

Contents at a Glance

<i>Introduction</i>	1
<i>Part I: Pomeranians: What's Not to Love?</i>	7
Chapter 1: Catching Pomer-mania	9
Chapter 2: What's in a Pom?	19
Chapter 3: In Search of Your Soul Mate	31
Chapter 4: The Final Selection: Picking Your Perfect Partner	49
<i>Part II: When Your House Becomes Your Pom's Home</i>	63
Chapter 5: Prepare to Be Pomerized!.....	65
Chapter 6: Coming Home	87
Chapter 7: Starting Off on the Right Paw: The First Few Days	99
<i>Part III: Caring for Your Pom from Head to Paw</i>	113
Chapter 8: Eating Out of the Pom of Your Hand.....	115
Chapter 9: Primping Your Pom	131
Chapter 10: Maintaining Your Pom's Health and Happiness	149
Chapter 11: Doctoring Your Dog.....	165
Chapter 12: Traveling with a Pom Pilot (Or Leaving Him in Others' Care)	191
<i>Part IV: Training Your Pom with TLC</i>	201
Chapter 13: Saving the Carpets: Housetraining.....	203
Chapter 14: Mastering Manners and Basic Commands.....	217
Chapter 15: Dealing with Doggy Delinquents	235
<i>Part V: The Part of Tens</i>	253
Chapter 16: Ten Cool Activities to Do with Your Pom.....	255
Chapter 17: Ten Fun Facts about Poms	261
<i>Index</i>	265

Table of Contents

***Introduction* 1**

About This Book	1
Conventions Used in This Book	2
What You're Not to Read.....	2
Foolish Assumptions	3
How This Book Is Organized.....	3
Part I: Pomeranians: What's Not to Love?	3
Part II: When Your House Becomes Your Pom's Home...4	
Part III: Caring for Your Pom from Head to Paw	4
Part IV: Training Your Pom with TLC	4
Part V: The Part of Tens	4
Icons Used in This Book.....	5
Where to Go from Here	5

***Part I: Pomeranians: What's Not to Love?* 7**

Chapter 1: Catching Pomer-mania 9

The Toy-Dog Extravaganza: Pom Popularity	9
Sizing Up Your Situation: Know What a Pom Requires	11
Can you commit to the friendship?	11
Do you have a home fit for a Pom?.....	12
Can you afford to feed and care for a dog?	12
Do you have the time or cash to groom a dog?	14
Do you have the time and energy to play with a dog?.....	14
Do you have the patience to train a dog?	15
Do you travel much?	15
Double-Checking Your Motives: Why Do You Want a Pom?...16	
Recognizing your reasons for wanting a Pom.....	16
Hesitating after a loss.....	17
Knowing when you're ready to bite the bullet.....	17
Thinking about Breeding?	18

Chapter 2: What's in a Pom? 19

Eyeing the Standard: The Pomeranian Blueprint	19
The gist of the Pom: General appearance	20
From head to toes: Pom specifics.....	20
Beneath the Fur: Pom Anatomy 101	22
Small Package, Big Personality.....	23
Great balls of fire!.....	23
Cuddle-up pup.....	25
Perky and playful.....	25

Fit and fancy-free	25
The little brainiac	26
Bold and brash.....	26
Watchdog extraordinaire	26
Protection dog — not so much!.....	27
All Things Considered: The Pros and Cons of Poms	27
The not-so-great points.....	27
The great points.....	28

Chapter 3: In Search of Your Soul Mate 31

Boy or Girl? Choosing the Right Gender for You	32
Age Matters: Choosing Your Match	33
The benefits and drawbacks of maturity.....	33
The joys and trials of youth	34
Deciding Whether Two Poms Are Better Than One	35
Considering Your Goals: What Pom Type Would You Like?..	36
Pet (or companion) quality	36
Show quality.....	37
Breeding quality.....	38
Perusing Pedigrees	38
Evaluating Pom Sources.....	40
Pet stores and commercial breeders	40
Newspaper ads and backyard breeders	41
Hobby breeders who are really serious.....	42
Finding Good Breeders.....	44
Rescuing Abandoned Poms	47

Chapter 4: The Final Selection: Picking Your Perfect Partner 49

Knowing the Right Price: A Quick Guide.....	50
Visiting the Breeder	51
Taking a look around	52
Getting personal: Specific questions to ask	52
The Big Test: Interacting with Potential Pups	53
Getting the ground rules right	53
Finding love at first sight	54
Screening for Good Health.....	55
Relying on the breeder's expertise and integrity	55
Checking up on a puppy's health	56
Paying for Your Pom and Handling the Paperwork.....	58
Money matters	58
Paperwork you receive	59
Other paperwork you can buy.....	59
Registering Your New Friend	59
Transactions of a Different Bird: Adopting from Rescues or Shelters	60

