

THE COMPLETE GUIDE

# TO POMSKY TRAINING

POMSKY TRAINING FROM  
START TO FINISH



POMSKY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

# The Complete Guide To Pomsky Training

Pomsky training from start to finish

Pomsky Owners Association



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Printed in the United States of America

First Printing, 2017

ISBN: 9781549565168

Pomsky Owners Association Publishing  
50 Meridian St  
Boston, MA 02128

[www.PomskyOwnersAssociation.com](http://www.PomskyOwnersAssociation.com)

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# Thank You

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A special thanks to all of those involved in the creation of this book. This book is a collaborative effort from Pomsy owners, Pomsy breeders and Pomsy trainers all over the world.

A special thank you to:

- Middle Tennessee Pomsies - for the use of their Pomsy photo as the POA logo
- Lollipop Pomsies - for the use of their Pomsy photos on our book cover
- Seth and Kelly Smith – for the use of their Pomsy Espen on our book cover
- Ella Yan – for the use of her Pomsy Kiara on our book cover

# Praise for “Guide to Pomsky Training”

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## **“It is more than just a training book”**

*The book Jake has put together for training Pomsies is great! We have always had Golden Retrievers, which are fairly easy to train. We found raising a Pomsky was a little different and a bit more of a challenge. Because of this, we bought the book "How to Train Your Pomsky". It is more than just a training book -- it is a book that specializes in the Pomsky breed. We love Venus, but we want her to be a well-trained dog that everyone will love. This book is helping us reach that goal. - Maryann and her Pomsky Venus*

## **“This booked helped me solve it all!”**

*She was going potty inside, wandered around and didn't listen when I called her back and she's very shy around people. She's supper sweet! But I was having a lot of trouble training. This booked helped me solve it all! Maddie now knows to potty outside and by practicing the engagement exercises, she now pays attention to me when I call. I've been keeping to my schedule and it's really helped her gain some confidence, she's really starting to come out of her shell! The training/bonding seems to have put a bit more pep in her step and helped her confidence a bunch. - Deborah and her Pomsky Maddie*

## **“I'm glad that I had insight from someone that's been there before.”**

*I purchased this book right when I bought my Pomsky. Bought it just in case because I heard this breed can be difficult to manage. Ended up reading the whole thing and using all of the downloads, ended up being a great purchase! I reached out to the POA team a couple of times and can't thank them enough. Very helpful team and great book that was a very easy read. This wasn't my first dog but I'm glad that I had insight from someone that's been there before. The high energy and constant chewing were driving me crazy, easily the best part of the book was the tips to manage my pup's behavior. Not to mention we're already working on some of the more difficult commands, I think she'll be able to roll over soon. - Matt and his Pomsky Haley*

## **“Turns out she just needed exercises for her brain”**

*She used to chew everything. We put her in a shut room when we're not there. And I have to watch her all day to make sure she doesn't chew. Turns out she just needed exercises for her brain. Got new chews, froze treats, new treat toys all from the recommendation of this book. Energy chapter was my favorite and saved my home and time. - Sherry and her Pomsky Eva*

## **“I was training all wrong”**

*My Pomsky is very high strung. He took on the alpha male role immediately after we brought him home. I spent weeks trying to break the alpha, disciplining and fighting non-stop until I picked up this book. I was training all wrong, I've been using the positive method as recommend and used a couple techniques from the energy chapter and everything changed! My Devy is now much more manageable and we have a much better relationship, I really don't think there is an alpha anymore. We're both equal and that's how it should be. Thank you for all of your help. - Mary and her Pomsky Devy*

### **“Seen a huge improvement.”**

*My biggest hurdle was getting him to listen and obey. He's a smart dog. He knows what he's doing but he's the most independent dog I've ever owned. There just simply was no desire to listen. This guide did the trick though. Engagement is what I needed. I've been doing these exercises for weeks now and seen a huge improvement. My Charlie seems to respect me more. There's definitely more of a connection between us. Engagement helped with our commands too. He's much more likely to listen. Engagement helped with it all. - Jim and his Pomsky Charlie*

### **“Much improvement so far”**

*She wouldn't come! I would call and call but nothing. Just doesn't come back to us. Even worse if there is a squirrel. Trained her with your recall command training and taught her the engagement exercises. Very surprised after a couple attempts, I could leave treats on the floor while keeping her engaged. She's smart! Just needed a little work. Still working on the training but much improvement so far. Practicing our come command daily and still doing the engagement training. She'll get it soon. Definitely much better than ever before! - Lydia and her Pomsky Emma*

### **“Just needed some more training. He was bored!”**

*Home training has been challenging. Jax is very hard headed. He wants things done his way. He is one year old and still having problems. Pomsky training guide helped break him. Actually, it was not respect as I thought. Just needed some more training. He was bored! Engagement, commands, exercise and new chew toys helped to break him of his ways. He's now a year and a half and the most perfect pup I could have asked for. - Denise and her Pomsky Jax*

### **“She's learned come, sit, lay and stay”**

*She used to go and go until she crashed. We'd try to train her but she'd be too excited and wouldn't listen. I used this book to fix her. We now exercise her and exercise her brain before training. This calms her down. We use the exercises to keep her listening to us and can now train the commands. She's learned come, sit, lay and stay. We'll be teaching paw next. Step by step exercises in this book are definitely the best. Makes it easy to train and follow. - Jennifer and her Pomsky Bailey*

# Introduction

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*The Complete Guide to Pomsky Training* is a must read for every Pomsky owner. It is a comprehensive guide to owning and training a Pomsky covering everything you need to train the perfect companion. You are embarking on a long journey with your Pomsky, it is a wonderful breed that will love you forever but you are going to need some help along the way. That is why we are here.

## About the author

I'm Jake, the founder of Pomsky Owners Association. Although I'm the one writing, I'm far from the only voice that you will be hearing throughout this book. This book was an absolute group effort from a number of Pomsky breeders, Pomsky owners, and Pomsky trainers. You will see their advice and insight throughout this book because they know best. They are the most knowledgeable source of information, they are the ones that have been there before, they have been through the struggles of Pomsky training and they know the ins and outs of what works and what doesn't. Combined, there is well over 200 years of Pomsky owning experience contributing to this book.

## Why we wrote this book

At the Pomsky Owners Association, we talk to hundreds of Pomsky lovers each day. We have been there. We hear the struggles; we know the day to day lifestyle of raising a Pomsky and we know that training is one of the most difficult aspects of owning a Pomsky. Pomsies can be a difficult breed to manage! They are little balls full of energy, and although they are loyal and loving, it does not mean that they are always willing listen. That is why we wrote *The Complete Guide to Pomsky Training*. It took us about six months of daily work to compile the research and put our thoughts onto paper but we dedicated our time to this task because the most common complaint that we hear (almost daily) is that the Pomsky breed is difficult to train. Pomsies are a unique breed, yet at the time of writing this book, there is not one single resource available to owners that focus specifically on training the Pomsky breed. So we created one. Based on real life experience and insights, we have dedicated each chapter of this book to discuss and provide actionable advice for managing the hardest parts of training a Pomsky. All of our hard work has yielded *The Complete Guide to Pomsky Training*, an all-around master resource to help Pomsky owners train their Pomsky.

## About Pomsky Owners Association

The Pomsky Owners Association is a leading authority for the Pomsky dog breed. The POA provides accurate and reputable information, facts and advice about the Pomsky breed. All information provided on our site comes directly from actual Pomsky breeders and Pomsky owners, allowing us to provide the most accurate information about the Pomsky breed. Please visit [www.PomskyOwnersAssociation.com](http://www.PomskyOwnersAssociation.com) for more information.



# Meet the Contributors:

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## Maryann Galvin – Pomsky Owner

Venus is a beautiful and high-spirited Pomsky, who is a very loving and affectionate young lady. She follows us everywhere we go and always wants to be by our side. The Husky part of her loves to take walks and go on mini adventures. She is super-friendly, she loves people and other pets (even cats!). She is very inquisitive and always on the hunt for anything that moves! She is quite fearless.

She goes to doggie daycare twice a week to have a great time, importantly, to help with her socialization. The book Jake has put together for training Pomskies is great! We have always had Golden Retrievers, which are fairly easy to train. We found raising a Pomsky was a little different and a bit more of a challenge. Because of this, we bought the book "How to Train Your Pomsky". It is more than just a training book -- it is a book that specializes in the Pomsky breed. We love Venus, but we want her to be a well-trained dog that everyone will love. This book is helping us reach that goal.



## Kanzaidy – SZ Pomskies

We have been a Pomsky breeder since 2014. It has by far been one of the best experiences to work alongside other breeders to educate buyers and collaborate together to perfect the Pomsky breed. We are an International Pomsky Association and Pomsky Owners Association Member. Our moto is "achieving excellence by producing perfection," and those are the standards we strive for.



## Jaypee – Pearl of the Orient Seas Puppies

I love both husky and Pomeranian breeds but fell in love with the Pomsky, which I believe is the best of both pure breeds combined. They are the smartest and great personality.

Jaypee is the owner of the largest pet sitting company in North East Florida and also the owner of a call center business in the Philippines.



