



At a glance

Grooming: 3/4 Exercise: 3/4

Size: Medium Lifespan: 12-15 years

coat is not to be pulled at. Pulis love to play, exercise and join in with all sorts of activities, and their energy levels will rival those of any child. These dogs are ideal exercise partners as well as great, loving companions. If you are thinking of becoming the proud guardian of one of these people-centric dogs, you will need to be someone who enjoys taking your four-legged friend with you wherever you go.

Like most other working dogs, the Puli is easy to train and loves to please. They thrive on obedience work but are sensitive to discipline and they need guidance rather than punishment. Being herding dogs, Pulis excel in agility, retrieving and in the show ring. The Puli is a very bright and active dog and, if not trained, may well become bored and get into mischief.

Looking handsome

The Puli's unique corded coat begins to form around the age of eight months, when the soft, woolly undercoat intermingles with the harsher outercoat. The clumps should then be separated by hand regularly at this stage into cords from the tip to the skin. Keeping a fully corded Puli is surprisingly easier than first impressions would imply, since they take little care apart from regular coat separation and, of course, bathing. It's best to use a drier after a bath because a fully corded Puli coat will take several hours to dry naturally.

The Puli does not shed its coat, which makes it a breed to consider for allergy sufferers. The coat can be kept clipped, or with short cords or allowed to grow to a full length coat that can take four to five years to reach maximum length. It is important to check that your Puli's ears are clean and dry for hygiene reasons and to reduce the chance of infections.

The Puli is a hardy and healthy breed, but can suffer from hip dysplasia, although good breeding will reduce the incidence of this problem. A reputable registered breeder will ensure that breeding Pulis are tested for this and other hereditary conditions. 🐾

As **Lauren Nethercote** discovers, the fun loving Puli's cheerful personality makes him a perfect companion.

THE MOST STRIKING AND DISTINCTIVE feature of this shaggy dog is its corded coat, which helps it stand out from the crowd and looks very similar to dreadlocks. But not only is the Puli a fascinating breed visually, it has an interesting history. As the ancient sheep-dog of Hungary since the 10th century, the Puli has been herding flocks for Hungarian shepherds for more than 1000 years.

The Puli was originally a herding and droving dog, prized for its light, agile movement. The larger Hungarian breed, the Komondor, was more often used as a guarding dog for flocks. World War II was devastating to many breeds of dog in Hungary, and the Puli breed could very easily have been wiped out, but thankfully survived.

Temperament

The Puli is an intelligent, loving and playful breed that has an overwhelming desire to please. They are excellent at dog sports including agility and flyball. Pulis can be described as being sensibly energetic and they love walks and stimulating games, as well as sitting on the couch with their modern-day shepherd. Being intelligent and affectionate, they do need a lot of human attention, which makes this wonderful breed the perfect addition to any loving home. Long-time breeder and enthusiast, Royson Valore, says, "Life without a Puli is a life not worth living."

He explains that the Puli is sensible and very devoted to its family. "Words cannot describe the Puli — from crazy to zany," Valore tells *Dogs Life*. Their lively, cheerful personality makes them an excellent family pet.

Strongly devoted

Pulis have plenty to offer as family dogs as they will be strongly devoted to the whole family. They do not adapt well to being excluded or to life in a kennel. With its history as a working dog, the Puli benefits from daily exercise.

They can thrive in a variety of living situations due to their medium size, but owners must provide daily opportunities for exercise both physically and mentally. They are moderately active indoors and are suited to apartment life. As this breed has herding instincts, it is essential they be well-trained.

Pulis are naturally reserved with strangers, although never aggressive or shy, so socialisation is important to ensure your Puli is well-rounded. They also have a reputation as great guard dogs as they are protective of those dear to them and will warn their owners of an intruder. "Pulis will bark when somebody comes onto the property," Valore says.

As with all breeds, Pulis should be supervised while playing with small children. Kids should be taught how to properly communicate with dogs and that the corded