

JUDGES EDUCATION

SEMINAR MANUAL



The American Pomeranian Club, Inc.®



The Pomeranian Seminar
A Study of the Pomeranian By
The American Pomeranian Club, Inc. ®

2020

Purpose of the Seminar

**To study the Pomeranian, its origin, form and function, present status,
and the direction in which we are going.**

History

**To have a better understanding of the standard,
one must also understand the origin of the dog and its function.**

- **History of the Pomeranian**
- **Judging the Pomeranian**
- **Early American Pomeranian Show Dogs**

Breed Standard (Analysis)

- **Standard**
- **Illustrated Standard**
- **Trimming Statement**
- **Video**
- **Questions**

Hands On



Judges Seminar Manual Link

www.americanpomeranianclub.org/jec/jecmanual.pdf

PowerPoint Presentation Link

www.americanpomeranianclub.org/jec/jec.pptx

THE HISTORY OF THE POMERANIAN

by Kelly D. Reimschiessel & Cathy Driggers



With more coat than body, Pomeranians have quite an interesting history behind them.

The Pomeranian, as we know it today, descended originally from the Spitz family of dogs in the frozen Arctic region of Iceland. Spitz breeds have several wolf-like characteristics. For instance, small ears to help reduce the risk of frostbite. The insulating undercoat that is denser than the guard hairs to trap the warmth and protect them from the heat. These Spitz dogs were much larger than the modern Pomeranian as evidenced by their primary purpose of pulling sleds and carts. In Italy they were used to watch over their owner's items. The Pomeranians would alert their owner of someone coming or attempting to steal their valuables.

The Pomeranian today differs so much from his predecessor as to be almost unrecognizable. From a large 50 pound coarse dog, long in body and having sparse coat on his head and legs to a smaller, cobby, balanced, short-coupled dog with profuse coat all over, he truly has come a long way. The standard today calls for the Pomeranian to be 3 to 7 pounds and the ideal size for show specimens is from 4 to 6 pounds.

At some point in time, the Spitz was transported into Europe, most commonly along the southern coast of the Baltic Sea. This particular Baltic region was called Pomerania, which now includes parts of present day

Poland and Germany, and is where the Pomeranian name came from. Pommere or Pommern means "on the sea."



Toy Pomeranian with Child
Greek tombstone from Alexandria, Egypt
(about 3rd century B.C.)

This was probably not its point of origin, however, as its likeness has been found on a Greek vase of the Second Century B.C. in the British Museum.

Canine historians also believe that this is the location that the breed was first downsized to about 30 - 40 pounds.

More specifically Pomeranians are part of the German Spitz group, a subgroup of the Spitz type, which is comprised of five different sizes of dogs. FCI and German historians consider the German Spitz to be the oldest breed of dog in Central Europe from which other breeds have been produced. This theory is substantiated by archaeological discoveries in Switzerland and throughout Germany. Pomeranians are the group's smallest

members. Prior to securing the breed name of Pomeranian, they were called by several other names. Fox Dog, Lulu, Pommer, Wolfsspitz German Spitz, Volpino and Spitz Dog.

The Germans were the first to begin breeding for type. Pomeranians weighed between 18 and 30 pounds then, but as their size was reduced, their popularity grew quickly. An interesting fact – Germany did not accept the breed to be named Pomeranians until 1974. All 5 sizes were generically called the German Spitz.

Many times, references are made about the “new” parti-colored or white Pomeranians. The original Pomeranians were white, black, brown and parti-colored. The red and orange colors were quite rare at that time.

Some of the first recorded pictures and paintings of the Pomeranian dog are of white and parti colored Pomeranians. Many of the paintings and prints from the 18th century feature Pomeranians of various color and size. The Prince of Wales had a black and white parti Pomeranian, named Fino that was painted in 1791.



Mainz, 1 November 1764 165

tiencie was again my kind comforter. Barnard and I went and viewed the town. It contains some very good houses, and it has a certain air very becoming in an ecclesiastical town. It was All Saints' Day. We went into two churches, which were both grand. My soul was elevated to devotion by the solemn vespers. Barnard and I supped at my inn. We had with us a French traveller. We were hearty.

FRIDAY 2 NOVEMBER. The French traveller was Monsieur Bertollon, a merchant of fine stuffs at Lyons. He and I and my servant and a German woman got into an extra post for Mannheim. The Frenchman had a Pomeranian dog called Pomer whom he was mighty fond of. He was a singular Frenchman, a great lubberly dog with a head like a British tar. He sung most outrageously.

James Boswell and “Pomer” are the first known recorded reference in British Literature to the Pomeranian breed. Mainz and Manheim November 2, 1764. “The Frenchman had a Pomeranian dog named Pomer whom he was mighty fond of.”

Queen Charlotte influenced the evolution of the breed when she brought two Pomeranians with her from Germany to England in 1767. Named

Phebe and Mercury, the dogs were depicted in paintings by Sir Thomas Gainsborough. These paintings depicted a dog larger than the modern breed, reportedly weighing as much as 30–50 pounds (14–23 kg), but showing modern traits such as the heavy coat, ears and a tail curled over the back. It was her granddaughter, Queen Victoria, however, who had the largest impact on furthering the breed and bringing it to its present popularity.

It was in England where the first stud records and pedigrees began, even though the Pomeranian was not shown until 1871. By this time, their size was between 8 and 18 pounds and divided classes were offered for over and under 8 pounds. The weight eventually dropped to 7 pounds, and in 1916, the class for over 7 pounds was eliminated completely. The Royal family did much to publicize the Pomeranian and is probably quite responsible for giving them their name.

TINY POMERANIANS VIEWED BY SOCIETY

Fragnable Folk Keenly Interested in @Kean-Coated Dogs at Waldorf-Astoria.

262 PETS TRY FOR PRIZES

Mrs. Frank Smythe Banner Prince Charming Best of Highest Honor as Best Dog in the Show.

The tiny species has been by the American Pommerian Club was held in the year 1888 at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York. The exhibition was held in the ball room of the hotel, which was up to date and well lighted in the hall and garden. The number of exhibitors was very large and the exhibition was a great success. The exhibition was held in the ball room of the hotel, which was up to date and well lighted in the hall and garden. The number of exhibitors was very large and the exhibition was a great success.

In 1888 a Pommerian named "Marco" was sent from Florence, Italy to become the beloved companion of Queen Victoria of England. Marco weighed 12 pounds. The Queen also imported a 7.5 pound, white female named Gena. The Queen's love of the breed was clear to everyone who saw her with her dogs. Because the Queen was a popular monarch, the breed's popularity grew as well. In fact, the Queen is credited for encouraging the trend toward the smaller Pommerianians. At one time, Queen Victoria had 35 Pommerianians in her kennel, and on her deathbed, asked for her Pommerian Turi to be at her side. Queen Victoria is picture with Turi in the picture to the right.



Early American History

In the late 1800s, Pommerianians were imported to the U.S. and were mostly whites, chocolates, blues and wolf sables. Soon the color orange became the rage of the times and many of the original colors were lost until recently.

Pommerianians were shown in the United States in the Miscellaneous Class as far back as 1892. Regular classification was not provided until 1900 at New York. In 1900 the American Kennel Club recognized the Pommerian and the American Pommerian Club (APC) was formed. In 1909 APC was accepted as a Member Club of the AKC and became the designated Parent Club for the breed. The APC held their first specialty show in 1911 with an entry of 262 Pommerianians. The first Best of Breed winner was Ch. Banner Prince Charming.



Early American winners were finer in bone and usually weighed under six pounds. They had type and good coat texture, although they lacked the profuseness of coat in evidence today.

