

8- Pomeranians



Queen Victoria loved her Pomeranian "Turi" and helped develop the breed; shown here is purebred "Annie," a more modern girl.

Breed Profile

If you are looking for a spunky little dog with a big personality, look no further. Throughout history, the Pomeranian has been a tiny companion for royalty and common folk alike. With a [happy](#) pleasant nature, this mini puffball has a vast number of admirers.

History and Origin

The Pomeranian is thought to have descended from the sled dogs of Iceland and Lapland. The breed is the [smallest of the group of dogs](#) known as "spitz-type" dogs. Originally, the larger version of the Pomeranian was an able herder. Eventually, it was brought to the country of Pomerania, located on the southern coast of the Baltic Sea, and it was here that many believe the breed was originally bred down in size and received the name "Pomeranian."

Until the late 1880s, the breed was not well known but, like many other breeds, Queen Victoria took an interest and their popularity soared. The queen is actually credited for encouraging breeders to continue the process of developing smaller and smaller dogs. As proof of her love for the breed, Queen Victoria requested that her beloved Pomeranian "Turi" be present with her at her death.

Appearance and Size

The Pomeranian, a tiny dog standing around 12 inches at the shoulder and weighing between 3 to 7 pounds, looks just like a tiny fox. The hair coat is fluffy and abundant, composed of a soft dense undercoat and a harsh textured outer coat. Their tail is set high and lays on the back, and the ears are pointed, triangular and erect. The Pomeranian is available in a variety of solid colors as well as brindle and combinations of colors.

Personality

Docile and sturdy, the Pomeranian is an active breed, known for having a big [personality](#) in a little package. The breed does well in an apartment setting as long as there is plenty to do. The breed does well either as the [only dog in the house](#) or with other dogs. If you have more than one Pomeranian, noise may become a factor. The breed tends to be quite vocal, especially when in groups.

Home and Family Relations

The Pomeranian makes a great pet and companion, especially for older children and [adults](#).

Because the Pomeranian is so small, the dog could be accidentally injured by very young children.

Since the breed is vocal and usually wary of strangers, they make great watchdogs but really don't have the size to carry through on their verbal threats.

Training

The Pomeranian is an intelligent dog and learns quickly. Many can be taught various tricks. The breed requires lots of [activity to keep him out of trouble](#).

Special Concerns

Some unscrupulous breeders have not paid attention to the dog's temperament, and consequently some Pomeranians may become aggressive. The breed is very curious and needs plenty of mental stimulation to prevent behavioral problems and destructive actions. The hair coat requires daily grooming to prevent the development of mats and tangles.

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Common Diseases and Disorders

- [Medial patellar luxation](#) is a disorder affecting the kneecap.
- [Tracheal collapse](#) is a disorder of the windpipe. The rings of the trachea are weakened and collapse, resulting in persistent coughing and possibly difficult breathing.
- [Hypothyroidism](#) results when the thyroid gland does not function adequately.
- [Testicular tumors](#) are tumors that involve the testicles in intact male dogs.
- [Atlantoaxial subluxation](#) is a condition in which the first two cervical (neck) vertebrae are not firmly attached. Dogs are born without ligament support to their atlantoaxial joint,
- [Cryptorchidism](#) is a condition in which one or both testicles do not descend into the scrotum.

The Pomeranian is also prone to [difficulty delivering puppies](#) and chronic eye discharge.

In addition, although these occur infrequently, the following disorders have also been reported:

- [Patent ductus arteriosus](#) (PDA) is a congenital birth defect caused by a blood vessel that normally closes after birth, but remains open resulting in the passage of extra volumes of blood into the lungs.
- Sick sinus syndrome - is a disease that causes an abnormal heart rhythm.
- [Progressive retinal atrophy](#) is a disease that causes nerve cells at the back of the eye to degenerate. The condition usually begins in older pets and can lead to blindness.
- [Entropion](#) is a problem with the eyelid that causes inward rolling. Lashes on the edge of the eyelid irritate the surface of the eyeball and may lead to more serious problems.

- Cataracts cause a loss of the normal transparency of the lens of the eye. The problem can occur in one or both eyes and can lead to blindness.
- Congenital elbow luxation - is a dislocation of the elbow joint.

Life Span

The Pomeranian can live up to 12 to 15 years