am out I love to play Frisbee with Mom, chase my sisters Trish and Lila; run along the front of the property, barking, of course, at all the cars and people. Mom tries to discourage the running and barking, but the school bus driver loves me and so he slows down until I meet him to race. I am faster than him!! I also help with the gardening. I dig holes for all the new plants. Mom doesn't always think that they should go where I place the holes. I try to be reasonable with her...The point of all this running and playing is to get in shape. We all, humans too, must face facts, it is easy to put on a few ounces when one is house bound. Pumik are lean NOT pudgy. Sleek is where it is at. Mom suggests veggies as part of our food to drop those last few nagging bulges. She buys all of us mixed vegetables and replaces part of our regular food with these. We love carrots as treats too.



New projects; for me that means learning new things. Mom and I are working on my dumbbell skills for obedience. Agility and confirmation are heading out doors in our area, so Mom and I are working outside on these. All the good stuff in the grass (deer poop, I LOVE deer poop) is very distracting so one has to practice ignoring things. Nose down sniffing does not lead to good agility results or the prettiest ribbons in confirmation. These are the things we start working on now. Mom is also working with me on a bunch of other things too, she says it is a process and even though I may know something I need to review to keep things "sharp".

Spring cleaning. I only supervise while Mom does the work. Divas do not clean. Airing out my folding crate and tent so they are fresh for agility shows. Cleaning all the regular crates with the high powered hose. Mom airs out all of the stuffing in our dog beds too; they always smell better after a day in the sun. She insists on sorting out the toys, washing some (they do get dirty), tossing out worn ones where the stuffing is coming out and donating the ones that fail to meet my standards. I personally review my bandana and sweater wardrobe. I pass anything that is less than at height of fashion to Lila. I check all my bandanas and make sure I have the most fashionable colors for the season.

Happy Spring everyone!!

Love *ZsaZsa*

RATS!

By Nancy Bunin

I was looking for an activity to do with a very active puppy- and barnhunt fit the bill as a pup over 6 months may compete. Barnhunt is a new, fast growing dog sport. It is based upon the duties of an all-around farm dog, which included hunting for vermin in the barn. The sport is perfect for Pumik, which were, of course, farm dogs and were called upon to do many tasks in addition to herding. Unlike rats at a working farm, however, rats are not harmed in barnhunt trials! There are strict rules about rat management, and these rats used are kept in comfort (people's homes) and put into dog-proof tubes for the trials. The tubes are then hidden in bales of hay. Barnhunt is not an AKC recognized sport, but AKC will be happy to add the titles onto your dog's name- for a fee (of course). Unlike agility, which requires some agility on the part of the handler, only the dog climbs the hay bales, so it's a nice sport for all handler ages. As I have found Pumik have some mountain goat genes*, they have no problems climbing the bales.



Photo 1: Showing Lila the rat tube.

Barnhunt relies on the dogs' natural hunting instinct, and while it is certainly possible to enter a trial without any training (which I did), it helps to know some rules and expectations. It also does help to have a training session beforehand to improve the chance of success. In an initial training session, your dog may be shown a rat in a cage or tube, and he can be rewarded at his response (which hopefully will be excitement) (see photo 1). Also-- and extremely important- you will know how your dog reacts when he smells the rat. Many dogs will paw at the tube and have obvious indications (my Cardigan goes nuts), but others may have more subtle signs. I had difficulty recognizing when my Pumi found the tube, so in training she is being rewarded for pawing at it. In a trial, the rat tube is quickly removed, and this can get some dogs upset, and turn them off the game. In training, your dog can spend more time (safely) working the tube, and you can reward with praise and food.

At a trial, dogs are divided by height: small, medium, large. This has nothing to do with the height of the hay bales, but is a division for the purpose of rewarding placement. Placement for qualifying scores is based upon time. A "blind" is set up at a short distance from the enclosure, but placed so that you cannot see the enclosure (and where the tubes are placed). You must wait in a "blind" with up to 4 other teams while waiting your turn. Basic rules are relatively simple- dogs run naked (no collar), they must wait in the "box" (usually 4 flat cones on the ground) until the judge releases, no scruffing (holding by neck skin), no elimination in the ring, no touching the hay bales, collar and leash on when leaving. Bitches in heat may run, but run last and with panties. If the inside "rat wrangler" is removing the rat tube to an outside "wrangler", you must hold your dog at least 2 feet from them- with at least 2 feet on the ground.



Photo 2: Going through a tunnel in novice level

Level progression follows a similar pattern to agility- novice, open, senior, master and finally, a title of RATCH. The ring set up gets increasingly complicated as with higher levels of difficulty; there are more hay bales, bales are stacked higher, and tunnels have increasing turns. Tunnels are not like agility tunnels (photo 2); they are made with hay bales and have 0-5 turns depending upon level. The instinct test may be done at the same trial as novice, and this is pass/fail. There are three tubes set out; one tube empty, one bedding, one rat. Although there are a tunnel and bales in an instinct test, successful completion of these isn't necessary. The dog must identify the rat within 1 minute. The title of RATI is awarded.

For the Novice level, there are 3 tubes- 1 rat, 1 bedding, 1 empty- and there are 2 minutes in which to identify the rat. The dog must also climb (4 feet on a bale) and tunnel. The tunnel is straight in Novice. The dog must qualify in 3 trials to obtain the title of RATN. Open level includes 25-40 bales of hay, 5 tubes (2 rats, 2 bedding, 1 empty) and the dog must identify 2 rat tubes in 2 ½ minutes. The

tunnel has one turn. A smart dog may conclude there will never be a rat in the tunnel, and refuse to tunnel, so again, practice may help with this problem. The dog must qualify in three trials to win the title of RATO.



Photo 3: Lila working hard to find the hidden rat.