Fun Fact:

When the Titanic sailed on its maiden voyage, there were three breeds of dog that survived the sinking of the Titanic on April 14, 1912. Two were Pomeranians. As Margaret stood waiting and holding her Pomeranian, James Clinch Smith passed by and jokingly commented, "Oh, I suppose we ought to put a life preserve on the little doggie, too."

Margaret Hayes survived with her Pom on lifeboat #7. A Pomeranian belonging to the Rothschild's survived, possibly because it was bundled into Mrs. Rothschild's bag, although Mr. Rothschild went down with the ship.



It is interesting to note that Pomeranian type has stayed fairly consistent from the early 1900's to the Pomeranian's you see in the ring today.

1910



1960



2010



As companion dogs, Pomeranians make excellent friends and have rubbed shoulders with some of history's greatest creative minds. Mozart dedicated one of his finished arias to his pet Pomeranian, Pimperl. Frédéric Chopin, inspired by his friend's pet Pomeranian chasing his tail, wrote the song "Waltz of the Little Dogs." When Michelangelo was painting the Sistine Chapel, his Pom was sitting below on a satin pillow watching the action.

While this Nordic breed has sled dogs, watch dogs and herding dogs behind them, they have been bred for many years for simple companionship. You will find that many Pomeranians today still carry many of the same traits as the breeds behind them.

This little compact toy dog does not realize that it is such a small dog. Pomeranians are truly large dogs in a small dog body. They have a vivacious spirit with a foxlike expression.

They are playful throughout the majority of their lives, but are also happy to simply hang out on the couch or in your lap. Their territorial nature will alert you to any unusual disturbance or intruders to your household. Pomeranians are very loyal to their people. They have a strong desire to please, but can remain stubborn should they see fit. They have been successful in obedience, rally, agility and many other events. Their social nature among themselves makes it easy and interesting to own more than just one.

JUDGING THE POMERANIAN

by Kelly D. Reimschiessel & Geno Sisneros

Judging the Pomeranian is something we think many judges can make harder than it really is. While it is a toy or companion dog, it is a bred-down version of a the much larger Nordic/Spitz family that includes the Alaskan Malamute, Siberian Husky, Keeshond, American Eskimo, Samoyed as well as many others. They share the Nordic/Spitz traits including:

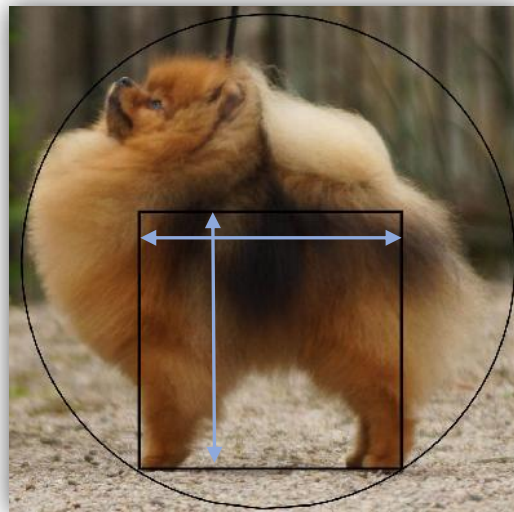
- ⇒ Wedge Shaped Head
- ⇒ Prick Ears
- ⇒ Tail over the Back
- ⇒ Double Coat with weather resistant texture
- ⇒ Sound legs with adequate angles to provide an endurance trot gait

Most of the attributes of the larger Nordic/Spitz breeds still apply to the smallest member of this group and these attributes are important to survival in the cold, snowy European climate from which the breed originated. Pomeranians are excellent alert dogs and served to guard homes and farms. They also were used to pull carts and herd so soundness and movement are important to the breed.



General Appearance, Size, Proportion & Substance

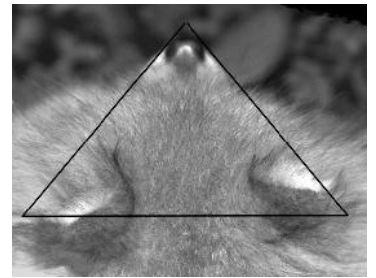
The Pomeranian is a small dog ranging from 3–7 pounds, with 4-6 pounds preferred for show. Since we do not weigh Pomeranians, it is important to judge on proportion, remembering that it is a square breed with a short back. The ratio of body length to height should be 1 to 1, measured from withers to ground and prosternum to point of buttocks. Measuring on the table with your hands is key due to the abundant coat as the coat can deceive you into thinking the dog may be longer than it actually is.



Think of a square within a circle. The square being the body of the dog and the circle being formed by the profuse, harsh double coat that is trimmed **ONLY** for neatness. The undercoat is soft but the outer coat should be harsh in texture, vibrant and healthy. The tail should be a beautiful heavily plumed and profuse.

The Head

The Pomeranian head is extremely important. When it is correct there is no way that the Pomeranian can be mistaken for any other breed. The wedge-shaped head and prick ears have evolved to be the broadest wedge shape as well as the shortest muzzle to skull proportions of the Nordic/Spitz breeds. The ideal ratio is 1/3 from nose to stop and 2/3 stop to back skull.



The ears are important as they give the Pomeranian a distinctive look and expression. The standard calls for prick ears to be small and high set. You will see many ears that are large but I do not recall ever seeing ears that are too small. The standard states that placement of the ears is more important than size but a small ear is less likely to be affected by the cold.

The final head trait that makes or breaks a beautiful expression is the eyes. Eyes should be almond-shaped, dark and medium in size. A dark eye is extremely important to the breed as it will give the most protection from the glare off of the snow. Light eyes detract from the beautiful expression and although not stated as a major fault should be considered a fault. The standard disqualifies eyes that are light blue, blue marbled or blue flecked.



The combination of these very distinctive head traits is what gives the Pomeranian his beautiful "foxlike" expression, neither snippy or chowlike. "Fox-like" does not mean the appearance of a fox, but should show the characteristics of intelligence and alertness. The bite should ideally be scissors.

The Coat and the way it is Presented

The Pomeranian with correct coat has the longest and fullest coat of the Spitz breeds. We want a double coat: a short dense softer undercoat and a long harsh outer coat which should be vibrant and healthy. This harsh guard hair will stand up through the undercoat and should be harsh enough to provide resistance to weather. The coat has a vital function and if the coat does not have the harsh outer coat it is incorrect.



Attractively Trimmed



Untrimmed

The Tail

Something not often thought about is the tail. The tail of the Pomeranian should be a beautiful plume, set high, long and straight, that lies flat and tight on the back. Not only is the tail important, it helps create the “circle” we wish to see when looking at a Pomeranian.



Imagine the Pom out in the snow or rain. The undercoat will keep it warm and the outer coat will protect it and keep it dry, which will prevent chilling or freezing. If the Pom was outside sleeping in the snow, a long tail with a lot of hair would be able to help cover the face and warm the air the dog is breathing and protect the face.

The presentation of the coat gives the breed specific look. There should be enough length to give the Pom a “round all over” shape. The correct length of coat and correct moderate trimming the Pomeranian will look round from the side, round from the front, round from the back and round from the top.

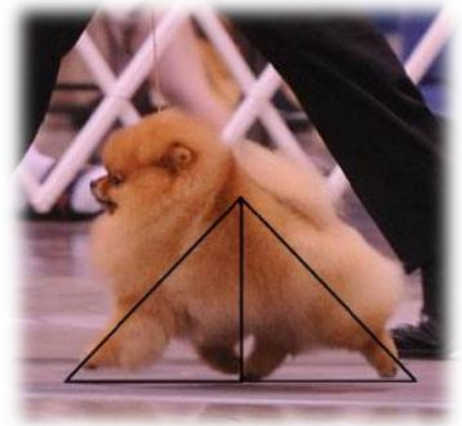


The Pomeranian is trimmed **ONLY** for neatness. When you see a dog that is over trimmed or sculpted it will lose the round look, or the circles, from various angles. Guard hair, or outer coat, is be trimmed off to the point. You cannot evaluate the texture of the guard hair when it is missing. Tail coat is also cut off so there is no long, profuse tail hair.

