

Breed Spotlight:



THE PEPPY POMERANIAN

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VENICE GULF COAST LIVING MAGAZINE

Petite and proud, Pomeranians are one of the smallest dog breeds in the world, and these furry friends have plenty of personality! Recognized by the American Kennel Club (AKC) as a member of the toy group of dogs, these canines tend to be vivaciously extroverted, highly intelligent companions that are eager to please their owners.

The name for the breed is derived from the region of Pomerania, located in current-day Germany and Poland, where these diminutive doggies descended from the larger German Spitz dog. Pomeranians were originally a larger type of dog, at times weighing as much as 30 lbs.; however, when Queen Victoria requested that breeders produce a more petite pooch in the 1800s, the smaller version took off in popularity. Over time, the breed was developed down to its current size. In recognition of its roots, the Pomeranian breed is known in some countries as the *Zwergspitz*, or Dwarf Spitz. These pint-sized pups are more commonly called Poms, Pomies, or Pom-Poms. Tiny but mighty, Pomeranians are generally about 7 inches in stature,* although taller ones can reach heights of 12 inches, and they weigh in at just 3 to 7 lbs.

These little dogs have a thick, double-layered coat, with a long, straight outer layer and a soft, short, thick undercoat, plus extra length around the chest and neck. While the most common coat colors are coal black, deeply rich orange, light and creamy

orange, or snowy white, Pomeranians also come in shades of deep rusty red, dark gray with blue undertones, pale to chocolate brown, and combined hues such as black-and-tan, brindle, parti-color, or white with colored markings, and a variety of sable colorations, which incorporate at least three hues.

Given their small size, Pomeranians are well suited to apartment living and tend to be very active indoor dogs. Although they love to play, the petite pups still require daily outdoor excursions to satisfy their innate desire to walk. They also enjoy romping around off their leads in a fenced-in yard or any other safely enclosed space. Perfectly proportioned for travel, these confident canines enjoy going everywhere they can with their owners.

Highly energetic dogs, the Pomeranian responds well to training and can be a hard worker. The breed is well suited for search-and-rescue missions because its small size gives it an advantage when navigating through a disaster area. With their love for people, they also make excellent therapy dogs and companions for hearing-impaired individuals.

Popular and perky, Pomeranians can be a wonderful addition to any family!

* The smaller "teacup" variety is not officially recognized as a breed by the AKC.