***Part II: When Your House Becomes
Your Pom's Home* 63**

Chapter 5: Prepare to Be Pomerized! 65

Collecting Pom Paraphernalia.....65
 Housing and transporting.....65
 Dining ware.....69
 Walking supplies69
 Identification71
 Chewies and anti-chewies71
 Tools for setting boundaries71
 Grooming gear.....73
 Cleaning up after your pup.....74
 Toys and other fun stuff.....75
 Preparing for Emergencies76
 Stocking the first-aid kit.....76
 Making an emergency plan.....76
 Designing Spaces Fit for a Small King or Queen.....77
 By day.....77
 When you're away77
 By night.....77
 Pom-Proofing Your Home and Yard78
 Generally speaking78
 Kitchen.....79
 Dining room.....80
 Family room.....80
 Bedrooms.....81
 Bathroom.....81
 Laundry room81
 Garage82
 Outside.....83
 Exercising caution during holiday decorating.....84
 Finding a Vet and Scheduling the First Appointment.....86

Chapter 6: Coming Home 87

Making that First Trip Safe and Sound87
 Scheduling the pickup time.....88
 Preparing to drive Miss Daisy: What to bring.....88
 Managing a Happy Homecoming90
 Gaining a sense of place.....91
 Meeting the family91
 Saying "Hello" to doggy or kitty.....92
 Settling In on the First Night.....96
 Starting a routine from the get-go97
 Calming those first-night jitters97



**Chapter 7: Starting Off on the Right Paw:
The First Few Days 99**

Getting to Know Your Pom	99
Keeping the newness of it all in mind	99
Bonding with humans big and small	100
Going to the Vet for Your Pom's First Checkup	101
Checking out the doctor	102
Making the first appointment a success	102
Acclimating the Pup to His New Life	103
Making a crate feel like home sweet home	104
Encouraging independence and relieving anxiety	106
Getting used to riding in the car	107
Enjoying Playtime	108
Engaging the hesitant Pom	108
Outsmarting the push-and-shove Pom	108
Drawing the line with your nipping Pom	109
Laying Down the House Rules	110
Explaining the laws of the loveseat	110
Keeping his chompers on chewies, not chairs (or shoes!)	111

Part III: Caring for Your Pom from Head to Paw... 113

Chapter 8: Eating Out of the Pom of Your Hand 115

Avoiding Toy Dog Food Follies	115
Feeding bite-sized bits	116
Watching out for low blood sugar	116
Avoiding toxic table scraps	118
Boning Up on Nutrition	118
The energy providers	119
The non-energy providers	121
Perusing the Pet-Food Aisle	122
Comparing bags, cans, and pouches	122
Reading the label and between the lines	123
Deciding How Much, How Often	126
Starting and sticking to a feeding routine	127
Dieting your pudgy Pom	127
Enticing your picky Pom	128
Feeding to Feel Better: Special Diets for Diseases	129

Chapter 9: Primping Your Pom 131

Perfecting the Pom-Padour	131
Brushing the puff	132
Rats, those maddening mats!	134

Bathing beauties135
 Drying your doused dog138
 Trimming those tresses139
 Clipping the coat for function or style.....140
 Cleaning Your Pom’s Peepers.....140
 Clearing the Hearing: Getting the Wax Out141
 Brushing Up on Tooth Care142
 Caring for the pearly whites142
 Inspecting your Pom for dental problems.....144
 Giving Your Pom a Pedicure144
 A Spa Day at Pom Springs146

Chapter 10: Maintaining Your Pom’s Health and Happiness 149

Visiting the Vet: Checkups and Vaccinations149
 The annual rendezvous.....149
 Understanding vaccinations150
 Dealing with bad reactions152
 Playing Doctor: The Do-It-Yourself Checkup153
 Avoiding the Worm Farm: Preventive Measures155
 Heartworms155
 Intestinal parasites155
 Preventing Bugs: Fleas, Ticks, and Mites156
 Castrating and Spaying157
 Knowing what to expect157
 Lowering the sexual zest157
 Addressing thoughts of breeding158
 Giving Your Pom a Chip on His Shoulder.....159
 Keeping Your Senior Pom Healthy159
 Eating and the elderly Pom159
 Coping with senior sensory problems.....160
 Senior health concerns161

