

DeMi Poms

“Alabama’s Premier Pomeranian Breeder”

<http://www.demipoms.com>

Pomeranian Information Sheet

General

- Pomeranians often are suspicious of strangers, but they aren't prone to barking.
- High heat and humidity can cause your Pom to become overheated and possibly have heat stroke. When your Pom is outdoors, watch him carefully for signs of overheating and take him inside immediately. They are not outdoor dogs and should not be kept outdoors for an extended period of time.
- While Poms are good with children, puppies are not a good choice for very young or highly active children because of their small size. Never let your small children and your Pom play without supervision. Poms make amazing family pets.
- Due to their small size, Poms can be perceived as prey by owls, eagles, hawks, coyotes, and other wild animals. Never leave your Pom outside unattended, and be watchful if there are predatory birds in your location. If this is the case, stay close to your Pom to discourage birds from trying to carry them off.
- Because they are small and attractive, Poms are targets for dognappers, another reason why you shouldn't leave them outside unattended, even in a fenced yard.
- Although they are small, Poms don't seem to realize it and can have a "big dog" attitude. This can spell disaster if they decide to chase a bigger dog that they think is encroaching upon their territory, or if they jump from a high place. It's up to you to make sure that your little one doesn't harm himself due to not realizing his limitations.

Health

- **Allergies:** Some Pomeranians can suffer from a variety of allergies, ranging from contact allergies to food allergies. If your Pomeranian is licking his paws or rubbing his face a great deal, suspect that he has an allergy and have him checked by your vet.
- **Epilepsy:** Some Pomeranians develop epilepsy and have seizures. If your Pom has seizures, take him to the vet to determine what treatment is appropriate.
- **Eye Problems:** Pomeranians are prone to a variety of eye problems, including cataracts, dry eye (keratoconjunctivitis sicca) (dryness of the cornea and the conjunctiva), and tear duct problems. These problems can appear in young adult dogs and may lead to blindness if untreated. Contact your vet if you notice any redness, scarring, or excessive tearing.
- **Hip Dysplasia:** Hip dysplasia occurs occasionally in Pomeranians. Many factors, including genetics, environment and diet, are thought to contribute to this deformity of the hip joint. Affected Pomeranians usually are able to lead normal, healthy lives, unlike some of the large and giant breeds, who require surgery to get around easily.
- **Legg-Perthes Disease:** This is another disease involving the hip joint. Many toy breeds are prone to this condition. When your Pomeranian has Legg-Perthes, the blood supply to the head of the femur (the large rear leg bone) is decreased and the head of the femur that connects to the pelvis begins to disintegrate. Usually, the first signs of Legg-Perthes occur when puppies are 4 to 6 months old. The first signs are limping and atrophy of the leg muscle. Qualified vets can perform a surgery to cut off the diseased femur so that it isn't attached to the pelvis any longer. The scar tissue that results from the surgery creates a "false joint" and the puppy is usually pain free.
- **Patellar Luxation:** This is a very common problem for Poms. The patella is the kneecap. Luxation means dislocation of an anatomical part (as a bone at a joint). Patellar luxation is when the knee joint (often of a hind leg) slides in and out of place, causing pain. This can be crippling, but many dogs lead relatively normal lives with this condition.
- **Collapsed Trachea:** This is a condition in which the trachea, which carries air to the lungs, tends to collapse easily. The most common sign of a collapsed trachea is a

chronic, dry, harsh cough that many describe as being similar to a "goose honk." Since it can be caused by pulling too hard against a collar while walking use a well-made harness (not a figure 8) instead of a collar. Collapsed trachea is a chronic condition, but can be effectively managed with the help of your vet.

- **Dental Problems:** Poms are prone to teeth and gum problems and early tooth loss. Watch for dental problems and take your Pom to the vet for regular dental exams.

Grooming

- Never shave a Pom! You can trim their hair, but never shave or cut their hair down to the undercoat. A Pom's coat doesn't come in fully until 2 years old.
- Poms also go through what's called "puppy uglies" around 4-6 months old. This is when their puppy coat comes out and their adult coat starts to come in. Don't be alarmed by it; it is perfectly normal.
- Bathe your Pom no more than once a month. We recommend bathing your Pom once every 3-5 months. Poms do not develop a typical "dog" odor. After running outside they will have a slight smell, but it goes away in an hour or so.
- Your Pom should be brushed once a month, but always check areas that are prone to knots (behind the ears, arm pits and thighs) frequently.
- Before you bathe your Pom be sure to brush them thoroughly. Do not use full strength shampoo on your Pom, it will take you a very long time to rinse all the shampoo suds out. Instead, dilute shampoo in water at a ratio of 3-parts water to 1-part shampoo. You can use any dog shampoo you like, but regular baby shampoo works just fine (and it's what we use). Always be sure to rinse your Pom very well. Shampoo residue can irritate your Pom's skin and make the coat feel dirty quicker. When bathing try not to "scrub" the coat because it can cause the hair to get tangled, instead work the shampoo in gently.
- Clip your Pom's nails every 2-3 weeks to prevent them from getting too long. Be sure not to clip the nails too short or they may bleed.

Feeding

- How you feed your Pom depends a lot on the personality of the Pom. Some Poms need to have their food rationed out and given to them on a schedule, while other do just fine with free feeding (leaving a food bowl out at all times). We free our Poms. Be sure that your Pom always has fresh water available.
- The brand of food you feed your Pom is your decision. We feed Iams brand dry food. Remember that if you change your Pom's food that you do it slowly by mixing in a little of the new food with the old food. This prevents your Pom from possibly getting a tummy ache from the change in food.
- Poms love apples and cooked potatoes (regular and sweet). These make great treats, but should be given sparingly.