Further it is a shame to see the coat all cut off in the ring. We consider this to be one of the main problems in our breed today.

Structure and Movement

It is important to look for sound legs and moderate bone. The Pomeranian was a working and herding Nordic/Spitz breed that was bred down to its current small size. The standard desires a well-angulated shoulder. Front and rear angulation should be balanced. The legs should be straight and the feet are round and cat-like which allows the Pom to stand up on its toes. Movement should be brisk and efficient with the front and rear legs converging slightly towards a centerline. Pomeranian movement should not be “busy or ineffective.”



“Even though a Toy dog, the Pomeranian must be subject to the same requirements of soundness and structure prescribed for all breeds, and any deviation from the ideal described in the standard should be penalized to the extent of the deviation.”

Procedural Items

The Pomeranian needs a gentle touch during exam but feel under the coat to examine what the actual structure of the Pomeranian is like. Feel the muzzle, stop and topskull; feel the bone, angulation, and forechest; check the topline and set of the tail and feel for straightness of legs.

Evaluate the expression and ear set on when the Pomeranian is on the ground. This can be done on the down and back. I hope this has proved helpful in terms of judging the Pomeranian and placing proper emphasis on breed-specific traits.

In Summary

If you remember that the Pomeranian is a Nordic/Spitz dog and the important attributes necessary for survival in a northern climate, you should be able to successfully judge the breed. The Pomeranian is a happy, loving and devoted breed with a bit of fire to them. Enjoy your time in the ring with them!

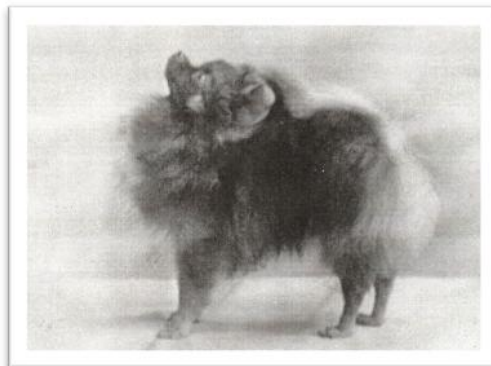


Photos of Early Pomeranian Foundation and Show Dogs

Ch Banner Prince Charming
1911 1st APC National Winner



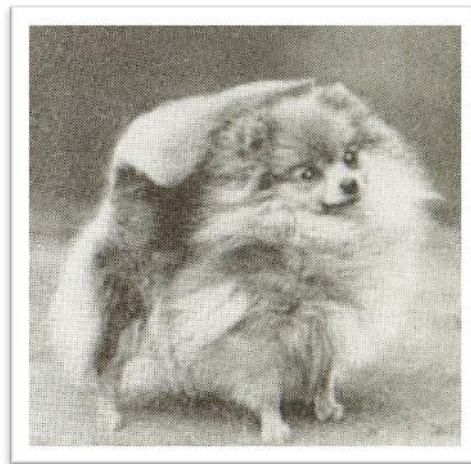
Ch Stormlight of Dara
1916



Ch Julio Happy Boy
1920



Ch Perfection of Emrose Hill
1937



Ch Moneybox Gold Coin
1939



Ch Little Timstopper
1940



Mrs. Vince Matta was one of the earliest successful Pom Breeders.
Little Emir had 9 BISA 1927-1930. He had 23 Group I's and was never defeated in Group.

Ch Little Sahib



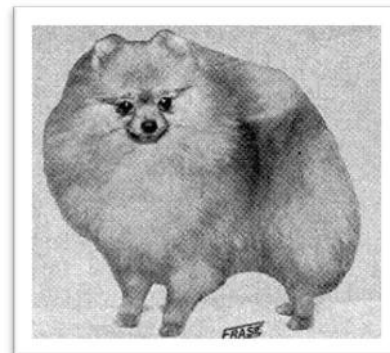
Ch Little Emir



Ch Aristic Wee Pepper Pod
1960



CH Gold Blackacre Honeygold of Hadleigh
1960



Ch Great Elms Prince Charming II
Westminster BIS 1988



THE METAMORPHOSIS OF A POMERANIAN COAT GROWTH STAGES



POMERANIAN STANDARD

GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Pomeranian is a compact, short-backed, active toy dog of Nordic descent. The double coat consists of a short dense undercoat with a profuse harsh-textured longer outer coat. The heavily plumed tail is one of the characteristics of the breed. It is set high and lies flat on the back. He is alert in character, exhibits intelligence in expression, is buoyant in deportment, and inquisitive by nature. The Pomeranian is cocky, commanding, and animated as he gaits. He is sound in composition and action.

SIZE, PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE

Weight - is from 3 to 7 pounds with the ideal weight for show specimens being 4 to 6 pounds. Any dog over or under the limits is objectionable; however, overall quality should be favored over size.

Proportion - The Pomeranian is a square breed with a short back. The ratio of body length to height at the withers being 1 to 1. These proportions are measured from the prosternum to the point of buttocks, and from the highest point of the withers to the ground. **Substance** - Sturdy, medium-boned.

HEAD

Head - in balance with the body, when viewed from above, broad at the back tapering to the nose to form a wedge. **Expression** - may be referred to as fox-like, denoting his alert and intelligent nature. **Eyes** - dark, bright, medium sized, and almond shaped; set well into the skull with the width between the eyes balancing the other facial features. Eye rims are black, except self-colored in chocolate, beaver and blue. **Ears** - small, mounted high and carried erect. Proper ear set should be favored over size. **Skull** - closed, slightly round but not domed. **Stop** - well pronounced. **Muzzle** - rather short, straight, free of lippiness, neither coarse nor snipey. Ratio of length of muzzle to skull is 1/3 to 2/3. **Nose** - pigment is black except self-colored in chocolate, beaver and blue. **Bite** - scissors, one tooth out of alignment is acceptable. **Major Faults** - Round, domed skull. Undershot, overshot or wry bite. **Disqualification** - Eye(s) light blue, blue marbled, blue flecked.

NECK, TOPLINE, BODY

Neck - set well into the shoulders with sufficient length to allow the head to be carried proud and high. **Topline** - level from withers to croup. **Body** - compact and well-ribbed. **Chest** - oval tapered extending to the point of elbows with a pronounced prosternum. **Back** - short-coupled, straight and strong. **Loin** - short with slight tuck-up. **Croup** is flat. **Tail** - heavily plumed, set high and lies flat and straight on the back. **Major Fault** - Low tail set.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders - well laid back. Shoulder blade and upper arm length are equal. **Elbows** - held close to the body and turn neither in nor out. **Legs** - when viewed from the front are moderately spaced, straight and parallel to each other, set well behind the forechest. Height from withers to elbows approximately equals height from ground to elbow. Shoulders and legs are moderately muscled. **Pasterns** - straight and strong. **Feet** - round, tight, appearing cat-like, well-arched, compact, and turn neither in nor out, standing well up on toes. **Dewclaws** - may be removed. **Major Fault** - Down in pasterns.

HINDQUARTERS

Hindquarters - angulation balances that of the forequarters. Buttocks are well behind the set of the tail. **Thighs** - moderately muscled. Upper thigh and lower leg length are equal. **Stifles** - strong, moderately bent and clearly defined. **Legs** - when viewed from the rear straight and parallel to each other. **Hocks** - when viewed from the side are perpendicular to the ground and strong. **Feet** - same as forequarters. **Dewclaws** - may be removed. **Major Fault** - Cowhocks, knees turning in or out or lack of soundness in legs or stifles.