Senior level includes 4 tubes with rats, 3 bedding, 1 empty. The tunnel is more complex, with 2-3 turns, and at least 2 rat tubes must be elevated. Four rats must be found in 3 ½ minutes. That's not a lot of time, and the dog must work efficiently, and tubes, once found, must be removed quickly. It helps to keep track of where your dog has located tubes- if he has found 2 ground level, then there must be 2 elevated. After qualifying in three trials, the dog earns the title RATS. I'm in Senior level with my Cardigan and 3 ½ minutes goes by very fast.

The MASTER level is very difficult- you will not know how many rat tubes there will be in the ring. There will be 1-5 rats, and you are completely dependent upon your dog to determine this in 4 ½ minutes. Once you are sure he has found all rat tubes (and done the tunnel), you must indicate an "all clear". With current rules, the number of rat tubes is changed after each team, so the judge and assistants must rearrange the set up after each run, which takes time. To achieve the RATM title, one must qualify for 5 trials. The RATCH title is bestowed for 10 qualifying trials at following a RATM. And then there is RATCHX etc.

One very important thing I have learned along the way is: keep your mouth shut. Can we smell a rat? No, but the dogs can. While it may be necessary to regain your dog's attention, keep quiet as long as the dog is working. While humans cannot locate the rat, they can learn how odor may flow, which is especially important with most trials outdoors- and some windy weather. If videotaping is allowed, it may help you improve the ability to read your dog.

For more information about this fun, addictive sport, go to the official website-www.barnhunt.com. There is a list of upcoming events, fun matches and training on the website, so you can find something near you.

*I have had achondroplastic dogs for over 30 years (Skyes and Cardigan Welsh Corgis, so finding a Pumi on the table enjoying the remnants of dinner came as a shock!

Don't You Dare Steal My Joy

by Connie Cleveland

On the occasion of my tenth anniversary, my husband asked me how I wanted to celebrate. I asked that we take a very dear friend, my adopted grandmother and one of the greatest of all the great southern ladies, out to dinner with us.

At dinner, my husband, Brian, presented me with a diamond ring. It was gorgeous and I was speechless, but even as I thanked him, I worried about the expense and extravagance of such a gift. As if he knew that the next line belonged to my grandmother, my husband excused himself from the table. He was barely out of sight when she reached across the table and grabbed me by the shoulder, "I know what you're thinking, I know you think he couldn't afford it and it's too extravagant. I don't care if he had to put a second mortgage on the house to buy it, don't you steal his joy! It's beautiful. Accept it as the token of his love that it is and say nothing about how he shouldn't have bought it for you." Then she repeated, "Don't you dare steal his joy!"



That was the end of the conversation. She sat back in her seat, smiled at my returning husband, and we had a lovely dinner. I took her advice and put my reservations out of my mind. The ring has never come off my finger, but most importantly, I learned a wonderfully important lesson, never to steal another man's joy.

Are you a joy stealer?

"You know if my dog hadn't gone down on the sit, I would have won the class", said, unfeelingly, to the winner. "I sure didn't think your dog worked that high a score." "I can't believe you placed, I thought Jane Oneup and her dog would beat you."

"I thought I had that class won! My dog had a great performance," said to the winner. "Isn't that judge an idiot? I can't believe the dogs he put up!" said to the winner. "Boy, aren't you glad Mrs Winallthetime wasn't here today or you might not have won." "You passed that Master test because the water blind was so easy." "That was the stupidest set of water marks I've ever seen. No trial should end that easily," said to the winner.

Do you discourage or encourage fellow competitors? Do you tell them their goals are too lofty and their dreams too big? Are you trying to be helpful or trying to keep them from accomplishing something that you never had the ability or perseverance to do yourself? It is equally as harmful to steal joy by destroying the dream.

"No Basset Hounds get UD's," said to the owner of the Basset in Utility class. "I've never seen a Rottweiler that could do fronts and finishes", said to the owner of the Rottweiler practicing fronts and finishes. "Do you have any idea how hard it is to get a UD and a Master Hunter? Do you know how few people have ever done it?" said to the first time dog owner setting out to do both.

joy

When FC AFC OTCH Law Abiding Ezra had both his field championships and 65 OTCH points including all the necessary first places, someone had the guts to come up to me, his owner, trainer and handler and say, "No dog will ever be a field champion and an obedience champion." My jaw drops when I think about it. Isn't it unfortunate that I remember this attempt at stealing my joy much more than I remember all the cards and letters and congratulations I received when those last 35 points were earned?

If you are willing to destroy someone's dream, perhaps you don't realize that it is the JOY of pursuing the dream that keeps the dreamer motivated, not just reaching the accomplishment.

My husband and I travel and compete together. I remember an event, early in our relationship when I watched his Doberman fail articles. "Darn it," I said, as he came out of the ring," she didn't even try to find the right one!" "Oh", he replied, "but, weren't her heeling and signals wonderful?" Unknowingly, I had almost stolen his joy. He was celebrating the improvement on the exercise that had been giving him trouble, and I was focused on the failure. Since that experience, Brian and I have learned that the best response to a questionable performance, "What did you think?" That way, if the handler is excited about some aspect of the performance, you can share that excitement. If the handler is disappointed in another aspect, you can share the disappointment. You are safely removed from being a joy stealer.

I hope you have a lot of dreams and goals for your dogs in (the coming year). Undoubtedly there will be moments of disappointment as you venture through the landmines of injury, failures and other setbacks. Remember that the joy of the journey is worth the difficulties along the way and don't let anyone steal that joy. Guard it well and at the end of the road you can own it and revel in it with all the other memories of the trip.

Shoot Your Dog!

Take pictures like the professionals do

By Stephanie Colman

A picture is worth a thousand words, and when it comes to our beloved canine companions, we can never have too many memories preserved in perpetuity. Like people, dogs have unique personalities. Learning to capture your dog's attitude, spirit and charm can make the difference between a so-so photo and a memory you just have to blow up and frame. The following tips will help you take your best shot.

