

# *Pomeranians*

Lecture Notes

DogsNSW  
Judges Training Scheme

Notes are based on The Kennel Club England Standard,  
22 May 2009 - Adopted by the ANKC

*Notes compiled by  
Julie Risk*

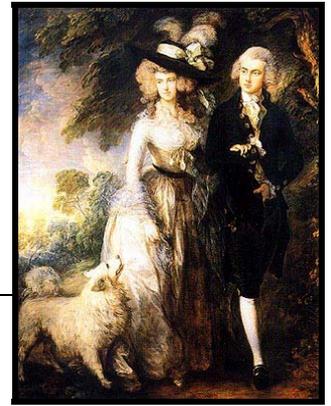
Notes prepared to assist in education of Trainee Judges to  
develop a greater understanding of the Pomeranian



*Enid Groves Artwork - 'Pompom'*

# Early History and Development

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*Thomas Gainsborough's  
The Morning Walk*

Few breeds of dogs can claim greater antiquity than the Pomeranian. Many authors have linked the Pom with ancient dogs in Egypt, Greece and China, using as evidence the many paintings these civilisations provided.

The Pomeranian can be seen depicted in stone columns and vases preserved in British (and other) museums. Some of these sculptures are older than the Christian era by several centuries dating back from 600 BC to 100 BC.

The Pomeranian can be traced back many centuries where they have been known as Wolf dogs, Volpinos and Spitz.

Many historians believe that the Pomeranian was developed from a Spitz type of dog similar to those still seen in Iceland and Lapland hauling sleds over the snow. The Pom, despite its diminutive size, retains the hardy disposition and thick coat typical of dogs in those cold climates.

There were several breeds developed in Central Europe during the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century that are similar in markings and physical appearance to the Pomeranian.

Wurtemberg, the heartland of German dog development is recognised as the area where the Spitz was transformed into the Pomeranian. Some believe however, that the Pomeranian was first developed in the Province of Pomerania (-hence the name Pomeranian), where a group of Finns settled in Samogitia with their dogs.

The early Pomeranians were much larger than today's specimens and were used for drawing sleds, as shepherd dogs herding sheep and reindeer, and for guarding property.

Although Pomeranians were in England in 1800, the Pomeranian was not recognised by the English Kennel Club until its registration in 1870.

Many of the early Pomeranians exhibited in England weighed 30 pounds, and measured up to 20 inches high. By inbreeding and various other reasons, the size has been reduced dramatically to the present day standard of 4-4 1/2 lbs for dogs and 4 1/2-5 1/2 lbs for bitches.

Queen Victoria became interested in Pomeranians whilst visiting Florence, Italy in 1888. She was so impressed with those she saw, that the Pomeranian soon became a favourite royal breed, and the Queen later kept a kennel of them. One of her favourites was a 12lb red sable named 'Windsor Marco'. It is also claimed that 'Turi', another of the Queen's favourites, kept a vigil by her bedside as she lay dying.

It was through this royal patronage that the Pomeranian became the most popular toy dog of that era until it was displaced by the ever popular Pekingese.

Throughout history there have been many famous identities who were Pomeranian lovers:

- Martin Luther mentioned his beloved Pomeranian 'Belferlein' in many theological writings.
- Michelangelo - it is reported that lying on a satin pillow, Michelangelo's Pomeranian watched his master paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.
- Isaac Newton, the famous physicist and astronomer had his manuscripts ton up by his Pomeranian 'Diamond'.
- Mozart dedicated a little aria to his female Pomeranian 'Pimperl'.
- Chopin was so inspired by the lively games of his girlfriend's Pomeranian that he composed the 'Valse des Petits Chiens' for the little dog.



*1777 - Thomas Gainsborough's  
Pomeranian Bitch & Puppy'*

*George Stubbs' 'Fino  
& Tiny'- Prince of  
Wales' Black &  
White Pom Fino*



*Thomas Gainsborough's 'Mrs Robinson'*

# Introduction

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The Pomeranian in its glory of coat and colour is a picture of beauty, stylishness, grace and elegance, emanating gaiety, buoyancy and loveliness in all its being.