### **Jessica – Prestige Pomskeys**

We have been training Pomskeys for around 18 months now but have had plenty of experience with Pomskeys within that short span of time. We, at Prestige Pomskeys, are dedicated to our love of Pomskeys and love seeing the breed develop and grow. We have 4 girls that live at home with us as part of the family and it wouldn't be the same without them.



### **Portland Pomskeys**

While the faces behind the scenes have been actively breeding and training Pomskeys since 2015, they are not new to the industry! Born and raised on farms, these farm girls know animal behavior and how to bring the best out of any pet! Dedicating an 8-acre farm for the huskies, Pomskeys, and Pomeranians of Portland Pomskeys to enjoy. The puppies at Portland Pomskeys are raised with love, dedication and care, and enter their new home with the best start to their life!



### **Natalia – Sun Valley Pomskeys**

I've been training Pomskeys for one year. But I have been a husky owner for almost 8 years! I fell in love with the husky breed 8 years ago. They are a very intelligent, loving and beautiful. Huskies are the perfect dog for anyone with a very active lifestyle. We take our pups everywhere: hiking, trail running, backpacking, camping, fly fishing, and even horseback riding! I couldn't imagine my life without them. When I heard about Pomskeys a couple years ago, I knew I wanted to breed them. They're basically a mini husky!



### **Mischa – Brookside Pomskey**

I've been training Pomskeys for about a year and a half, but I've been training other dogs for much longer. We started breeding Pomskeys because we fell in love with the breed. We love that they are very active. Our Pomskeys accompany us on family activities around the farm like horseback riding, rides in the truck, camping, and hiking. They're a loving part of our family!



### **Lauren – Pristine Pomskeys**

I have been training dogs for 3 years now. I have a passion for working with Pomskeys due to my love for the spitz breed. Their intellectual ability combined with their large personalities makes every experience with them a memorable one. I have been breeding Pomskeys for 4 years now and I love matching each puppy with a family based on each puppy's personality and what that family is looking for. Adding a four-legged family member to any home is a big decision, and training makes that process go much more smoothly.



### **Cheyenne – Lollipop Pomskeys**

I have been training Pomskeys for 3 years and showing and training other breeds for 10+ years. I have always been involved and loved breeding, training, and showing dogs. In search of the perfect versatile breed that could fit my lifestyle perfectly and the lifestyle of many, I stumbled upon the Pomsky. I love working with and developing the Pomsky breed. They are very intelligent and willing. My goal is to create a true recognized

breed that is able to be shown and compete in conformation and performance events by working along reputable breeders, the International Pomsky Association, and Pomsky Owner's Association.



### **Cindy – Acacia Pomskeys**

I had been involved in dog sports for several years before venturing into the world of Pomskeys. I quickly found myself in love with the breed and began researching as much as I could, trying to soak up as much information as possible and eventually having my 1st litter in May of 2016. Pomskeys are highly intelligent and trainable, with a huge eagerness to please their owner. It is our goal and responsibility as a breeder to ensure we produce quality, healthy, and happy

puppies that have good temperament, and are loving and loyal in character. Pomskeys are stunning, highly intelligent, outgoing, social, and affectionate. They make perfect family companions!



### **Jo – Moonlit Pomskeys**

I have loved dogs all my life. I have owned all sizes and breeds from Great Danes to Pekinese. I have over 20 years' experience in training dogs. My oldest Pomsky is 4 and my youngest is 20 weeks, and one of my Pomskeys is a qualified therapy dog. Our pups have the best start in life due to the mental stimulation and socialization they get from a very early age. This sets them up for life. I love taking part in agility, rally and dog shows. I love the family that Moonlit

Pomskys has created and I very often meet up with past litters and their owners. Jo's qualifications include her studies of Canine Behavior Training, Dog Training for Foundation Puppy (bronze, silver and gold level), Canine Nutrition, an accreditation for Dog Training and Canine Behavior, and she is studying towards a degree in canine psychology. In addition to these qualifications, Jo is a member of the International Pomsky Association, Pomsky Owners Association, UK Kennel Club, and Kennel Club Academy for Breeders and Judges.



### **Chree – Mountain Shadow Pomskies**

We have been training and breeding Pomskies for 3 years. We have been training and breeding altogether over 40 years. We are a family breeder in open farm land and good old fashion values. We want to make each and every client a forever family member.



### **Sharlee – Chinook Pomskies**

I have been raising Pomskies for over a year now and we have been raising and training Huskies and Pomeranians for over 4 years. I love how smart Pomskies are and how willing they are to learn and work with their people. I have enjoyed every puppy I have worked with and look forward to training many more in the future.



### **Jennifer – Smoky Mountain Pomskies**

Located in Christiana, Tennessee, Smoky Mountain Pomskies is an outstanding breeder with an even more outstanding reputation. Managed by Jenifer Turner, Smoky Mountain Pomskies adheres to the highest possible standard of Pomsky breeding in order to breed happy and healthy Pomskies while ensuring the safety of their dams. Jennifer is a very knowledgeable individual with a knack for Pomsky breeding.



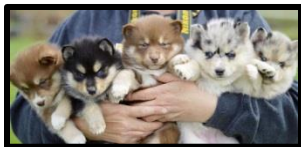
### **Melissa – Ocean View Pomskies**

Melissa of Ocean View Pomskies is an approved breeder of the International Pomsky Association and has taken the proper steps to becoming one of the best breeders. Located in North Bend, Oregon, Ocean View Pomskies puppies are raised in Melissa’s home with socialization to other animals and people of all ages. Melissa makes sure that each Pomsky begins potty training and crate training before going to their new home.



### **Rebecca – Posh Pomsky Toronto**

When you adopt a puppy from Posh Pomsky Toronto, we do everything to make the transition as easy as possible for you and your puppy. Located in downtown Toronto, Ben and Rebecca of Posh Pomsky Toronto live with their Siberian Husky (Ginger), Pomeranians (Cary and Eugene) and two rescue cats (Rita and Donald). Posh Pomsky Toronto Puppies are raised in the heart of a big city, allowing the puppies better acclimate to any environment as they meet all kinds of new people and hear all kinds of sounds from a young age.



### **Karen – Maine Aim Ranch Pomskies**

Maine Aim Ranch is on a mission to raise smart healthy pups that will adjust well to their new families. Managed by Karen McCullough, located on a ranch in Allerton, Iowa, Maine Aim Ranch is experienced in breeding healthy and happy Pomskies, Border Collies, Corgis and cattle. With all of this expertise, Maine Aim Ranch knows the importance of vaccination and socialization, ensuring each of their Pomskies receives the best health care and socialization as a puppy.



### **Chassie - Once Upon A Pomsky**

Once Upon a Pomsky is a very friendly and knowledgeable breeder that focuses their efforts on breeding healthy and socialized Pomskies. Once Upon a Pomsky is managed by Chassie Karnes; she is a very friendly breeder located in North Waterboro, Maine breeding Pomskies at her home with her two children and two cats. Chassie ensures her Pomskies are treated like family. Each Pomsky lives in the house and is only crated at night, giving the Pomskies a chance to socialize around kids and other animals.



### **Kimberlynn – Midnight Sun Pomskies**

From the state known for their Huskies comes Midnight Sun Pomskies, the only POA member breeder located in Alaska. Midnight Sun Pomskies goal is to breed beautiful, healthy, and fluffy Pomskies. Managed by Kimberlynn Wicks, Midnight Sun Pomskies takes great pride in producing the best Pomskies from purebred Siberian Huskies and Pomeranians. Kimberlynn raises her Pomskies in her home ensuring that each Pomsky receives individual attention and care. Kimberlynn ensures that each Pomsky is fully socialized before going to their new home as her Pomskies play with other dogs, cats, children, and adults to perfect each Pomsky's temperament.



### **Anonymous – Pomsky trainers, breeders and owners**

Select contributors have requested to remain anonymous. Special thanks to all of our Pomsky trainers, owners and breeders that assisted in the creation of this book.

# How to use this book

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*The Complete Guide to Pomsky Training* will cover everything you need to know, from start to finish, about training a Pomsky. We highly recommend you start by reading chapters one through three, these chapters are the foundation of proper Pomsky training discussing proper training methods, consistency and engagement. These three steps are crucial to the success of Pomsky training, even if you think you are past this step, please take a couple minutes to skim through these chapters to make sure you have not missed anything.

## **Skip around**

Depending on your stage in the training process, you might not need all of the information in this book. That is okay! You do not need to read this book from start to finish. Pick and choose the chapters that you need help with. Once you are past chapters one through three, treat each chapter like its own unique book. Each chapter focuses on a different topic and unique aspect of Pomsky training so we encourage you to jump around from chapter to chapter based on your needs. Is your Pomsky full of energy? Skip to the energy management chapter! Teaching your Pomsky commands? Skip to the command training chapter! Don't feel the need to restrict yourself by going in order. Go to the chapter that will help with your Pomsky training right now.

## **Take action**

Most importantly, this book is intended to make you take action. DO NOT wait until you finish reading to begin training. Once you see an actionable step, put the book down and begin your training. Do not wait, you should be training your Pomsky as you read each chapter.

## **Use the downloads**

We highly recommend you use the downloads provided in this book. You will be given a lot of free resources to help with your training. [Click here to download](#) the free resources, print these and use them when instructed during the book. This will greatly help you with your training decisions and planning.

