

The American Pomeranian Club, Inc.

presents

The Pomeranian

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Agenda

- Pomeranian Photos
- Origins, History and Family Traits
- Discussion of the Breed Standard
- Current Problems
- Trimming & Presentation
- AKC Trimming Statement
- Video Clip of a Pomeranian



Pomeranian Photos



Origins & History

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.

These Spitz dogs were much larger than the modern Pomeranian, as evidenced by their primary purpose of herding, pulling sleds, and guarding. 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.

Spitz refers to a type of dog that has 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 cold or heat.



Origins

At some point the Pomeranian was brought to Europe most commonly along the southern coast of the Baltic Sea, a region at the time called Pomerania.



Pomorie or Pommern means "on the sea"

Poland and Germany



It is believed that this is where the Pomeranian was first downsized to about 30-40 lbs.

Origins & History

More specifically, Pomeranians are part of the German Spitz group, a subgroup of the Spitz type, which is comprised of 5 different sizes of dogs. FCI and German historians consider the German Spitz to be the oldest breed of dog in Central Europe. Pomeranian's are the group's smallest member. 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 – 20 pounds then. As their size reduced their popularity grew.

An interesting fact – Germany did not accept the breed to be named Pomeranians until 1974. All 5 sizes were generically called the German Spitz.



Early England History



The Prince of Wales had a black and white parti Pomeranian named Fino that was painted in 1791.

There are many paintings and prints from the 18th century featuring Pomeranians of various colors and sizes.

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.



Early England History

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 as 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 in England where the first stud records and pedigrees began although Pomeranians were not shown until 1871. At this time their size was between 8-18 pounds.

Queen Charlotte's granddaughter Queen Victoria had the largest impact on furthering the breed and bringing it to its present popularity.



Queen Charlotte, wife of England's King George III
1767 – early breed admirer

Early England History

Queen Victoria imported 2 Pomeranians in 1888 “Marco” and “Gena” from Florence, Italy after a trip there where she fell in love with Pomeranians. Marco weighed 12 pounds and Gena 7.5 pounds. The Queen’s love of the breed was clear to everyone who saw her with her dogs, and her popularity led to a rise in the breed’s popularity. In fact, she is credited for the trend toward smaller Poms. At one point she had 35 Poms in her kennels and in 1891 showed 6 Poms at Crufts.



Lina & Beppo bought by the Queen in 1888.



Queen Victoria, Breed Patroness

Queen Victoria with her beloved Turi

Gena brought from Italy in 1888



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



Early American History

POMERANIANS ON SHOW.

Specialty Club Will Hold Exhibition at Waldorf-Astoria.

Pomeranians of all sizes and ages will be on view at the inaugural show of the American Pomeranian Club at the Waldorf-Astoria on Tuesday, Jan. 10. It is known that 200 or more will be benched. For their scant inches, beauty of coat, and long pedigrees it no doubt will be the richest group from the cash valuation of dogs ever to be gathered under one roof. There will be bay Poms and veterans of several years, with all the possible single and brace or team classes. "There will be Poms of every known color on view except pink," said E. M. Oldham, the Superintendent of the show.

Mrs. L. C. Dyer of Pontafon, North Wales, famous for Poms, is coming over to judge at the show. The club is ten years old, but has not before ventured on a show of its own. Mrs. Frank Smyth of Philadelphia is the President, and the Vice Presidents are Miss Anna Sands, President of the Ladies' Kennel Association of America; Mrs. Hartley Williamson, and Miss F. K. McLane of Philadelphia. Miss Elsie G. Hydon of Bogota, N. J., is the Secretary-Treasurer. The Bench Show Committee, in addition to the officers, includes Mrs. William Caner Weidersheim of Philadelphia and Mrs. R. F. Mayhew of Staten Island.

There are 68 regular classes and nearly 300 special classes to be judged. The show will be held in the Palm Room.

In the late 1800's Pomeranians 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.

Pomeranians were first registered by AKC in 1888 and were shown in the miscellaneous class as far back as 1892.

In 1900 AKC recognized the Pomeranian and the American Pomeranian Club (APC) was formed.

In 1909 the APC was accepted as a member club of AKC and became the designated parent club for the breed.

On Tuesday, January 10, 1911 the APC held their first Specialty Show.

Early American History

The APC's first specialty show was held at the Waldorf Astoria in New York and had an entry of 262 Pomeranians.

The judge was Mrs. L.C. Dyer a well know breeder of Pomeranians from Pontalon, Wales. The first BOB winner was:

CH Banner Prince Charming
1st APC Specialty Winner



Class 39.—Champion Dogs for A. K. C. Recorded Champions—Won by Swiss Mountain Kennels' champion Prince Charming; Mrs. E. S. Allard's champion Tip Toes, second.

Published by the New York Times

Early American History

In 1912 the second specialty show was held with 185 Pomeranians entered, judged by Charles Hopkins. The Best of Breed was an English import.

Both the first and second year winners were black Pomeranians,.

CH Offley Kew Marco
2nd APC Specialty Winner



CH. OFFLEY KEW MARCO

You will note that early American winners were finer in bone and usually weighed under 6 pounds. They had type and good coat texture although they lacked the profuseness of leg coat in evidence today.

Early American History



CH. LITTLE SAHIB - 1936
Mrs. Vincent Matta



CH. LITTLE EMIR 9 BISA 1927-30

Including Morris & Sons
bred by Mrs. Matta

Whitman by Russell T. Williams

Mrs. Matta, one of the earliest successful Pom breeders. Little Emir had 9 BISA 1927-1930. He had 23 Group 1's and was never defeated in Group.

Early American History

**A Truly Wonderful American
Home-Bred Pomeranian**

*The Sesqui Champion Toy
of All Breeds*

Ch. Little Rajah
424197

Owned by Mrs. V. Matta
2618 Ditmars Blvd.
Astoria, L. I., N. Y.



This adorable fellow is fairly unquestionably the most famous Pomeranian yet bred in America, as his record, coupled with his superb type, tenacity and production of root, with a personality that has so impressed the judges that repeatedly he has beaten all breeds. Possibly his greatest victory was at the Sesqui, where he took a most regular win of Best of All Toys, to be subsequently adjudged Best of All Breeds at Long Island, where the Sesqui Grand Champion and winner of that year was bred by Mrs. V. Matta's impressive home-bred.

Ch. Little Rajah has never been defeated for winner and made his championship while still in his puppyhood. Another remarkable home-bred of Mrs. Matta's was the late Ch. Little Ra, quite the equal of Ch. Little Rajah, who as a puppy went to Best of All Breeds at the great Southampton show. Other famous champions owned by this sincere enthusiast were Ch. Little Black Lady and Little Midnight Jinx, who, as a nine-month puppy, was Best of All Toys at the 1924 'Toy Breeders' in Brooklyn. All were of the same pronounced type and size of Ch. Little Rajah and excelled in production and beauty of coat.

1927 Ch Little Rajah



CH. MONEYBOX CURRENCY

A famous son of Ch. Sealord Moneybox and sire of many champions. Never defeated in his breed. Twice Best in Show all breeds. Long record of Toy Group Wins and Best of Breed at Westminster, two consecutive years.

Bred and owned by Mrs. Vincent Matta, Long Island City, N. Y.

1942 Ch Moneybox Currency

not pictured
1947 Champion Little Tim Stepper

Mrs. Matta was the proud owner of 3 Westminster Group winning Pomeranians, however she never achieved Best in Show at Westminster Kennel Club Show.

Early American Pomeranians

CH Stormlight of Dara - 1916



CH Perfection of Emrose Hill - 1937



CH Julo Happy Boy - late 1920's



CH Moneybox Gold Coin (1939)

Early American Pomeranians

CH Moneybox Currency - 1939



CH Gold Blackacre Honeygold of Hadleigh - 1960



CH Little Timstopper - 1940's



CH Artistic Little Pepper Pod - 1960's

Westminster BIS - 1988

CH Great Elms Prince Charming II - Only Pomeranian to go BIS



Owned by Olga Baker & Skip Piazza, handled by Skip Piazza

History of the Pomeranian

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



1910



1960



2010



2020

Pomeranian Family Traits

Nordic/Spitz Breeds

- Square to Off-Square Body Proportions
- Small, High-Set Prick Ears
- Wedge-Shaped Head
- High-Set Plumed Tail, most carried over the back
- Profuse Double Coat, most with Mane, Pants, and Tail Plume
- Cobby Build, Good Substance, Strong Bone



