

smile on command as well—of course, if you can imagine it, his command was “Elvis.” It appears that with him it may have been hereditary, as his sire and at least one of his offspring smiled exactly the same way.

Some PON never smile, or they never let anyone see them smile. Then there are others who begin later in life. We’ve had a couple of different dogs who didn’t smile until later in life, and not everyone got to see those smiles—it was definitely a case of “selective smiling.” One bitch we owned was a late bloomer and didn’t smile until she was older. Shortly after we noticed her small smile, she would also smile with a physical trigger of touching one ear in just the right place. This seemed to be a submissive expression, since she would usually do it if she was on the grooming table and having that ear combed or brushed.

Although all Polish Lowland Sheepdogs do not smile, count yourself lucky if yours does. Perhaps, let the uninitiated see your PON smile. Or don’t, and let it be a special look shared with you from your dog. —R. T.

American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Club website: aponc.org

Pulik Book of Titleholders

The *Book of Titleholders (BOT)* is the Puli Club of America’s official record of all Pulik earning AKC titles. Versatile Puli (VP) awards (see the Pulik breed column on VP in the March 2014 issue) and international titles are also included when appropriate documentation is provided to the BOT committee.

The tracking by PCA of AKC champions was initiated in 1969 with publication of the *Handbook of the First Two Hundred Puli Champions Recorded in the U.S.A.* Annual BOTs of champions and obedience titleholders were published 1969–1999, with gaps for 1982 and 1983; all were hard copies except for 1998 and 1999, which are also available on CD. There was a gap in effort on the BOT during 2000–2003.

The BOT has now been made available exclusively online since 2004. It can be accessed by visiting puliclub.org—click on the link for “Online BOT.” The PCA purchased a report from the AKC showing all titles received by Pulik for the 10 years preceding the launch of the online BOT, and a computer program was written to use data from that report and to generate the initial BOT database.

A Puli does not appear in the BOT until he or she officially receives the AKC title and the information is relayed by the AKC. Throughout the year, the AKC electronically sends files of titles (puliclub.org/PCATitles.htm) earned by AKC-registered Pulik, listed by the months in which they were earned. The titles are uploaded to the BOT about two months after receipt of the information from the AKC (the AKC awards are usually two months behind the current date, so that the January edition usually lists November’s awards).

The BOT is only as accurate as Puli folks choose to make it, so owners and breeders are encouraged to check the online BOT and are requested to report any changes or updates. A photo of the titling Puli can be included in the BOT. Understandably, only the BOT committee makes the edits in the database. If a dog’s pedigree is incomplete, the BOT committee requests that the owner send a certified pedigree so that the blanks can be filled in.

Because the BOT is the official historical record of the PCA, only AKC and BOT-researched pedigrees are accepted as proof of ancestry. In some cases, the BOT committee can fill in pedigree holes by matching the registration numbers of littermates for whom they do have parentage confirmed.

The online BOT provides a tremendous cost saving to the PCA and its membership and is available for view only by paid membership to the PCA. The BOT provides the community of Puli breeders and owners with an invaluable resource.

There are currently 1,860 Pulik

entered in the BOT. Pedigrees for those individuals range at least three or four generations. The first Puli to earn an AKC champion title was in 1948. The BOT can be used as a reference source by breeders and others seeking information to plan future breedings by using Trial Pedigree, a feature of the BOT program.

The PCA uses the free PedigreePoint Pro application (pedigreepoint.com). The pedigrees are maintained by BreedMate’s Ped/X, which then generates the data files for Pedigree Central.

The BOT is a labor of love by PCA members dedicated to the recordkeeping of our breed, particularly for ensuring that all titles and call names for registered names are included; international titles are captured accurately; that Hungarian names (and those of other nationalities) are spelled correctly; and that complete pedigrees are available.

Thanks are due to the following individuals for their roles (past and present) in the BOT, including Irma Fertl, Jim Moen, Alex Davis, Patti Giancaterino, Sherry Gibson, Dee Rummel, and June L. Kirkpatrick.

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Puli Club of America website: puliclub.org

Pyrenean Shepherds To Cord or Not To Cord

The question of coat care has gotten a lot of attention in some Pyrenean Shepherd online discussion groups. Because the breed’s coat variations are surprising to the casual observer—some people are amazed when I tell them that my smooth-faced, blue merle boy is the same breed as his more commonly seen rough-faced housemate—it’s understandable that the topic keeps coming up.

While there is little choice about what to do with a smooth-faced dog’s shorter coat, the rough-faced individuals can have longer coats that, left to their own devices, are capable of cording similarly to a Puli’s or a Komondor’s coat. Unlike those breeds,