COAT

The Pomeranian is a double-coated breed. The body should be well covered with a short, dense undercoat with long harsh-textured guard hair growing through, forming the longer abundant outer coat

which stands off from the body. The coat should form a ruff around the neck, framing the head, extending over the shoulders and chest. Head and leg coat is tightly packed and shorter in length than that of the body. Forelegs are well-feathered. Thighs and hind legs are heavily coated to the hock forming a skirt. Tail is profusely covered with long, harsh spreading straight hair forming a plume. Females may not carry as thick or long a coat as a male. Puppy coat may be dense and shorter overall and may or may not show guard hair. A cotton type coat is undesirable in an adult. Coat should be in good and healthy condition especially the skirt, tail, and undercarriage. Trimming for neatness and a clean outline is permissible. **Major Fault** – soft, flat or open coat.

COLOR

All colors, patterns, and variations there-of are allowed and must be judged on an equal basis.

Brindle –Dark cross stripes on any solid color or allowed pattern. **Parti** – White base with any solid color or allowed pattern. A white blaze is preferred on the head. Ticking is undesirable. **Extreme Piebald:** White with patches of color on head and base of tail. **Piebald:** White with patches of color on head, body, and base of tail. **Irish:** Color on the head and body with white legs, chest and collar. **Tan Points** – Any solid color or allowed pattern with markings sharply defined above each eye, inside the ears, muzzle, throat, forechest, all lower legs and feet, the underside of the tail and skirt. The richer the tan the more desirable. Tan markings should be readily visible.

Major Fault – Distinct white on whole foot or on one or more whole feet (except white or parti) on any acceptable color or pattern.

Classifications –The Open Classes at specialty shows may be divided by color as follows: Open Red, Orange, Cream, and Sable; Open Black, Brown, and Blue; Open Any Other Color, Pattern, or Variation

GAIT

The Pomeranian's movement has good reach in the forequarters and strong drive with the hindquarters, displaying efficient, ground covering movement that should never be viewed as ineffective or busy. Head carriage should remain high and proud with the overall outline maintained. Gait is smooth, free, balanced and brisk. When viewed from the front and rear while moving at a walk or slow trot the Pomeranian should double track, but as the speed increases the legs converge slightly towards a center line. The forelegs and hind legs are carried straight forward, with neither elbows nor stifles turned in nor out. The topline should remain firm and level with the overall balance-maintained.

TEMPERAMENT

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.

Even though a Toy dog, the Pomeranian must be subject to the same requirements of soundness and structure prescribed for all breeds, and any deviation from the ideal described in the standard should be penalized to the extent of the deviation.

Disqualifications

Eye(s) light blue, blue marbled, blue flecked.

Approved July 12, 2011

Effective August 31, 2011

ILLUSTRATED POMERANIAN STANDARD

*Approved July 12, 2011
Effective August 31, 2011*

GENERAL APPEARANCE

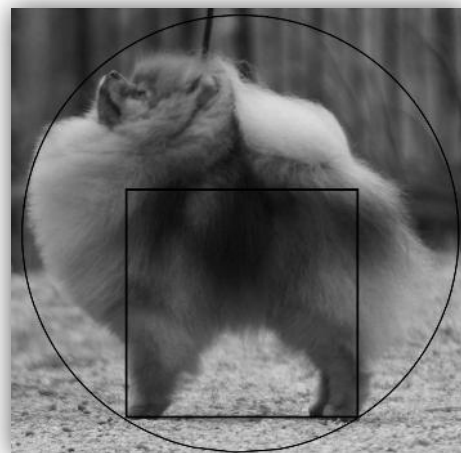
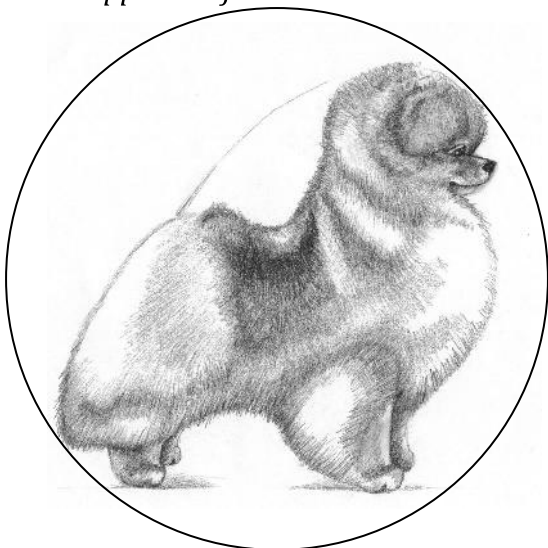
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The Ideal Pomeranian

COMMENTARY

General Appearance – A totally balanced dog should have good layback and sufficient neck to carry the head proud and high. It should have enough leg for ground to be seen under it. The Pomeranian should appear to fit in a circle.



SIZE, PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE

Weight – is from 3 to 7 pounds with the ideal weight for show specimens being 4 to 6 pounds. Any dog over or under the limits is objectionable; however, overall quality should be favored over size.

Proportion – The Pomeranian is a square breed with a short back. The ratio of body length to height at the withers being 1 to 1. These proportions are measured from the prosternum to the point of buttocks, and from the highest point of the withers to the ground. **Substance** – Sturdy, medium-boned.



Skeletal view of the ideal Pomeranian

COMMENTARY

SIZE – The key word here is ideal with ideal being 4 to 6 pounds. Some people think the male should be in the low end of the scale at 3 pounds while bitches need to be at the high end for ease in whelping. That is not the case.

PROPORTION – The proportion of height to length is important to the total look of fitting into a circle and for the Pomeranian to look balanced.

SUBSTANCE – The depth of the chest should reach the elbow. The bone should be sufficient in proportion to the size of the dog.

HEAD

Head - in balance with the body, when viewed from above, broad at the back tapering to the nose to form a wedge. **Expression** – may be referred to as fox-like, denoting his alert and intelligent nature. **Eyes** – dark, bright, medium sized, and almond shaped; set well into the skull with the width between the eyes balancing the other facial features. Eye rims are black, except self-colored in chocolate, beaver and blue. **Ears** - small, mounted high and carried erect. Proper ear set should be favored over size. **Skull** - closed, slightly round but not domed. **Stop** - well pronounced. **Muzzle** – rather short, straight, free of lippiness, neither coarse nor snipey. Ratio of length of muzzle to skull is 1/3 to 2/3. **Nose** - pigment is black except self-colored in chocolate, beaver and blue. **Bite** - scissors, one tooth out of alignment is acceptable. **Major Faults** - Round, domed skull. Undershot, overshot or wry bite. **Disqualification** – Eye(s) light blue, blue marbled, blue flecked.



Ideal Head



Ideal Head



Close Set Eyes



Small Eyes and Low Ear Set



Long in muzzle, downfaced, lacking in breed type



Heavy, overdone head often referred to as "Chow" type



Balanced skull with undesirable large, round eyes. Ear set is favored over size.

COMMENTARY

EYES – Bright, medium in size, almond shaped and again in balance with the head, with balance being the key word. In determining the size of the eye, one must also consider the size of the dog.

According to Mr. Vincent Matta, "If the eyes are too small for the head, a beady, cunning expression results that does not belong to a true specimen and if too large, give an owlsh effect just as improper.

In distance between them as well as in size the eyes must be in proportion to the size of the head and in the matter of eye setting, let us also note that they should not be too deeply inset nor must they bulge out. If we remember that it is a question of beauty, all the above becomes obvious and easy to understand. The eyes should be bright and dark as possible in order to show the alertness that is characteristic of the breed together with the sweetness, intelligence, and docility of temperament."