Pomeranian Family Members

Nordic/Spitz Breeds



**American Eskimo
Samoyed
Keeshond
Finnish Spitz
Norwegian Elkhound**



Pomeranian Family Members

Nordic/Spitz Breeds



Alaskan Malamute
American Akita
Japanese Akita
Siberian Husky



Pomeranian Family Members

Nordic/Spitz Breeds



Chinese Foo dog

Italian Volpino



Siberian Laika



Canadian Eskimo dog



Karelian Bear Dog



German Spitz

Pomeranian Family Members

Nordic/Spitz Breeds



Greenland Dogs



Swedish Norrbottenspets



Norwegian Lundehund



Finnish Lapphund



Icelandic Sheepdog

Pomeranian Family Members

Japanese Nordic/Spitz Breeds



Shikoku dog



Kishu dog



Hokkaido dog



Kai dog

Pomeranian Family Members

other less obvious Family Traits

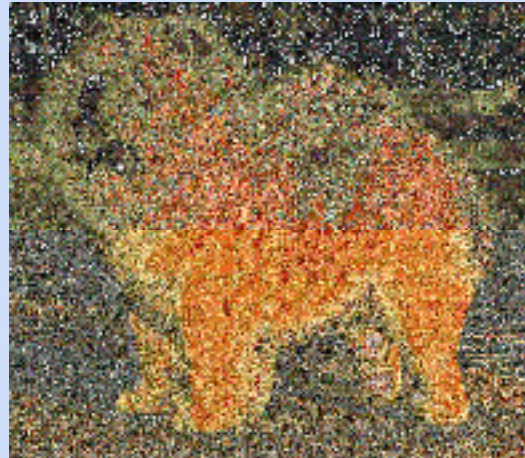


Chow Chow
Schipperke

Schipperke (with a natural tail)

Chinese Shar Pei

Shiba Inu



Breed Function

Although much smaller than their Nordic ancestors, Poms should still have the same structure that would enable them to pull carts and herd. Due to their territorial nature, they will alert you to any unusual disturbance or intruders in your home.



Breed Function

The Pom's most notable characteristic is their desire for human affection, making them wonderful companions.



Pomeranian Standard

- Approved by AKC
July 12, 2011
- Effective Aug. 31, 2011
- 1st ever Disqualification
Eyes light blue, blue
marbled, blue flecked.



General Appearance

Compact, short-backed, active toy dog of Nordic descent.



General Appearance

➤ **Double Coat**

- Short dense undercoat
- Profuse harsh-textured, longer outer coat



Heavily Plumed Tail

The **heavily plumed tail** is one of the characteristics of the breed

- Set high
- Lies flat on the back
- **MAJOR FAULT – Low tail set**



General Appearance

- Alert in character
- Intelligent in expression
- Buoyant in deportment
- Inquisitive by nature



General Appearance

Animated as he gaits



Cocky, Commanding



Sound in composition
and action



Size, Proportion, Substance

Size



3 1/2 lbs

Weight

- Average 3 to 7 lbs.
- Ideal 4 to 6 lbs.



5 lbs



6 lbs



7 lbs

Size, Proportion, Substance

Size

Weight

- Average 3 to 7 lbs.
- Ideal 4 to 6 lbs.



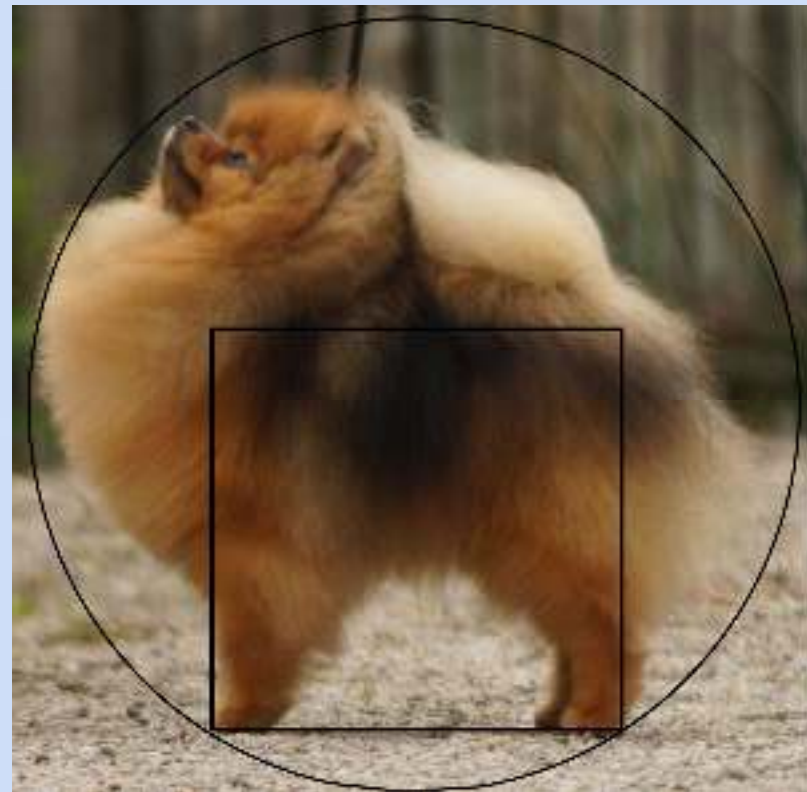
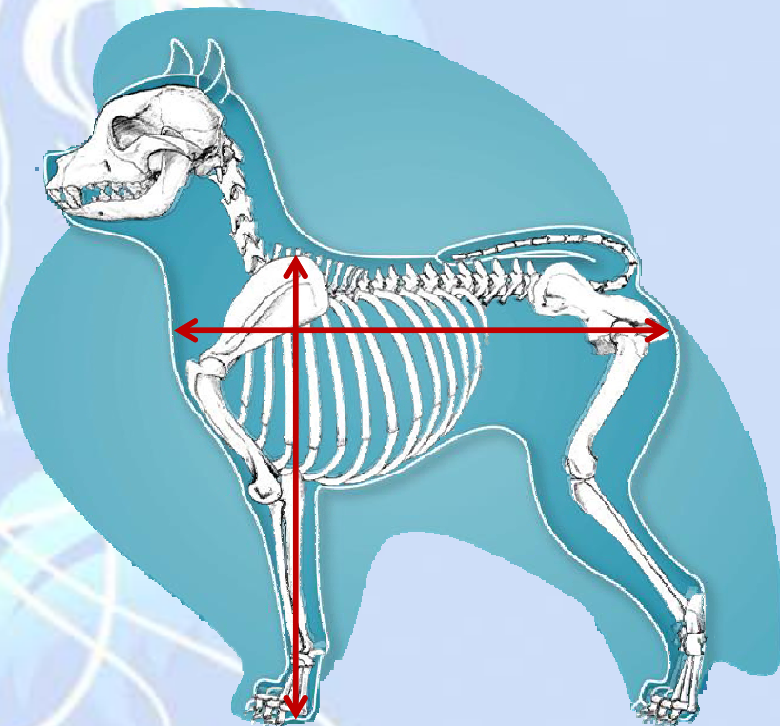
From left to right: 4.7 lbs, 4.1 lbs, 4.3 lbs

Overall quality should be favored over size

Size, Proportion, Substance

Proportion – The Pomeranian is a square breed with a short back. *Think of it as a square within a circle*

The ratio of body length to height at withers being 1 to 1; measured from prosternum to point of buttocks & withers to ground.



Size, Proportion, Substance

Substance

- Sturdy
- Medium-Boned



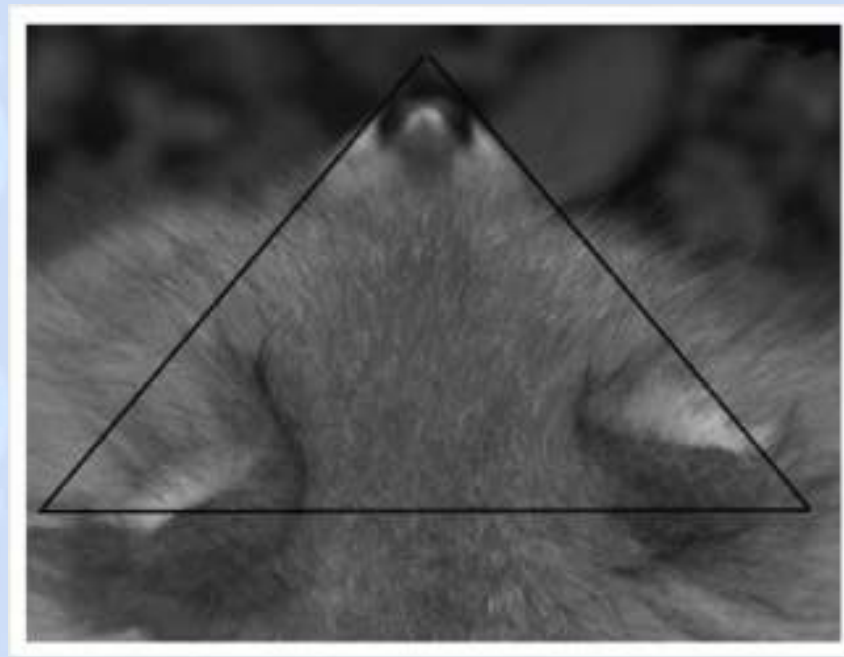
Head

Head is in balance with body



Head

When viewed from above the head is broad at the back tapering to the nose to form a wedge.