## **Read the quotes**

You have already met our contributors, but you are going to see a lot more from them throughout this book. You will see quotes and bits of advice from each contributor scattered throughout this book. Read the advice and take it to heart, our contributors combine for more than 200 years of Pomsky training experience. They know what they are talking about! If you have a question for a contributor, you can find their contact information at the [Pomsky Owners Association approved breeder page](#). Each contributor is happy to answer your questions, feel free to send them an email for help with your training!

# Before You Begin

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Throughout this book we will provide you with free resources to help with your Pomsy training including a fill in the blank training plan, a cheat sheet to train commands, and a guide to potty training your Pomsy.

Download these free resources right now before you get started, [click here to download for free](#). This download will give you all of the resources in one email so that you can use the free resources while you are reading each chapter. You are going to need this to train your Pomsy.

**[Click Here To Download: All Resources For This Book](#)**



# Chapter 1: Pomsky Training Techniques

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Welcome to chapter 1! You are taking your first steps to training the perfectly behaved Pomsky. This chapter is a must read. In this chapter, we are covering the two primary Pomsky training techniques and breaking down which technique is best for the Pomsky breed.

Before we get into the techniques, you should first understand operant conditioning. Operant conditioning is the process of controlling an environment with good and bad consequences to increase or decrease a behavior. If your Pomsky behaves correctly, there is a good consequence; however, if your Pomsky, misbehaves there is a bad consequence. Overtime, the Pomsky will learn to behave in a way that results in only good consequences. There are four components of operant conditioning:

- Positive reinforcement – positive reinforcement means you encourage a behavior by adding something pleasant, such as rewarding the Pomsky. For example, giving your Pomsky a treat if they lay down when instructed.
- Positive punishment – positive punishment means you discourage a behavior by adding something unpleasant. For example, you ignore your Pomsky if the Pomsky jumps on you. In this case, you are adding the unpleasantness of ignoring.
- Negative reinforcement – negative reinforcement means you encourage a behavior by removing something that is unpleasant. For example, if your Pomsky is on leash and not responding to your “come” command, you tug on the leash until your Pomsky responds. Once the Pomsky responds, you lighten up the uncomfortable tug. The removal of the tug on your Pomsky’s collar is considered negative reinforcement because you are removing something unpleasant; teaching the Pomsky that if they listen to the come command, the unpleasant feeling will go away.
- Negative punishment – negative punishment means you discourage a behavior by taking away something that the Pomsky wants. For example, if you are playing tug with your Pomsky and your Pomsky bites your hand, you can hold the toy and stop playing so the Pomsky knows that play will not continue until the biting stops. The action of taking away the toy will teach the Pomsky that they are only allowed to play if they do not bite.

These four components of operant conditioning are important for our discussion of training techniques. You should understand these four components as they will be used in various examples for each technique. The lingo can be a little confusing, so here is a breakdown of the language used in operant conditioning:

- Punishment - a punishment reduces a specific behavior.
- Reinforcement - reinforcement encourages a specific behavior.
- Positive - positive means you are adding something, such as giving a treat.
- Negative - negative means you are taking something away, such as taking away a toy.

## The Two Techniques

Training techniques vary far and wide, hundreds of books have been written on the science behind various dog training techniques. There is no one size fits all training method, it truly depends on the puppy. According to Kanzaidy of SZ Pomskeys “When it comes to training methods, it all depends on the puppy. A shy, timid puppy is not going to respond well to physical discipline as it is going to make them more shy and timid and become fearful. However, a more dominant puppy that ignores all efforts of non-physical discipline might need some touch contact to get them to understand what they are doing is wrong.”

For the purpose of simplification, we are going to group the various training methods into two broad categories of training:

- Positive
- Balanced

## The Positive Technique

What we are referring to as the “positive” technique is often referred to as the “modern” method or “science-based” method in the dog training industry. The focus of this method is to provide a happy outcome when the Pomskey behaves correctly; a good behavior is rewarded with treats and praise while bad behavior is ignored. Trainers using the positive method avoid the use of negative corrective actions altogether; instead, the modern dog trainer focuses solely on producing a happy outcome. The intention of this method is to treat your Pomskey in the most humane way possible, trying to work with the dog as an equal and not rule them as an alpha.

This method is based on dog training research spanning over the past couple of decades leading to the discovery that dogs learn through the consequences of their behavior. Meaning, dogs do what works for them. If an outcome is favorable and the dog gets food, the dog learns to repeat the behavior.

The basis of the positive technique is reward learning. A reward can be food, toys or praise. When the Pomskey behaves correctly, they receive a reward. If the Pomskey does something unacceptable, such as jumping excitedly on a guest, the behavior will be ignored until the dog chooses to sit. Once the Pomskey sits, the behavior will be rewarded either with a treat or with praise and attention. The goal is to teach your Pomskey that fun stops when they misbehave and rewards are given when they do behave. If you ignore your Pomskey jumping, it will get bored. It will learn that it does not receive a reward or have fun when it jumps but when it does not jump and excitedly sits next to you, it is rewarded with attention and treats. This teaches your Pomskey to make a choice. Either behave and get rewarded or jump and be ignored. The Pomskey learns to choose the path that leads to a reward.

Jo of Moonlit Pomskeys calls this the “nothing in life is free” technique, saying that the positive method works because the Pomskey learns that nothing is free. If it wants something, it must behave in the correct way to earn a reward. Take a look at how humans work for money as an example; why do you show up at your job every day? You show up to get paid and you continue to show up every day because

you are rewarded with money. If you were not paid, you would not show up to work. It is that simple. It is the same concept with positive Pomsy training. To get your Pomsy to repeat a behavior, you must offer a reward. The purpose of the positive method is to use rewards to teach your dog that it must behave a certain way and must work to get what it wants; if it behaves it is rewarded. For example, if your Pomsy wants to go outside, ask it to sit. If your Pomsy sits, let them go outside to play. The Pomsy's reward for sitting is being let outside. If your Pomsy wants to eat, ask it to lie down. If your Pomsy lies down, give it a treat or bowl of food as a reward. If your Pomsy wants to cross the road and go for a walk, ask it to sit and wait. If your Pomsy sits and behaves, walk your Pomsy across the road. Just like you work for a wage, teach your Pomsy to work for what they want; in other words, nothing in life is free.

### **Does this work?**

The positive technique might be scary for new Pomsy owners; you might be reading this and thinking "there is no way this will work, how will my Pomsy ever know what is wrong if I do not teach them?" Basic human logic makes us think that ignoring a bad behavior will lead to more bad behavior. But according to Pomsy breeders and professional trainers, the positive method is the best and most successful technique for training a Pomsy.

The trick is, do not punish bad behavior. Instead, reward good behavior. For example, when your Pomsy is jumping on guests, instead of pushing your Pomsy down and saying "no", try asking your Pomsy to sit and then reward them with a treat. Alternatively, try ignoring your Pomsy jumping until they are bored and sitting, and then reward them with a treat for sitting and behaving. This positive reinforcement teaches your Pomsy that if they are sitting and waiting for attention, they will be rewarded; but if they jump and demand attention, they will be ignored and will not receive a reward.

*"Ask for a behavior that is good and praise that. For a new puppy that needs to be trained, the positive technique is certainly the way to go."*  
– Jo of Moonlit Pomsys

### **Positive technique examples**

Personally, I learn best from real life examples. We know it might be hard to believe that the positive method works so well, so here are a couple examples of how to incorporate the positive technique when your Pomsy is misbehaving.

Play biting: play biting can happen if the Pomsy leaves its mother too soon. If your Pomsy is play biting, you can correct this action using the positive technique. Simply stand up and ignore your Pomsy. Do not play with your Pomsy or allow them to continue biting. Ignore your Pomsy until the biting stops. As soon as your Pomsy sits and stops, reward your Pomsy with a treat and praise. Repeat this whenever your Pomsy attempts to play bite. This teaches your Pomsy that they will be ignored for play biting but they will be rewarded when they sit patiently for attention. This is an example of positive punishment and positive reinforcement because we are adding something unpleasant (ignoring the Pomsy) and then rewarding the Pomsy with treats to encourage them to repeat the good behavior. When discussing the use of positive training to deter play biting, Jo of Moonlit Pomsys says "All play

must stop. A timeout can be given or the pup could even be placed into another room (positive punishment). The Pomsy will soon learn that if he mouths too hard, all the fun stops.”

Commands: you can use the positive technique to teach commands, such as the “leave” command. To do so you can play a game of tug with your Pomsy. Once the Pomsy is playing and fully engaged, stop playing. Hold the toy and wait. The Pomsy will realize that you are no longer playing and will release the toy. Pair this with the word “leave” and reward your Pomsy with a treat. The positive reinforcement of rewarding with treats teaches your Pomsy that a reward is given when they hear the command “leave” and drop the toy.

Distractions: you can use the positive technique to teach your Pomsy to ignore distractions, such as food that falls on the ground. For example, if you drop food on the floor, your Pomsy will naturally lunge at the food and pick up any scraps. Using the positive technique, you can train your Pomsy to ignore the food on the floor. We will touch on this more in the upcoming chapters and the training example below. Essentially you want to have treats in your hand then place food on the floor. Make your Pomsy choose between the food on the floor and the treats in your hand. When the Pomsy chooses the treats in your hand, instead of the food on the floor, reward the Pomsy with a treat. This positive reinforcement teaches the Pomsy to ignore distractions, such as food on the floor, to pay attention to you.

