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Comical And Sweet: The Pomeranian

By Gary Allison

The Pomeranian is a favorite among the toy groups. Its endearing fox-like face and comically poofy coat are almost irresistible. However, the Pomeranian is not for the traditional quiet, clinging lap dog. The most independent of the toy breeds, the Pomeranian does not cling to its owners. This little (3 to 7lbs) guy's claim to fame is his giant personality. These active toys are notoriously animated, inquisitive and busy. So, if you are looking for a big clown in a little body then the Pomeranian is the dog for you. His antics will keep you entertained as well as attract attention. And although independent, their fierce loyalty makes them great companion dogs.

Ideal for those living in small spaces, Pomeranians make great apartment dogs. They don't need much exercise and spend most of their day taking naps. However, be prepared to keep them entertained while they are awake. Pomeranians are chock full of energy and they need to be entertained or they can develop behavioral problems and destructive habits. They are notorious chewers although with proper stimulation this behavior can be taken care of with a few chew toys left lying around.

Worried about how this tiny little dog will fare with your other household pets? No need. As long as they are properly socialized they get along with other dogs as well as cats. However, please consider your neighbors' sanity before committing to more than one Pom. They are vocal dogs (females less so than males) and when in groups the chorus of yapping can become a bit much.

Although they are cuddly and loveable, Pomeranians require a lot of attention. Along with their entertainment needs, the soft, thick undercoat and coarser outer coat need to be groomed daily or else they develop painful mats and tangles. They also shed constantly so be prepared to become well acquainted with lint rollers and a pet hair specific vacuum. The undercoat also makes Pomeranians unsuitable for warmer climates if they will be spending extended periods of time out of doors. Their voluminous coats count for about 50% of their apparent size and they are prone to overheating.

Surprisingly, these tiny dogs make great watch dogs. They have a classic case of big dog trapped in tiny body. They are cocky and commanding and rarely back down from anything. Their resounding warning bark can be heard far and wide although its tiny size does not manage to come off as much of a threat. They tend to be reserved with strangers and can bark excessively at new people. It is a good

idea to start obedience training early and teach your Pomeranian to bark a few times as an alert but then to 'be quiet for heaven's sake'.

A note of caution: this little dog is all personality and your baby's cute little personality quirks can easily become inappropriate behaviors if they are not loved with a firm hand. These little tricksters need to know that their owner is the boss or they will not listen. They can become demanding, pushy, and snappy if they are allowed free behavioral reign. And while these dogs make good companions for elderly people, they should be closely monitored around very young children. However, they are fine around older, well behaved children.

Pomeranians are also prone to certain physical ailments. Early tooth loss can be a problem so while it is tempting to spoil them with canned food and table treats, the main part of a Pomeranians diet should be comprised of dry dog food to keep the teeth and gums in good condition. You should also make sure that your vet gives your dog regular teeth cleanings. Skin problems and eye infections can also be

problematic especially as your Pomeranian ages.

But don't let these potential problems deter you. When making your breed decision, keep in mind that every breed of dog comes with its own caveats, and with the right mix of discipline and love their delightful natures can flourish.

Gary Allison is a third generation of professional dog breeders. It all started with his grandparents in 1970 with the Boston Terriers and has expanded to Maltese, Yorkshire Terriers, Pugs and Pomeranians. He is also actively involved with dog rescue and has a website that showcases the puppies he has for sale at

<http://allmypuppiesonline.com>

Gary is also the author of two consumer

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and

<http://movingsecretsguide.com>

Pomeranian Standard: Does Your Dog Measure Up and Does It Matter?

By Steve Allison

Pomeranians are a special breed of toy dog. They are loyal, energetic and protective towards their owners. Pomeranians are full of character and many people fall in love with their friendly faces. They

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are also a happy dog most of the time and very noticeable as well. They like to jump and with their two front paws they will wave at you.

Pomeranians love to be shown off. Whether it's during a walk and they insist of socializing with any dog in your path, or at shows. They are courageous to a fault and will not be afraid of even the largest dogs.

According to the American Kennel Club the ideal Pomeranian has the following characteristics:

General Appearance:

The Pomeranian is a compact active toy dog. The Pomeranian has a soft, thick undercoat and a profuse, harsher textured out coat. The Pomeranian has a thick plumed tail lies flat on his back. The Pomeranian has an alert character and has an intelligent expression. He has an inquisitive nature and can be cocky, commanding and animated in his gait.

Size, Proportion, Substance

The ideal show specimen is between 4 – 6 pounds. The Pomeranian shouldn't weigh any less than 3 pounds and no more than 7 pounds. The Pomeranian is medium boned and the length of his legs is in proportion to his well-balanced overall frame.

Head

The head must be in balance with the body. The muzzle of the Pomeranian is short, straight, fine and never snippy. His expression is alert. The skull is closed. The top of the skull is slightly rounded. The ears are small and mounted high. The ears are carried erect. The eyes are almond shaped, dark, bright and medium in size. The eyes are set well into the head. The Pomeranian has black pigmentation on the nose and around the eyes. The teeth meet in a scissors bite.

Major faults:

- Round domed skull
- Undershot mouth
- Overshot mouth

Neck, Topline, Body

The Pomeranian has a short neck well set into the shoulders. The head is carried high. The topline is level and the back is short. The Pomeranian has a compact. Well-ribbed brisket which reaches the elbow. One of the characteristics of the breed is the plumed tail, which lies flat and straight on the back.

Forequarters

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The shoulders and legs are moderately muscular. The shoulder blade and the upper arm are equal in length. The forelegs are straight and parallel. The pasterns are straight and strong. The feet are arched, compact and straight. Dewclaws may be removed.

Major fault:

Down in pasterns
Hindquarters

The hindquarters are angled in such a way as to balance out the forequarters. The Pomeranian's buttocks are well behind the tail. The thighs are moderately muscled with stifles that are moderately bent and well defined. The hocks are set perpendicularly to the ground. The legs are straight.

Major faults:

Cowhocks
Lack of soundness in hind legs or stifles

Gait

The Pomeranians gait is smooth and free. His gait is balanced and vigorous. He has a good reach with his forequarters and strong drive with the hindquarters.

Coat

The Pomeranians coat is its glory. The undercoat is thick and fluffy; the top coat is long and straight.

Colors

The American Kennel Club recognizes 13 colors and color combinations in Pomeranians.

Temperament

Pomeranians are energetic and lovable. They are rated the 23rd most intelligent dog (out of 79 breeds) by Stanley Coren in his publication "The Intelligence of Dogs".

Pomeranians require regular grooming. They house train and are easier to train than the other toy breeds. They are suitable for people living in apartments and those with limited space for a pet. With proper care the Pomeranian can live a long life – until 15 or 16 years.

Finally please note that just because your Pomeranian or the one you plan on purchasing may not quite measure up to these standards. These are the standards if you plan on showing your Pomeranian and if you don't then these guidelines don't mean anything. Every Pomeranian is perfect just the way it is.

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Intelligent, courageous and loyal – what more could you ask for in your furry companion?

Steve Allison is a third generation of professional dog breeders along with his brother Gary. It all started with his grandparents in 1970 with the Boston Terriers and has expanded to Maltese, Yorkshire Terriers, Pugs, Shih Tzu's and Pomeranians. He is also actively involved with dog rescue and has a website that showcases the puppies they occasionally has for sale at

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