Expression

- May be referred to as fox-like
- Denotes his alert & intelligent nature



Eyes

Dark, bright, medium sized & **almond** shaped
Set well into skull; width balancing with other facial
features



Almond Eyes



Eyes are too round



Eyes

DISQUALIFICATION:

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



Blue marbled eye



Light Blue eye

Blue flecked eye



Pigmentation

Black



Pigmentation

Self Colored in

Chocolate



Beaver



Blue



Ears

- Small
- Mounted High & Carried Erect
- Proper ear set favored over size



Low Ear Set

Skull

- Closed
- Top of skull is slightly rounded, but not domed
- Stop – well pronounced



MAJOR FAULT
Round domed skull

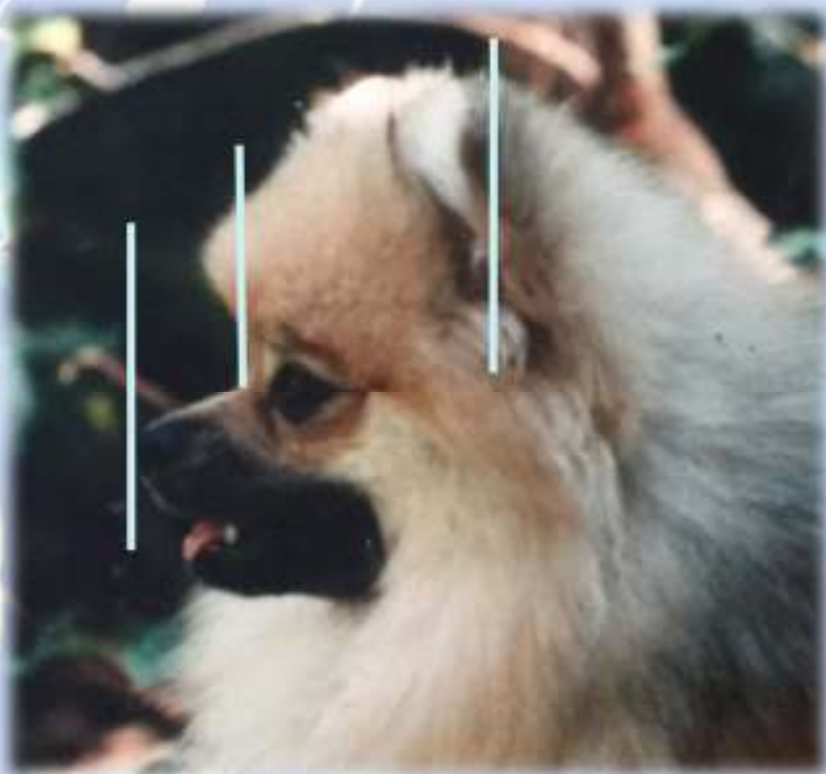


Muzzle

- Rather short, straight, free of lippiness, neither course nor snikey.
- Ratio of length of muzzle to skull is $1/3$ to $2/3$



Muzzle



Ratio 1/3 muzzle to stop
2/3 stop to back skull



Muzzle too short



Muzzle too long

a closer look at
HEADS

four excellent heads within the
1/3 to 2/3 proportions



a closer look at HEADS



Approx. 45% muzzle
to 55% skull



Chow-like
Head with a
low ear set and
light eyes

a closer look at
HEADS

and now a look at some extremes (“baby faces”) –
less than 1/3rd muzzle length



Teeth meet in a Scissors Bite

- Undershot, overshot or wry bite is a major fault
- One tooth out of alignment is acceptable.



MAJOR FAULT – Undershot, Overshot or Wry Bite

Neck, Topline, Body

Neck

Set well into the shoulders with sufficient length to allow the head to be carried proud and high

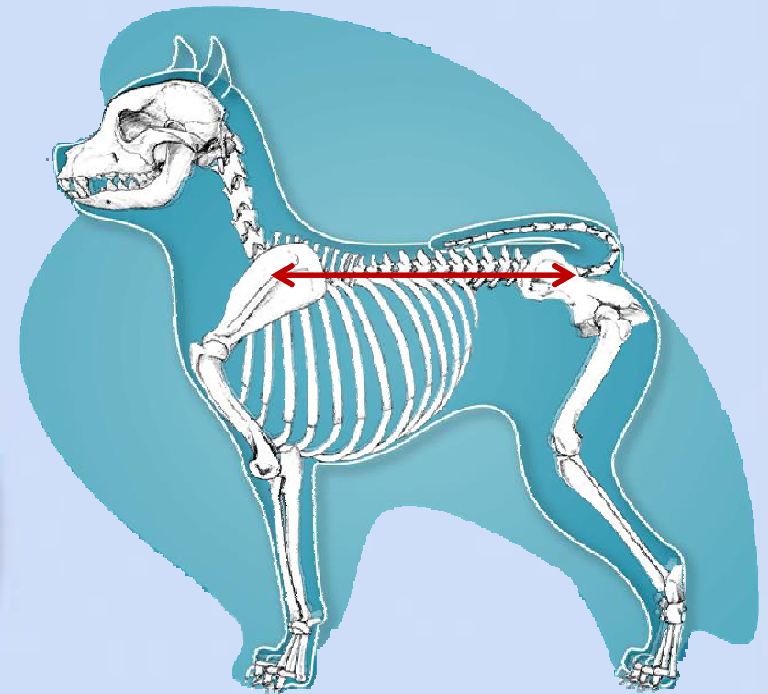


Topline

Level from withers to croup



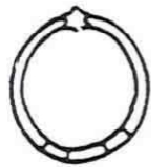
Must feel under the coat



Body, Chest, Back, Loin Croup

Must feel under the coat for:

- Compact & well ribbed body
- Oval, tapered chest extending to the point of elbows
- Short-coupled Back
- Short Loin
- Flat Croup



Barrel Chest



Oval Tapered



Slab Sided

Neck, Topline, Body

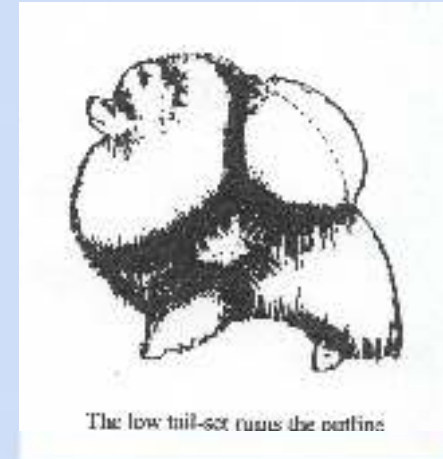
Tail

Heavily Plumed

Set High

Lies Flat and Straight on the Back

MAJOR FAULT – Low Tail Set



Low tail set

Heavily Plumed Tail

Is set high and lays flat on the back



Heavily Plumed Tail

Set high and lies flat on the back

Notice the difference between a high set and a low set tail



Low tail set

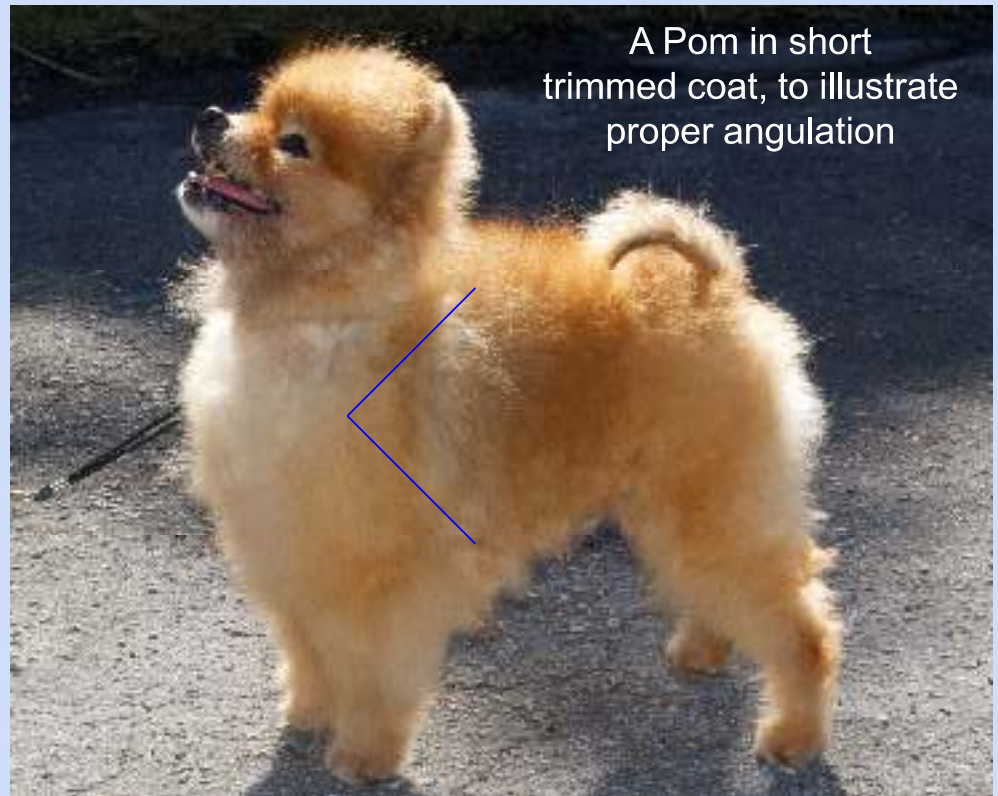
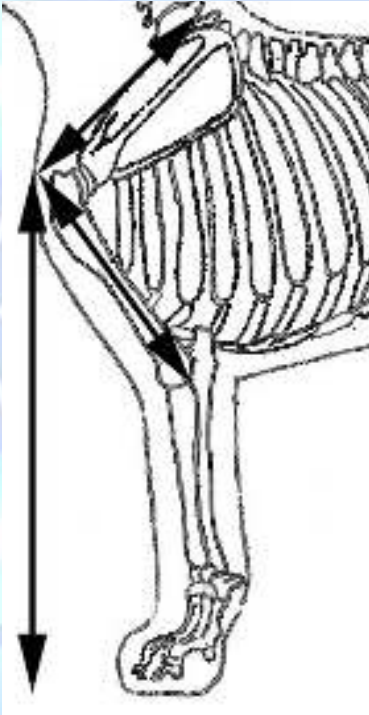
Heavily Plumed Tail

