

POMERANIAN

A breed standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However, if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as unacceptable, it must not be rewarded in the show ring.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 01/07/2025

ORIGIN

Germany.

UTILISATION

Companion dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 97]

German Spitz dogs are descendants of the stone age "Peat Dogs" (Torfhunde) and the later "Lake-dwelling Spitz" (Pfahlbauspitz); it is the oldest breed of dog in Central Europe. Numerous other breeds have been developed from them. In non-German speaking countries, Toy Spitz dogs (Zwergspitze) are known as Pomeranians.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

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

CHARACTERISTICS

Sound, vivacious, and dainty.

TEMPERAMENT

Extrovert, lively, and intelligent.

HEAD

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.

Eyes:

Medium size, slightly oval, not full or set too wide apart; bright, dark, and showing great intelligence. In white, orange, shaded sable, and cream dogs, rims are black.

Ears:

Relatively small, not set too wide apart or too low down, but carried perfectly erect.

Mouth:

Jaws strong, with a perfect, regular, and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

NECK

Rather short and well-set into shoulders.

FOREQUARTERS

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

BODY

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

HINDQUARTERS

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

FEET

Small, compact, and cat-like.

TAIL

Characteristic of breed, high-set, turned over back and carried flat and straight, profusely covered with long, harsh, spreading hair.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Free-moving, brisk, and buoyant.

COAT

Two coats, an undercoat and an outercoat. Former soft, fluffy; the latter long, perfectly straight, harsh in texture and covering whole of body; very abundant round neck and fore part of shoulders and chest; forming frill, extending over shoulders. Forequarters well-feathered, thighs and hind legs well-feathered to hocks.

COLOUR

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

- Whole colours are: white, black, brown, light or dark, blue as pale as possible.
- Orange, which should be self-coloured and bright as possible.
- Beaver.
- Cream dogs have black noses and black eye-rims.
- Whites must be quite free from lemon or any other colour.

* A few white hairs, in any of the self-coloured dogs tolerated.

* Dogs (other than white) with white or tan markings highly undesirable and not considered whole-coloured specimens.

* Merles not permissible.

* In parti-coloured dogs, colours evenly distributed on body in patches. A dog with white or tan feet or chest should not be considered 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.

* Any other colour or combination of colours, including merle, unacceptable.

SIZE

Weight:

Males: 1.8kg – 2kg.

Females: 2kg – 2.5kg.

N.B. Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.

FAULTS

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 and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog, and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

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When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:

FCI Standard No. 97: DEUTSCHER SPITZ (ZWERGSPITZ: TOY SPITZ / POMERANIAN)

FCI Classification: Group 5 – Spitz and primitive types.

Section 4.1e. European Spitz.

Without working trial.