When you want jaw-dropping photos, it never hurts to let the true professionals work their magic by scheduling a professional photo shoot for your pet. Not only do professionals have the know-how and the equipment to achieve stunning images, working with a professional gives you the opportunity to be photographed with your pet.



While we strongly believe and have seen ample evidence that it's worth the cost to arrange for some once-in-a-life-time professional photographs of your dog, we've also learned that, with just a little knowledge and a lot of practice any dog owner can learn to take terrific, memorable pictures of their dogs. One of the advantages you have, after all, is your familiarity with your dog; no one else will have as many opportunities to capture his unique personality.

And that is the key to a great portrait. Ask professional photographers and dog lovers Rachele Valadez and Amy VandenBerg of Artis Photography in Snohomish, Washington, the difference between a good photo and a great one, and their answer is emphatic: Personality. "I think a lot of times people don't take the time; they get a beautiful dog portrait, but it's not their dog. It's a dog. It's a beautiful portrait of a Dalmatian, but it's not 'Echo,'" says VandenBerg. Whether shooting pets or people, capturing a subject's unique personality is the team's main goal. To help achieve this

with pets, they often ask owners to engage their dogs in a favorite game in order to capture the joy of being a dog: running full tilt after a ball, jumping for a Frisbee, rolling in the grass, or chewing sticks.

Similarly, Seth Casteel of Little Friends Photo in Los Angeles and Chicago (and who frequently tours the country taking portraits), specializes in lifestyle pet photography “embracing the at-ease mentality of pets on-location in their natural settings.” “Each photo shoot I do is a unique challenge,” he says. “My goal is to showcase the dog’s personality through an image or series of images. Once I meet the little friend I am photographing, I find inspiration and ideas start to generate. I let the little friends tell me what kind of pictures best represent them.” While posed pictures are nice, Casteel says a little creativity goes a long way to help unleash your pet’s inner rock star. Sometimes simply observing your dog in action (or in a state of inaction!) can help identify photographable moments. “Try something different,” says Casteel. “Play hide-and-seek with your dog. Ask him to sit and go hide in the house. Bring your camera and wait to be discovered.”

The last time Casteel tried something different, he was underwater photographing a diving dog. His underwater diving photos have since become a media sensation, going viral on the Internet and becoming the subject of his forthcoming book and 2013 calendar, both titled, *Underwater Dogs*. Casteel dove into underwater photography quite by accident while shooting an on-land photo shoot with “Buster,” a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel who wanted to spend his time chasing his ball into the backyard pool. “I thought, ‘I wonder what he looks like in there,’” recalls Casteel, who was so curious, he ran out and bought a waterproof point-and-shoot camera to capture Buster’s antics. Liking what he saw, and sensing he was on to something creatively, he decided to save up for a waterproof housing to protect his professional gear. “It was a happy accident,” he says.

Enjoy The Great Outdoors

Shooting outdoors offers the benefit of myriad backdrops and the advantage of natural lighting, which pros favor at certain times of day. When planning an outdoor photo adventure, consider



shooting during what photographers call “the golden hour,” the hour or so just as the sun is rising or setting. The light during this period is softer and offers warm, flattering hues. Also, because the sun is lower in the sky, it reduces the degree of overhead shadow. Avoid shooting midday when the sun is directly overhead, as it creates harsh shadows that distort the image. If your dog decides to be a perfect poser in the park at high noon, look for a well-shaded area to help filter overhead sun.

Even cloudy days offer certain advantages, according to Los Angeles photographers Kim Rodgers and Sarah Sypniewski, authors of *Dog Photography for Dummies*. "Don't write off a cloudy day," they write. "Thinking that you can't get good photos on a cloudy or overcast day is a misconception. In fact, this is sometimes the best light you can hope for, especially if you're photographing a black dog. Clouds can act as a giant softbox that filters the sun to an even and dispersed state, so take advantage of those clouds and forget about the 'high noon rule' on a cloudy day."

Dog photographer Ida Kucera of Lerum, Sweden, takes the "cloudy day effect" one step further and frequently photographs pets in inclement weather for a naturally dramatic effect. Her dynamic photos have also been seen making the rounds on Facebook. "Don't be scared of doubtful weather," says Kucera. "Even a good blizzard or sand storm creates great effects in lighting and casts dramatic shadows. I enjoy a good, extreme weather situation - it brings natural drama and takes the pet 'back to nature' a bit."

Photography Basics

Whether using a simple point-and-shoot camera, or a more complex DSLR (digital single lens reflex) camera, understanding a few basic concepts can help improve your at-home photo shoots.

- **RULE OF THIRDS** - This is a basic composition principle that splits the frame into a tic-tac-toe board with two vertical and two horizontal lines. Rather than position your subject directly in the center, place his face at one set of intersecting lines. Whether you use the top or bottom set depends on what you want to highlight. To highlight something in the background, place your subject on one of the lower intersecting points; to highlight the subject in the foreground, use the upper intersecting points. The rule of thirds is a subtle, but powerful way to make images more interesting.



- **CHOOSING A BACKGROUND**- To help make your pet the star of the shot, watch out for distractions in the background. Pick up unnecessary items that don't contribute to the story you're trying to tell, and watch out for unsightly objects (for example, a dirty dumpster). Pay attention to items that appear to be "growing" from the subject, such as a light pole directly behind his head.

When photographing dogs outdoors, Casteel recommends looking for the "wall of magic," a bank of attractive green bushes that can be especially flattering when the sun is shining through, yet the bushes create a shady spot for the dog. You can also look for colors that complement your dog, or patterns that are interesting, but not overly distracting (such as the repeating pattern of a brick wall or wood fence).