Set high and lies flat on the back



Forequarters

- Shoulders – well laid back.
- Shoulder blade & upper arm length are equal.
- Elbows held close to the body, & turn neither in nor out



A Pom in short trimmed coat, to illustrate proper angulation

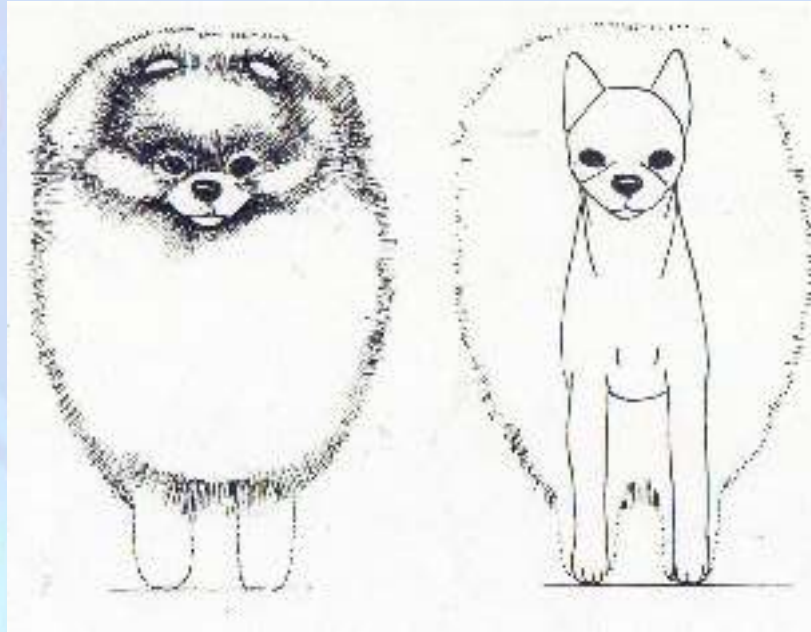
Forequarters



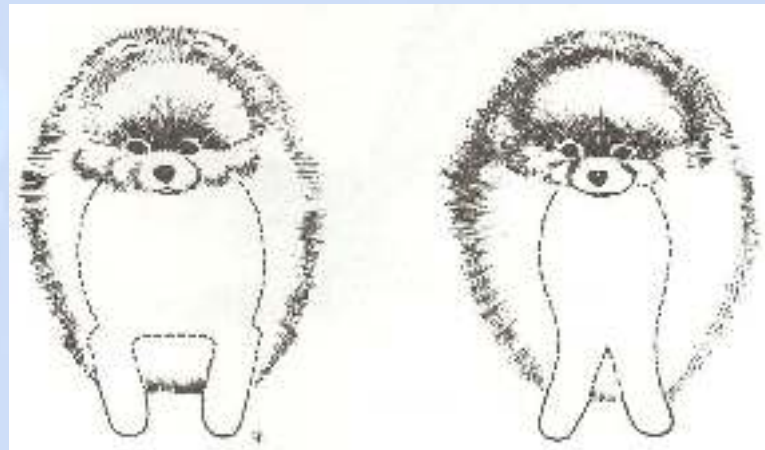
Legs – when viewed from the front are moderately spaced.

- Legs moderately spaced viewed from front, straight & parallel, set well behind forechest.
- Pasterns straight & strong.

Examples of Proper & Improper Fronts



Correct Front



Out at the elbows

Toes out

Feet

- Round, tight, appearing cat-like
- Well-arched, compact
- Turn neither in nor out
- Stands well up on toes
- Dewclaws – may be removed

MAJOR FAULT – Down in Pasterns



Hindquarters

- Angulation balances that of the forequarters
- Buttocks are well behind the set of the tail
- Thighs moderately muscled
- Stifles strong, moderately bent and clearly defined
- Feet – same as forequarters



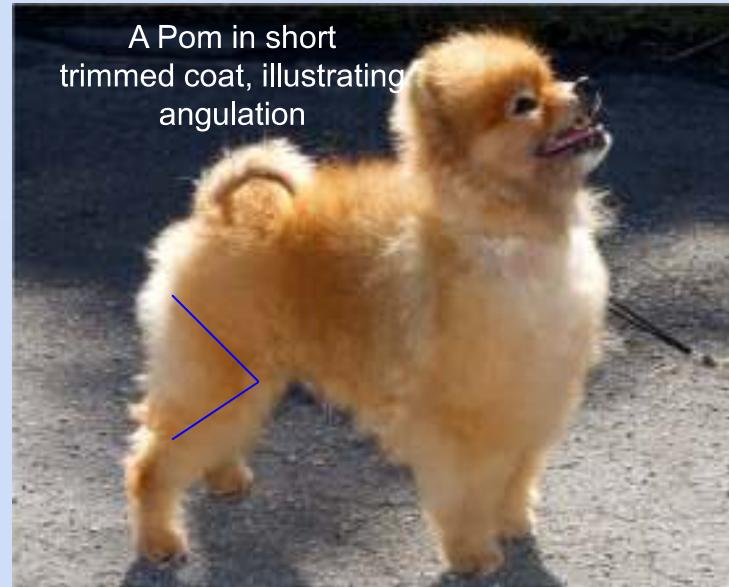
MAJOR FAULTS:

- **Cowhocks**
- **Knees turning in or out**
- **Lack of Soundness in legs or stifles**

Hindquarters



Upper thigh length and lower leg length are equal as pictured at the right



A Pom in short trimmed coat, illustrating angulation

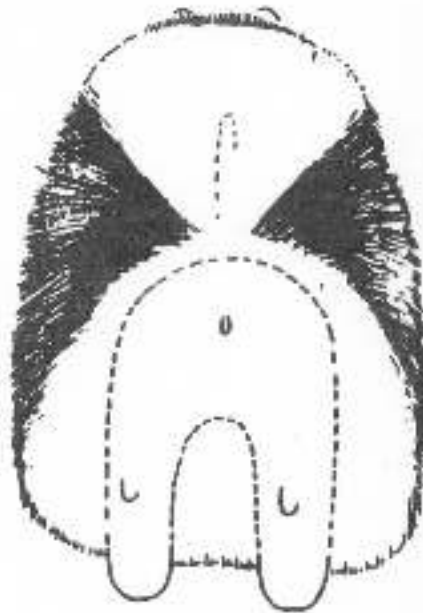


Legs – when viewed from the rear are straight and parallel to each other.

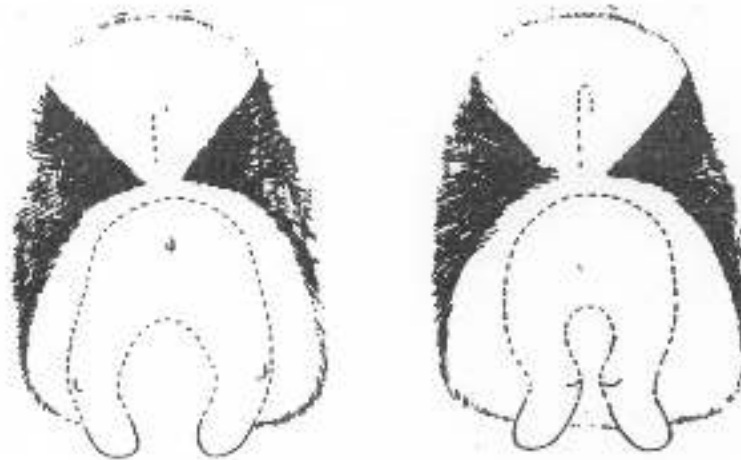
When viewed from the side are perpendicular to the ground.



Examples of Proper & Improper Rears



Structurally correct hindquarters.



Barrel Hock
Knees out

Correct Rear

Cow Hock

Coat

The Pom is a Double Coated Breed



Undercoat is short & dense.
A thick undercoat will hold up and permit the guard hairs to stand off.



