The Pumi
History

• Hungary was invaded many times from the East, including the Mongols, who may have brought along the Tibetan Terrier or Lhasa Apso type dogs.

• During the 17th and 18th centuries, sheep and sheepherding dogs were brought in from France and Germany, possibly ancestors of the Briard.

• In 1815 the word “Pumi” is first mentioned but was used interchangeably with “Puli”
Hungarian Shepherd Dog ca. 1900

- Black, gray, brown, russet, cream, tan & white
- Had white blaze on chest
- The **Pumi** is identified as coming from the Puli, mixed with some French or German herding dogs.
In 1902, the Puli and Pumi were first described as separate breeds, and the Mudi was also identified around that time.
RODOLF MIHÁLY ÉS RODOLF JÓZSEF JUHÁSZOK,
A VÖRÖSMAJORI PUSZTÁN. (44)

TÜTTŐ GYURI, A ZALAAPÁTI JUHÁSZ ÉS PUMI KUTYÁI
(VÖRÖSMEZŐ). (174)
1912 - 1924

• Dr. Emil Raitsits
  – Professor at the Veterinary College and a leading expert on the Hungarian breeds

• Dr. Raitsits provided a detailed standard for the Puli, Pumi, and Mudi in 1924 which was accepted by FCI

• The effect of defining the breeds was to make them more consistent.

• The Puli was adopted by the show enthusiasts and the Pumi and Mudi remained as the shepherds’ dogs
• Pumik - Transdanubian region
• Pulik – the plains (Puszta)
• Mudik came from the southern plains
Hungarian Dog Shows

- 1920
  - Pumik were shown as a regional variety of the Puli
- 1921
  - First outline of a standard
- 1923
  - Independent breed
- 1924 total entries in shows
  - 255 Pulik
  - 130 Pumik
- 1927 dog show
  - 35 Pulik
  - 12 Pumik
The Pumi in the USA

• A few Pumik were imported prior to 1998, and a few litters were bred, but nothing came of these breedings
• Three Pumik were imported in 1998-1999 that were the beginning of interest the breed in the US
• 2001 - The Pumi accepted into the AKC Foundation Stock Service Program (FSS)
• 2005 - The Hungarian Pumi Club of America formed
• 2011 - The Pumi entered the Miscellaneous Class
• 2016 - The Pumi entered the Herding Group
The Pumi’s Job
Hungarian Racka Sheep
(Pronounced “Rotska”)
Hungarian Grey Cattle

The bulls reach a height of 5 feet and a weight of 2,000 lbs.
Hungarian Mangalica Pig
Herding Videos
Herding Videos
Click image to see video
Herding Video
(YouTube)

This is a long video of a Pumi herding Racka sheep in Hungary.
Hallmarks of the Pumi

In priority order

1. Tulip ears
2. Curly locks of hair
3. Square
4. Circular tail
5. Moderate reach and drive
6. Light-footed, ready for action
7. Light-bodied
Size, Proportion, Substance

The Pumi is square, with the height at the withers equal to the distance from prosternum to buttocks. The bone is medium and the body is dry, lithe and muscular, with an off-standing, curly coat.

**Size:** Dogs are from 16” to 18½”, bitches from 15” to 17½”.

**Weight:** Ideal weight in dogs is 27 – 29 lbs and in bitches 22 -24 lbs.

- Dogs are from 16” to 18½”
- Bitches are from 15” to 17½”
- **Disqualification**
  - Height ½” above or below the desired range.
    - Males under 15-1/2” and over 19”
    - Females under 14-1/2” and over 18”

- Body is dry, lithe, muscular
Head

Long, with the muzzle 40-50% of the length of the head. The planes are parallel with a slight stop. Expression is lively and intelligent.
Eyes

Eyes are medium sized, dark brown, deep set, and oval, set moderately wide apart and slightly oblique. The pigment is dark and complete with tightly-fitting eye rims.

- Dark brown
- Oval
- Dark pigment around eye
Ears – The Hallmark of the Pumi

Ears are set on high, of medium size, and carried two-thirds erect with the tips pointing somewhat towards the sides. The ears are covered with hair, enhancing their whimsical expression. The ears are mobile and alert, moving quickly in reaction to any stimulation.
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1/2 erect
Acceptable

2/3 erect
Best

3/4 erect
Acceptable

Images showing examples of different ear positions.
More Good Ears
Barely Acceptable Ears
Disqualification: Ears prick or hanging.
Skull and Muzzle

**Skull** is long, moderate in width, with a very slight rounding at the sides and back, but flat when viewed from the side. The occiput is not apparent. **Muzzle** is strong, tapering to a blunt end at the nose, which is always black in all coat colors.

This bitch’s head has been shaved. It is a very correct head.