- **A NEW ANGLE** - For most pet portraits, shooting at eye-level produces the most flattering image. Get down on the ground and experience the world from your dog's point of view. Extreme angles, such as shooting down on your dog from up high, or shooting up from ground-level offer fun, creative results, so don't be afraid to experiment; it's one of the biggest benefits of digital photography (you don't have to pay for film and processing!). Also, don't be afraid to rotate the camera from the traditional horizontal position to a vertical orientation to add additional variety to your pictures.
- **FLASH** - Most pros agree that using a camera's built-in flash leaves a lot to be desired when it comes to pet photography. The burst of light reflects off the subject's retinas, and creates an alien-like image of dogs with red and green laser beams as eyes. If your camera has a fixed flash, it's best to avoid using it. If using a DSLR, consider investing in an external flash unit or a lightscoop. Both attach to the camera's "hot shoe" (the square port on the top of the camera) and allow you to bounce light off the ceiling so it falls back on your subject from a softer angle.
- **FILL THE FRAME**- Don't be afraid to get close to your subject. Filling the frame with your subject, either by physically getting closer or using the lens to zoom in, creates stronger composition by highlighting the subject and helping to eliminate the possibility of clutter. For an artistic effect, you can even try filling the frame with one part of your dog - like the pads on his foot or his snout.
- **BLACK AND WHITE DOGS** - Predominately black or white dogs pose a special challenge for your camera's automatic mode because the light meter attempts to adjust the exposure to a setting that represents the middle tone of a particular scene. As a result, details are often lost on dark dogs, and white dogs appear washed out.



When using a point-and-shoot camera or the automatic setting on a DSLR, the best bet is to avoid direct, midday sunlight in favor of an evenly lit shady spot or a cloudy day. Direct sunlight will cast shadows that destroy detail. If shooting indoors, daytime shots often work better because you can fill the room with natural light. For both black and white dogs, an external flash or lightscoop can be used to bounce light off the ceiling to help light the subject. Many photographers also use an external flash when shooting outside, especially in brighter sunlight, because the additional light can help "fill" areas lost visually to shadow.

Even with the help of an external flash, it often takes some tinkering with the exposure compensation feature to produce a properly exposed photo of a black or white dog. Exposure compensation is a sliding scale, usually represented by -2.0 on the left and +2.0 on the right. When set at "0," the camera is exposing the photo without any input from the photographer. Adjusting to the left (negative) makes the next photo you take darker; adjusting to the right (positive) makes the next

image lighter. Exposure is a great tool to experiment with; a solid understanding of how exposure affects images can help you create far better photos - especially of dark or light dogs.

Understanding Your Equipment

The better you understand your equipment, the more creative muscle you can flex in your photographs. Manuals can be daunting, but it can help if you investigate just one issue at a time.

For example, if your photos are always a little bit blurry, look in your camera's manual for more information about shutter speed - the length of time that your camera exposes its digital sensors (or film!) to the subject that you are photographing. The faster your dog is moving, the faster your shutter



speed will need to be to capture him in a nice, sharp image. If you are using a point-and-shoot, look for a "sports" or "kids and pets" mode, often depicted by a running stick figure or a child and an animal. These modes automatically selects a faster shutter speed, which will help freeze the action of your subject.

Or perhaps you'd like an artistically (and purposely) blurred photo of your dog running or jumping? Then you need to know how to slow the exposure. Check your manual to learn how to override your camera's automatic features. As another example, if you want an image where your dog is in focus, but the background is no more than an attractive blur, you will need to learn a bit about "depth of field," which is the range of components in a scene that remain sharp, and how to adjust it using different apertures (the size of the hole in the lens, which, when combined with shutter speed, controls how much light gets into the camera) on the camera's lens. In general, the larger the opening on the lens, the shallower the depth of field in the photo. On a point-and-shoot, this effect can be accomplished by switching from the fully automatic mode to "portrait" mode (usually marked with the image of a face or head). A shallow depth of field is great for photographing stationary subjects you want to stand out against the background.

Recruit a Friend

Having a second person to help you handle your dog goes a long way toward creating a successful photo shoot. Dogs move quickly and their facial expressions can change in the blink of an eye. You're much more likely to catch the moment you're looking for if you keep your eye behind the

camera and your shutter finger at-the-ready. Ideally the helper is someone your dog already knows and is comfortable with, but if not, let them get to know each other (treats and toys can work well to shorten introductions) first. During the photo shoot, the helper's job can range from guiding a dog into position to displaying an array of antics to help elicit a bright expression. Humans are drawn to photos where the subject is looking directly into the camera - and to those where the subject is looking completely sideways to the camera. The problem with taking photos in which the dog is making eye contact with the camera is that many dogs, like my Whippet, are uncomfortable looking into the camera - or looking at you when you have a camera obscuring your face! Have your helper perform her squeaky noises or toy-waving right behind your head, so it looks as much like your dog is looking into the camera as possible. Alternatively, position your dog, yourself, and your helper so that you get a beautiful profile, with your dog looking toward the sun, so that her eyes fill with light and sparkle.

Have Fun With It

When it comes to getting the right "look" from your canine companion, don't be afraid to look or behave ridiculously - and be creative! Come to the shoot prepared with lots of props. Some dogs light up at the sound of a squeaky toy. Some dogs prefer toys that rattle or grunt. Some dogs are easily captivated by the crinkle of a plastic wrapper- the sure sound that a treat is nearby. With many dogs, tossing the treat or toy in the air and catching it piques their interest. Others light up if you playfully pretend to stalk them or ask the ever-popular questions, "Where's the kitty?" or "Wanna go for a walk?"



