

# YOU BE THE JUDGE

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## THE PULI

Based on the 1994 CKC standard

### WHICH PULI IS CORRECT?

Due to its profuse, corded coat, Puli outlines can be deceiving. However, based on the standard's requirement for a body the same length as height at the withers, the square one of these three sound Pulis stacked in profile could represent correct. The other two have one or more visible faults.

### CORRECT

Puli B is correct. Puli C is long in the body and too heavy, and Puli A's legs are short. Puli B's rather small, fine head is a CKC requirement and a controversial one. I prefer a head of medium size as required in the American Kennel Club 1990 Puli standard.

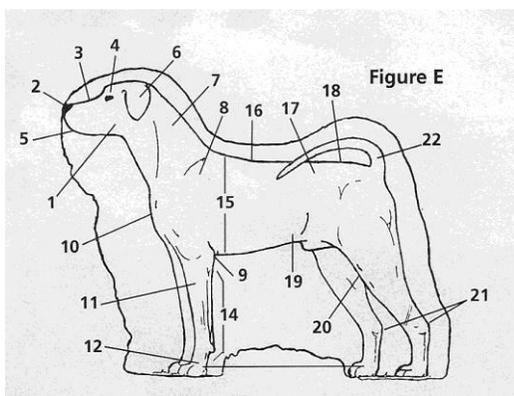
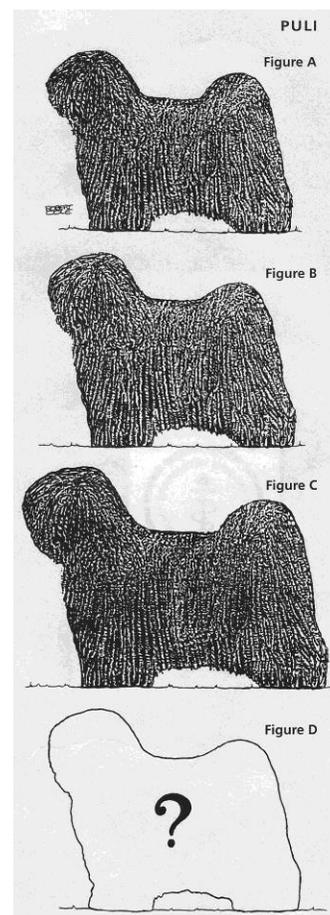
### FIGURE D

Before I fill in this empty silhouette with my depiction of typical, you might look again at square Puli B and try to visualize what his body parts should look like under the heavy coat.

### FIGURE E

This see-through drawing represents my visual interpretation of the breed standard. It does not fully conform to the often divergent opinions of Canadian Puli breeders, and includes depiction of a number of features not previously brought to the attention of judges.

With all parts numbered, this drawing goes a long way toward categorical visualization of hidden parts. Words used to describe Puli parts such as "fine", "medium", "short", and "slightly" take on definitive meaning. If you disagree in any way with my depiction of correct, be assured that breeders from the various schools of thought will reply to your comments in the 'Letters' department.



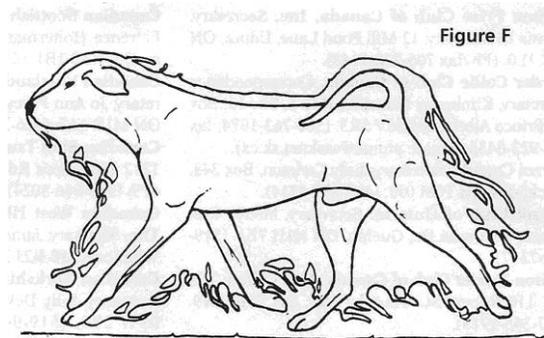
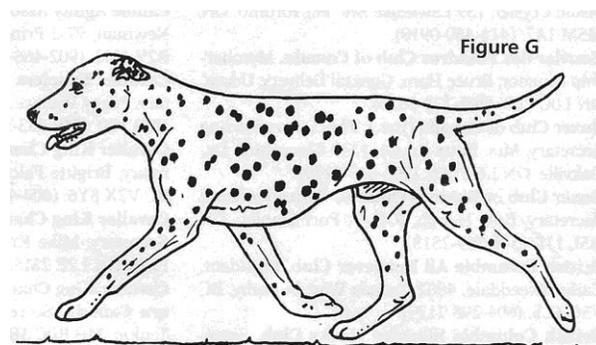
1. The standard describes the head as rather small and fine. I have chosen to depict the head as medium size in proportion to the body.
2. The relatively large nose is always black.
3. The straight muzzle is about one third the length of the total head.
4. The slightly slanted eyes are dark brown (also almond shaped in the 1990 revised AKC standard). In Canada, eye rims and flews are always black; in the U.S. they can be black or slate grey.