The modern Pom is not bred for any specific use. It is beautiful, companionable, quick and a triumph of the breeder's art, and his main vocation in life is as a companion and to please.

The Pom should enter the ring as though he owns it, proud, vivacious, ready to have a go at anything, whether it be a Great Dane or a Chihuahua - he will take on them all.

It is only through strict adherence to the official breed standard that we can aim to fulfil this ideal.

The individual qualities, which in combination make up the ideal Pomeranian, are best understood through a study of the breed standard.



**Eng Ch Woodfield May King**

*From 'The Popular Pomeranian' by  
the late Mrs E Parker, and revised by Miss Linda A Wilson*

## Before We Start

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- Top Pomeranians can hold their own at the highest level worldwide.
- We want proficient judges, who can evaluate our breed confidently and correctly.
- Judge each dog as a whole – don't get pedantic about one aspect.
- New judges need to develop an eye for correct type, head, and characteristics. Research, talk to exhibitors and breeders. Obtain as much information as possible.
- Poms – in fact ALL Toy breeds should be sound and have good mouths.
- When examining Poms on the table be gentle, but firm. Allow exhibitor to place dog on ground after table examination.
- Generally Poms have structure like most 'normal' breeds.

# First Impressions

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- Very beautiful – pleasing to the eye
- Well Presented
- Circular in Shape
- Balanced
- Compact & short backed
- Dainty
- Buoyant in movement
- Vivacious in temperament – cocky, confident
- Well coated, luxuriant double coat
- Beautiful tail – characteristic of the breed



# General Appearance

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**STANDARD:** Compact, short coupled dog, well knit in frame.  
Exhibiting great intelligence in expression; activity and buoyancy in deportment.

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The General Appearance appears first in the standard and must be the first consideration. It is the first point the judge notes in the show ring, and often the only aspect clearly seen by those at ringside.

The balance and symmetry of the dog - each part in correct proportion to each other, is essential to the General Appearance. Style, carriage, gait and temperament are also important considerations.

## **THE PERFECT POM SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIT INTO A CIRCLE.**

The Pom should be very compact, and very short backed - the shorter the back the better. The body is very cobby, and the barrel well rounded. The short back and huge double coat give the Pomeranian an appearance of a floating ball of fur. He seems to walk on his tiptoes - and NEVER sways, hops or limps - every leg must be straight, sound and steel-like. The bones must be fine - (not spindly - but not heavy either). The neck should be short on a nicely laid shoulder to enable the head to be carried high and proud without overshadowing. The tail must be set high and lay flat and straight on the back, covered by long harsh spreading hair, the tips of the tail and the ruff on top of the head merge together. A long mane sweeps from under the jaw to give a frill that extends almost to the ground and goes up around the neck and back of the skull until his ears appear almost non existent.

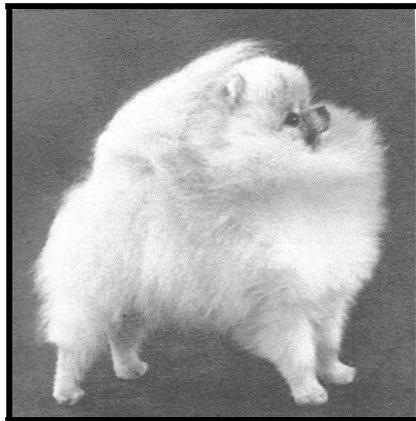
The Pomeranian must have some leg, but should be neither too high nor too low on leg - he MUST be well balanced.

The general appearance should be of a well balanced, dainty, alert, glamorous and extremely pretty toy dog.

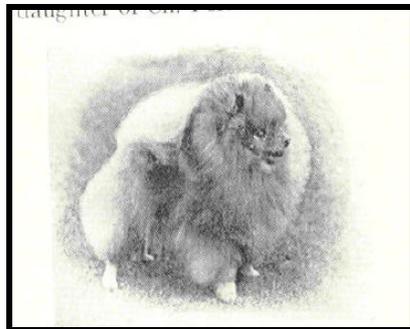
The Poms pictured below are outstanding examples of the breed



← English Champion  
Lady Fair of Hadleigh  
*Photograph by Fall*



←  
Eng Ch  
Derronhills Maxamillion  
*Photograph by Fall*



←  
Eng Ch Woodfield May King

# Characteristics

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**Standard: Sound Vivacious and Dainty**

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The Pomeranian's nature and structure are one. It is a most curious and inquisitive breed. Nothing escapes its hearing and attention.