These are just a couple simple examples; we will go into more detail about specifics and step by step instructions on training with the positive method in the upcoming chapters. For more examples of the positive technique, download our [Pomsy technique example sheet](#).

### **Training the positive technique**

Here is an example of how to train using the positive technique.

- Step 1: Take a handful of treats and hold it in a fist. Let your Pomsy sniff your hand to figure out that you are holding treats.
- Step 2: Continue holding your hand with treats closed in your fist until the Pomsy realizes that sniffing and begging will not make you open your hand. This teaches the Pomsy that they will not get what they want by sniffing and begging.
- Step 3: When the Pomsy pulls their head away in defeat, open your hand to show the treats. This teaches the Pomsy that acting in a certain way (by backing away) will get you to open your hand.
- Step 4: The Pomsy will likely lunge at your hands once they see the treats. Close your hand and do not let the Pomsy get any treats. Continue this until the Pomsy sits back and allows you to fully open your hand showing the treats. This teaches the Pomsy that they will not get what they want by lunging for the treats.
- Step 5: Once your Pomsy is sitting back and allowing you to open your hand fully displaying the treats, use your other hand to slowly grab a treat from your open palm and slowly give your Pomsy a treat. If at any time your Pomsy lunges for the treats or attempts to snatch the treat from your hand while giving the treat, put the treat back in your hand and close the treats in a

fist. Repeat this until the Pomsy learns that they must sit back to receive a treat. This teaches the Pomsy they will not get a treat by lunging, they need to wait for you to deliver the treat.

- Step 6: Once the Pomsy behaves and appropriately waits while you reach into your hand to grab a treat, reward the Pomsy with a treat.
- Step 7: Repeat this process. Close your hand and do not reward the Pomsy if they misbehave. When the Pomsy is patient and waits for the treat, reward the Pomsy.

This is a good example of how to train using the positive technique. As you can see, we are not punishing the Pomsy in any way; instead, we are using positive reinforcement to reward the Pomsy for behaving a certain way. This reinforces the behavior and teaches the Pomsy that if they behave and wait, they will be rewarded with a treat.

We will give you more step by step instructions on how to train using the positive technique in chapter three.

Jo of Moonlit Pomsys recommends the YouTube video [It's Yer Choice](#) – this is a great instructional video that breaks down the use of the positive technique and a couple tactics for positive reinforcement training.

### **Positive training – the first method**

Positive training should be the first training method that you try. Especially with a young Pomsy, it is easiest to train a Pomsy with the positive technique before the Pomsy learns bad behavior.

Attempt to train your Pomsy using the positive training technique before you attempt the balanced technique. The positive training technique is the superior training method and is quickly becoming the primary training technique of dog trainers around the world.

*“For a new puppy that needs to be trained, the positive technique is certainly the way to go.”*  
– Jo of Moonlit Pomsys

That being said, the positive training technique is not for everyone. Every Pomsy is unique; the positive training technique might not work for your Pomsy. You may find that your head strong Pomsy has learned bad behavior and simply does not respond to your positive reinforcement. Some Pomsy trainers and breeders prefer the balanced technique over the positive technique. When asked, Lauren of Pristine Pomsies says “I have tried positive reinforcement training, but with this breed, they will weigh their options. If you ask them to sit, they are going to look at you to see if you have a treat. If you have a treat, they may or may not listen because whatever they are doing might be more interesting. I have found the best results using negative reinforcement.”

According to Jo of Moonlit Pomsys, a strong proponent of the positive technique, “For a dog who has a learned behavior, such as jumping up to receive attention and the positive technique is not working, then I would certainly recommend balanced training.”

Try the positive technique first. If it fails, try using the balanced technique explained below.

## The Balanced Technique

What we are referring to as the “balanced” technique is the training method we recommend if the positive technique does not work or if your Pomsky has a learned behavior that does not respond to positive training.

The balanced technique is a mixture of positive reinforcement (like we described in the positive technique) and corrective actions. A corrective action can be vocal such as a strong “no”, or can be an aversive such as a prong collar. Corrections are used to startle the Pomsky when they are misbehaving; teaching the Pomsky that something unpleasant will happen if they misbehave. It is important to stress that this method does not, in absolutely no way, incorporate physical harm or beating of a Pomsky.

*“The Pomsky will pick up on bad habits and not understand that no means no. They will do what they want, chew what they want, go to the bathroom where they want and they will own you instead of you owning them.”*  
– Kanzaidy of SZ Pomsxies

The basis of this technique is finding a balance between positive and negative operant conditioning. When the Pomsky behaves, they are rewarded and encouraged to repeat a good behavior, teaching the Pomsky what is allowed. When the Pomsky misbehaves, they are corrected and discouraged from repeating a bad behavior, teaching the Pomsky what is not allowed. Reward your Pomsky with praise and treats when they behave and reprimand your Pomsky when they misbehave.

In the balanced technique trainers need to assert themselves as the leader. The Pomsky breed is strong willed and sometimes stubborn, asserting yourself as the leader ensures that your Pomsky respects you and will be attentive when you give a command. This is based on the technique referred to as the “traditional” method in the dog training industry. The traditional method emphasizes that human’s gain control by becoming an alpha and suppressing any attempt by the Pomsky to become the alpha.

*“Your alpha status should be based on love and respect, not fear.”*

Remember, this DOES NOT mean you need to bully or in any way abuse your Pomsky, your alpha status should be based on love and respect, not fear. Asserting yourself as the alpha simply means you set rules and limitations so that your Pomsky knows you are in charge.

Here are three ways to assert yourself as the alpha in a non-aggressive way:

- 1) Set rules and boundaries – for example, do not let your Pomsky in bed and do not let your Pomsky jump to greet you. Set rules and do not waiver.
- 2) Create a schedule – schedule feeding time, potty time and play time. Your Pomsky should know that you choose when they can eat, play and potty. Set a fixed routine for your Pomsky and stick to it.
- 3) Command – always remain calm and in control. Command your Pomsky and reprimand or reward your Pomsky based on their actions.

## **Balanced technique examples**

Sometimes, it is easiest to learn from real life examples. Let us look at the same examples we used in the positive technique section and show how the same outcome can be taught using the balanced technique.

**Play biting:** If your Pomsky is play biting, you can correct this action using the balanced technique. Give your Pomsky a correction such as a firm “no” and pull your arm away to stop the biting. If your Pomsky repeats the behavior and continues play biting, give the correction again. Say “no” in a stern voice and remove your arm so the Pomsky can no longer bite. Repeat this until the Pomsky stops biting. Wait for your Pomsky to stop biting. As soon as the Pomsky stops biting and sits patiently, reward your Pomsky with a treat and praise. This teaches your Pomsky that they will be reprimanded for biting but they will be rewarded for patiently sitting and paying attention.

**Commands:** you can use the balanced technique to teach commands, such as the “leave” command. To do so, you can play a game of tug with your Pomsky. Once the Pomsky is playing and fully engaged, stop playing. Hold the toy and wait. If the Pomsky does not leave the toy, give a correction such as a firm “no”. When the Pomsky drops the toy, pair it with the word “leave” and reward the Pomsky with a treat. This balanced style teaches your Pomsky that something unpleasant will happen if they misbehave, but a reward is given when they hear the command “leave” and drop the toy.

**Distractions:** you can use the balanced technique to teach your Pomsky to ignore distractions such as a squirrel on the road when you are out for a walk. When your Pomsky sees a squirrel, it will naturally lunge at the squirrel, yanking on the leash and pulling you with them. To teach your Pomsky to ignore this distraction, simply give the Pomsky a sharp tug on the leash and ask the Pomsky to sit. If the Pomsky listens, stops chasing the squirrel, and sits, reward the Pomsky with attention and treats. Using a mixture of corrective action (a tug on the leash) and positive reinforcement teaches the Pomsky that a distraction, such as a squirrel, will result in an unpleasant correction; but if they ignore the distraction, they will be rewarded.

For more examples of the balanced technique, download our [Pomsky technique example sheet](#).

## **Balanced training – the second method**

Balanced training should be the second training method that you try, only used after the positive method fails. The balanced method is effective for Pomsies that have learned bad behaviors and need to be corrected. The mixture of strict rules and reinforcement along with praise and treats is an effective way to train a stubborn Pomsky. Remember, training is all about forming a respectful bond with your Pomsky. If you are firm on rules but gentle with praise, you will help shape your Pomsky into the perfect loving companion that they are born to be.

## The Right Method For You

You will need to choose the training method that works best for you and your Pomsy. We recommend the positive method, however each Pomsy is unique. Your Pomsy might respond better to the balanced method, while others respond best to the positive method. The important thing is, you must know your Pomsy and what they respond best to. Choose a technique and stick to it.

To find the technique that works best for you, checkout our [Pomsy training technique calculator](#). Simply enter some info about your Pomsy and we will tell you which method is best for you and your Pomsy.

## Summary

Choosing a technique is the first step to training your Pomsy. Our trainers and breeders recommend the positive method. If your Pomsy is stubborn and does not respond to positive training, then try the balanced technique with a mixture of positive reinforcement and negative reinforcement.