Outercoat has long harsh-textured guard hair, abundant & stands off from the body.

MAJOR FAULT - Soft, flat, or open coat

Coat



Forms a ruff around the neck, framing the head, extending over the shoulders & chest.



Head & Leg coat is tightly packed and shorter in length. Forelegs are well feathered.



Thighs & hind legs are heavily coated.

Tail is profusely covered with long, harsh spreading straight hair forming a plume.



Coat

- Females may not carry as thick or long a coat as a male.
- Puppy coat may be dense & shorter overall and may or may not show guard hair.
- A cotton type coat is undesirable in an adult.



Coat

- Coat should be in good & healthy condition especially the skirt, tail and undercarriage.
- Trimming for neatness and a clean outline is permissible.



Trimmed



Untrimmed

Coat Progression

10 Weeks



7 Months



18 Months



3 Years



Coat Progression



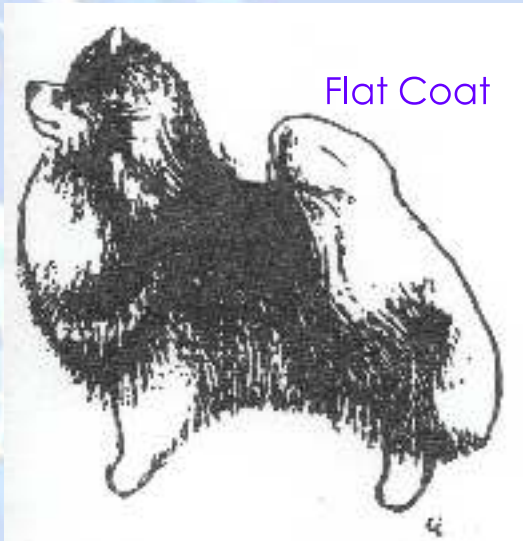
Ideal & Improper Coats



Proper Coat Length



Dotted lines show where the coat should be



Flat Coat



Too Much Coat

Colors

All colors, patterns and variations thereof 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, & base of tail.

Piebald - White with patches of color on head, body, & base of tail.

Irish - Color on head & body, with white legs, chest & 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 & feet, and underside of tail & 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.

Red, Orange, Cream, Sable

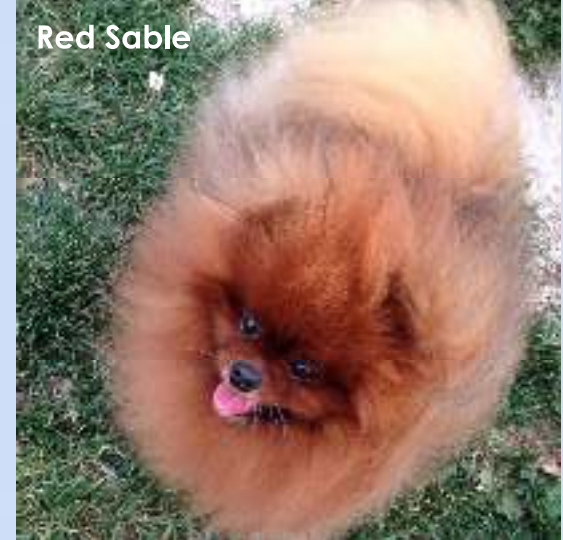
Red



Red Sable



Red Sable



Clear Orange



Orange



Orange Sable



ROCS Class

Red, Orange, Cream, Sable



Red, Orange, Cream, Sable



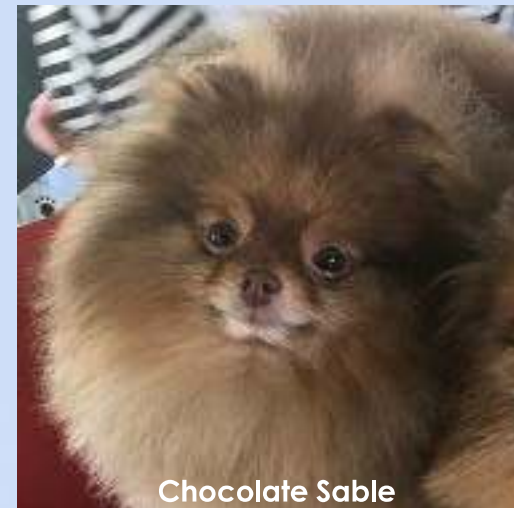
Blue Sable

Blue Sable is an orange dog with blue tips and pigment



Chocolate Sable

Chocolate Sable is an orange dog with chocolate tips and pigment.



Chocolate Sable

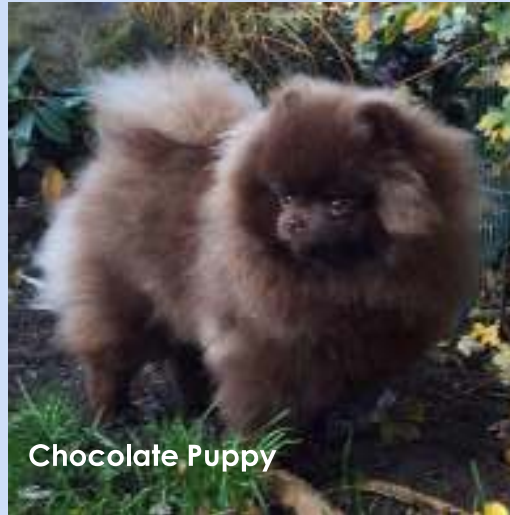
Black, Brown, Blue



BBB Class

Blue pigment on eye rims, nose, lips and toe pads on blue specimens.

Black, Brown, Blue

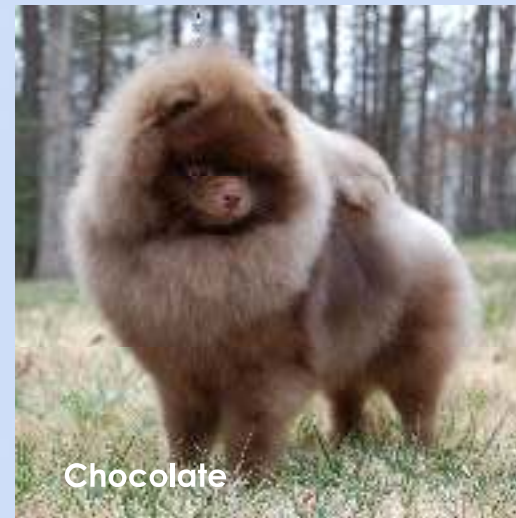


Chocolate Puppy

Chocolate pigment on eye rims, nose, lips and toe pads



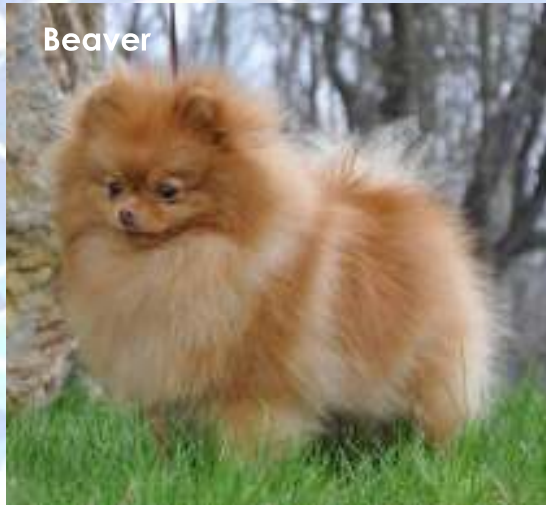
Chocolate



Chocolate

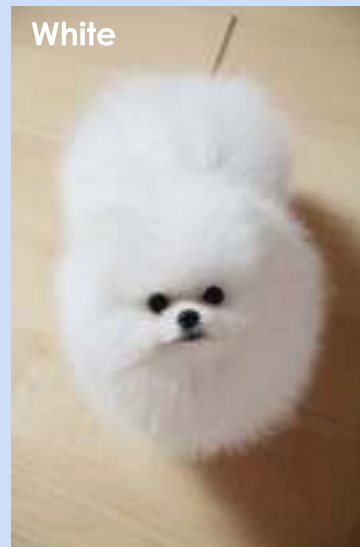
BBB Class

Any Other Allowed Color



BEAVER

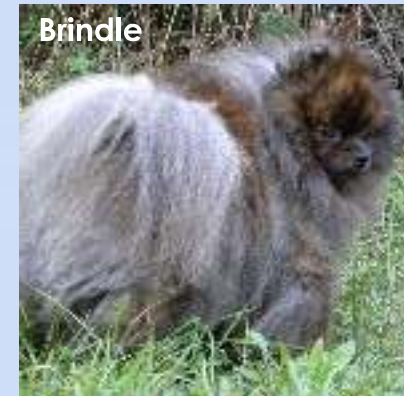
Is a dilute form of brown with shades ranging from cream-beige to an orange-brown. It appears similar to orange but has liver pigment – eye rims, nose, lips and toe pads. There are no black hairs or black pigment on a beaver.