Whatever techniques you use, remember to reward your dog for his participation, don't forget to take frequent breaks, and watch for signs that your dog is becoming stressed. Frequent lip-licking, yawning, panting, or averting his gaze and refusing to look at the camera are all signs that your dog is becoming stressed by the situation. Rather than try harder to get his attention, it's time to take a break.

Train, Don't Complain

Photo shoots, whether at home or in a professional studio, go a lot more smoothly when everyone is relaxed. In your quest to preserve precious memories, don't forget your responsibility to keep your dog physically and emotionally safe. If he's generally nervous in new places, consider building his confidence before expecting him to sit calmly in a photo studio full of strange people pointing

strange equipment in his direction. Similarly, consider brushing up on his basic skills before a photo session.



“If people want good pictures of their dogs sitting still and looking at the camera, a good ‘sit’ and ‘stay’ goes a million miles,” says VandenBerg. “It starts with training, for sure.” Whether you plan to shoot at home or in a studio, make sure you practice any skill or behavior you know you want from your dog in the weeks and days before the shoot. “Do not stress, do not yell, do not get frustrated,” says professional photographer Julie Poole, of Julie Poole Photography in Knoxville, Tennessee. That will only torque up the dog.” Poole, who breeds and shows Whippets, has been photographing pets since 2006. “I started in animal photography because I was showing horses and enjoyed photographing them even when I wasn’t showing,” she says. “Being a competitor, I knew more of what people wanted

to see in their shots, and what not to shoot.” A love of and familiarity with the subject is a huge advantage of working with a professional photographer who specializes in animal photography. Not only are they more likely to be patient with and attuned to the special needs of non-human subjects, they understand how to bring out the best in the animal. “There’s something good about every subject that’s put in front of you. It’s up to you to bring it out in them,” says Poole.

Just Do It

“People take photos for many reasons,” Poole says. “The most important one is to preserve memories. At some point, the dog will be gone and memories are all that is left. It doesn’t have to be a Picasso or a Pulitzer to mean the world to you.” VandenBerg agrees. “Document your dog throughout his life. Don’t wait,” she says. “I can’t count how many clients who have called and said, ‘I’m so glad you photographed my dog because we lost him the next day, or next week.’ Whether you choose to use a professional photographer or not, you just can’t have enough pictures.”

Stephanie Colman is a writer and dog trainer in Los Angeles. She shares her life with two dogs (whom she enjoys photographing), and actively competes in obedience and agility.

Conditioning for Your Pumi – How Not to Be a Weekend Warrior! – Part 1

By Karen Beattie Massey

In order to do strenuous activities with our Pumis such as agility, flyball, lure coursing, dock diving, herding, or even being a running companion they need to be in good physical condition. Just like humans who participate in sports our Pumis also need to be cross-trained and have a good level of general fitness to excel at their sports and minimize injuries. In this first article I’m going to concentrate on 3 simple and easy to accomplish activities that require no special equipment, just a little planning and time.

Walking and Hiking

If you do no other fitness activity with your Pumi this should be the one. Most of us do quite a bit of walking already but with a bit of attention to detail and mixing things up a little this can become a core part of your dog's conditioning. Ideally the best conditions for walking your Pumi is a softer surface - think forest floor or perhaps beach, but almost certainly a surface with some variation to it. The surface could include slopes and small ditches and perhaps fallen logs or other debris. The variability of the surface is important for a few reasons. Walking on uneven surfaces help your dog develop the muscles that will stabilize and help protect vulnerable joints. Secondly it preserves and can help proprioception, which is the dog's ability to sense where their limbs are and to move them appropriately in any type of environment. However, if your only nearby option is flat pavement this is still helpful, especially if it can be supplemented by trips to a park or beach.



It's also ideal to let your Pumi vary their speed and use a full range of motion. Probably the best way to do this is finding a quiet and safe walking trail where your Pumi can be off leash for periods of time, particularly if they are prone to pulling or straining on leash. This can only be done if they have a reliable recall and remain under voice control. The benefits of off-leash need to be weighed against the risks of environmental hazards or encountering aggressive dogs or even other hikers who don't want interactions with dogs. In a hiking situation where my dogs are off leash I let my dogs jog and move ahead as long as they remain under voice

control. Once I hear signs of nearby hikers I will snap on the leash. For the most part during walks my Pumis are on leash using a Y-shaped harness that promotes the best possible range of motion and keeps them secure. Also, although I allow my Pumis to move at a variable speed during the walk I do not promote them running ahead at top speed in an uncontrolled way such that they lose connection with me and are not as mindful of their environment as they should be.

The speed of your walk isn't as important as walking regularly and with lots of variation in terrain and distance. Some days should be on flat trails and others on hills, making sure not to do multiple days of hill climbing in a row if possible. I would aim to walk my Pumis on the days of the week they are not doing strenuous training sessions or doing other conditioning exercises. A typical routine might be 20 – 30 minute walk 3 – 4 times weekly and a 1.5 - 2 hour hike 1 – 2 times weekly.

Controlled Running on the Flat

I like to think of my dog running on the flat being equivalent to a human jogging around a track. I called it controlled running as it's really a warm up or cool down exercise or a conditioning exercise with some duration where my Pumi is not running at top speed. For example, it should not be the Mach speed of a chasing game that your dogs may have in your back yard.

Ideally controlled running is done on a fairly flat surface with a long perimeter where you are promoting even extended striding. A school sports field or other large field is ideal, but a backyard or an exercise area at a show site can also be used. If it's a warm up in an area that my dog are not as familiar with I will jog around the area and ask my dogs to keep pace with me for 5 minutes or so doing at least one change of direction. Often they will carry a ball or a toy as a reward for participating in the activity, but I do not use the toy to help bring up the dog's arousal level in this activity. If controlled running is done as a cool down or purely conditioning activity I will extend the duration to 15 or even 20 minutes finding the largest possible area to work with. It is also possible to train your dogs to run around cones or posts set at progressively further distances apart so they are doing their controlled running independently.