- Positive method – this method focuses on producing a happy outcome. A good behavior is rewarded with treats and praise while bad behavior is ignored.
- Balanced method – this method uses a mixture of positive and negative reinforcement. Reward the Pomsy with praise after good behavior, while reprimanding the Pomsy after bad behavior.

*“There needs to be a mix of positive, negative, touch and non-touch discipline for your puppy. When working with your Pomsy you will find what method your puppy responds best with.”*  
– Kanzaidy SZ Pomsies

Remember that each Pomsy is unique, know your Pomsy and choose the method that works best for you.

## Next Steps

Now that you have read through the two primary training techniques, it is time to take action. This book is all about actionable advice, so here are the next steps to take to train your Pomsy:

1. Download our [Pomsy technique example sheet](#) – read through the examples of each training method to get a better grasp of using each method.
2. Choose a training technique that best suits your Pomsy (use our [Pomsy training technique calculator](#) if needed)
3. Continue to Chapter 2: Consistency



## Special Thanks

Special thanks to those that contributed to this chapter. If you have any questions or want to learn more about each contributor, please click the link below to view their POA membership page:

- [Jo - Moonlit Pomslys](#)
- [Kanzaidy - SZ Poms kies](#)
- [Lauren - Pristine Poms kies](#)

# Chapter 2: Training Consistency

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Here is another must read chapter. In this chapter, we will cover the topic of consistency, voted by Pomsy breeders as the single most important training topic. It is the first step and the most critical aspect of training a Pomsy.

This chapter is the backbone of successfully Pomsy training. If you are not consistent in your Pomsy training, you are doomed from the start.

## What is Consistency?

First, let us talk about what we mean by consistency. Consistency is defined as “Acting in the same way over time. Unchanging in nature, standard, or effect.” That is a very formal way of saying “start training and stick to it”.

For the purposes of training your Pomsy, there are two aspects of consistency:

1. A consistent technique
2. A consistent schedule

These two aspects of consistency are the key to a successful training program. Pomsies are a highly intelligent breed. They are easy to train with the right method and a consistent schedule.

## Why should I be consistent with my Pomsy?

If you are not consistent with your Pomsy, your training efforts will fail. The Pomsy is an incredibly intelligent breed. If you are not focused and dedicated to training, your Pomsy will walk all over you (both figuratively and literally).

According to Lauren of Pristine Pomsies “If an owner is not consistent, their Pomsy will quickly learn that commands are optional. This allows them to ignore and disrespect you.”

Without consistency, your Pomsy will form bad habits, not because your Pomsy is bad, but because your Pomsy will not understand what is right and what is wrong.

*“Consistency is not only setting an appropriate schedule, consistency is behaving in the same way each time you interact with your Pomsy.”*  
- Cheyenne, Lollipop Pomsies

## Consistent Technique

A consistent training technique means you are using the same method and commands throughout the course of training your Pomsky. Being consistent means you choose a training method, you choose a command and you do not waiver on what you consider right and wrong.

*“It is just as important for the dog to be trained as the owner.”*

*– Lauren, Pristine Pomsies*

### Consistent method

As we touched on in chapter one, the two primary training methods are:

- Positive
- Balanced

You should have already chosen which of these two training techniques you will be using. If not, refer back to chapter one and use our [Pomsky training technique calculator](#) to figure out which method is best for you. The important thing is, choose a technique that is best for you and your Pomsky and stick to it. You cannot ignore bad behavior for three months (the positive method) and then start reprimanding your Pomsky when it misbehaves (the balanced method), the Pomsky will not understand what it is doing wrong when it has been acting the same way for three months. Choose one method and stick to it -- this is an important first step.

### Consistent situations

One of the hardest parts of being consistent is being consistent across all situations. Your Pomsky’s actions might be acceptable around your family but not out in public. For example, you cannot allow your Pomsky to jump up and greet you and then reprimand your Pomsky for jumping up to greet a stranger. Your Pomsky does not know the difference. If you allow your Pomsky to jump and greet, they will assume that is the proper way to greet everyone. You must be careful. It is easy to slip up when the situation changes. Be consistent, choose what is allowed and stick to it.

Let us take a look at an inconsistent example:

*Jim, a Pomsky owner, allows his Pomsky puppy on the couch every night except for Saturday when he has friends over. On Saturday, Jim does not allow his Pomsky on the couch because he does not want his guests to be bothered. So Jim reprimands his Pomsky for jumping on the couch when a guest is over.*

This is a good example of how NOT to train your Pomsky. Jim is being inconsistent with his training technique, his Pomsky does not know the difference between the two situations. The Pomsky will not understand if it is allowed on the couch or not. Jim should choose one or the other, either allow the Pomsky on the couch at all times or do not allow the Pomsky on the couch at all.

## Consistent commands

It's also important to choose your commands and gestures carefully. Jo of Moonlit Pomsbies says "You must remember, a dog speaks body language not English. Use one command and one word for one action. The word 'down' could mean 'stop jumping' or it could mean 'get down off the furniture'. It could even mean 'lay down'. That is three different actions for one word. There is no consistency, so your dog will get confused."

While you are training, be consistent in the gestures and words that you use. Say "lay" and tap the floor for 'lay down' and say "down" and point at the ground for 'stop jumping'.

## Consistent family

It is important that the training technique be consistent among your entire family, the whole family must be on the same page to avoid confusing your Pomsby. For example, you cannot reprimand your Pomsby for begging at the dinner table but allow little Jimmy to sneak your Pomsby chicken nuggets underneath the table. This will confuse your Pomsby. It will not know if it is allowed at the dinner table or not. You must ensure that your entire family is consistent when training your Pomsby, the entire family needs to be on the same page with the same technique. Everyone should use the same commands, same gestures and same techniques for training. We will discuss how you can create a plan with your family later in the chapter.

*"A dog speaks body language not English. Use one command and one word for one action." –*

*Jo, Moonlit Pomsbies*

## Consistent technique summary

A consistent technique is vital to successful training. Choose one method, one command and determine what is right or wrong and stick to it. If you waiver in your technique, your Pomsby will be confused about what is right and what is wrong. According to Kanzaidy of SZ Pomsbies, "Consistency is doing the same thing every time. Things are best learned with repetition and following the consistency rule. If you stay consistent and positive with training, you will succeed."

## Consistent Schedule

A consistent schedule is a fixed training plan detailing exactly which day, what time and for how long you will train your Pomsby. Stick to the schedule and do not waiver. You cannot train your Pomsby sporadically and expect to see results. Your Pomsby needs consistent routine and frequent short spurts of training. Without routine, your Pomsby will lose focus and train itself.

You are probably asking, what should my schedule be? Well, to answer that question, let us answer a couple of the most common training schedule questions.

### **When should training begin?**

Pomsky training should begin the second your Pomsky walks in the door. Well, actually, training should begin with your breeder, so training should begin BEFORE your Pomsky steps in the door.

To put it bluntly, training starts now.

### **How often should I train my Pomsky?**

For best results, you should plan to train your Pomsky in short incremental periods several times per day.

Pomsky breeders recommend a couple 10-15 minute training sessions per day. Puppies have short attention spans so any longer than 15 minutes can be counterproductive and run the risk of frustrating your Pomsky, meaning your Pomsky then associates training with a negative attitude.

Lauren of Pristine Pomsies says “Training is exhausting for some dogs. They can become mentally worn out and start to become very agitated. Think of training for them as an exam. If you notice that they begin getting irritated or become unresponsive, quickly end the training on an easy command so that it ends on a positive note.”

### **What should my schedule be?**

Below we have detailed the preferred training schedule of *Cheyenne from Lollipop Pomsies*. Remember, this is the training schedule that works best for Cheyenne. Your schedule will vary depending on your working life, family and the age of your Pomsky:

- 7:00 AM – take Pomsky outside to potty
- 7:15 AM – Pomsky breakfast
- **7:30 AM** – *direct playtime, training or walk*
- 8:00 AM – take Pomsky outside to potty again
- 8:15 AM – leave for work. Safe free time for Pomsky
- 12:00 PM – home for lunch, let Pomsky out to potty
- 12:15 PM – Pomsky lunch
- **12:30 PM** – *direct playtime, training or walk*
- 12:45 PM – take Pomsky outside to potty again
- 1:00 PM – leave for work. Safe free time for Pomsky
- 5:00 PM – home from work, let Pomsky out to potty
- 5:15 PM – Pomsky Dinner
- **5:30 PM** – *direct playtime, training or walk*
- 5:45 PM – take Pomsky outside to potty again
- 6:00 PM – family time
- 8:00 PM – outside to potty
- 8:15 PM – direct playtime

- 9:00 PM – bedtime

Notice that Cheyenne highlights three 15minute periods throughout the day for Pomsy training. Plan your schedule to include at least two, 15-minute training sessions per day.

When creating your schedule you should consider:

- 1) When and how many times per day you will feed your Pomsy?
- 2) When and how many times per day your Pomsy will be taken out to potty?
- 3) What time you will set aside for training each day?
- 4) Which family members will be responsible for each task?

### How long will it take me to train?

If you keep consistent and put in the time and energy, it should take about 8 weeks to train your Pomsy on the basic commands such as sit, stay, lay down, and proper leash training.