WHITE

AOAC Class

Any Other Allowed Color

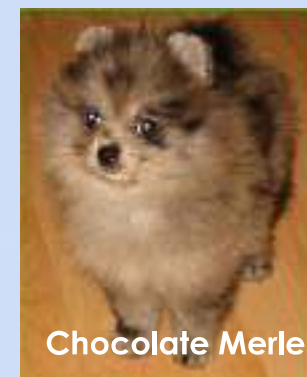


BRINDLE

Dark cross stripes on any solid color or allowed pattern.

MERLE

Mottled patches on a solid color or pattern.



— ∞ —
AOAC Class

Any Other Allowable Color

PART I

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, & base of tail



Irish

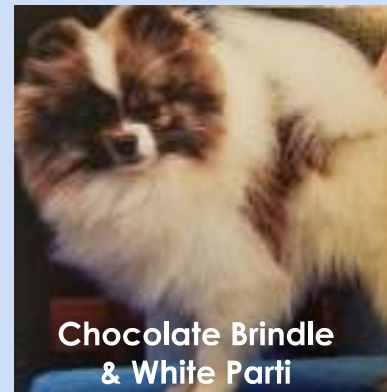
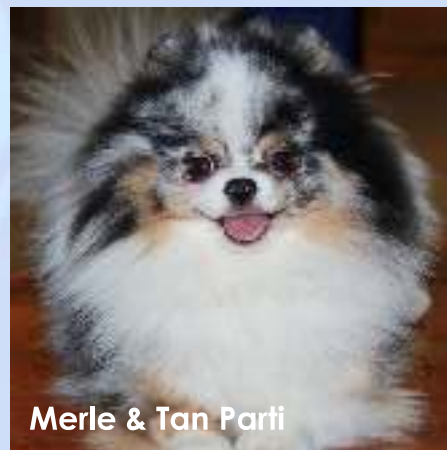
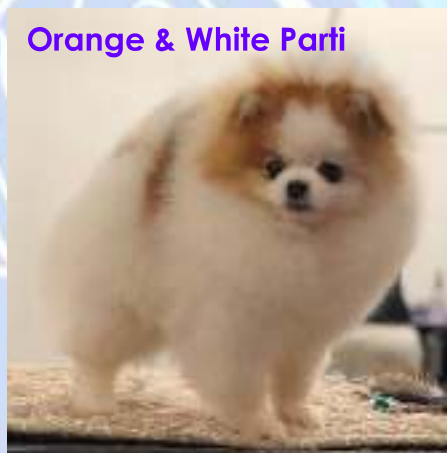
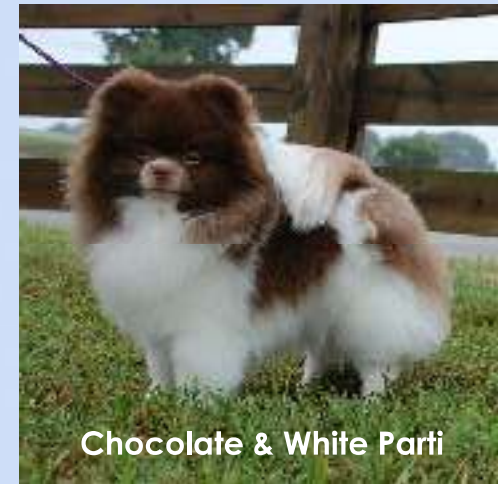
Color on head & body, with white legs, chest & collar

AOAC Class

Any Other Allowable Color

PARTI

White base with **any** solid color or allowed pattern.



AOAC Class

Any Other Allowable Color

TAN POINTS

Any solid color or allowed pattern with markings sharply defined above each eye, inside the ears, muzzle, throat, forechest, all lower legs & feet, and underside of tail & skirt. The richer the tan the more desirable. Tan markings should be readily visible.

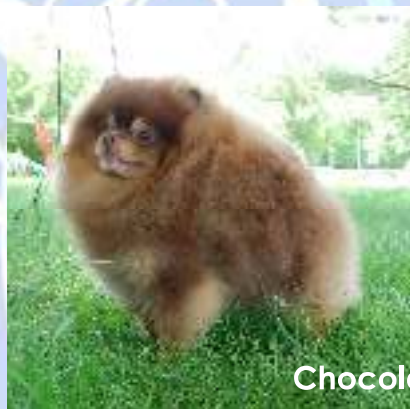


Black & Tan



Black & Tan

The richer the tan the more desirable



Chocolate & Tan



Chocolate & Tan

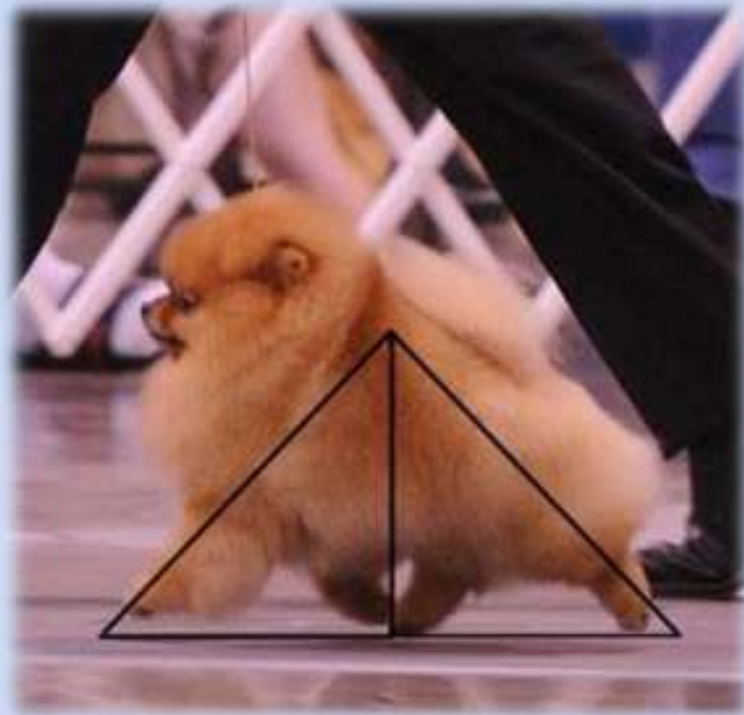


Blue & Tan



Merle & Tan

Gait



- Good reach in the forequarters
- Strong drive with the hindquarters
- Efficient, ground covering movement
- Smooth, free, balanced and brisk
- Never ineffective or busy

Gait



Head carriage remains high & proud with overall outline maintained.