Swimming

Although not always possible year round in many parts of this country, swimming is an excellent cross-training activity to fit in whenever you can. In addition to the fact it is not weight-bearing so provides relief for joints, swimming can really help cardiovascular fitness. And once they learn many Pumis love it.



Swimming pools can be great as they provide an environment that is generally hazard free and can be temperature controlled. Even if you don't have your own pool, in many parts of the country there are dedicated swimming pools for dogs that are undergoing rehab or just doing swimming for fitness. Lakes or safe beaches without currents are also great during the warmer months and can be a great way to develop the enthusiasm for swimming. Dogs can start off retrieving in shallow water and get progressively deeper as they get accustomed to it.

Generally most of the swimming I do with my Pumis involves swimming to and retrieval of a floating toy in a pool. This is a fairly high intensity activity as we know how Pumis feel about their toys! So I provide a platform for them to rest on from time to time and I limit the sessions to about 15 minutes. In a beach or lake situation where the time between each retrieval is longer that sessions could also be slightly longer.

One of the dangers to watch for with swimming is excessive swallowing of water. Taking in some water while retrieving a toy is expected but some dogs may be overexcited and take in large volumes of water or even think the water itself is a toy, which can be dangerous. Also, Pumis are a hardy breed but even a few minutes of sustained swimming in water that is too cold can be harmful. Most often your dog will let you know when conditions are not right for them but it's always err on the safe side.

So as you can see conditioning doesn't need to be a whole extra complicated set of exercises to add to your and your Pumi's routine. If I need to choose between a conditioning activity, such as hiking, and training, such as an agility session, I'll always choose conditioning. Probably my ratio of conditioning time to training and completion sessions runs around 6:1. A typical conditioning routine might be the following: a shorter walk 3 – 5 times weekly, longer hike 1 – 2 times weekly, controlled running on the flat 1- 2 times weekly. In the summer I will substitute swimming for shorter walks when possible.



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.

Top Ranking Pumik in AKC Events

Agility

AKC TopDogssm in Agility MACH Competition for Pumik
Considering Events Held Between January 1, 2016 and Ending April 6, 2016
But Limited To Events Processed Through Friday, March 18, 2016
Sorted in Number of Points/Number of Double Qualifies Order

Rank	Name	Points	QQs
1	MACH2 Szimfonia Amerikai Csilla TD MXG MJC T2B2	380	5
2	MACH10 Abiqua Duna Blu MXS3 MJC3 OJP MXF MFG TQX T2B12	348	10
3	Kemences Barita Almaspите CM RN MX MXJ NF	246	2
4	MACH4 Greenfarms Ac Bristol Cobra MXC MJB2 T2B3	181	3
5	MACH4 Abiqua Dinamo MXC MJS2 XF	175	2
6	Mayalu's Ares AX MXJ NF	134	1
7	MACH2 Abiqua Cicelle CD RE MXG MJC OF	130	3
8	MACH5 Vidam Kertesz Sugar RN MXS2 MJG2 OF T2B2	73	2
9	Mayalu Apollo's Race To The Stars AX AXJ OF	65	1
10	Abiqua Hetyke CM OA AXJ NF CGC	51	0



Obedience

Delaney Ratings for the 2015 Competition Year
(there were no Pumik listed for the current year on the AKC stats)

Rank	Name & Owner	Points
1	OTCH Greenfarms Wright Stuff CM UDX3 OM7	60
2	Szimfonia Csengo Hangu CDX BN GN RA NA OAJ OF	12
3	Danbaroh Getredi Here I Come CDX BN RA	8
4	Greenfarms Abacogal of Guana CD RE OAP OJP NFP CGC	8

Showing in the Regular Classes

By Chris Levy

You'll find that there are some distinct differences between showing in the Miscellaneous Classes and the Regular Classes and it will be good for you to know them before you plunge in on July 1.



There are many more classes offered in the regular classes.