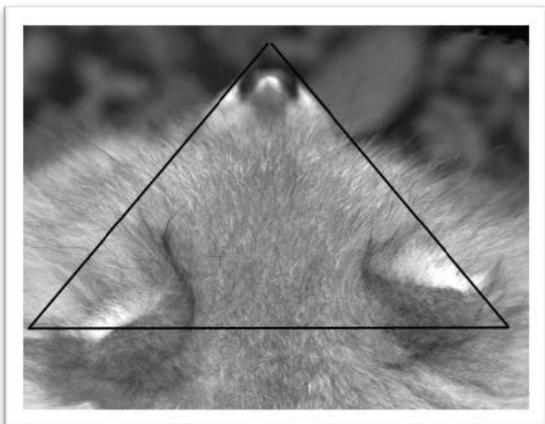
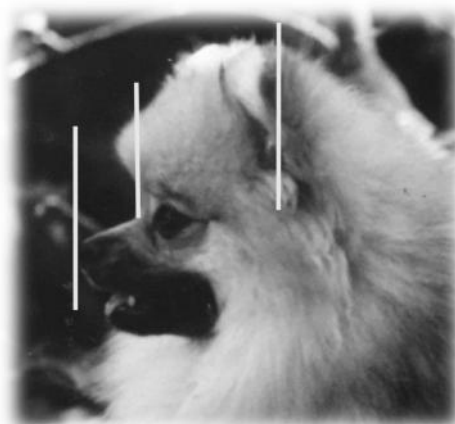


Illustration of the wedge



Ratio of length of muzzle to skull 1/3 to 2/3

EARS – *Should be small, moderately wide at the base and come to a point. The leather should be rather thin. They should be set high and close together in balance with the head, with balance being the key word. The natural position of the ear is erect or should be.*



Ideal head (profile) with good definition of stop and length of muzzle.



Profile with a short muzzle which throws the balance of the head off. It also can lead to an undershot bite.



While this head may appear "foxy", it should be noted that the standard refers to expression and not to appearance. This specimen has a long muzzle.



Profile lacking a good stop.

COMMENTARY

SKULL – The coat on the skull is shorter and thicker than the body coat. This could give the appearance of a domey skull.

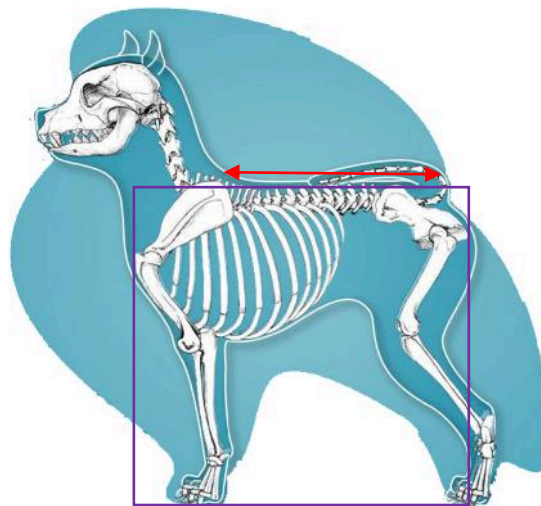
The skull is always in proportion to the muzzle and the whole head is in proportion to the overall dog. Again, balance is the key.

Quoting Mr. Vincent Matta, “As to the friendly controversy, ‘long faces versus short faces,’ in my opinion those exaggerations are both wrong. A typical pom has a muzzle just long enough in proportion to the skull as to give the true wedge-like outline. Any variations from this principle, either way, means deterioration from the type and should be avoided.”

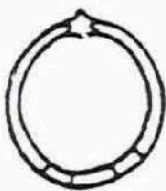
Mr. Vincent Matta was a breed expert and wrote an article “Interpretation of the Pom Standard” in 1945.

NECK, TOPLINE, BODY

Neck - set well into the shoulders with sufficient length to allow the head to be carried proud and high. **Topline** - level from withers to croup. **Body** - compact and well-ribbed. **Chest** - oval tapered extending to the point of elbows with a pronounced prosternum. **Back** - short-coupled, straight and strong. **Loin** - short with slight tuck-up. **Croup** is flat. **Tail** - heavily plumed, set high and lies flat and straight on the back. **Major Fault** - Low tail set.



Skeletal view of the ideal Pomeranian
Red arrows – length of back



Barrel Chest - incorrect



Oval Tapered Chest – correct



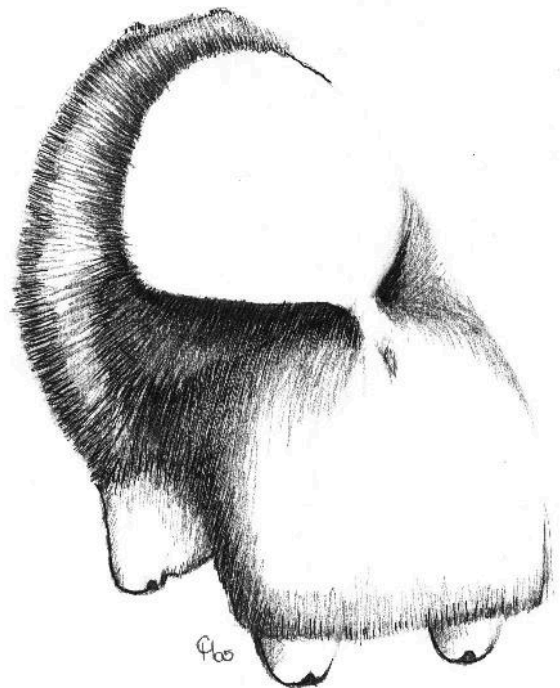
Slab Sided Chest - incorrect



A low tail set ruins the outline.

COMMENTARY

TAIL – Should be set high and angled toward the back of the skull. A low set tail gives the appearance of a long back. The plume consists of long, flat, spreading hair. Long hair brushed toward the head and over the body coat is the ideal.

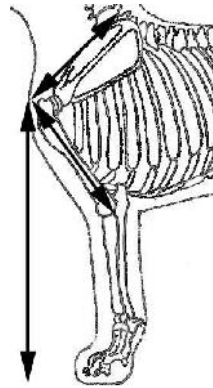


Tail plume should be high, brushed toward the head

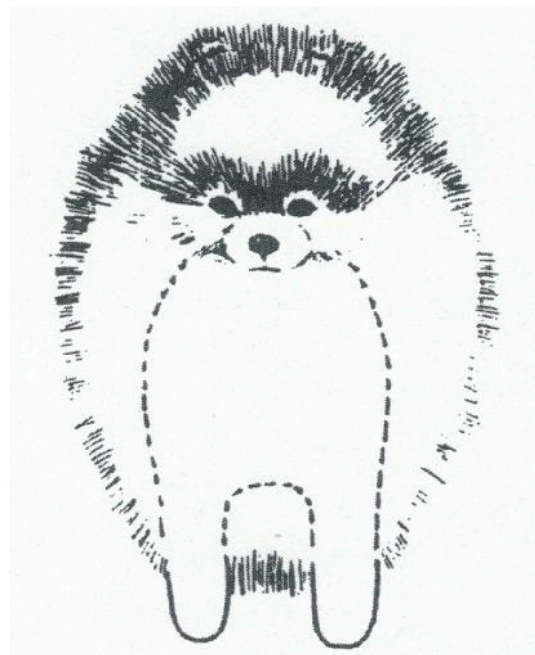
FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders – well laid back. Shoulder blade and upper arm length are equal. **Elbows** - held close to the body and turn neither in nor out. **Legs** – when viewed from the front are moderately spaced, straight and parallel to each other, set well behind the forechest. Height from withers to elbows approximately equals height from ground to elbow. Shoulders and legs are moderately muscled. **Pasterns** –straight and strong. **Feet** - round, tight, appearing cat-like, well-arched, compact, and

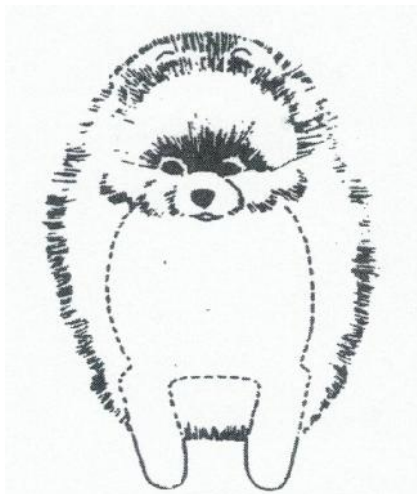
turn neither in nor out, standing well up on toes. **Dewclaws** – may be removed. **Major Fault** - Down in pasterns.