Chapter 11: Doctoring Your Dog 165

Saving Your Dog’s Skin165
 Debugging your dog165
 Alleviating allergies168
 Cooling hot spots.....170
 Global Deworming171
 Spotting Signs of Sickness.....172
 Butt scooting172
 Coughing173
 Diarrhea173
 Ear gunk174
 Tears and eye goop175

Limping	176
Listlessness	176
Loss of appetite.....	177
Urination changes.....	178
Vomiting.....	179
Pondering Pom Predispositions.....	180
Alopecia X: Hair loss	180
Entropion: Eyelid problems.....	181
Hydrocephalus: Water on the brain	182
Open fontanel: Soft spot	183
Patellar luxation: Bad knees	183
Patent ductus arteriosus: Heart defect.....	185
Tracheal collapse: Breathing problems	185
Dealing with Emergencies.....	187
A is for airway	187
B is for breathing	188
C is for circulation	188

**Chapter 12: Traveling with a Pom Pilot
(Or Leaving Him in Others' Care) 191**

Packing for Your Pomeranian.....	192
Hitting the Road	193
Practicing safety first	193
Keeping your Pom cool and comfy	194
Flying the Friendly Skies	195
Minding Your Motel Manners	195
Leaving Your Dog Behind When You Must Go	197
Taking your dog to a boarding place.....	197
Hiring a pet sitter.....	199

Part IV: Training Your Pom with TLC.....201

Chapter 13: Saving the Carpets: Houstraining. 203

Deciding When and Where to Houstrain Your Pom Pup.....	203
Creating a Schedule (And Sticking to It)	205
Using a Crate, Pen, or Doggy Door When You're Away from Home.....	206
Allowing a crate to teach him to hold it	206
Letting her houstrain herself in an exercise pen....	207
Installing a doggy door	209
Houstraining in Action	210
Recognizing when she's gotta go.....	210
Instilling confidence by sticking around for the potty party	210
Rewarding potty performance	211

Overcoming Houstraining Challenges.....212
 Reacting constructively to accidents.....212
 Understanding common medical causes
 for potty problems.....213
 Dealing with involuntary emissions.....214
 Tackling the not-so-involuntary emissions215

**Chapter 14: Mastering Manners and
 Basic Commands 217**

Talking to Your Pom217
 Communicating with body language.....218
 Speaking up: Using verbal skills correctly.....218
 Understanding Your Pom.....220
 Reading your Pom’s body language220
 Translating Pom talk221
 Providing the Motivation for Training and Tricks222
 Rewarding with treats222
 Clicking to show your praise.....224
 Schooling Your Pom in Manners and Obedience.....225
 Sitting pretty.....226
 Staying put.....227
 Lying down on the job228
 Coming when called229
 Walking the floor230
 Teaching Your Pom a Bagful of Tricks.....233
 What a greeting! Shaking hands.....233
 Stop, drop, and roll, dog-style.....234
 Speaking when called upon.....234

Chapter 15: Dealing with Doggy Delinquents 235

Squelching Bad Behavior: The Two Major Methods236
 Understanding the pitfalls of punishment.....236
 Considering the best approach:
 Positive behavior training238
 Helping a Fearful Dog Be Brave.....238
 Training away the fear239
 Medicating away the fear.....241
 Combating Separation Anxiety.....242
 Calming a Ping-Pong Pom244
 Quieting a Barking Nuisance245
 Nipping Biting in the Bud.....247
 Fear-related aggression.....247
 Territorial aggression.....248
 Getting Him to Drop the Begging249
 Minimizing a Dog’s Food-Guarding Response250
 Discouraging Disgusting Eating Habits251
 Putting a Stop to Mounting Embarrassment252

Part V: The Part of Tens.....253

**Chapter 16: Ten Cool Activities to Do
with Your Pom..... 255**

A Day at the Bark Park255
Play Fetch.....255
Follow Your Nose!256
Venture into the Great Outdoors257
Become a Canine Good Citizen257
Meet and Greet258
Get Some Class!.....258
Let Your Pom Be a Furry Therapist259
Pom Be Nimble, Pom Be Quick260
Join a Flyball Team260

Chapter 17: Ten Fun Facts about Poms 261

Living in the Lap of Luxury: Royal Poms261
Famous Pomeranian People Back in the Day262
20th-Century Celebrities and Their Poms262
Poms on the Big Screen.....262
Poms in Paintings.....263
Titanic Survivors.....263
The Pom in The Pie and the Patty Pan.....263
DNA Test for Color.....263
Pomeranian Paparazzi.....264
A Pom by Any Other Name264

Index265