



THE POMERANIAN.

THE Pomeranian has come to his own in popular estimation. Bright, companionable and alert to a degree scarcely approached by any other toy, handsome as an Esquimaux or a miniature colley, and cunning and playful, they have all the requisites that attract, and all the virtues that compel affection. The Pomeranian is breedy, too; indeed he is an aristocrat from the tip of his ears to his defiant-like brush, and can boast a pedigree far beyond his record in the club register.

As a house guard the Pomeranian is unequaled; his shrill, interminable, and irrepressible bark when alarmed is an indicator not to be suppressed or overlooked. The bargemen of the Rhine rely almost entirely upon him as a sentinel on their boats. During the past four or five years the Pomeranian has made rapid strides in popularity; in fact he is to-day one of the most fashionable and expensive fads of the pet-dog fancy.

Fifteen or twenty years ago it was very rare that one saw any but the white specimens, and in those days, they were far heavier than would be considered correct for a good show dog of to-day; the whites still show a tendency to weight above blacks and other colors. It was hard to get good whites without showing some tinge of lemon on the ears.

Blacks were decidedly rarer, but I remember some fifteen years ago owning a black and white which came nearer to the present-day type than any I had seen until recent years. At that time she was considered quite a toy, and turned the scale at some six or seven pounds.

As an instance of the popularity which this breed has attained in England, at a recent show of the Ladies' Kennel Association no less than thirty-eight classes were provided.

The first opportunity we have had in this country of seeing really first-class modern type dogs of the breed, was at the recent show of the American Pet Dog Club. Here a liberal schedule of six classes was well filled with specimens of high standard.

That the dogs should be fashionable is not very surprising, from the fact that for many years they have been great favorites with Queen Victoria, who, by the way, owns probably the finest sable that has ever been put upon the show bench, the celebrated dog Marco. Her Majesty owns many other Pom's, including among them a number of prize-winners at noted shows.

The usual classification for weight in this breed is under eight pounds, and from eight

to twelve. There are, however, at the present time many beautiful specimens which would not turn the scale at four or five pounds.

A description of the dog in its various points follows:

Head.—Foxy in outline, inclined to wedge shape; the skull slightly flat (but in the small varieties more roundness), large in proportion to the muzzle, which should be fine and free from lippiness; the teeth should be level, and on no account undershot. The head in profile may exhibit a little "stop," but this must not be too pronounced; the hair on head and face must be smooth and short.

Eyes.—Medium in size; rather oblique in shape, and not too wide apart; bright, dark in color, showing intelligence and docility.

Ears.—Small, carried perfectly erect like those of a fox, and like the head, should be covered with soft brown hair.

Nose.—In black, tan, or white dogs, it must be a good black; in other colored Pom's it may be brown or liver-colored—but in all self-colored; never parti-colored or white.

Neck and Shoulders.—The neck should be rather short, well set in and solid, well covered with mane; and a long frill of straight glossy hair, coming from under jaw and covering the whole of the front part of the shoulders and chest, and flowing on the top part of the shoulders.

Body.—The back should be short, the body compact, and the barrel well rounded; the chest should be deep and not too wide.

Legs.—The forelegs must be perfectly straight, of medium length, sufficiently well proportioned in length and strength to balance the rest of the frame; the forelegs and thighs must be well feathered, the feet small.

Tail.—The tail is an important feature in this breed; it must be well twisted right up from the root, lying tightly over the back, falling slightly on either side; it must be profusely covered with long hair spreading well out over the back.

Coat.—There are practically two coats, an under and upper; the latter should be long, straight and glistening, covering the whole body, being very abundant round the neck, shoulders and chest. The hindquarters should be covered with long hair or feathering, from the rump to the hocks.

Color.—White, black, blue, brown, fawn, sable, red, black and tan, and parti-colored. The whites must be perfectly free from any trace of lemon or other color; the blacks, blues, browns, reds, and blacks and tans free from white. A slight trace of white in a self-colored clog does not disqualify, but should carry great weight against it. In parti-colored dogs the colors should be evenly distributed.

In general appearance the Pomeranian should be a compact, short-coupled dog with frame well put together; his head and face should be fox-like, ears small and erect, ready to catch every sound, expression showing great intelligence; he should be of a docile disposition, yet full of brightness and activity.

A scale of points is as follows: General appearance 15, body 10, tail 10, coat 25, color 10, head 5, eyes 5, ears 5, nose 5, neck and shoulders 5, legs 5.