5. The bite is scissors; however, in Canada a level (pincer) bite is acceptable.
6. The ears are v-shaped, set medium high, measuring about half the length of the head and, according to breeder Ilona Helwig, they are set well rearward.
7. The neck is of medium length, tight (no dewlap), muscular and slightly arched.
8. The shoulder blade is well laid back, about the same length as, and at a right angle to, the upper arm.
9. The elbow sets close to the chest and level with the deepest part of the brisket.
10. There is a degree of forechest.
11. The muscular, vertical forelegs are of medium bone rather than the standard's "fine bone".
12. The front pasterns have a slight slope and, according to the Hungarian standard, are short.
13. The feet are round, tight (compact) with well-arched toes, and black (AKC) or dark grey (CKC) thick cushioned pads.
14. The length of foreleg does not receive direct mention.
15. However, since the body measured from the withers to the brisket is about 45 per cent of the height, the foreleg from the elbow to the ground is then longer than the body is deep – i.e., a moderately long leg.
16. The back is medium in length, tight and straight.
17. The loin is short and broad.
18. The rump (croup) slopes slightly toward the root of the tail.
19. Tuck up is slight.
20. Stifles are well bent, but not excessively.
21. Hocks are well developed and short.
22. The set on of the tail doesn't receive mention in the standard and could be high set or set on level (horizontal) and still be brought up and curved over the back. I have chosen to depict the set on of the tail as high, then curled back and touching the body on either side.

## PULI GAIT

The CKC standard's opening statement that the gait of the Puli is "short-striding" produces a wrong impression even though it goes on to advise, "When at a full trot, the Puli covers ground smoothly and efficiently with good reach and drive, the feet naturally tending to converge toward a median line of travel as speed increases."

Because a "full trot" for one breed can be fuller for another, I decided the best way to visually convey "good Puli reach" is to compare a good moving, endurance trotting Dalmatian to a good moving Puli increased in height to the Dalmatian's 22 inches.



Both breeds have been captured in profile during the changeover of diagonal supports, all four feet briefly free of any contact with the ground. Their (loose-lead) action is similar except for degree of reach and extension in front of, behind and under the body; the Puli's being less.

To travel at the same speed as the Dalmatian over the same distance, this Puli is required to take more steps. To lengthen the stride and match the reach and extension of the endurance trotting Dalmatian, this Puli's angulation front and rear would have to be increased at the sacrifice of acrobatic herding ability.

## **COAT**

The Puli's coat is a major breed characteristic and must be lifted from underneath for a hands on examination. Breeder Stephanie Horan advises that it is impossible to assess this breed's structure by feeling over the top of the coat. What may appear as four or five layers of cords could be closer to 40.

In Canada, the Puli must be shown corded, never brushed. The undercoat is soft, woolly and dense. The coat clumps together easily and, if allowed to develop naturally, will form cords in the adult. The cords are woolly, varying in shape and thickness (either flat or round), depending on the texture of the coat and the balance of undercoat to outercoat. It is essential that proper double coat with correct texture always be apparent. With age, the coat can become quite long, even reaching the ground. However, only enough length to properly evaluate quality and texture is considered necessary so as not to penalize the younger or working specimens.

## **COLOUR**

The Puli should always be a solid colour. Black, reddish black, all shades of grey and white are the only acceptable colours; however, a white spot of no more than two inches is permissible. The fully pigmented skin has a bluish tinge to grey cast whatever the coat colour.