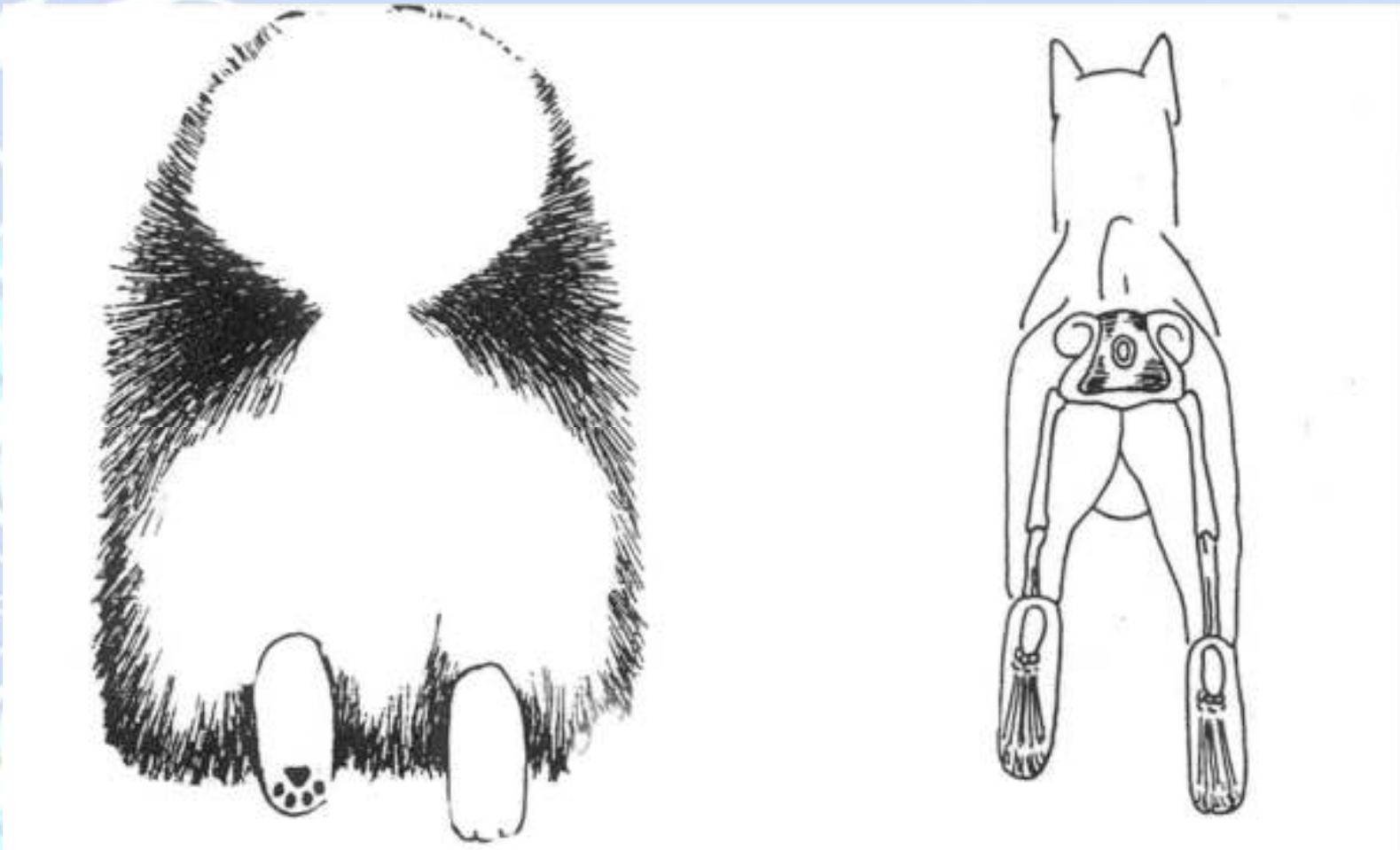
Gait



At a walk or slow trot he double-tracks, as speed increases legs converge slightly toward a center line.

The topline remains firm & level, with overall balance maintained

Examples of Proper Movement



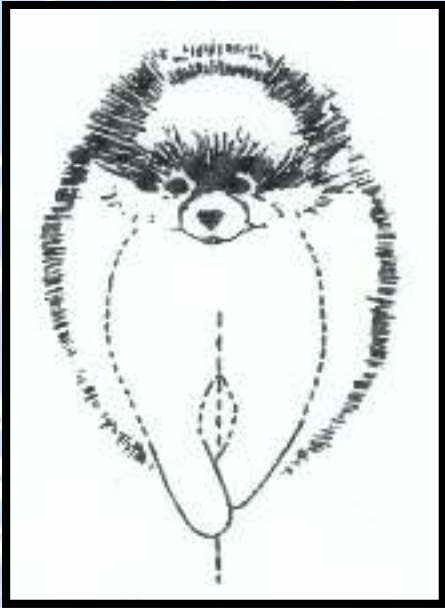
As the Pom starts to move away at a walk, the rear legs will be straight and parallel to one another from the pelvis to heel.

Examples of Proper Movement

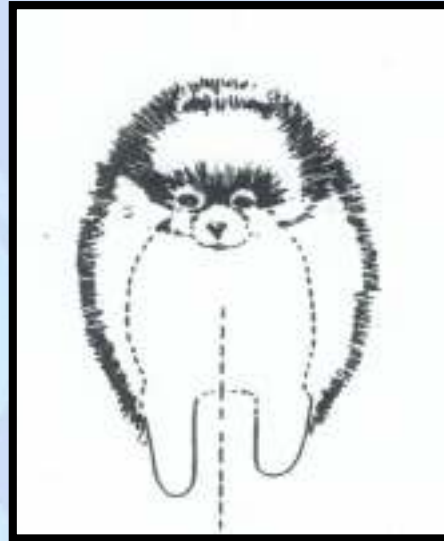


As the Pom starts to move toward you at a walk, the front legs will be straight and parallel to each other and then converge slightly the faster the movement.