**Poms have all the spirit of the larger Spitz breeds and 'punch above their weight'....**

The Pom is outgoing and full of bounce and spirit. He should never be shy, timid, slow or sluggish. He bounces like a ball at the slightest sound and appears as if he is on springs. He can keep pace with breeds ten times his size.

The Pom must have a structure that will withstand the wear and tear of its activity.

He must be soundly made, closely knit, and correctly 'put together'. A loosely made Pom with the bound and spirit required by the breed standard would soon tear itself to pieces.

*'A sound dog possesses all his proper physical parts in place and functioning as nature intended. He moves properly and vigorously, he can see, hear and scent, is able to breed, and has a disposition that is alert, poised and co-operative'.*

The Pom must be sound, both in mind and structure.

Although the Pom is classified amongst the Toy breeds there is nothing toyish or placid about his nature. He has all the spirit of the Spitz from which he was originally bred,

The Pom should be dainty, light on its feet, he almost dances.

On no account should the Pomeranian show tendency towards coarseness or cloddiness.

'Sound, Vivacious, Dainty' - these are three of the most important words in the standard. As you assess each Pom ask yourself - is this Pom sound? is this Pom vivacious? - is this Pom dainty?

# Temperament

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**STANDARD:** Extrovert, Lively and Intelligent

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In any breed, good temperament is vital, and in the showing it can literally make or break a dog's chances of success. The Pom is no exception.

The ideal Pom should enter the ring looking confident, well groomed, and full of life. He has lots of attitude, is very cocky and full of himself. He has exceptional beauty and type, and he should know it and show it.

A good Pom should never appear shy, sloppy or cloddy.

The Pom should be glamorous, stylish, outgoing and have an intelligent manner about him. He also must have the vanity to display his loveliness.

*Artwork by Stefano  
Scullino, Italy*



# Head and Skull

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**Standard:** Head and nose foxy in outline, skull slightly flat, large in proportion to muzzle, which finishes finely and free from lippiness.  
Nose black in white, orange and shaded sable dogs, brown in chocolate tipped sable dogs, but in other colours may be 'self coloured', never parti-coloured or flesh.

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The head is one of the most distinctive features of the Pomeranian, and like most breeds contributes significantly towards correctness of breed type.

To be outstanding, a Pom must excel in head and expression.

The head must be pleasing to the eye and fully of quality.

Any tendency towards ugliness, coarseness or snippiness must be severely penalised.

The skull should be flat, and is well covered with hair, which will give a slightly rounded appearance. However a round, apple skull is incorrect.

There must be a definite stop, - this shouldn't be too pronounced at this can also give an apple headed appearance.

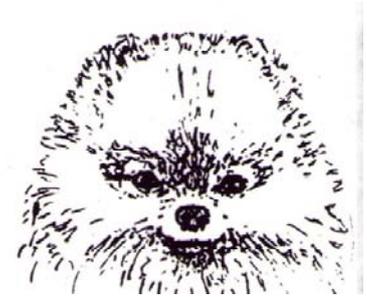
In a correct head, there should be a nice fill under the eyes, wide at the back of the jaw, tapering gradually to a refined muzzle in a medium, short jaw that finishes finely. The lips should finish nicely, and the Pom shouldn't have overhung, pendulous lips or jowls.

Although the head should be foxy in outline, the Pomeranian should not have the long, pointy muzzle of the fox. The fox has a beautiful expression of charming innocence and extreme intelligence, however a Pom with a long pointy muzzle will have a snipey, sharp appearance.