The head profile is groomed to appear that there is no stop.
Lips are tight and darkly pigmented, as are the gums
Teeth and Bite

Jaws are strong, with a full complement of well-developed, white teeth that form a scissors bite.

If there are any missing teeth, it will be premolars.

Check for full dentition by viewing the sides of the mouth. It is not necessary to open the mouth.
Good Head
Good Heads
Neck & Withers

**Neck** is of medium length, slightly arched, and well-muscled. The skin at the throat is tight, dry, and without dewlap. **Withers** pronounced and forming the highest point of the body.
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The standard does not specifically describe the topline, but says that the withers are the highest point. This does not mean that the topline is sloping. The withers curve down to a level back with an almost imperceptible arch over the loin formed by the muscles of the back. The high tailset perpetuates this straight topline following the withers. HOWEVER, the customary grooming gives a slope to the topline. The judge must check the actual topline on the table.
**Body**

**Body:** The body is smooth and tight with hard, but not bulging muscles, and particularly lean. The back is short, straight, and taut. The loin is short, straight, and firmly coupled. The croup is not too long, slightly sloped, and of medium breadth.

Under all that hair there is a very slight, muscled body. Please note the phrase “particularly lean”. The body should be like a marathon runner – all muscles and sinew and very little fat.
Chest

The chest is deep, fairly narrow, and extends well back to a moderate tuck-up. The ribs are slightly sprung with a deep brisket reaching to the elbows. The forechest is not pronounced. The depth of the chest is slightly less than 50% of the height at the withers.
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Tail: set high, it arches over the back forming a full circle from base to tip, sitting just on top of the topline. In repose it may hang down. Docking is not permitted nor is a naturally short tail (stump).

Incorrect

Correct

Mudi Tail

Puli Tail

Return to Hallmarks
**Forequarters**

**Shoulders:** The shoulders are moderately angulated, with long, well-knit shoulder blades and an upper arm matching in length. The angle formed between the shoulder blade and upper arm should be 100 to 110 degrees. The elbows are tucked firmly against the brisket. The legs are long and straight, with medium bone. The *pastern* is very slightly sloped. The feet are tight, and round with well-knit toes – a cat foot, with well-cushioned pads. The nails are strong and preferably black or nearly black.
Hindquarters

The hindquarters are well-developed and muscular, and in balance with the forequarters having moderate angulation. The upper thigh is thick and strong, with a long, strong second thigh. The hocks are short, vertical, and parallel to each other.
Hindquarters

A vertical line can be drawn from the ischium down to the ground just in front of the rear toes when viewed from the side. Rear dewclaws, if any, may be removed. Hind feet same as the forefeet.
The coat is a combination of wavy and curly hair, forming corkscrews or curls all over the body, and is never smooth or corded.

The coat must never appear fluffed and blown dry, obscuring the characteristic curls.

PLEASE NOTE: This type of coat is second only to ears on the Hallmarks of the Pumi. If they do not have these characteristic curls all the way down to the skin, they are lacking one of the Pumi’s key breed characteristics and should never be put to winners or breed.
Coat on the Body
The coat consists of an even mixture of harsh hair and softer undercoat.

- The harsh hairs and softer hairs are intermixed – there is no layering
- The combination of hard and soft hair should ideally be 50%-50%
- The types of curls and proportion of hard and soft hair can change over the body (these curls all came from the same dog)
Coat on the Body

Each dog may have its own variation of the curls, from tight to loose, but must not be wavy, only curly.
Coat on the Legs

The coat typically forms some type of corkscrew on the legs. Note the harsh hairs intermixed with the softer hairs in the lower left photo.
What About This Dog’s Coat?
What About This Dog’s Legs?
Coat

The coat stands out from the body approximately 1½” to 3” and is prepared using a combination of stripping and trimming. The eyes and the foreface are free of long hair. The hair on the underside of the tail ranges from ½” at its shortest to 3” to 5” and has little undercoat.

In order to achieve the characteristic corkscrews and curls in the coat, the hair is allowed to dry naturally.

The coat must never appear fluffed and blown dry, obscuring the characteristic curls.
Color

Black, white, or any shades of gray. Shades of fawn from pale cream to red, with some black or gray shading desirable.

- There are 3 basic colors, black, white, and fawn
- Black and fawn have faded shades of these colors
Black and Gray

Black, white, or any shades of gray. The grays are born black and fade to various shades of gray. In any of the colors, an intermixture of some gray, black or white hairs is acceptable as long as the overall appearance of a solid color is maintained.

- These dogs are born black and may fade to some shade of gray
White

- These dogs are born white and stay that color

Remember that the nose is black in all coat colors. On some white dogs there may be a tendency for the black color to fade. It is not a disqualification, but is not desirable.
These dogs are born brownish black and then may fade to some shade of fawn.

Shades of fawn from pale cream to red, with some black or gray shading desirable.