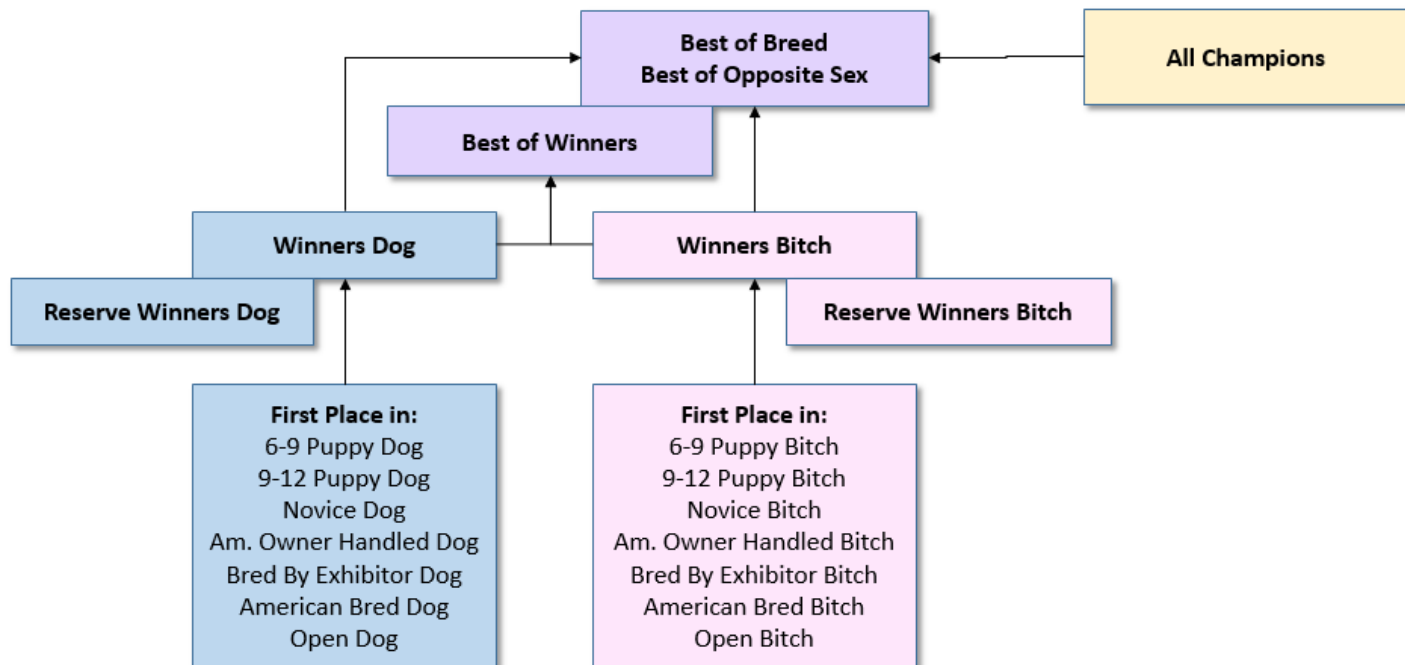
1. **6 – 9 Puppy** - for dogs that have reached 6 months of age but are not yet 9 months of age on the day of the show. Sometimes the puppy classes are combined into a 6 – 12 month class.
2. **9 – 12 Puppy** - for dogs that have reached 9 months of age but are not yet 12 months of age on the day of the show.
3. **Twelve to Eighteen Month** - for dogs between 12 months and 18 months of age on the day of the show.
4. **Novice** – for dogs which have not, prior to the date of closing of entries, won three first prizes in the Novice Class, or a first prize in any other adult class or one or more points toward their championships..
5. **Amateur-Owner-Handler** - Dogs must be handled in the class by the registered owner of the dog. This class is restricted to exhibitors who have not, at any point in time, been a professional dog handler, AKC approved conformation judge, or employed as an assistant to a professional handler.
6. **Bred by Exhibitor** - for all dogs except Champions where the person handling the dog in this class is a breeder of record and an owner of record of this dog.
7. **American-Bred** - for dogs bred and born in the USA.
8. **Open** - for all dogs American and foreign-bred.

First the classes are judged for all males in the above order (they're listed this way in the catalog, too), and then **here's where the difference comes**. When classes for males are completed, the **Winners Class** is judged (we didn't have this in Miscellaneous). The winner of each of these classes comes back in the ring and competes for **Winners Dog**. Once the Winners Dog is chosen, the **second place in the class in which the Winners Dog competed** comes back in for **Reserve Winners Dog**. **So any time you get a second place in the class, you and your dog must stay around in case you're needed to compete for Reserve Winners Dog**. The same procedure is then repeated for females (bitches). When **Winners Bitch** and **Reserve Winners Bitch** have been judged, then all the champions PLUS the Winners Dog and Winners Bitch come back in the ring to compete for **Best of Breed**. The judge will award **Best of Breed**, **Best of Winners** (the best of Winners Dog and Winners Bitch), and **Best of Opposite Sex** to Best of Breed. Of the champions, the next best male and female are chosen as **Select Dog** and **Select Bitch**. There are variations on this theme, but this is what happens 95% of the time.

The Best of Breed winner is eligible to compete in the **Herding Group** competition which is offered later in the day. The starting time for group judging is posted in the judging schedule, along with the proposed group order. The actual order will be posted at the show after lunch. It will be tempting

to skip the group judging sometimes, especially if you showed in the breed classes at 8:00 am on a Sunday and group judging starts at 3:00 pm and you want to get started home. But look at your appearance in the group ring as public relations for our breed. And judges will get better and better at judging our breed, the more they see of them. And of course, if you win First Place in the Herding Group, you can compete for **Best in Show!** You can read all the technical details in AKC's [Rules Applying to Dog Shows](#).

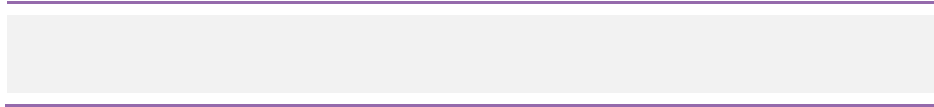
Many dog shows offer a class for people new to showing and you should take advantage of that. Look in the judging program or catalog for specific details as to where and when. Maybe this diagram will help clarify the process.



Of course the ribbons are a different color, too!

- First Prize Blue
- Second Prize Red
- Third Prize Yellow
- Fourth Prize White
- Winners Purple
- Reserve Winners..... Purple and White
- Best of Winners..... Blue and White
- Best of Breed Purple and Gold
- Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed Red and White
- Select Light Blue & White

In the next issue we'll talk about the **National Owner-Handler Series** of competition where dogs can be nationally ranked without having to compete with professional handlers. This is offered at a select number of shows.



Pumifest Schedule

This schedule has been recently revised due to some problems with the herding venue, and is different than our previous schedules.