The photos below represent beautiful Pom heads and expressions

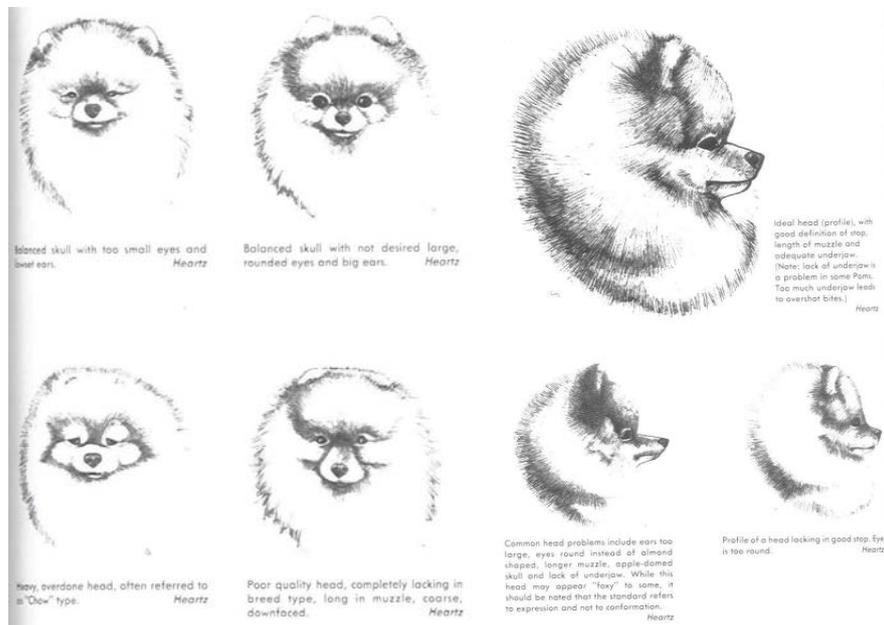


Eng Ch Derronills Maxamillion



Lovely head type – *diagram from The Pomeranian – by Pauline B Hughes*

Nice muzzle/head/expression outline and profile (diagram from Japanese Pom Standard)



*Above diagrams from 'The New Pomeranian' by Sari Brester Tietjen (drawn by Christine Heartz)*



The Pomeranian should NOT have a long, pointy muzzle like a fox. – A Pom with a long pointy muzzle will have a snipey, sharp appearance.



Correct Head.



Correct head ruined by too much ear trimming.



Incorrect head, ears set too far apart, eyes too large and round and too far apart, muzzle too long.



Incorrect head, eyes too small and close together, too long in muzzle.

*Above diagrams from 'The Pomeranian' Foyles Handbook by Hilary Harmer*

# Eyes

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**Standard:** Medium size, slightly oval, not full, not set too wide apart, bridge, dark and showing great intelligence. In white, orange, shaded sable and cream dogs rims black.

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The eyes should be dark, lustrous, liquid and expressive. They should not bulge and are never full or prominent. They are rather oblique in shape and should not be set too far apart, or too close together. They should be clear, expressive, and clean. Not dirty or weeping.

They should express happiness, alertness and intelligence.

Correctly set eyes give the Pom expression and charm.



Eng Ch Derronills Maxamillion

# Ears

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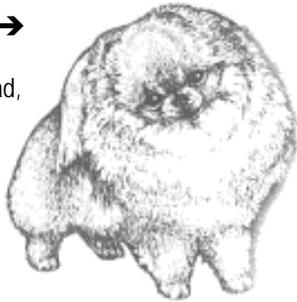
**Standard:** Small, not set too wide apart, not too low down, but carried perfectly erect.

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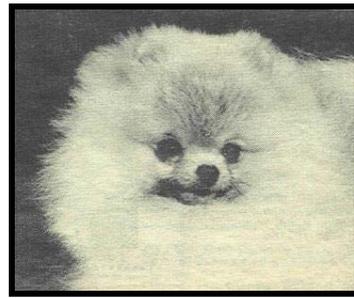
The ears must be as small as possible, rather narrow, and are set fairly close together. They must be carried high on the head and are absolutely erect. The ears should be covered with short, soft hair, which is trimmed for neatness and appearance.

