

History based on an article from a Polish magazine Pies (Dog) – 1975

Since the prehistoric times tribes of shepherds have kept dogs to guard and drive herds of cattle or sheep. Big and strong dogs guarded the animals from predators and robbers. Medium dogs, on the other hand, were used for keeping the herds within the boundaries of pastures, finding and driving the lost ones back to the save place.

To the group of the European sheepdogs with shaggy, reach coat covering their entire bodies belong the following types of sheepdogs: Russian, Polish lowland, Hungarian puli, German puddle, and a few others. The ancestor of them all was most likely a medium, shaggy Tibetan dog that resembled contemporary Tibetan terrier. That Tibetan breed could have been brought to Europe by the tribes of migrating shepherds from Asia who traveled to the west through millennia. A helpful clue in creating that hypothesis was formed by some rare notes written by the ancient people from Mesopotamia, which reviled breeds that still use the same names in Hungarian breeds. In the IX century a breed looking a lot like a puli came to the Central Europe. Tribes from the Middle East arriving to the Polish land kept similar kinds of dogs.

First documents concerning domestic herds of animals coming from XIII century Poland include information about sheepdogs. The proof of having medium, shaggy sheepdogs in medieval Poland is the documentation of a transaction held in Gdansk in 1514, between Polish and Scottish salesmen. The source indicates an exchange of two sheep for three Polish sheepdogs. Shaggy dogs first came to the region of British Islands from Western Europe 2000 years B.C. Polish Lowland Sheepdogs brought to Scotland in XVI century refreshed the blood of shaggy dogs and contributed to creation of the Bearded Collie. That is why the two breeds look alike.

In the following centuries PONs were commonly used for herding sheep in all of Poland but most of them could be found in the regions of Polish north-eastern lowlands. That's where the name Polish Lowland Sheepdog comes from. The oldest known picture of a shepherd and his loyal medium sized, shaggy dog that perfectly matches the description of a Pon was dated 1882.

In the beginning of the XX century, Pon known for its bright intelligence and superb memory and especially loved for its long attractive coat, became popular not only on Polish farms but was sometimes seen in the cities as a family pet. Polish Lowland Sheepdog first got to the show ring in 1924.

Unfortunately World War II suddenly cut the work of people who wanted to establish the standard and excel the breed. In the long five years of human suffering, the Pon population was greatly reduced. After the war there was one special person who decided to come to the rescue of the vanishing breed. *Danuta Hryniewicz* took on the hard task of finding a few surviving Pons and reconstructing the Polish breed. Although the beginnings were not easy, her passion for Pons has paid off. She found a stud dog, which possessed all of the characteristics she was looking for. That was *Smok z Kordegardy*. He also had an exceptional temperament. Smok was used numerously in breeding and is now remembered as the model farther of today's Pon.

Soon the extinction of Pons was no longer a threat. The year 1965 was very special for the breed. Nine Pons were sent to compete in the world championship in Brno and all received excellent points. In that same year the Polish Lowland Sheepdog was recognized by the FCI.

Since then the number of Pons has been constantly increasing. The breed is now known all over the world and the popularity and interest is growing.