

# Congratulations on Your New Pomeranian!

## An Introduction to the Pomeranian

Congratulations! You are now sharing your life with a Pomeranian—he wouldn't have it any other way! The Pomeranian's most notable characteristic is his desire for human affection. The Pomeranian is happiest when he is with his people family.

## History

Its breed name gives homage to Pomerania, an area now considered part of northern Germany and Poland. This Nordic breed originally weighed between 20 and 30 pounds, had both herding and sledding abilities, and is still characterized by its harsh double coat. Queen Victoria is credited with its miniaturization and popularization during her reign of England. Although their former reputation is for favoring a particular person of the household, today's Pomeranians are truly gregarious. They are pleased to become a member of your family and happy to serve as your best companion! They are playful throughout their lives, but are also happy to curl up and remain in your lap. Their territorial nature and loyalty will alert you to any unusual disturbance or intruders to your household. They have a strong desire to please, but can remain stubborn should they see fit. Their social nature among themselves makes it easy and interesting to own more than just one.

## Alert & Inquisitive

The Pomeranian is an extrovert, exhibiting great intelligence and a vivacious spirit, making him a great companion dog as well as a competitive show dog. The Pom is a compact, short-backed, active toy dog. He has a soft, dense undercoat with a profuse harsh-textured outer coat. His signature is a heavily plumed tail that is set high and lies flat on his back. He is alert in character, exhibits intelligence in expression, is buoyant in deportment, and is inquisitive by nature. The Pomeranian is cocky, commanding, and animated as he gaits. The average weight of the Pomeranian is from 3 to 7 pounds, with the ideal weight for the show specimen being 4 to 6 pounds. He is medium-boned and feels sturdy. The eyes are dark, bright, medium in size, and almond-shaped. The coat is abundant from the neck and fore part of shoulders and chest, forming a frill which extends over the shoulders and chest. The head and leg coat is tightly packed and shorter in length than that of the body. The front legs and back thighs are well-feathered in coat. All coat colors, patterns, and variations are allowed.



## Care of Your Pomeranian

Although Pomeranians are noted for their abundant coat, they are generally very easy to maintain in beautiful condition. Taking just a few minutes to brush out any shedding coat a couple of times a week avoids matting. Keeping their nails trimmed is the only other requirement besides infrequent bathing. You might also decide to trim the excess fur between their paw pads and around their anus for sanitary reasons. Your local Pomeranian club will be able to help if you choose to exhibit your Pom in show presentation.

Poms' teeth tend to have a lot of tartar build-up, so arrange to have regular professional veterinarian cleaning. It also helps to have your veterinarian teach you how to brush your Pom's teeth.

Although Poms generally do not try to run away, they must **never be allowed to run loose**. For their size, they are amazingly fast and have no comprehension of the danger of cars or other animals. When exercising outdoors, they should either be in an enclosed area or on a leash. Poms enjoy the outdoors when you are outdoors with them; however, their proper general housing must be indoors with their human family.

Protect your Pom in case it is lost. Identify your Pom with a collar and tags. AKC Companion Animal Recovery (CAR) now offers a free dog tag with recovery information. A 24-hour toll-free hotline is available with staff to help locate the owners. Further protection, using a permanent tattoo or microchip, can be added and registered with AKC CAR. There is a 100% re-homing rate with enrolled animals. Call 800-252-7894 or go to [www.akccar.org](http://www.akccar.org) for more information.

Maintain good eating habits for your Pom. Either establish them on a good quality dry kibble or natural diet. But be aware their small sized stomachs are not suited to being garbage disposals. Avoid tidbitting them with spicy junk food, or their stomach ache could necessitate an emergency vet's visit.

## Should I Breed My Pomeranian?

While it may seem appealing to contemplate a cute litter of puppies, you should realize that breeding your Pomeranian is an unremitting commitment of time, money, and emotion. While responsible breeders commit to maintaining a free-whelping breed, the reality remains that Pomeranians often require a Cesarean section. Without knowledgeable training, you may be risking your bitch's life. Maintaining contact with your Pom's breeder over the years, and asking his advice will prove immensely helpful when making a decision to breed. For the majority of pet owners, spaying the female Pom will be preferred. This operation will not only lessen the risk in later life of reproductive diseases but also enhance her coat quality. The male Pom may also benefit from being neutered and may have added behavior benefits. Spayed and neutered animals are not eligible to compete in AKC Conformation classes, but may still participate in the other Performance, Obedience, and Agility Events.

## Exhibiting the Pomeranian

Many Pomeranian owners become involved in the world of showing dogs and enjoy a lifelong passion for this sport. Showing may involve Conformation, Obedience, Agility, and even Tracking. The bond that develops when the owner trains his dog in these disciplines only adds to the mutual love and respect of human and canine. The American Kennel Club or the American Pomeranian Club will prove helpful in giving you advice and guidance in these pursuits.



### Cautions

As with any canine, leaving unsupervised small children with Poms is not advised. Poms do not dislike children, but very young children might not have the necessary coordination and respect to

handle such small animals wisely. Ask your Pom's breeder for specific recommendations in this regard.

They make excellent traveling companions because they love to be anywhere their owner goes. As with other pets, they never should be locked in a closed car in warm weather. The temperature may reach dangerous, deadly levels in a very few minutes. When left unattended, these cute animals are quite easily stolen.

Poms are not aware of their diminutive size. Their inquisitive or protective nature might start an altercation with another canine that the Pom is sure to lose. You must not allow this situation to occur.

Again because of the Poms' small size, make sure the veterinarian you use is familiar with (and enjoys) toy dogs. It is fairly easy to overdose Pomeranians with needed medication.

As with other toy dogs, Pomeranians can be prone to trouble with the knees in their hind legs (patella luxation). Try to avoid this and possible broken legs by discouraging their jumping from extraordinary heights. For Poms, this can mean jumping off the couch. Understanding the toy dog physical limitations and psychology will be essential to your successful housetraining. Be sure to discuss this with your breeder or trainer.

This breed is also noted to have alopecia (abnormal hair loss) with unknown cause. You may check the APC web site for current findings.

Hopefully, with competent veterinary care and regular immunizations, your loving, devoted Pomeranian will live a rich and full life.

## The American Pomeranian Club

This is the national parent club dedicated to the well-being of the Pomeranian breed. The Club is also responsible for the written Breed Standard—a description of the ideal Pomeranian. The American Pomeranian Club is over 100 years old with members in just about every state, as well as Canada and other countries. The APC encourages Pom lovers to join any of the regional Pomeranian clubs throughout the country.

For information, a copy of the Breed Standard, or to subscribe to *The Pomeranian Review*, (the official magazine publication of the American Pomeranian Club) visit our web site:

[www.AmericanPomeranianClub.org](http://www.AmericanPomeranianClub.org)

A tax-deductible donation to assist in the health and welfare of this breed is very much appreciated and will be used judiciously. Your check should be made out to the "Pomeranian Charitable Trust" and sent to:

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