Correctly set ears impart the intelligent and alert expression so greatly prized in the breed.

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The ears should fit perfectly into the head, almost disappearing.

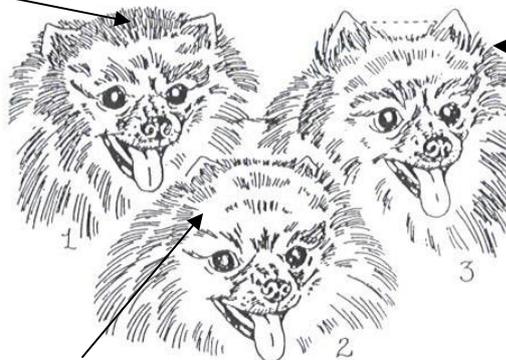


Drawing by S Scullino  
Doublesse Poms Italy



Eng Ch Derronills Maxamillion  
Beautiful head showing correct tiny ears

Incorrect – low set ears



Incorrect – ears too large

Correct ear size and placement

*Above diagram from The New Complete Pomeranian by Viva Leone Ricketts.*

# Mouth

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**Standard:** Jaws strong, with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, ie. upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth and set square to the jaw.

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The standard is quite clear on this point.

The correct mouth is a standard scissor bite, with the upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth, set square to the jaw with complete dentition.

Reverse scissor, undershot, overshot and wry mouths are all incorrect. You will likely see them all in the ring, in varying degrees of seriousness.

A reverse scissor bite is just that - where the lower teeth overlap the upper teeth.

Undershot is where the lower teeth/jaw overlap the upper teeth more than in a reverse scissor bite. An undershot mouth will give an ugly, aggressive appearance.

Overshot is where the upper teeth/jaw overlap the lower jaw. This will give a snipey, sharp appearance.

In a wry mouth, the upper and lower teeth aren't set square to the jaw line. The mouth appears twisted and often the tongue will protrude to the side.

Pom's mouths can often change while they are still carrying their first teeth, however once they have their permanent teeth the mouths should be correct.

*Adjacent diagrams from  
'The Pomeranian' Foyles  
Handbook by Hilary  
Harmer*



# Neck

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**Standard:** Rather short and well set into shoulders

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The standard is quite clear on this.

The short neck, on a well laid back should enables the head to be carried high and proud, enhancing the round, circular appearance we are looking for.

Long, swan-like necks are also incorrect. Often you will find that a dog with a long neck will also have long legs, a long body and long snipey muzzle. While the long neck and legs may give a pleasing, flashy appearance when the dog is moving, it is incorrect and totally contradictory to the compact, cobby shape required by the standard.

A correct neck set is very important to the overall shape of the Pom, both standing and moving. Moving with the head down and forward spoils the whole balance and outline of the dog and makes it appear elongated.

# Forequarters

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**Standard:** Shoulders clean and well laid back. Fine boned legs, perfectly straight, of medium length in due proportion to size of dog.

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The shoulders should be well laid back, sloping back so that the withers are slightly higher than the line of the back. The shoulder blade and upper arm should be approximately equal in length.

The elbows are rather low, and set well into the sides.

The throat and tips of toes should be in an absolute straight line.

The front legs should be dead straight when viewed from the front. From the side there will be a very slight angle from the pastern to ground. The pasterns should be strong.

The legs are of medium length not such as would be termed 'leggy', nor 'low on leg', but in length and strength in due proportion to a well balanced frame.

# Body

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**Standard:** Back short, body compact, well ribbed, barrel well rounded. Chest fairly deep, not too wide, but in proportion to size of dog.

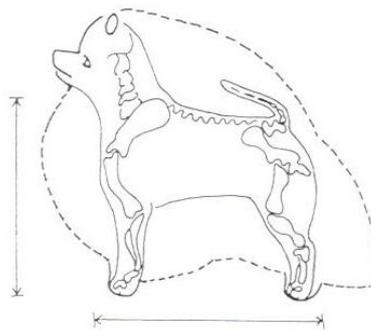
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The frame of the Pomeranian should be a model of excellence. The ideal silhouette depicts a dainty, but sturdy, stylish, compact and well balanced little dog. Each part should be in proportion.

