

PEOPLE IN POMS
HEIDI TORREY

FAYRWYNE POMERANIANS

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First and foremost, I would like to wish everyone a JOYOUS HOLIDAY AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

Before I begin, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the person who initiated this long awaited kennel visit (I truly thought I would never be asked). Your recent words of support and encouragement are greatly appreciated. You know who you are!

As I sit here on a fairly chilly evening with the fire-place lit for the first time this year and a few puppies of various ages are running around with their newly found antics, making me smile as I contemplate my first sentences, I have been asking myself, what is important to me in this breed? What have I contributed over the last 15 years? And, what are my expectations of myself for the next 15 years? I have always been a little out of the "norm" in everything I do including my breeding goals. I want something different, hard to achieve, something no one else has. I want to make a statement!

My actual beginning was in the hospital delivery room giving birth to my second child. Because my first child was born by c-section, it was standard recommendation to have the next by c-section. Of course I said "no" to the c-section, going against the "norm." My daughter, Chelsea was born dead (the umbilical cord became kinked during delivery). They resuscitated her and now I am the mother of a child that cannot walk, talk, eat or do anything without me. Still, she is a joy to have in my life. She keeps me very grounded!

I had always worked but, my husband, (at the time) told me I needed to find a stay-at-home job. I thought okay. I'll give it a shot and the next day I bought myself a "white Pomeranian." The kennel I visited was fairly large and almost like a commercial establishment. That was it! It dawned on me - puppies, as many as I want, sell, make money, pay bills, be in seventh heaven for the rest of my life. Yeah right!

**FIVE
 GENERATION
 DOG FAMILY**

*Anne Chandler
 and an unknown Spaniel.*

*Arlene and "Clover"
 Suellen and "Buttons"*

Heidi and "Monique"

Fairen and "Kitten"



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Interior adult runs



Adult runs on the right



Inside kennel building.



Interior puppy side.



Puppy area on the left.

The kennel building consist of 2 sheds that are combined and then elevated for drainage and tile floors with year round heating and air conditioning. Adult dog runs on the right and a large 25 X 25ft, puppy playpen area is on the left.



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The first Pom I bought was obviously pet quality which led to the purchase of a second and a third and so on. My husband could never tell me “no” as this was my “JOB.” I did, though, have the wear-with-all to realize a quality dog must be show quality. I wanted to start my breeding program with the intention of producing quality Poms.

I consulted with one of my very first mentors and, in my opinion, a superb breeder, Cheryl Lassiter of CNL Kennel. As a newbie, I always loved to go visit her whenever I was in Atlanta. She had incubators and cable TV wired into her kennel so her dogs could watch HBO! Instead of pushing something on me to make a sale, she steered me in the direction of a show quality bitch already pointed (Golden Aires Shalimar). I got a reserve win the first time I walked in the ring. WOW!

Many friendships have been made during my years in Poms. It has been great meeting people and their families, visiting their homes and soaking up knowledge : Marian Dossmar (Dossmar Pomeranians), Betsy Owens (Sonador Pomeranians), Nadine Hersil, Sue Berney (Suber Pomeranians), Adrian Alford (Jimcin Poms),



I also do All-Breed rescue – Great Dane Lilly

Kathy and Allan Blair (Katalla Pomeranians), Jerri Freia (Janesa's Pomeranians) and her right arm Georgia Crittenden of (Liebchen Pomeranians), Lael Ellis (Peter Pan Poms), Barbara Messimer (Bar-Jon Poms), Kathy Vogel (Vogelflight Bichons) and Lisa Ligtenberg (Lisa's Pomeranians). AND saving the best for last, Ann Sullivan (Ra-Joy Poms), Noble Inglett, Brenda Underwood (Underwood Pomeranians), and Tom Flores of Tom Cat Kennels.

A majority of these friendships were sparked down south in Mississippi. I have since divorced and gravitated back to the town where I was raised, Virginia Beach, Virginia. I live on the state line literally of NC and VA. The island on which I live is a National Refuge. Although it is very secluded, I am close enough to big cities such as Richmond, DC, and NYC. I still attend dogs shows when possible. It is hard to get away.

I have actually evolved in the respect of the dog food thing, which to use, which not to use, what is everyone else using, cost, availability, which is the healthiest, what has what percentage of this and that and have come back around full circle to using what I deem the best and healthiest. I am still leaning towards the raw diet thing but still not totally convinced yet and am still researching that avenue. I am feeding a holistic dry food called Wysong introduced to me by a “blue blood” Bichon girlfriend Kathi Vogel. For me price, no matter how many dogs I have, should not be an issue at this point, because I truly believe it is the least I can do for the little creatures that bring so much joy and fulfillment into my life. My reason for raising the little dogs I love so much is not to impress people.... no one but myself, as a matter of fact. You have to ask me personally what one very important mark I have made in the Pom world. I don't feel it is my place to remind someone whenever I get a chance.

It isn't just the showing or just the breeding that gives me personal satisfaction but all that combined with the pleasure of giving a person that unbelievable happiness when they come to pick up their puppy. I don't mind cleaning poopie butts or staying up all night to whelp (I'm a night person anyway, as most of us are). It doesn't bother me to get up in the morning

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*Underwoods Baja Mirage
"Baja"*



Fayrwyynes Mahogany Mirror Image



Fayrwyynes Artic Ice's Donner

to scoop, hose, and groom or explain what BSD is to a person sitting next to me in the vet's office because that is clearly what their dog has. Most vets still don't recognize it.

The showing is fun. Don't get me wrong but I could take it or leave it. I have been called an "upstart." I am not sure what that means but maybe they say it because the notoriety came so fast and I didn't put in as many hours as others in the beginning. But, believe me, I have paid my doggie dues and learned many things the hard way - trial and error.

I am now at the point in my life where I am happy to offer advice to anyone. Hopefully, it will shorten their road of hard knocks. I am still learning and always hope to learn more. You will find me, always willing to share knowledge and my canine gene pool. I do not believe that my dogs are not just my dogs but are to be shared. Why not share? Why not allow someone else to get there with you? You'll never get a "no" answer from Fayrwyne's Pomeranians.

In a recent article in the CANINE CHRONICLE, Gay Dunlap writes what I feel has always been my motto, "What is this about? Here is a person who breeds his bitches this way and that way, and I mean this rhetorically, using other stud dogs and in return is unwilling to reciprocate. But such a blanket statement as not allowing one's dog to be at public stud deserves, at the very, least an explanation. As breeders, we have a responsibility to always act in the best interest of our respective breeds. Refusing to offer a worthwhile dog



Ying Yang Chocolate Baby



*Ch. Fayrwyynes Mahogany
Mirage - "Raja"*

at stud is contrary to their interest and totally non-supportive of the breed. Furthermore, it flies in the face of and denies the importance of a strong and vibrant gene pool."

My quest for the perfect "Pom of color" will never end. As a matter of fact, it will inevitably take much longer than any orange Pom. You'll only find two or three of them here. The few that I do have are of exemplary lines: Lenette, Janesa's, Jan Shar and Finch which I use for breeding the stability back into my colors, white, chocolate, parti and merle lines. Henceforth, the name for a kennel of colors emerged, Fayrwyynes (substituting y's for the I's). My rendition of the fairness sometimes lacking in the show ring of the rarer colors.

And, so, I will press on, raising my Poms and my girls (the eldest, Fairen, in college and the youngest, Chelsea, forever at my side) sneaking away to any local show I am able to attend, including an occasional trek to Nationals, Specialties and Westminster events to broaden my knowledge, and nurture the Pom friendships I have held onto throughout the years.