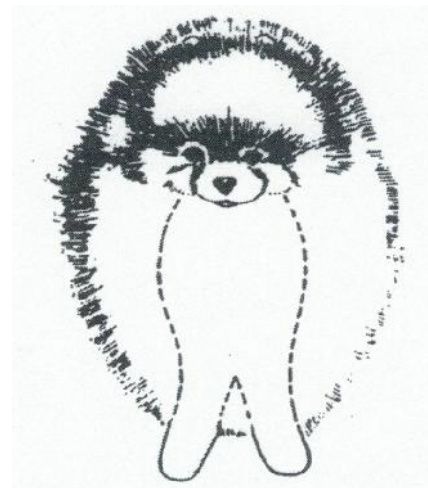
Shoulder layback and legs set well behind the forechest. The arrows over the shoulder blade and upper arm are equal and the arrow from the prosternum to the ground shows the feet well behind the prosternum.



Structurally correct front



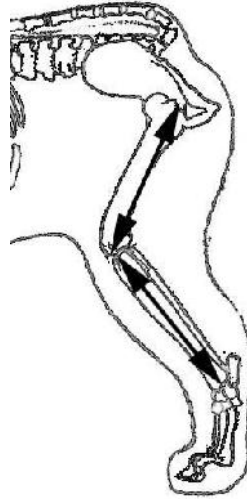
Out at the elbows



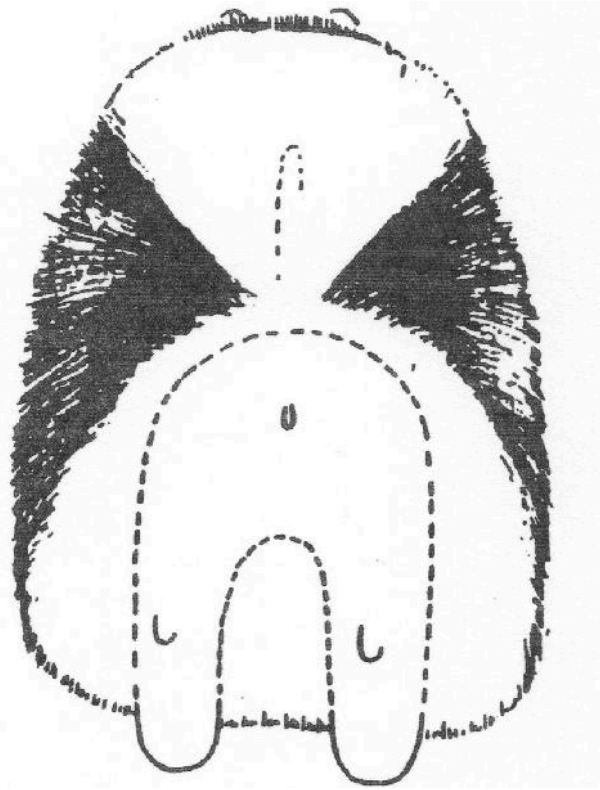
Toes out – "fiddle" front

HINDQUARTERS

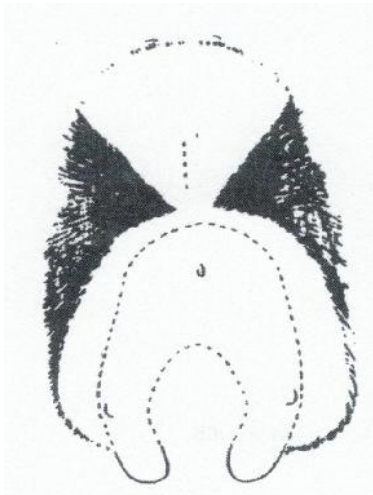
Hindquarters - angulation balances that of the forequarters. Buttocks are well behind the set of the tail. **Thighs** - moderately muscled. Upper thigh and lower leg length are equal. **Stifles** - strong, moderately bent and clearly defined. **Legs** - when viewed from the rear straight and parallel to each other. **Hocks** - when viewed from the side are perpendicular to the ground and strong. **Feet** - same as forequarters. **Dewclaws** - may be removed. **Major Fault** - Cowhocks, knees turning in or out or lack of soundness in legs or stifles.



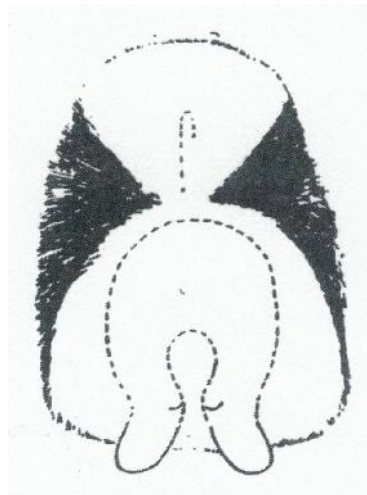
Upper thigh length and lower leg length are equal as pictured.



Structurally correct rear



Barrel hock



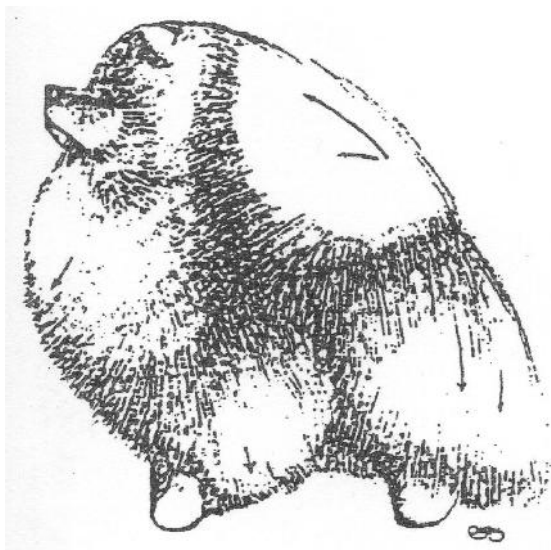
Cow hock

COMMENTARY

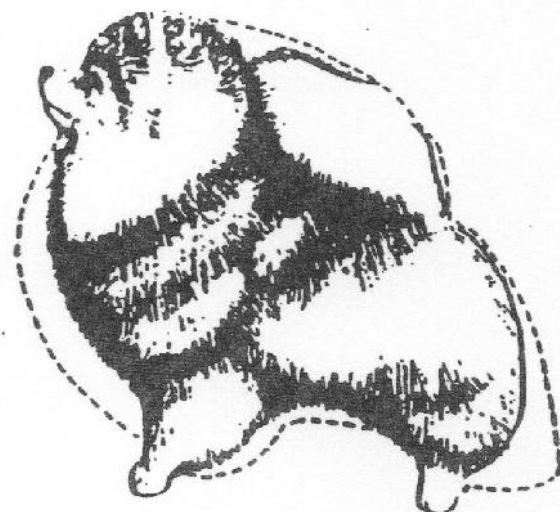
HINDQUARTERS – Unsound stifles are a problem and extreme cases will be noted when the Pom is gaiting as they can be seen slipping in and out.