The back must be short - it can hardly be too short. The ribs well sprung, the barrel well rounded giving plenty of room for the heart and lungs. The Pom is very short coupled and the body should be well ribbed up to a short, strong loin.

The Pom is quite deep in brisket, the chest well developed, the prosternum well defined and the body having plenty of substance. The chest shouldn't be too wide.

Slap sidedness and long in coupling are both serious faults – contradictory to the compact, cobby, short-backed appearance required by the standard.



*Above diagrams from 'The New Pomeranian' by Sari Brester Tietjen  
(drawn by Christine Heartz)*

# Hindquarters

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**Standard:** Fine boned legs, neither cow-hocked, nor wide behind; medium angulation.

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Sound hindquarters are very important.

The Pom should be quite short in hock. The legs from the hock down should appear straight and parallel to each other when viewed from behind. They shouldn't be too close, too wide, cow-hocked nor bow legged.

The length of legs should be in proportion to the size of the dog, ensuring a balanced appearance.

If the legs are too short the dog loses elegance, style and action and becomes long, heavy looking and unbalanced.

If legs are too long, the dog becomes rangy looking and loses cobbiness and correct balance. A big coat sometimes conceals this defect until you examine the dog on the table.

The bone should be fine - but not weedy. We don't want a spindly appearance. Also don't want a heavy coarse look like the Chow Chow. Also be aware that some dogs have heavy leg fur which can give a heavier boned appearance, so it's important to feel the bones, not just look at them. While the Pom should be dainty, weediness and delicacy are not correct and should be discouraged by judges and breeders alike.

Like many breeds, Poms are a breed that has had problems with soundness in hindquarters. These problems include bad patellas, cruciate ligaments, hip displaysia, leg perthes - to name a few. Detailed descriptions of these faults can be found in most canine terminology reference books.

While Poms are basically a companion dog, and don't need to work all day in a field, or race around the ring like the larger breeds, we want them to be well made, sound and strong in the hindquarters.

**Ideally we want beautiful, typey and sound dogs.**

*Adjacent diagrams  
from 'The Pomeranian'  
Foyles Handbook by  
Hilary Harmer*



# Feet

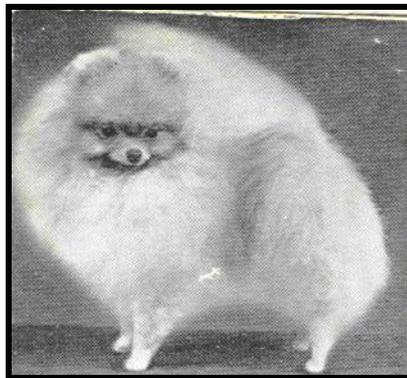
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**Standard:** Small, compact and cat-like

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The feet are very small, catlike and compact. The toes are short, well cushioned and rounded.

When standing and moving the Pom must be well up on his toes at all times.



Eng Ch Lady Fair of Hadleigh  
*Photograph by Fall*

# Tail

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**Standard:** Characteristic of the breed, high set, turned over back, and carried flat and straight – profusely covered with long, harsh, spreading hair

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The tail is a DISTINCT characteristic of the breed.

It must be set high on the end of the back bone and lie flat and straight along the back from root to tip. It is profusely covered with long thick, harsh hair, reaching to the ears and spreading over the back like a beautiful fan.

Set correctly the tail will have no feeling of boniness at all when the palm of the hand is placed flat against the tail root.

The tail should not flap to one side nor be arched over the back, there must be no curl on the tip and no twist from root to tip.

Even when the tail is set correctly, if the tail root has a twist to it, it will fall to the side and not lay flat, and most of the plume will fall to one side.

With a low set tail the root will protrude outward and upward and you can feel the bone with the palm of your hand. A low set tail will spoil the correct round appearance of the Pom. A dog is more likely to drop his tail if it's set too low.

