



The Pumi Coat

The Hungarian Pumi Club of America would like to remind judges that the Pumi's coat is "a combination of wavy and curly hair, forming corkscrews or curls all over the body" and "in order to achieve the characteristic corkscrews and curls in the coat, the hair is allowed to dry naturally." There is only one line written in bold italics in the Pumi standard:



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

A key breed characteristic of the Pumi is a coat with curly locks of hair. A blown dry cannot have the characteristic curls and locks of hair that go all the way down to the skin.



The adult coat above is exceptional quality and one for which breeders strive. Not all coats will be this tightly curled, but it must be curled and form the locks. Puppies typically have very little of the harsher hair (of the required 50% hard and 50% soft hair mixed together) that may not appear until they're 2-3 years old, but it still should have some curly locks. The curls typically vary in type all over the body.

Below are more examples of good coats and curls.



Leg hair has different types of curls:



It is never OK to blow dry the hair for exhibition. The dogs should be bathed a week or so prior to the competition to allow the oils to return to the coat, helping to form the locks of hair. Bathing removes those oils, and blowing them dry results in an uncharacteristic coat that more resembles the coat of a Poodle than a Pumi.



A Pumi coat that has been blown dry

If you as a judge cannot tell if an exhibit has the correct coat for the breed because it's been blown dry, it is then lacking a key breed characteristic and must be treated as such in your decision.

Please remember that the curly locks of hair must go all the way to the skin, and the only way to achieve this is to let the coat dry naturally.



The Pumi is a Solid Color

The correct gray Pumi is genetically black with a graying gene that causes the hair shaft to lighten as it grows out. The puppies are born black, with black noses and black pigment but their adult coat is gray (with a black nose and skin pigment). This is the same gene as a silver Poodle, Bedlington Terrier, and Kerry Blue Terrier.

That's why the Pumi standard on color says:

"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."

"Disqualification - Any multiple-color pattern or patches, e.g., black and tan pattern, piebald, parti-colored."



Gray Pumi with typical color variations

This mature dog shows various shades of gray and is correct.

However, if the skin is damaged or the hair is pulled out on a dog with this graying gene, the new hairs in that area will come in black and as they grow out will fade to gray. In a few weeks when the hair is scissored, the black tips will be cut off and the hair will eventually fade to the same color as the rest of the surrounding hair.



Gray Pumi whose skin has previously been damaged

The intent of the standard is to disqualify genetically multiple-colored dogs such as black and tan or parti-color. But if you consider a dog with this type of black spot does not maintain "the overall appearance of a solid color", then you should disqualify it. The HPCA felt that clarifying how these patches come about will assist judges in making that determination.

The HPCA has advised its membership that showing a dog in this situation risks their being disqualified. (FYI, there is no merle gene in the breed.)