COAT

The Pomeranian is a double-coated breed. The body should be well covered with a short, dense *undercoat* with long harsh-textured guard hair growing through, forming the longer abundant *outer coat* which stands off from the body. The coat should form a ruff around the neck, framing the head, extending over the shoulders and chest. Head and leg coat is tightly packed and shorter in length than that of the body. Forelegs are well-feathered. Thighs and hind legs are heavily coated to the hock forming a skirt. Tail is profusely covered with long, harsh spreading straight hair forming a plume. Females may not carry as thick or long a coat as a male. Puppy coat may be dense and shorter overall and may or may not show guard hair. A cotton type coat is undesirable in an adult. Coat should be in good and healthy condition especially the skirt, tail, and undercarriage. Trimming for neatness and a clean outline is permissible. **Major Fault** – soft, flat or open coat.



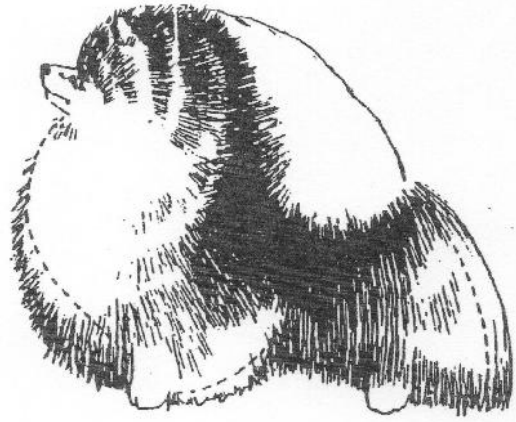
Ideal Pomeranian coat



Dotted lines show the outline of where the proper coat should be.



A soft, flat coat that lies on the body and does not allow the guard hair to stand off from the body.



A Pom with too much coat appears to be bigger and longer than they are. The dotted lines suggest a clean outline.



COMMENTARY

BODY COAT – A ruff around the neck is created by a correct coat as pictured at the left.

Coat that droops is either lacking in sufficient undercoat to hold the guard hairs up, or has improper soft guard hair.

COLOR

All colors, patterns, and variations there-of are allowed and must be judged on an equal basis.

Brindle – Dark cross stripes on any solid color or allowed pattern. ***Parti*** – White base with any solid color or allowed pattern. A white blaze is preferred on the head. Ticking is undesirable.

Extreme Piebald: White with patches of color on head and base of tail. ***Piebald:*** White with patches of color on head, body, and base of tail. ***Irish:*** Color on the head and body with white legs, chest and collar. ***Tan Points*** – Any solid color or allowed pattern with markings sharply defined above each eye, inside the ears, muzzle, throat, forechest, all lower legs and feet, the underside of the tail and skirt. The richer the tan the more desirable. Tan markings should be readily visible.

Major Fault – Distinct white on whole foot or on one or more whole feet (except white or parti) on any acceptable color or pattern.

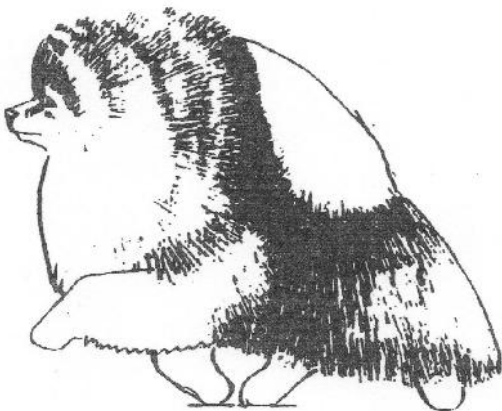
Classifications –The Open Classes at specialty shows may be divided by color as follows: Open Red, Orange, Cream, and Sable; Open Black, Brown, and Blue; Open Any Other Color, Pattern, or Variation.

GAIT

The Pomeranian's movement has good reach in the forequarters and strong drive with the hindquarters, displaying efficient, ground covering movement that should never be viewed as ineffective or busy. *Head carriage should remain high and proud with the overall outline maintained.* Gait is smooth, free, balanced and brisk. When viewed from the front and rear while moving at a walk or slow trot the Pomeranian should double track, but as the speed increases the legs converge slightly towards a center line. The forelegs and hind legs are carried straight forward, with neither elbows nor stifles turned in nor out. The topline should remain firm and level with the overall balance-maintained.



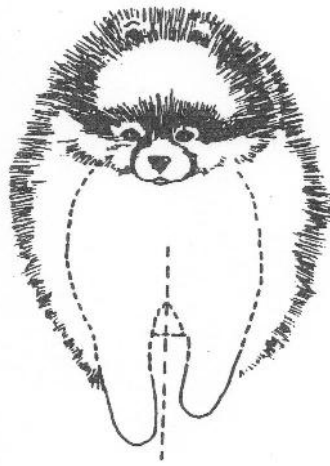
Good side movement



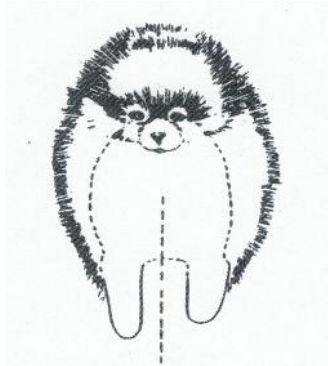
Lack of reach, wasted motion, paddling.



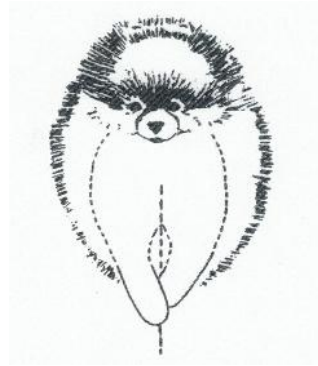
Moving with the head out in front due to low shoulders



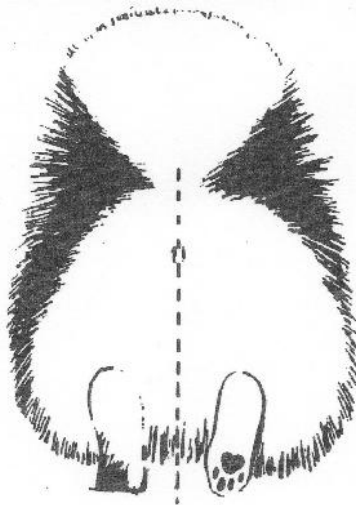
Proper front movement



Out at the elbow movement



Weaving



Proper rear movement



Wide rear movement



Weak rear movement

COMMENTARY

GAIT – *The Pomeranian should reach with its front legs and drive from the rear. It should not be hackney. The lift on foot should reach at least as far as the nose and proper gait should be a forward motion.*

TEMPERAMENT

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.

Even though a toy dog, the Pomeranian must be subject to the same requirements of soundness and structure prescribed for all breeds, and any deviation from the ideal described in the standard should be penalized to the extent of the deviation.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Eye(s) light blue, blue marbled, blue flecked.

AMERICAN POMERANIAN CLUB – CLARIFICATION ON COAT TRIMMING

The American Pomeranian Club Board of Directors voted to provide this clarification to all AKC Judges approved to judge Pomeranians as submitted by the Judges Education Committee.

The double-coat is an extremely important characteristic of the Pomeranian. The Pomeranian is a Nordic/Spitz breed and correct coat, guard hair, undercoat, texture and length is the epitome of our breed. The coat is an important part of protecting the breed in the extremely cold temperatures the Pomeranian was bred to live in on the coast of Pomerania.