*Adjacent diagrams  
from 'The Pomeranian'  
Foyles Handbook by  
Hilary Harmer*



Correct tail placement over back, root of tail set high



Incorrect, tail falling to one side



Incorrect, tail placement set too low



Eng Ch Sweet Lady of Hadleigh – displays the much desired beautiful high tail set and wonderful long plume required by the breed standard.

*Photograph by Fall*

# Gait

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**Standard:** Free moving, brisk and buoyant

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Correct movement is the test of correct conformation. The Pom must be sound – soundness is listed as a breed characteristic.

The Pom should move with purpose and be sound in action with a good reach in front and good drive behind. Each leg should go in the correct direction. There should be no paddling or weaving.

The movement is free, light, rather brisk, buoyant and not restrictive in any way. The Pom should 'flow' around the ring carrying himself proudly and soundly.

# Coat

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**Standard:** Two coats, an undercoat and an outer coat. Former soft, fluffy, the latter long, perfectly straight, harsh in texture and covering whole of body very abundant around neck and fore part of shoulders and chest forming frill, extending over shoulders. Forequarters well feathered, thighs and hindlegs well feathered to hocks.

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The coat of the Pomeranian is one of its most outstanding features.

In early breed standards where a point system was used the 'coat' was considered of such importance that it was allocated 25 points (out of a total 100 points) - one quarter of the total points - and with 'colour' allocated 15 points - it can be seen that the forebears of the breed considered these points very high in importance.

Although quantity of coat is so necessary, it is just as important that the texture is correct. Always feel for coat texture – the biggest coat isn't necessarily the best coat – the texture must be correct.

A poor coated specimen should never be considered a good Pomeranian.

The Pom must have a luxuriant double coat. A thick, spongy, soft, woolly undercoat, and a harsh, offstanding, long straight outer coat.

The outer coat should glisten, sparkle and shine with life and vitality.

The Pom is covered by this heavy thick double coat all over his body and has a profuse dense mane and frill covering his neck, chest and shoulders. On the hindquarters he has long thick hair breechings reaching to below the hock.

A correct coat - **both** quantity and quality are essential to the general appearance. A Pom without a coat and incapable of growing a coat is not worth a second glance.

## TRIMMING

In gone-by days Pom feet, ears and tail/vent areas were customarily trimmed for neatness, however body coat was left natural or only lightly

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trimmed. These days body coat is also trimmed for neatness and enhanced appearance.

A cleverly trimmed coat can very much improve appearance of the Pom, and hide faults – shorten a longer body, make a larger dog look smaller, improve a tail set, give a dog more leg, etc etc. It's important to examine the dog carefully on the table.

When done well, trimming looks lovely on a Pom and gives a beautiful finish. Poms shouldn't be overtrimmed to the extent that the harsh outer coat is cut off with only the undercoat remaining. Nor should the Pom look like a clipped hedge or miniature Chow Chow. A well trimmed dog doesn't look artificial, but neat, well groomed and professionally presented.

The Poms below appear to have beautiful coats - both quality and quantity.



Hadleigh Dancing Master  
*Considered by some as one of the best coated Poms ever.*  
*Photograph by Matunso*



Eng Ch Woodfield May King



Eng Ch Sweet Lady of Hadleigh  
*Photograph by Fall*



Eng Ch Hadleigh Shining Star  
*England's top winning Pom until 1986*  
*Photograph by Sally Anne Thompson*

# Colour

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Standard: All colours permissible, but free from black or white shadings.

Whole colours are:

Black, brown - light or dark, Blue - as pale as possible, Orange - which should be as self-coloured and bright as possible, beaver, cream - dogs have black noses and black eyerims around eyes, White - must be quite free from lemon or any other colour. A few white hairs in any of the self-coloured dogs permissible but undesirable. Dogs (other than white) with white or tan markings highly undesirable and not considered whole coloured specimens. In parti-coloured dogs, colours evenly distributed on body in patches; a dog with white or tan feet or chest not a parti-coloured dog.

Shaded sables should be shaded throughout with three or more colours, the hair to be as uniformly shaded as possible, and with no patches of self-colour. In mixed classes, where whole coloured and parti-coloured Pomeranians compete together, the preference should, if in all other points they are equal, be given to the whole coloured specimens.

