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Titan In A Teacup -- The Pomeranian Dog

By Blake Kritzberg

Looking for a new canine pal and have one of the toy breeds in mind? Then be sure to give more

than a glance to the stylish Pomeranian -- that prancing little ringmaster who, just like a certain boy or girl from high school, knows exactly how good looking he is.

If you have the time to brush and comb his magnificent coat, the Pomeranian thoroughly deserves your consideration. A whole lot of dog in a small package, he fairly bursts with personality. When you walk him down the street, all eyes turn -- and not because he's blocking the light! -- but because of his bright eyes, "look at me" stride and gorgeous coat.

Most dog lovers don't know that the tiny Pom is related to the standoffish, handsome Chow, the lovely white Samoyed and others belonging to the group loosely known as "Northern dogs." Europe and especially Germany boasts several near relatives of the Pomeranian, including the white and black Spitzes.

So, then, why are Poms so small? The fact is, when they first appeared in America they were heftier, weighing in at about 15-20 pounds on average. In fact, around the turn of the twentieth century, prize-winning American Poms could be found at 25 to 30 pounds.

But their pint-sized destiny had already been determined. In the late 1800s, Queen Victoria became known as a Pomeranian fan, and like many celebrities, preferred the smallest specimens. Sure enough, the breeders followed her lead, resulting in the tiny, mighty companions we have today.

Unsurprisingly, Poms are a special favorite of women, but they deserve real consideration in many homes thanks to their special mix of size, intelligence and beauty. Urban families without a fenced yard can greatly enjoy a Pom.

It may hardly tip the scales, but the Pom is a distinctive pocket pup with an alert expression, incredibly acute hearing, and almost limitless intelligence and eagerness to learn. What's more, Poms have more backbone than you might think (you may have to protect them from their own bravado if a large, aggressive dog approaches).

If you're almost set on a Pom, just don't forget that being a Pom owner means devoting time and care to its coat. They're so attractive and proud that their thick, showy coats deserve special attention, and that means more than a lick-and-a-promise brushing.

Blake Kritzberg is proprietor of Poodle-oo, your source for small dog clothes. Stop by

<http://www.poodle-oo.com/>

for small dog couture and home decor, small dog collars, leather dog

leashes and the Small Dog Blog.

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 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,

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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

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.

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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.

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

All My Puppies Online

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Steve is also the co-author of two consumer guides,

Carpet Secrets

and

Moving Secrets Guide



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