
POMERANIAN HEALTH ISSUES

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All dogs may experience health issues common to their breeds, including x breed dogs. In the case of Pomeranians, the following are the most typical.

Luxating Patellas

Though the term “luxating patella” may sound confusing, it simply means a kneecap that has slipped out of place.

Luxating patellas are common in Pomeranians, and Pomeranians’ knees are actually graded by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA):

If your puppy has a higher grade early in life, he or she will be more likely to need surgery, which can be expensive. (Your breeder should have this information on the patellas of your Pomeranian’s parents.)

Hypothyroidism

A low-level thyroid, or hypothyroidism, is at times seen in Pomeranians.

Coat Loss Problems

Pomeranians sometimes experience a coat problem called Severe Hair Loss Syndrome. This coat loss may also be referred to as Black Skin Disease and/or Alopecia X.

Black Skin Disease Pomeranian puppies with beautiful, full, fluffy coats as puppies may develop early onset BSD. Pomeranian puppies with these types of coats often lack the harsh guard hairs and feel like "cotton" to touch.

These puppies often do not shed puppy coat and go through the ugly stage like the majority of Pomeranian puppies. Coat loss usually occurs at around 14 to 16 months and these cases are referred to as the early onset version of black skin disease.

Late onset Black Skin Disease usually occurs at around 3 to 4 years of age, but cases have been documented, where the Pomeranian has developed SHLS as late as 9 years of age.

Because Black Skin Disease is thought to be genetic, you should ask your breeder for information regarding this condition.

Collapsing Tracheas

Pomeranians who make honking noises or cough-like sounds (much like a cat regurgitating a hairball) may have collapsed tracheas.

An x-ray can diagnose the issue, and medication can reduce the symptoms. A collapsed trachea can be deadly, immediate veterinarian treatment is required.

Any coughing should be investigated and could also indicate worms, heart disease or hairballs. Pomeranian puppies have been known to die from hairballs. Fur can be ingested by the puppy while sucking the mother.

Heart Problems

Pomeranians can experience heart problems. Issues ranging from extremely minor to life threatening are common in all dogs. Similar to humans, heart disease in dogs is associated with genetic factors and poor lifestyle which includes poor diet, obesity and lack of exercise. Again, any reputable Pomeranian breeder should have a plethora of information on a Pomeranian puppy’s lineage to help determine if heart issues run in the family.

Hypoglycemia

Hypoglycemia in young, very small and active Pomeranian puppies is not unusual. Discuss any potential problems with regard to Hypoglycemia and your new Pomeranian baby, with the Breeder prior to collecting the Pomeranian Puppy.

Hypoglycemia basically is very low blood sugar. Glucose is the form of sugar found within the bloodstream. Glucose is created in the course of the digestion of foods and it can be stored within the liver in a storage form called glycogen.

Liver Shunts

Liver Shunt can occur in Pomeranian pups.

Seizures

Idiopathic epilepsy (that which has an unknown cause) can rear its head among the Pomeranian breed. Sometimes, the epilepsy is caused by head trauma, liver disease or kidney problems, but it can have other causes as well. Most epileptic Pomeranians inherit the disease, and exhibit symptoms between 3-7 years old.

Legg Perthes Disease

Perthes Disease occasionally occurs in Pomeranians, generally before they are a year old (4-11 months).

The condition results from a loss of blood supply to the hip joint. This results in extreme pain, not to mention lameness. Though surgery can help, Pomeranians with Perthes Disease should never be bred due to the genetic component involved.

Eye Issues

The inward rolling of the eyelid on a Pomeranian will cause his or her eyelashes to rub on the eye's surface. The resulting discomfort makes the Pomeranian squint and/or become sensitive to the sun or other bright lights.

Fortunately, this type of eye issue can be corrected with surgery (recommended for Pomeranians over 1 year.). Occasionally as the puppy grows this condition may self-correct.

If a Pomeranian with this problem is not treated with surgery, corneal ulceration and/or scarring can occur.

NOTE: Veterinarians trained to do Canine Eye Registry Foundation (CERF) testing can also look at a Pomeranian's eyes for genetic problems. CERF has a database to give buyers of Pomeranians information on the parents (and possibly other relatives) of all registered Pomeranian pups.

Open fontanels are an opening in the top of the puppy's skull, similar to an open fontanel in a new born human baby. Open fontanels are not a rare occurrence in small dog breeds. Fortunately, the majority of the smaller sized open fontanels seen in Pomeranian puppies will cause the dog no problems and most small open fontanels will close before a puppy reaches 12 months.

Testicle Descent Abnormalities

Male Pomeranians may have the abnormal descent of their testicles (one or both). If this is the case, castration is the routine route taken.

Ignoring this issue (which is thought to be inherited) can place the pup at a higher risk of testicular cancer.

Retained Deciduous (Baby) Teeth

Normally by six weeks of age Pomeranian puppies acquire their deciduous teeth, generally identified as baby teeth. Beginning at about from four months of age onwards, the deciduous teeth are changed for the bigger and significantly stronger permanent teeth.

On occasion, the permanent teeth do not appear beneath the deciduous teeth, and consequently, do not push the baby teeth out. Whenever a puppy has both teeth at the exact same site, it is referred to as a retained deciduous tooth. In the Pomeranian dog, this normally occurs with the incisors or upper canine baby teeth.

Pomeranians are Health Tested for the following:

Eye Examination by a Ophthalmologist.

Cardiac Evaluation Advanced Cardiac Exam – OR Congenital Cardiac Exam – Recommend follow up evaluation between 3 and 5 years of age.

Patellar Luxation

Hip Dysplasia (Optional) Note: Pomeranian hip problems rarely include Hip Dysplasia.

Legg-Calve-Perthes

Hypothyroidism

Pomeranian health Test Results should be recorded on the Canine Health Information Center, also known as CHIC database.

For complete Pomeranian health details refer to:

<https://pomeranian.org/pomeranian-dog-health-issues-explained/>

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