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Poms in the showring should be of a colour as recognised in the standard. Whole colours should be good clear colours, not muddy or dull.



*Enid Groves Artwork - 'Pompom'*

# Size

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**Standard:**    **Ideal weight -**  
                  **Dogs 1.8 - 2 kg (4 - 4 ½ lbs)**  
                  **Bitches 2 - 2.5 kg (4 ½ - 5½ lbs)**

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This is an excellent size for a toy breed. Both undersize and oversize are undesirable.

**Undersize:**    Dogs start to lose body, coat and quite often soundness. The dogs appear weak, weedy and without substance.

**Oversize:**     Dogs start to run towards coarseness and lose the daintiness and type of the breed.

The Pom has been bred down from 35 lbs to today's smaller size through careful, select breeding.

Undersized Poms should be penalised just as much as oversized Poms. Large dogs shouldn't be thin and small dogs shouldn't be heavy to make correct weight.

Bitches play a vital role in the future of the breed - they should have substance, and should be sound - they should be able to breed on.

There is no height listed in the standard, but look for balance. A well balanced, dainty but sturdy toy dog is required, within the correct weight limits.

# Faults

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**Standard:** Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree.

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This is self explanatory.

- This is quite clear and straight forward – if the fault is very serious – penalise it heavily...if not too bad don't penalise it as heavily.
- The perfect dog has not been born.
- It's much better to award an outstanding dog with one or two **small** faults than an average dog with no faults.
- An outstanding dog has much more to offer the breed than an average dog.

You will come across faults in the breed. Some common faults include:

- Unsoundness in hindquarters
- Unsoundness in forequarters
- Out at elbows/shoulder
- Incorrect mouths - undershot, overshot, wry
- Entropion
- Incorrect coat texture
  
- Over/under size
- Down on pasterns
- Hare feet
- Light eyes
- Off colour nose
- Large ears
- Black mask on orange dogs
- Not enough lay in shoulder, short upper arm
- Long bodies
- Too high/too low on leg
- Tail carried to the side

## Table

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All Poms, especially baby puppies need careful, gentle handling on the table. This gives them confidence for the future.

Their mouths are often quite tender especially if they are teething. If by trying to determine the bite, it causes too much distress it is better to leave it, rather than to ruin a dog for showing forever - which can happen. Puppy's mouths can change considerable before they obtain their permanent teeth. Once the dogs have their permanent teeth you should be able to see the bite. If it causes distress to the dog ask the handler to show you.

# Conclusion

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As in all breeds, the Pom should be judged as a whole, not in parts.

A good Pomeranian should possess:

- Correct breed type and temperament
- Soundness (both mentally and physically)
- Substance
- Balance
- Quality

For the breed to progress we all - breeders, exhibitors and judges - must aim for excellence.

The breed standard is our prototype, our ideal and our mentor. Study it again and again.

Look at the great dogs of the past, look at what made them great. Look at photos of the great English Poms of the 1950s and 60s. Look at photos of some of the great Poms who have won at the highest level throughout the world - BIS Westminster, R/Up IS Crufts. It is to this level, and beyond, that as breeders and exhibitors we aspire.

We want proficient judges, who can evaluate our breed confidently and correctly.

Judge each dog as you would wish your dog to be judged - with honesty, integrity and a sound knowledge of the breed standard.

An outstanding Pom will always demand recognition in the showring. Each Pom is different and individual, it is up to us to assess the quality, and to distinguish the superior from the inferior - the future of the breed is in our hands.

## References (and Recommended Reading)

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The publications listed below have been used as a reference source for these notes. Some photographs and diagrams from these works have also been used:

The New Pomeranian	Sari Brewster Tietjen
The Popular Pomeranian	Late Mrs E Parker revised by Miss LA Wilson
The New Complete Pomeranian	Viva Leone Ricketts
The Pomeranian	Hilary Harmer
The Pomeranian	Pauline B Hughes
Your Pomeranian	Pauline B Hughes
This is the Pomeranian	Louise Z and Herbert F Spierer
Dog Shows and Show Dogs	Catherine G Sutton