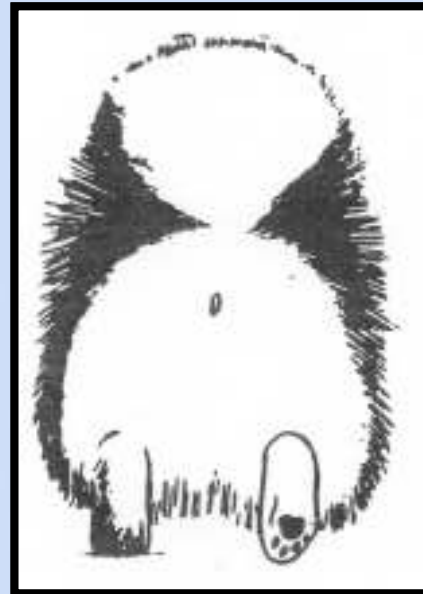
Examples of Improper Movement



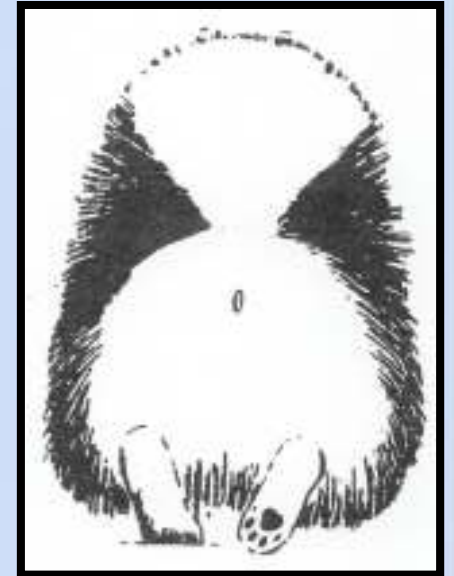
Crossing over



Elbows out

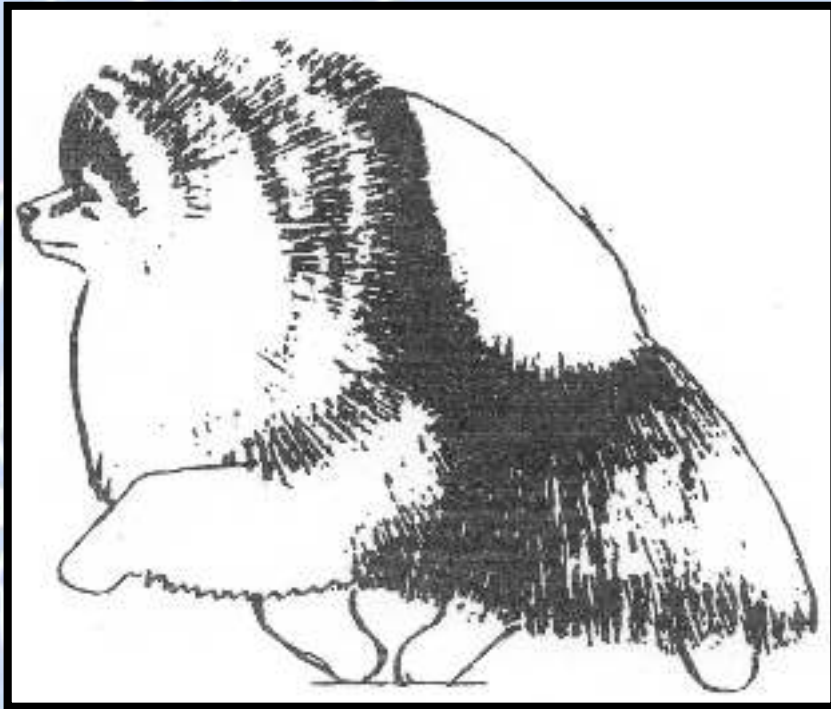


Wide rear

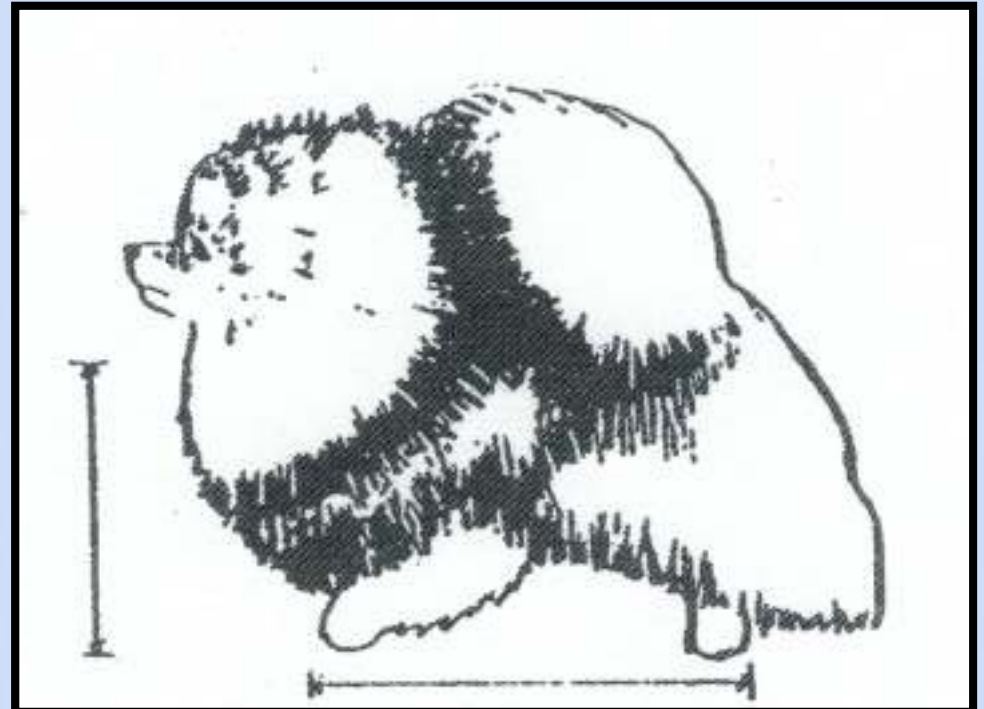


Open hocks

Examples of Proper & Improper Side Movement



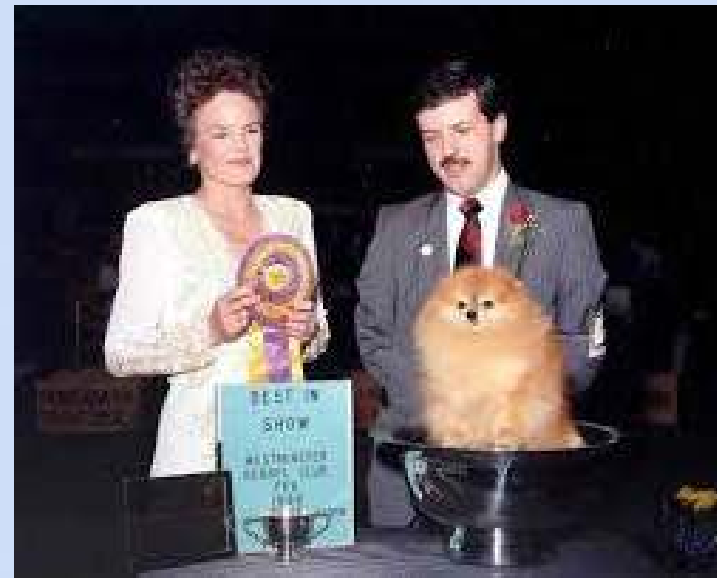
Lack of reach, paddling, wasted action



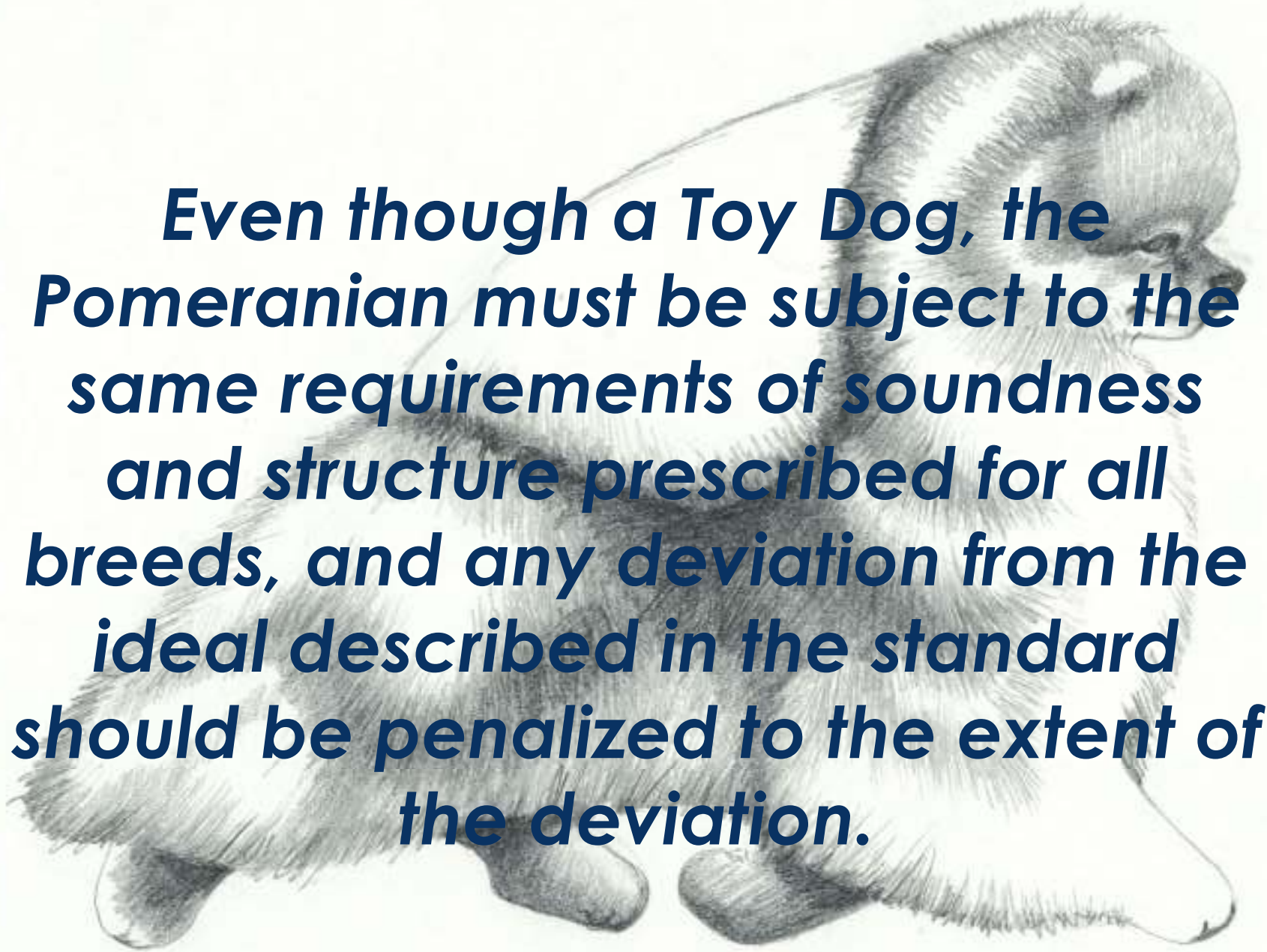
Head to far forward, low at the shoulders

Temperament

- Extrovert
- Intelligent
- Vivacious
- 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.



Juniors



Versatility

- Junior Showmanship
- Therapy Dogs
- Obedience
- Rally Obedience
- Flyball
- Agility
- Scentwork



Versatility



Versatility



Discussion of Current Problems

➤ **Coat Texture**

Losing the Harsh Texture guard hair due to over trimming

➤ **Trimming & Presentation**

We are now seeing sculpting, which ruins the natural “round all over” outline and is not in line with trimming for neatness

➤ **Size**

We are now seeing many larger specimens many over 7 pounds and not medium/moderate but heavy boned and “overdone”. Although we do not have a DQ for weight 4-6 pounds is preferred.

➤ **Eyes**


Eyes are becoming too round


➤ **Genetic Problem**

“Black Skin disease” (Alopecia X)

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 (June 2019).*
- 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.

Discussion of Trimming & Presentation

First, some untrimmed dogs



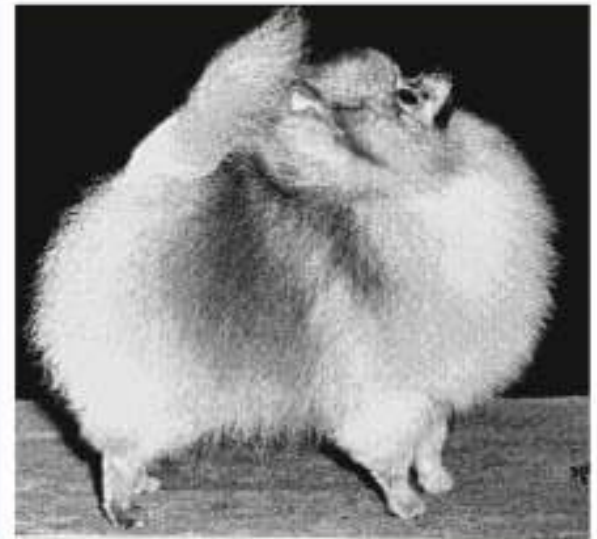
An Untrimmed Pomeranian



Acceptably Trimmed Adults

Discussion of Trimming & Presentation

now some attractively trimmed dogs



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

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

Discussion of Trimming & Presentation

For the purpose of showing how overtrimming can appear to make an adult Pomeranian shorter and smaller, below is the same dog in different states of trim. Only the coat has been altered in the photographs.



Original Trim



Skirt, tail and bib
overtrimming



More skirt, tail, bib
and undercarriage
overtrimming

Discussion of **Trimming & Presentation**

Dogs that have been **sculpted**. Guard hair cannot be evaluated when it has been removed.



Sculpting of entire body, tail, skirt undercarriage, bib, and the sides of coat.



Notice the scissor marks on the bib and how extreme the trimming is.



Sculpting of the skirt and tail.

Alopecia X – Black Skin Disease



Rocky as a 4 month old,
and as a 1 year old with the
full effects of the disease



Example of Black Skin Disease



Credits: The American Pomeranian Club expresses its sincere appreciation to the following Owners/Exhibitors/Handlers who submitted pictures.

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Sally Baugniet
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Fred Bassett

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