- Shaded Fawn
- Shaded Red Fawn
- Shaded Yellow Fawn
- Shaded Cream Fawn
- Shaded Ivory Fawn
- Shaded Linen Fawn
- Yellow Fawn
Puppies Can Change Greatly (Black)
Puppies Can Change Greatly (Fawn)
In any of the colors, an intermixture of some gray, black or white hairs is acceptable as long as the overall appearance of a solid color is maintained. A white mark on the chest less than 1” at the longest dimension is permissible, as are white toe tips. Skin pigmentation is dark, with the coat colors intense and solid, although there may be lighter or darker shadings on head and legs.

- These dogs have shading of their base color
Disqualification: Any multiple-color pattern or patches, e.g. black and tan pattern, piebald, parti-colored.

- Do not confuse shadings with a black/tan pattern
- Piebald and parti-colored do not exist that we know of but were carried over from the FCI standard
Colors Not Allowed

- Occasionally puppies are born with dilute coloring or the brown gene.
- These are not acceptable colors because the nose is not black.

Dilutes should be excused or put to the end of the line.

This litter contains:
- 2 black
- 2 masked fawn
- 2 born gray (dilute)
Gait

The gait is light and spirited, energetic and efficient, with moderate reach and drive, enabling them to change direction instantly. Head and tail are carried up. From the front and rear, the legs travel in a straight line in the same planes, and tend to converge toward a median line of travel as speed increases.

- Light and spirited
- Moderate reach and drive
- Agile
- Tendency to converge
Gait
Movement

Which one is best?
Movement

CORRECT

INCORRECT
Movement

Just in case you missed it the first time
Temperament

Lively, alert, intelligent, bold, and ready for duty, yet reserved with strangers, the Pumi assesses each new situation.
Speed

- The Pumi is lightning-fast, not only in real speed (see agility video), but also in understanding what their trainer wants and will make every effort to please.
- The Pumi’s structure and movement needs to support this type of speed and agility.
- Click on the pictures to see a video of each.
  - (You need an internet connection for all but the left-hand image.)
Faults

Any deviation from the foregoing should be considered a fault, the seriousness of the fault depending upon the extent of the deviation. **Additional emphasis should be given to those characteristics that distinguish the Pumi from the Puli: head, ears, tail, and coat.**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Muzzle</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>40-50%</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Height (ideal male)</td>
<td>17 inches</td>
<td>17-18½ in</td>
<td>17-18½ in</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tail</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ears</td>
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<td>Drop</td>
<td>Tulip</td>
<td>Prick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coat</td>
<td>Corded</td>
<td>Tight Curls</td>
<td>Wavy or Loose Curls</td>
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<tr>
<td>Color</td>
<td>Black, Grey, White</td>
<td>Black, Grey, White, Fawn</td>
<td>Black, Blue Merle, Ash, Brown, White, Wheaten</td>
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Puli – Pumi – Mudi
The Hungarian Herding Breeds
Disqualifications

Height ½” above or below the desired range.
Ears prick or hanging.
Any multiple-color pattern or patches, e.g. black and tan pattern, piebald, parti-colored.

Height

Ears

Color
Hallmarks of the Pumi

In priority order
Click a link to go the appropriate slide

1. **Tulip ears**
2. **Curly locks of hair**
3. **Square**
4. **Circular tail**
5. **Moderate reach and drive**
6. **Light-footed, ready for action**
7. **Light-bodied**
Examining the Pumi

- The Pumi is a table breed
- Feel the amount of stop
- Feel where the ears fold
  - The fold is not a crease
- Check the bite and premolars
- Look for moderate shoulder angulation and length of upper arm
- Coat
  - Feel the coat, look for the 50-50 soft/hard hair
  - Check for curls and spirals in the hair all over the body
- Check topline and tailset
  - There will be a slight arch over the loin
- Feel for muscling in the upper and lower thighs
Reference Material

• Included with this CD (click on the links to see)
  – Must-read
    – AKC Pumi Standard
    – An Introduction to the Pumi (ShowSight May 2014)
    – Judging the Pumi (Herding Digest 2016)
    – Pumi Colors
    – The Pumi Coat and Its Grooming
  – Other Interesting Information
    – An Introduction to the Pumi (Canine Chronicle 2015)
    – Comparison of the AKC Pumi and Puli Standards and the FCI Mudi Standard
    – Herding Sport and Tradition Preserving in Hungary
    – Judging the Pumi (ShowSight May 2014)
    – Living with a Pumi (ShowSight January 2016)
    – The Pumi (PDF version of this presentation)

• Internet
  – Hungarian Pumi Club of America
    – Judges Education Page
  – Herding with the Pumi (Hungarian site in English)

• HPCA Judges Education Coordinator
  – Chris Levy, chris@abiquadogs.com, (503) 390-4864
Questions?