

This article was published 65 years ago in "A Kutya," a Hungarian dog magazine. The article is a virtual time capsule, a detail from the Pumi's development in a certain time period. It gives the reader some insight how much the science of the dog and dog breeding advanced in six decades. However, most importantly it chronicles that how today's Pumi came about... For many readers who are not familiar with the breed's history the article might open Pandora's Box and want to know more about that what really happened on the far side of the moon... (It also worth checking both, the Puli and Pumi standards against the two breeds' description in the article.)

Puli or Pumi? by Dr Imre Ocsag A Kutya (The Dog) 1961

I am certain that several people who read the article about the Pumi in the previous issue of the magazine, now want to know whether their dog is really a Pumi while some Puli owners were probably surprised to learn their dogs close similarity to the Pumi.

It is important to know that the effort to separate the two breeds have started 50 years earlier. The goal was to establish two breeds with solid and clearly distinct individual types that can be also defined via two concise individual breed descriptions.

Early on, the two names were interchangeable that created some confusion and commonly the Pulis were called Pumis or vice versa.

Breeders and regulators clarified and established the definition of both breeds in the 1910s.

They have decided to call the medium size native Hungarian proto herding dog the Puli (*Canis familiaris ovilis villosus hungaricus* Raitsits). The name Pumi was assigned to dogs of a new breed that evolved from the crossing of Pulis and certain foreign breeds. (*Canis familiaris ovilis villosus terrarius*, Raitsits-Anghi - note the inclusion of the word "terrarius" "of earth" translators note)

Since this decision, the use of the correct name for each breed in all Hungarian and international official publications and scientific literatures has been accepted. It is important that dog owners as well as the general public becomes aware of the separation of the two breeds and use their names properly.

The average height of the male Pumi is 42 cm (16.5 inches) while females are 39 cm (15.3 inches). Its body is square and covered entirely with weavy shaggy coat that matts easily. Its hanging ears are also covered with hair. The head is covered with dense hair that runs down from the top and forms an umbrella shape. The eyes therefore, are hard to see. Whether its tail resting either near the groin area or on its back, it is always covered with a continuous patch of hair that shapes like a tent. Matting of the hair is most prominent on the Puli's romp, tail and on the upper parts of the hind legs. All four of his legs are also covered with long weavy hair.

Recently the number of corded specimen are increasing.

Pulis appear in shades of grey, black or white. Its skin pigmentation including the nose, lips, eyelids and paws are black or slate grey. The shape of his head is dome liked and the nose area is about 35% of the length of the head. The entire head gives a roundish impression. Its ears don't move even when he is alert. The area of the ears cannot be identified neither from the front, the back or the side. The dense hanging canopy of hair on the medium length neck makes it indistinguishable from the rest of the body while it tightly connecting the head and the shoulders. The upward curling tail covers the somewhat shorter and slightly sloping romp area and provide a visually deceptive taller croup.

The Puli's tale is never docket.

The depth of the chest is about the same length as the legs from below the axilla. Combined with the wider fore-chest they provide a compact stocky appearance to the body. The Puli's paws and claws are completely covered by dense hair.

It might occur that due to illness or whelping that the Puli sheds its hair either partially or entirely. The hair naturally grows back after the body is regenerated and the dog recovered.

Pulis born with short tail cannot be registered.

The Pumi is a few centimeter taller than the Puli or the same height. Its body is off square, has longer legs and his chest is less pronounced, shallower. His body is covered with 3-6 cm long wiry textured slightly weavy hair that stands out from the skin.

Some specimen's hair on the back part of the body in the crouch and croup area and on the tail is longer however it cannot not reach the length of the Puli's hair. Also the Pumi's hair doesn't matt. The hair on the head is not cascading downward short in an umbrella shape and therefore the eyes are visible. The hair on the ears resembles a lynx's hair. It is short on the neck (3-4cm 1 1/4- 2 1/2 inches) that further accentuate a longer neck that carries the head in an upright position. Hair on the legs is also short and stands out. Therefore, the nails and pads are clearly visible. The coat is pigeon gray or grey with a bluish undertone. There are some different shades of grey as well as white ones.

The skin for each different coat color is black or slate grey. The most unique feature of the head is the standing ears with the top part tipping forward. Even though pricked ears are non desirable, it is not considered a major fault. The snout area is 50% of the head. The stretched muzzle the clear area of the eyes and the position of the ears provides a fox terrier appearance for the Pumi. The legginess, the usually docked tail further increase the terrier resemblance. It is not an accident that Raitsits named the Pumi the "Herding terrier." Its spirited disposition further supports that the breed deserves this descriptive name. The ancestors of the Pumi also suggest a terrier like impact. Its neck is longer and more muscular than the neck of the Puli. Its chest is shallower and has a visible tuck up. When its tail was left intact, its naturally curled up. When comparing the Puli and the Pumi, both breeds are good herding dogs and watch dogs around the home. In contrast, however, the Pumi is more fiery, more vocal, and tend to grab more. Therefore, shepherd's preferred to use it on larger stock such as kettle and swine.

The country's Puli-Pumi stock in practice is still not universally isolated to two clean individual breed types. Mixed and crossed specimen are fairly frequent.

In case of pure bred Pulis when trying to screen out Puli-Pumi mixes, one has to be very careful with the inspection of Puli puppies. In this early age (even up to 1.5-2 years in some cases) pure bred Pulis might be misidentified as mixes because of their similarly light ears, shorter hair on the head that allows to see the eyes and muzzle, medium length hair on the chest and hind quarters including the legs just like their Pumi cousins. If planning a Puli litter but unsure to establish that both, dam or sire are pure bred Pulis, it is recommended to wait as long as two years of age when the breed specific phenotype

(observable physical, physiological characteristics including disposition- translator's note after AAHA) is better established.

So what to do when we have a mixed specimen similar to the one of the picture and the goal is to breed correct Puli lines. Since Pumi types inherit more reliably stronger breed phenotype, it is recommended to rather select cleaner Puli male or female phenotypes for breeding and avoiding recognizable Pumi types. If using lesser established specimen, Pumi traits will be carried as a recessive type longer and randomly "pop up" the Pumi type in later generations. However, when selecting for Pumi types we can be more flexible and include Puli types for several reasons:

First, Pumis are valuable and their officially registered number is still low. Consequently, focusing on breeding more Pumi types is justified.

Second, because Pumi type inherit more consistently, one can be more flexible by using mixed specimen in a breeding program.

However, for faster and better results, it is more prudent to select specimen which phenotypes are more established.

Photo inserts from top down to the left:

- 1 Good breed type pure bred Puli
- 2 pure bred Pumi
- 3 Pumi exhibiting some Puli features
- 4 Puli exhibiting Pumi features