Assuming your Pomsy comes into your home around the standard age of 8 to 10 weeks of age, this means your Pomsy should be fully trained on the basics by the time they are 16 weeks old.

Specific behavioral issues such as jumping and barking will take longer to train. With consistent effort, this can take up to 16 weeks of training.

Remember, even though your Pomsy might be trained within a couple weeks, you should consider the Pomsy in training its entire life. You can train a Pomsy to stop jumping on the couch within a couple weeks but if you are not consistent, the Pomsy will revert back to its old ways and you will have to re-do the training. Pomsy training is a lifelong commitment. Your Pomsy will pick up commands and orders quickly, but it is your job to keep consistent to ensure that your Pomsy remains trained forever.

### Where do I start?

Your first focus should be simple commands and important lessons, such as the Pomsy’s name, when they are fed, where they are fed, where they sleep, where to potty, not to bite and not to bark. You should first plan to teach the basics, tough command training will come later. The sooner your Pomsy understands that you mean business and no means no, the quicker and easier the training will be.

### Consistent schedule summary

In summary, your training begins now. You should train your Pomsy two to three times per day in short 10 to 15-minute increments. Your schedule depends on your

*“With a puppy under 16 weeks, I would keep it to 15 minutes twice a day. Breaking it up in smaller sessions, more frequently throughout the day, helps with repetition and will help your puppy catch onto things more quickly.”*  
- Kanzaidy, SZ Pomsies

*“A Pomsy is in training all his life. I could teach a Pomsy to take a treat gently in five minutes. However, if the method is not continued, then the Pomsy will revert back to snatching food.”*

– Jo, Moonlit Pomsys

lifestyle, so create a schedule that works best for you. Focus on the basics first such as where to sleep, where to potty and then move onto the basic commands such as come and stay. Stick to your schedule. Put in consistent effort and you can expect your Pomsky to be trained on the basics within eight weeks.

### Let's get started...

This book is all about taking action. Train your Pomsky while you are reading, do not wait any longer. In the next section, we will start taking actual action towards training your Pomsky. Let the training begin.

## Take Action - Consistency Plan

It is time to take action. We are going to start by creating a consistency plan. Planning ahead will keep you consistent. Here are the steps we are going to take to create your consistency plan:

- Step 1: Choose a technique
- Step 2: Determine what is allowed
- Step 3: Create a weekly training schedule
- Step 4: Inform your family
- Step 5: Stick to it

Download our [consistency plan template](#) and complete each step below. In the end, this template will be your final consistency plan and training schedule.

### Step 1: Choose a technique

You should have already decided on the training technique in chapter one. But if you have not decided yet, do so now. This is the first step to successful Pomsky training.

The two techniques we introduced in chapter one:

- The positive method – this method focuses on producing a happy outcome. A good behavior is rewarded with treats and praise while bad behavior is ignored.
- The balanced method – this method uses a mixture of positive and negative reinforcement. Reward the Pomsky with praise after good behavior and reprimand the Pomsky after bad behavior.

Our breeders highly recommend using the positive method, especially with a young Pomsky. The positive training technique is the superior training method and is quickly becoming the primary training technique of dog trainers around the world. That being said, the positive training technique is not for everyone. Every Pomsky is unique; the positive training technique might not work for your Pomsky.

*“The first step should be deciding on which training method will be used. I suggest a gentle reward-based training method.”*

*– Jo, Moonlit Pomskys*

The important thing is: you must choose a technique and stick to it. This is not something you can choose on the fly. You do not want to switch

your technique halfway through training; this will only confuse your Pomsy and do more damage than good.

### **Step 2: Determine what is allowed**

We highly recommend that you determine exactly what is allowed and what is not allowed before you begin confusing your Pomsy with conflicting instructions.

Here are a couple of examples on what you should decide beforehand:

- Is your Pomsy allowed on the furniture?
- Is your Pomsy allowed at the dinner table?
- Is your Pomsy allowed to beg for food?
- Is your Pomsy allowed to jump up to greet visitors?
- Is your Pomsy allowed to bark in the house?
- Is your Pomsy allowed to play bite?

Decide before you encounter the situation, this way you will not be conflicted when your Pomsy gives you the puppy eyes begging for food. You will know begging is bad and it will be easier to remain consistent and reprimand for begging.

Remember, it is also important to remain consistent between situations. You cannot allow your Pomsy to chew up those old Adidas sneakers that Dad never wears but then get angry when your Pomsy chews your brand new Nike's. No should mean *no* to all situations. Pomsies do not understand the difference. Determine what is allowed and what is not allowed and stick to it.

Complete [step 2 of the consistency plan](#), list exactly how you will respond to each situation that we have described.

### **Step 3: Create a weekly training schedule**

Remember, your training schedule will vary depending on your working life, family and the age of your Pomsy. Plan for two or three 10 to 15-minute training sessions per day that will first focus on simple commands and lessons such as the Pomsy's name, where to potty, sit and come.

When creating your schedule you should consider:

- 1) When and how many times per day you will feed your Pomsy?
- 2) When and how many times per day your Pomsy will be taken out to potty?
- 3) What time you will set aside for training each day?
- 4) Which family members will be responsible for the task?

Complete [step 3 of the consistency plan](#). List the times, tasks and family member responsible for each line of the schedule.



## Step 4: Inform your family

Everyone in your family needs to be on the same page when training your Pomsy, everyone should use the same commands, same gestures and same techniques for training. To ensure that your entire family is consistent when training your Pomsy, we highly recommend you work this out before you begin training.

Sit down with your family and review the following:

- Review step 1 – What technique will be used?
- Review step 2 – What is allowed?
- Review step 3 – What will be the schedule?
- Decide what word and gesture will be used for each command.
- Decide which aspects of training are priorities.
- Decide who in your family is responsible for each task in the training schedule.
- Decide how you will remain consistent for the life of the Pomsy.

Complete [step 4 of the consistency plan](#), answer all of the questions and review each step with your family.

## Step 5: Stick to it

The last step, stick to your plan. This entire chapter, we have broken down why it is so important that you remain consistent with your training efforts. Print out your consistency plan and schedule, and stick it on the fridge so that your entire family will see it.

*“If the owner only occasionally corrects the dog on a negative behavior, they will learn that training commands are optional.”*  
– Cheyenne, Lollipop Pomsies

If you and your family are not consistent, your training will fail, especially with an intelligent breed such as the Pomsy.

## Breeder’s Advice

Consistency is important; it is the first step to successful Pomsy training. Here are some advice and words of inspiration from the top Pomsy breeders around the globe.

### Start small

Training a Pomsy is a lifelong task, start small and work your way up. Start with the priorities such as teaching the Pomsy its name, potty training, crate training and basic commands such as come, sit and stay. Once you master the simple commands and basic house training, it will be much easier to move onto the complex tricks and commands.

### **Do not give up**

Do not get frustrated and do not give up. It will be hard. There will be some nights when your puppy will not stop crying and you wish you could go back to quiet nights. This breed is amazing and the payoff of knowing you made them into the most incredible dog ever all by yourself is something that you will cherish for the next 15 years that they are by your side. – Kanzaidy, SZ Pomsbies

### **Your breeder is here to help**

The best thing to know is your breeder is here to help you. My buyers receive lifetime breeder support, which means I will be here for every buyer to help offer advice, input, talk about concerns and be available for anything they ever need. Owners need to know they are not alone and there are many other Pomsby owners going through the same thing. Remember, you can do it and you will do it, a life is depending on it. – Kanzaidy, SZ Pomsbies

### **Body language is key**

Body language is a big part in training and using the same movement or actions in association with the same words will play a big part in the training of your dog. If you cannot use the same hand signals each time, you must keep your hands still. – Jo, Moonlit Pomsbys

### **Use a trainer (if needed)**

The best way to remain consistent with training is meeting with a trainer once a week for guidance. Trainers can point out to the owner when they are being inconsistent. The owner could be inconsistent either verbally or physically. Having someone critique the owner each week can really speed along the training process for both the owner and the dog. I also advise that you bring another person in the household (if there is one) to these training sessions so that they can learn too. This will help with consistency when there is more than one person living with the Pomsby. – Lauren, Pristine Pomsbies

## **Summary**

Consistency is the backbone of successful Pomsby training. Be consistent with the training method you use, be consistent with the commands you use, be consistent across all situations, be consistent across your family and stick to a consistent training schedule.

Consistency should be a focus from the beginning of Pomsby training. If you are not being consistent right now, that is OK. Take a step back, make a Pomsby consistency plan, and get back to training on the right path.

Here are the biggest takeaways from this chapter:

- Consistency is the #1 priority when beginning training.
- Use the same method throughout the course of training your Pomsby.
- Choose your commands and gestures carefully and be consistent.

- Determine what is allowed and what is not allowed. Be consistent once you make a decision.
- Make sure your entire family is on the same page, each member is responsible for being consistent.
- Make a schedule and stick to it.
- Keep it fun and do not give up, your Pomsy is relying on you.

