

Introducing: The Pumi!

By Julia Spivak
Grade 8

Introducing the newest dog breed in the world: The Pumi. The Pumi, originally a herding breed from Hungary, is the 190th dog breed recognized by the American Kennel Club (AKC). This is the largest purebred dog registry in the world and oversees about 22,000 events annually at the AKC dog show.

Chris Levy, president of the Hungarian Pumi Club of America, owns eight pumik (plural for pumi) and one pumi puppy. Levy says that after 17 years of work on this breed, the pumi will finally have its chance to win "best in show." The breed is recognized in many other parts of the world, but is a relative newcomer to the US. Ever since Levy bought her first pumi, she has been working to gain acknowledgement for the breed in the US.

"They are so smart, so eager to please, active, they just love life. They're very forgiving, they don't hold a grudge, they're easy to train..." says Levy. These loving dogs need daily exercise and mental stimulation. "This is not a breed that will just lay around all day," adds Levy.

The pumi, which originated in Hungary, used to be a herding dog and is descended from shepherds. The pumi is a relative of the puli, an extremely striking dog known for its long, corded hair. By contrast, the pumi have a short, corkscrew coat that can be black, gray, white or "shades of fawn from pale cream to red," according to the AKC.

When 150 pumik were registered, the

breed was able to participate in the "miscellaneous" class. The "miscellaneous" class is for breeds "in the recognition process," says Levy. This includes agility, obedience, rally, and herding trials.

While in the miscellaneous group, the pumi was barred from the conformation shows (AKA "the beauty contest"), which is where the judges evaluate the dog's overall appearance and structure.

Now that it's received full status, pumik can compete in the herding group rather than the miscellaneous category. That means that, for the first time, the breed could win best in show.

All in all, the pumi is on its way to becoming one of the most popular dogs in the AKC Dog Show, 2016!



Of Masks, Mayhem And Pumpkin Everything

By Revathi Nair
Grade 7

Halloween is over but the memories remain fresh. So many people love this holiday when people dress up and go trekking to neighbors' houses seeking candy.

Group costumes, scary costumes and cute costumes with little kids stuffed inside are everywhere. This is the one time of year when you can dress up as almost anything and get away with it.

Then there is the candy. You get a variety of chocolates and candy to last you until the end of the year. Perhaps you got to carve or decorate a pumpkin in one of the thousands of different ways available.

Speaking of pumpkin, starting around Halloween time, there is an endless supply of pumpkin spice everything, including frappuccinos, candles, gum, and even Oreos. People cannot get enough of these things. Looking back on Halloween, maybe you wish you had collected more candy or maybe you are sorry that you didn't dress differently or maybe you even regret not having visited a haunted house.

There is always next year! The good news is that Halloween means another cherished holiday is right around the corner – Thanksgiving! So goodbye pumpkins, hello turkeys!