

*Congratulations on your newest family member*

# ***All About the Pumi!***

***Pumik are energetic, eager to learn, affectionate and loyal!***

The Pumi is a medium-sized, alert, intelligent, energetic, and agile herding breed. Pumik (plural for Pumi) are characterized by a square outline, curly coat, circular tail, long head with semi-erect ears, and a whimsical expression. Because they are highly intelligent, a Pumi needs daily work to do, whether it's herding, obedience, agility, jogging, or chasing tennis balls.

An affectionate and loyal breed, some Pumik are very cuddly while others prefer to lay at your feet. They are not a breed for every family—however, if you have an active family, with or without children, and have a commitment to do daily activities with your dog, then the Pumi may be right for you.

## **History**

Originating in Hungary during the 17th/18th Century and derived from the ancestral Puli, Pumik were used to herd cattle, sheep, and swine. Livestock was driven to and from local fields for grazing, as pastures were relatively small in the region of Hungary where the Pumi was the favored herding dog.

## **Temperament**

A versatile stock dog, the Pumi is equally adept at gathering, driving and keeping the stock in the grazing area as directed by the shepherd, working



very close to the livestock, using quick movement and its voice, when necessary, to keep the stock under control.



Lively, alert, intelligent, bold, and ready for duty, yet reserved with strangers, the Pumi will assess each new situation quickly.

## **Grooming**

While the Pumi does not shed, they must be thoroughly combed out every 2-3 weeks to remove any matting, then wet down to let the hair curl back up. When needed, the hair can be trimmed with scissors (every 3 months or so).

**NOTE:** They should *NEVER* be blown dry—only left to dry naturally. Ears, eyes, and nails should be checked regularly and kept clean and trimmed.



## **Breeding & Health**

Breeding Pumik carries a tremendous responsibility and is truly a labor of love. Responsible breeders will carefully consider all aspects when planning any breeding and will evaluate their stock for herding ability, good temperament, correct structure, physical and mental soundness, trainability and overall health.

They will ensure that potential new owners are suited to owning a Pumi and, in particular, a

specific puppy and its character. They will help educate owners about the Pumi's needs and natural instincts. A breeder should take back any puppy they place at any time, forever.



The Pumi is a healthy breed, and to keep it that way responsible breeders regularly test for diseases known to occur in the breed. The Hungarian Pumi Club of America is working with the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) to establish a list of health tests specifically recommended for the Pumi:

- ♦ Hip Dysplasia
- ♦ Patellar Luxation
- ♦ Primary Lens Luxation
- ♦ Degenerative Myelopathy

#### **Optional**

- ♦ Eye Exam by ACVO Ophthalmologist
- ♦ Elbow Dysplasia
- ♦ DNA Repository



## **Training & Exercise**

*Pumik are energetic and eager to learn!*

- ♦ **Socialization:** Socialization is important for all dogs and must begin immediately and not put off until the dog is older. Daily positive experiences are necessary for your puppy to grow up to be well-adjusted and confident.
- ♦ **Physical Exercise:** Developed to move their flock under the direction of the shepherd

means Pumik are active and enjoy working. They will find something to “herd” if you don’t channel their activities and provide exercise!

- ♦ **Mental Exercise:** Daily mental exercise will help boost your connection with your Pumi. Tricks and obedience skills will not only dazzle your friends but also teach your puppy to work for your attention and praise. Just be sure to keep the short daily sessions fun!
- ♦ **Crate Training:** Crates are a highly recommended tool for dog ownership. With proper introduction and application, the crate will become an essential tool for successful potty training and a safe haven in your home and auto.
- ♦ **Competition:** Consider training in Performance or Companion events with your Pumi. For a rare breed, the Pumi is making its name known, excelling in the Agility ring, as well as titling in just about every possible canine sport including Agility, Obedience, Rally, Flyball, Nose Work, Barn Hunt, Tricks, Tracking, Coursing Ability, and of course Herding. The AKC has competitions that are fun for both of you and which show off your puppy’s skills and training.



Hungarian Pumi Club of America

## **HPCA**

The Hungarian Pumi Club of America, Inc. was formed in 2005 to encourage and promote quality in the breeding of Pumik. The club’s goal is to do all possible to bring the Pumi’s natural qualities to perfection, to do all in their power to protect and advance the health and interests of the breed, and to encourage sportsman-like competition at dog shows, companion events, and performance events.

Please take some time to peruse the HPCA website:

**[www.pumiclub.org](http://www.pumiclub.org)**

and find out more about this wonderful Hungarian herding breed. The website contains a wealth of information about the breed, along with names of breeders, dogs, and rescues available. HPCA is a friendly club that welcomes new members for those who own or are considering owning a Pumi.