## Consistency - Next Steps

Now that you have finished the consistency chapter, here are the next steps:

1. Download and complete the [consistency plan](#), go through each of the four steps. Do not jump into training without a plan.
2. Review the consistency plan with your family; decide which member is responsible for each task in your training schedule.
3. Continue on to chapter 3

## Special Thanks

Special thanks to those that contributed to this chapter. If you have any questions or want to learn more about each contributor, please click the link below to view their POA membership page:

- [Cheyenne - Lollipop Pomsies](#)
- [Jo - Moonlit Pomsies](#)
- [Kanzaidy - SZ Pomsies](#)
- [Lauren - Pristine Pomsies](#)

# Chapter 3: Engagement Training

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Now that we have picked our training technique (Positive or balanced) and created our consistency plan, it time to learn how to keep your Pomsky engaged.

Engagement must be taught before any other training. Pomskies that learn engagement as their first behavior become much easier to train; it creates a positive attitude towards learning and training and creates a stronger bond between the Pomsky and owner. This means you must teach engagement before obedience, before commands, and before any other complex tricks that you plan to teach your Pomsky.

Without engagement, it is impossible to even begin training your Pomsky. If your Pomsky is not engaged, they will not learn.

## What is Engagement?

Engagement means having your Pomsky's complete attention. Whether you are training, giving a command or playing with your Pomsky, engagement means your Pomsky is completely and totally focused on you.

A Pomsky that is engaged wants to be with you and wants what you have, whether you have a favorite toy or a treat, the Pomsky is fully focused on you and only you. An engaged Pomsky is more interested in you

*"Engagement is having your Pomsky's utmost attention with any task you have at hand."*

*- Kanzaidy, SZ Pomskies*

than anything else in the world. An engaged Pomsky is more interested in you than a dog across the street, a squirrel in the road, a ball bouncing down the driveway, a doorbell ring, or guests entering the home. An engaged Pomsky is only interested in you and what you are doing.

Some Pomsky owners refer to this as "respect" because a disengaged Pomsky appears disrespectful, ignoring your commands and disregarding you in general. This is a common misconception. Your Pomsky is not disrespecting you; it is just not engaged with you. Your Pomsky has learned that other things are more interesting than what you have to offer. For example, when given the choice between chasing a squirrel or listening to your "come" command, a disengaged Pomsky will chose the squirrel because it is not interested in you or what you have to offer. To avoid this disrespectful nature altogether, you need to teach engagement. Meaning, you need to teach your Pomsky to drop what it is doing on command, ignore distractions and focus solely on you.

## Why is Engagement Important?

Engagement is critical to training a Pomsy. Without engagement, a Pomsy will never be fully trained and the future behavior of the Pomsy will be jeopardized. To simplify this topic, we will break it down into three primary reasons why engagement is important:

- Effective training
- Future training
- Bonding

### Effective training

Engagement is vital to successful Pomsy training. You can create as many plans as you want and be as consistent as humanly possible but at the end of the day, if your Pomsy does not pay attention to your training, your Pomsy will not be trained. When you think engagement, think “active participation in training”. To learn, your Pomsy needs to be involved in the training, otherwise you are just training yourself.

To put this in perspective, ask yourself this question: When a Pomsy is not engaged or it doesn't want to be with the owner, how can the owner teach the Pomsy anything?

The answer is they cannot. The only way to train a Pomsy (or any dog for that matter) is to have the Pomsy fully engaged when training. Even if it is just a short session, engagement is critical. A training session with the Pomsy fully engaged for five minutes is 100% more effective than an hour-long training session where the Pomsy is distracted.

*“If you don't have your dog's eyes you don't have your dog”  
– Jo, Moonlit Pomsys*

To train your Pomsy as effectively and efficiently as possible, focus on engagement first before moving onto commands and tricks. Once an owner has their Pomsy fully engaged, the Pomsy is ready to learn more advanced exercises. As Jo from Moonlit Pomsys says, “If you don't have your dog's eyes you don't have your dog”.

### Future training

Engagement is not only important when you are first trying to train your Pomsy on commands and obedience, but it is important for the future of your training success and Pomsy's behavior. As Jo from Moonlit Pomsys says “You need to be confident that if you call your dog, he will come. This will ensure your dog is kept out of trouble.”

Pomsies that learned engagement as their first behavior have great attitudes towards leaning and training. If learned when the Pomsy is young then engagement becomes natural and training your Pomsy becomes much easier.

As we said earlier, once an owner has their Pomsy fully engaged, the Pomsy is ready to learn more advanced exercises as engagement ensures that your Pomsy will listen and better respond to complex commands. Consider trying to train your Pomsy to roll over. You could either spend an hour with a disengaged Pomsy trying to get it to pay attention or you could spend 10 minutes with a completely engaged Pomsy teaching it what to do when commanded to roll over. I would choose the latter every time.

If your Pomsy is not engaged now, they will not be engaged in the future. Imagine, five years from now your Pomsy slips out the back door and sees a squirrel. Your Pomsy will have the decision: listen to your “come” command or chase the squirrel. If your Pomsy has not learned engagement, it will choose the squirrel every time.

As you can see from these scenarios, engagement is not only important for the early stage of training, it is important for your Pomsy’s entire life.

*“If your Pomsy is not engaged then they will not listen. This is where unwanted behavior can happen such as running off or ignoring basic commands such as sit and stay.”*

*- Kanzaidy, SZ Pomsies*

Engagement is part of the foundation of a well-trained Pomsy as engagement ensures that your Pomsy will always choose you; it knows you are the center of its world and it will always focus on you.

## **Bonding**

Engagement helps to form a stronger bond between owner and Pomsy. An owner invested in training is an owner invested in building a strong relationship with their Pomsy. Putting in the time and effort to capture your Pomsy’s attention forms the strongest bond possible. An engaged Pomsy is a Pomsy that wants nothing more than to spend time with its owner, this is sign of love and respect as the Pomsy will drop anything to pay attention to you. According to Kanzaidy of SZ Pomsies “Keeping your Pomsy engaged is the key for not only successful training but also a successful bond.” It should be your goal to form the strongest bond possible with your Pomsy; this starts with engagement.

All Pomsy owner relationships should be based on love and respect. That goes both ways, the owner must love and respect their Pomsy to receive love and respect from their Pomsy. This used to be backwards. In the past, dog trainers demanded respect and trained dogs by teaching commands before engagement. We later learned that dogs do not respond well to this method of training. Dogs respond best when you focus first on engagement, love and providing a positive environment. Respect comes later after you focus on these core aspects of training first.

## **Take Action - Engagement**

As you know by now, this book is all about taking action when training your Pomsy. So in this section, we are showing you a couple of methods to teach your Pomsy engagement. Remember, it is natural for your Pomsy to get distracted. A puppy is experiencing all new things for the first time, the world is

exciting. But, if you stick to training and consistently work on capturing your Pomsky's attention, then you will have no problem teaching engagement. Your Pomsky will quickly learn to keep engaged in the training environment.

Before we get into the engagement training, the first thing you need to know about teaching engagement is that you must offer your Pomsky something of high value. You need to reward your Pomsky for their good behavior; otherwise there is no incentive for the Pomsky to engage. Remember our "nothing in life is free" example from chapter one: if you were not paid, you would not show up to work. It is the same concept with Pomsky training. If you offer something of high value, your Pomsky will learn to want what you have (engage with you) above all else. Meaning, when your Pomsky has the choice to chase a squirrel or engage with you, they will choose to engage with you because they will be rewarded with something of value.

Let us break down a couple of different exercises to train your Pomsky on engagement using a high value reward. The three engagement training exercises we will look at are:

- Run around
- Play engagement
- Choice training

We recommend incorporating all of these engagement training methods throughout the life of your Pomsky. Engagement is a lifelong goal. Engagement training will help to continually reinforce and retrain your Pomsky to be engaged and also helps to continue building the strong bond between owner and Pomsky.

### **Training engagement: Run around**

The basis of engagement training is to teach your Pomsky that a reward is given in return for engagement, you want to give your Pomsky a reason to be with you and listening to you at all times. Food is a great source of keeping your Pomsky's attention. Most dogs are food driven and a Pomsky is no different. Use treats to keep your Pomsky's attention and praise your Pomsky with a happy excited tone. Remember, when you are praising your Pomsky be sure to use a positive tone of voice and body language. Dogs do not understand English (or any language for that matter) but they are very good at reading body language and tones. Use excitement in the tone of your voice and exhibit positive body language when giving a treat to further encourage your Pomsky's good behavior.

The treat you are using should be a high value treat that the Pomsky really wants. This could be a simple treat or something more rewarding, such as chicken or ham. Whatever you choose as your high value treat, make sure it is something that your Pomsky really wants. During engagement training, when your Pomsky behaves and engages, they should be rewarded with a treat and praise.