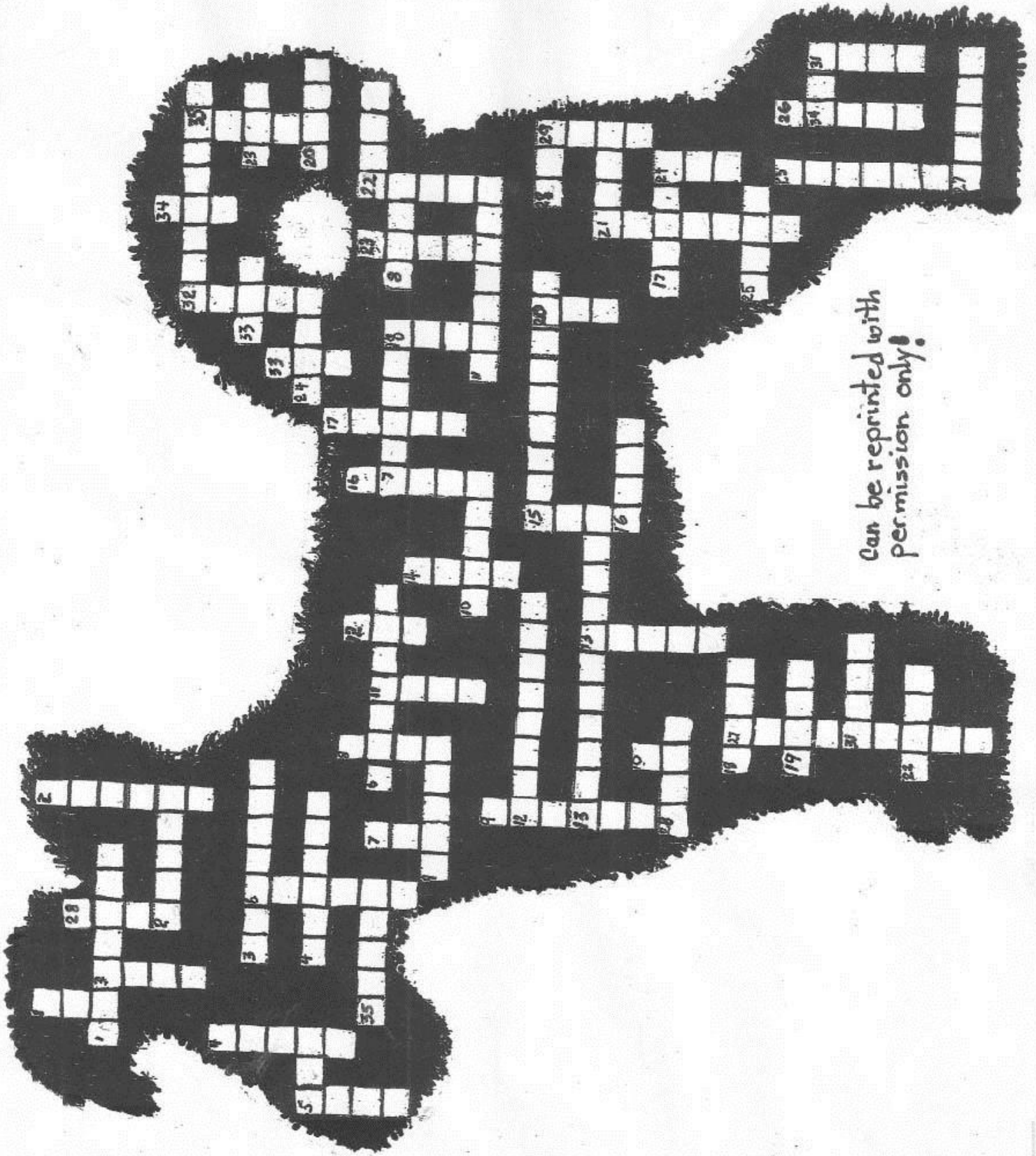
Up-to-date information will always be at <http://pumiclub.org/events/2016-pumifest/>.

Wednesday, October 12	Herding Two trials, AM & PM Two herding tests, AM & PM Welcome (Hungarian) Dinner
Thursday, October 13	Agility Two trials, AM & PM
Friday, October 14	Obedience Two trials, AM & PM Rally Two trials, AM & PM Texas Barbeque Auction
Saturday, October 15	Tyler Rose Festival Parade Seminars Banquet Annual meeting and Awards
Sunday, October 16	4-6 month Puppy Classes National Specialty Sweepstakes National Specialty Show



We still need volunteers for:

- Grounds
- Ribbons (all events)
- Trophies (all events)
- Judges Gifts
- Decorations
- Vendors
- Judges Hospitality
- Publicity
- Registration (on site)
- Auction
- Videographer
- Ring Hospitality



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All answers are from the AKC Pumi Standard, unless marked with an asterisk (*). Not all numbers are represented in the definitions. The solution will be published in the HPCA Facebook Group page, in a couple of weeks. The crossword puzzle was hand drawn and not computer generated, so my apologies for it not being neater. Have fun learning the Pumi Standard! Nancy Ben-Dror

ACROSS

1. Pumi function
2. Long, moderate width
3. Between wrist & foot
4. Muzzle
5. Hair
6. Upper outline seen in profile
7. Moderate
8. Hindquarters
9. Sheep, cattle, pigs
10. Slightly sloped
11. Opposite of dogs
12. Moderately angulated
14. Well developed and moderate
15. Drive
16. Darkly pigmented
17. Body type
18. Slightly arched
19. Season *
20. Male breeding dog *
21. Eyes
22. Light and spirited
23. Permitted color
24. Curly
25. Substance *
27. One measurement of a dog
28. Related to Pumi *
29. Conformation win
31. Should be dark
32. Area in front of eyes
33. Canine
34. Fore or upper
35. Color fault

DOWN

1. Oval
2. Temperament
3. These dew claws may be removed
4. General appearance
5. Round
6. Ribs slightly ...
7. Type of foot
8. Not allowed to be done to tail
9. Point of buttocks *
10. Microchip *
11. Lumbar area
12. Muzzle tapers to blunt ...
13. A measurement
14. Spray to maintain ...
15. Two thirds erect
16. Part of coat preparation
17. Short, vertical and parallel
18. Ancestor of Pumi
20. Eyeball
21. Square shape
22. Prominent color
23. Extension
24. Female sheep *
25. Ear disqualification
26. Preferably black
27. Peppy
28. Darkly pigmented
29. Assertive
31. Shading
32. Front legs, chest and brisket



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.

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