While the AKC approved breed standard does specifically state “Trimming for neatness and a clean outline is permissible”, the American Pomeranian Club is concerned with the extremes being taken with this allowance. Sculpting the coat of the Pomeranian, such as the sculpting of the overall coat and removal of guard hair and tail coat, should not be considered “trimming for neatness”. An essential component of a judge’s assessment is to evaluate the texture of the guard hair which is not possible to do when it has been cut off.

The Pomeranian Breed Standard is very specific in the description of correct coat and trimming:

Coat – The Pomeranian is a double-coated breed.

Body – The body should be well covered with a short, dense *undercoat* with long harsh-textured guard hair growing through, forming the longer abundant *outer coat* which stands off from the body. The coat should form a ruff around the neck, framing the head, extending over the shoulders and chest.

Head & Leg – Head and leg coat is tightly packed and shorter in length than that of the body. Forelegs are well-feathered. Thighs and hind legs are heavily coated to the hock forming a skirt.

Tail – Tail is profusely covered with long, harsh spreading straight hair forming a plume. Females may not carry as thick or long a coat as a male.

Puppies – Puppy coat may be dense and shorter overall and may or may not show guard hair. A cotton type coat is undesirable in an adult. Coat should be in good and healthy condition especially the skirt, tail, and undercarriage.

Trimming – Trimming for neatness and a clean outline is permissible.

Major Fault – soft, flat or open coat.

Examples of grooming that would not be considered *trimming for neatness and a clean outline* include; sculpting the Pomeranian into a triangle shape, cutting off guard hair on the back of the neck, trimming off a majority of the tail plume and trimming off the majority of the skirt.

Excessive trimming to the point of sculpting by exhibitors will not stop unless Judges enforce the breed standard on trimming, ***“trimming for neatness and a clean outline is permissible.”***

Grooming to excess should be weighed appropriately in a judge’s assessment of the breed. As any other characteristic not as described within the standard, it is a deviation and the extent of the deviation should be considered accordingly, especially when the deviation so severe that it hinders the ability to properly evaluate salient characteristics of the breed.

An Untrimmed Pomeranian



Per the Standard – **“Trimming for neatness and a clean outline is permissible”**

For the purpose of showing how over trimming can appear to make the adult Pomeranian shorter, taller and smaller; we have used the center top dog in different states of trim.

Only the coat has been altered in these photographs

Acceptably trimmed adult dogs are showing “long harsh-textured guard hair” in the top row.

Acceptably trimmed adults



Below are Over Trimmed Adults



Sculpting – in the manner of a poodle or bichon is *incorrect*.

The Pomeranian coat should be big enough for a proper evaluation.

Guard hair that has been cut off is incorrect as the standard states:

“long harsh-textured guard coat”...“abundant outer coat”,

...“a cottony type coat is undesirable in an adult”

These are acceptably trimmed adults:



Acceptably trimmed adult front,
side & tail



Acceptably trimmed adult
front/bib



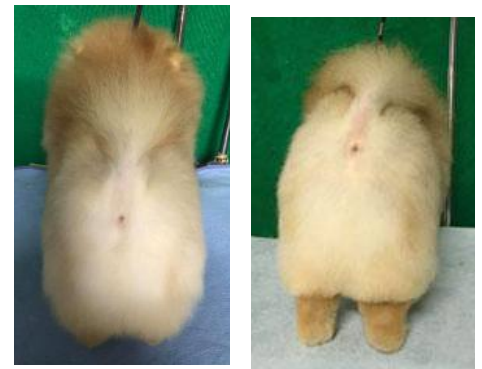
Acceptably trimmed adult tail & skirt

Below are Sculpted Adults

Sculpted adult front, side & tail

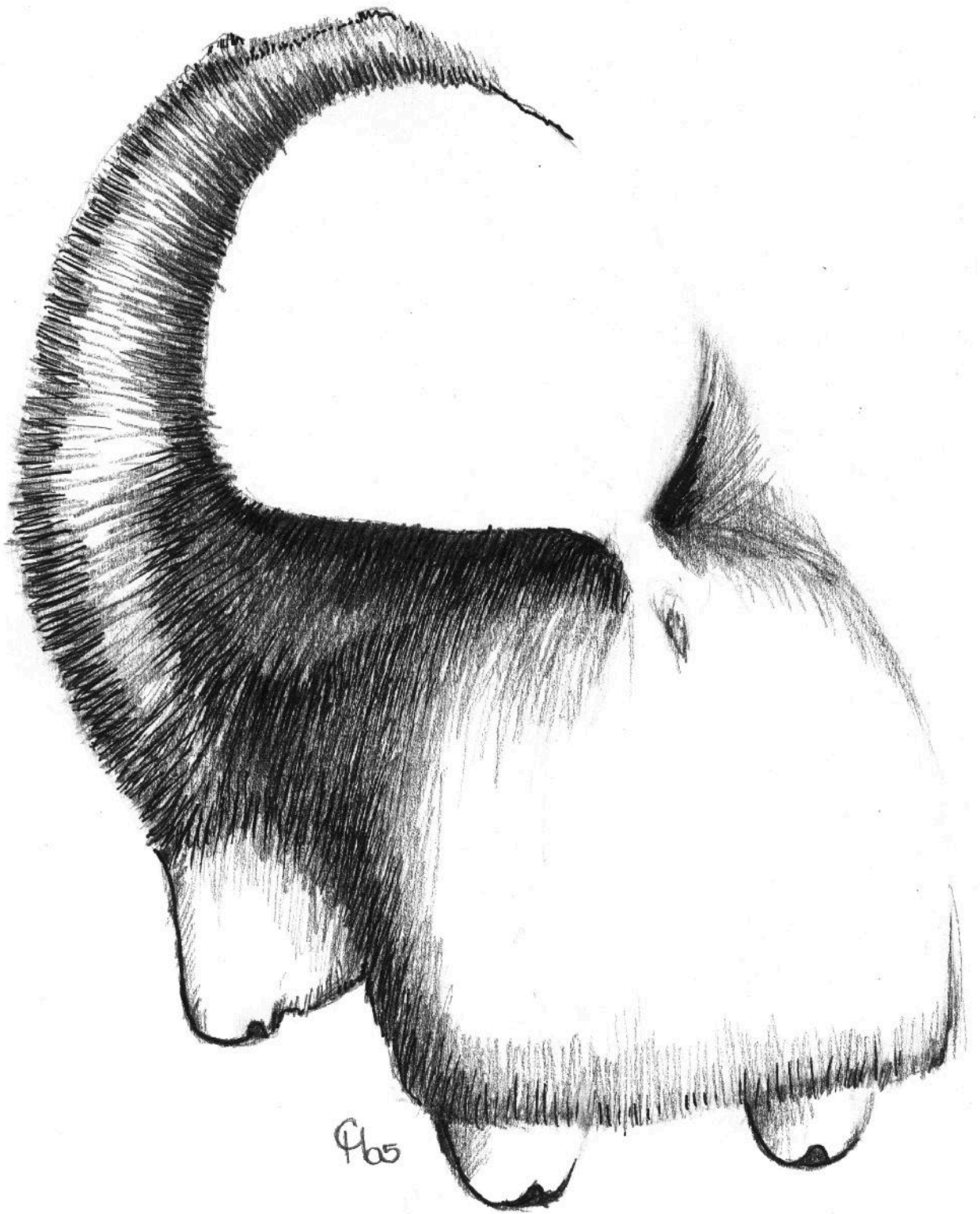


Sculpted adult front/bib



Sculpted adult tail & skirt

* underlined text is direct from the standard.



THE END