Here is how to teach your Pomsky that, in return for engagement, they will be rewarded with a treat using the run around exercise:

- Step 1: Take a treat in hand and break it into tiny pieces. Make sure this is something of high value that the Pomsy wants.
- Step 2: Give your Pomsy a tiny piece of the treat. This captures the Pomsy's attention and shows the Pomsy that you have something they want.
- Step 3: Run away from the Pomsy. Not far, just 5-10 feet, and make sure your Pomsy follows. If your Pomsy follows, reward them with a treat and say something positive such as "Yes" or "Good dog" to teach your Pomsy that this phrase means they are rewarded. If your Pomsy does not follow, call their name and show them the treat until they follow. Reward with a treat and positive phrase when they are engaged and following. Make sure your body language is low and inviting to encourage the Pomsy's behavior.
- Step 4: Repeat this process. Run away again (not far away) with your treat holding hand by your side so the Pomsy knows there is more reward. Allow the Pomsy to follow your hand and come to you for more reward. Stop and reward the Pomsy with a treat and positive phrase for following you.
- Step 5: Continue the run away and reward process but this time, intentionally try to distract the Pomsy. Throw a tennis ball or another piece of food in the opposite direction. Your Pomsy will chase the distraction but do not allow them to reach the distraction, call your Pomsy back with treat in hand. If your Pomsy leaves the distraction and comes to you, reward them with more treats and praise. If your Pomsy does not come, call again and remind them of the reward.
- Step 6: Continue this process for 5 minutes.

Follow this process for 5 minutes per day for the first week. This process teaches your Pomsy to engage with you. The Pomsy learns that they will be rewarded for following and engaging. You only need to do the above process a couple times for the first week. Pomsies are quick learners so it should not take too long before your Pomsy understands that if they engage, they will be rewarded with a treat. Remember to give a treat along with a positive phrase such as "yes" or "good dog" in a positive and exciting tone. This lets your Pomsy know when they behaved well, they will hear the positive phrase and they will be rewarded with a treat.

If you do not want to use food or treats as a reward, try the above process using just praise. Some trainer's only use treats in the beginning early stages of teaching engagement. As the dog learns and the training progresses, the trainer will slowly wean the Pomsy off of treats and transition to using solely praise as a reward.

Engagement training is a lifelong commitment. Although you only need to do this process for the first week to teach your Pomsy, you should plan to continue teaching engagement at all times. Use this same technique throughout your other training and when you are out for a walk. This helps to further teach the Pomsy that rewards are received for good behavior and engagement. For example, when you are out walking your Pomsy and the Pomsy starts sniffing around the grass, call them back with treat in hand. Make your Pomsy drop whatever it is sniffing to engage with you. If your Pomsy stops sniffing and comes running to you, reward with a treat and your positive phrase.



## Training engagement: Play

The method of playing with your Pomsky is another powerful engagement training method. Remember, engagement is all about making your Pomsky want to be with you more than anything else in the world. One way to do this is to reward your Pomsky by playing; whether that is playing tug, fetch or any other means of playing. Using play as an engagement technique means your Pomsky would choose to drop everything it is doing to play with you.

Let us use tug as an example, here is how to teach your Pomsky engagement using tug:

- Step 1: Use a tug toy to get your Pomsky's attention. Take the toy and swing it around or squirm it around back and forth on the floor to get your Pomsky's attention.
- Step 2: Once your Pomsky engages, get your Pomsky excited and tugging for 10 seconds.
- Step 3: Get the toy back from the Pomsky. Do this by freezing the toy against your body so that there is no slack and you are no longer tugging. Since you are no longer playing, the Pomsky will release the toy and stop playing. You do not want to use any negative phrases here, so do not say "drop it" or "leave". Simply immobilize to the toy to indicate that playtime is over.
- Step 4: As soon as the Pomsky releases the toy, mark the behavior with a positive phrase such as "Yes" or "Good dog" and praise the Pomsky for releasing the toy and behaving calmly.
- Step 5: As soon as you mark the good behavior with a positive phrase, re-engage the Pomsky in another game of tug.
- Step 6: Once in a while, let your Pomsky win; meaning, you let the Pomsky control the toy without you tugging. Once the Pomsky controls the toy, take a step back and excitedly call your Pomsky towards you. When your Pomsky comes towards you, grab the tug and re-engage in the game. Mix this in with your game of tug, this teaches the Pomsky to continue being engaged with you and the Pomsky's reward is another game of tug.
- Step 7: Repeat the process as often as you would like. To end the game, put the toy away and reward your Pomsky with a treat or high praise. You want to end the game in a good way to reinforce the good behavior of the Pomsky.
- Step 8: Once your Pomsky learns to engage and play in the house with a game of tug, try playing with your Pomsky in new areas. Try a game of tug out in the yard, in the garage or at the dog park. Test your Pomsky's engagement in these new areas. They should ignore all other distractions and focus on your game of tug.

Do this for two to five minutes a couple times per day. Playing with your puppy is important; make it a point to play your Pomsky a couple of times each day by teasing them with a tug toy. There should not be a limit to the amount of time you play with your puppy. It is important to play with your Pomsky as often as possible to keep them engaged and form a stronger bond.

Some trainers prefer to add in treats when playing. That way, when the Pomsky behaves and releases the tug, you mark the behavior with a positive phrase ("yes") and reward the Pomsky with a treat. Then you re-engage in a game of tug.

It is important to note that if your Pomsy becomes too aggressive when playing or attempts to bite your hand, stop the playing immediately. Wait for your Pomsy to calm down, sit, and behave then restart the game or end the game. This will teach your Pomsy that the fun stops if he gets too carried away.

Tug is an effective engagement tool. If used properly, tug can replace treats all together. Using your Pomsy's favorite toy, you can engage them anywhere. If your Pomsy is busy sniffing around and not paying attention, pull out their favorite tug toy and call them over. Engage them with a fun and exciting game to get their attention. Tug is not only great for teaching engagement, it also helps to form a stronger bond with your Pomsy, teaches self-control and allows the dog to relieve stress and anxiety.

### **Training engagement: Choice training**

In the choice training exercise, we are making your Pomsy choose between alternatives. We want to teach the Pomsy to ignore other distractions no matter how tempting. We walked you through this process in chapter one but we will go through the step by step instructions again. You will notice that this exercise is similar to the run around method of engagement training.

- Step 1: Take a handful of treats and hold it in a fist. Let the Pomsy sniff your hand to figure out that you are holding treats.
- Step 2: Continue holding your hand with treats closed in a fist until the Pomsy realizes that sniffing and begging will not make you open your hand. This teaches the Pomsy that they will not get what they want by sniffing and begging.
- Step 3: When the Pomsy pulls their head away in defeat, open your hand to show the treats. This teaches the Pomsy that acting in a certain way (by backing away) will get you to open your hand.
- Step 4: The Pomsy will likely lunge at your hands once they see the treats, close your hand and do not let the Pomsy get any treats. Continue this until the Pomsy sits back and allows you to fully open your hand showing the treats. This teaches the Pomsy that they will not get what they want by lunging for the treats.
- Step 5: Once your Pomsy is sitting back and allowing you to open your hand, fully displaying the treats, use your other hand to slowly grab a treat from your open palm and slowly give your Pomsy a treat. If at any time your Pomsy lunges for the treats or attempts to snatch the treat from your hand while giving the treat, put the treat back and close the treats in a fist. Repeat this until the Pomsy learns that they must sit back to receive a treat. This teaches the Pomsy they will not get a treat by lunging, they need to wait for you to deliver the treat.
- Step 6: Once the Pomsy behaves and appropriately waits while you reach into your hand to grab a treat, reward the Pomsy with a treat and mark the behavior with a positive phrase such as "Yes" or "Good dog".
- Step 7: Repeat this process. Close your hand and do not reward the Pomsy if they misbehave. When the Pomsy is patient and waits for the treat, reward the Pomsy.

To increase the difficulty, repeat this same process except instead of keeping the treats in your hand, place the treats on the floor. Place the treats on the floor and place your hand over the treats, let the Pomsy see the treats and then cover the treats on the floor with your hand when they lunge. When the Pomsy behaves, pull a treat off the floor and reward the Pomsy.

This is a good example of how to train engagement using the positive technique. This reinforces the behavior and teaches the Pomsy if they behave and wait, they will be rewarded with a treat.

### **More resources**

There are a lot of videos out there showing these methods. We found that simply going to YouTube and searching for “engagement training puppy” returned a lot of helpful videos. Jo of Moonlit Pomsys recommends the YouTube video [It's Yer Choice](#) – this is a great instructional video that breaks down the use of the engagement training and provides a couple of techniques for additional training.

## **Advanced Engagement Training**

Once your Pomsy masters the engagement training detailed above move onto more advanced exercises. Only attempt these advanced exercises if your Pomsy has mastered the basics of engagement. If you move onto these advanced methods too soon, your Pomsy will get frustrated, doing more damage than good. Here are the advanced engagement exercises that we will cover:

- On leash
- In crate
- Open container
- Drop treat

### **Advanced exercise: On leash**

- Step 1: In your house, walk about 10 feet in a straight line and stop every couple of feet to place a treat or food on the ground. In the end, you should have four or five “stations” of food on the ground in a straight line with about two feet of space in-between each food station.
- Step 2: Put your Pomsy on a leash and walk towards your line of food stations. You should be close enough so that the Pomsy can see the food on the floor but far enough away that the Pomsy cannot reach the food.
- Step 3: Take a hand full of treats and let your Pomsy sniff your hand. This lets the Pomsy know that you are holding a high value reward.
- Step 4: With the Pomsy on leash, walk near the first food station. If the Pomsy ignores the food on the floor, reward the Pomsy with a treat from your hand and mark the behavior with a positive phrase such as “Yes” or “Good dog”. If the Pomsy lunges toward the food on the floor, stop and do not let the Pomsy reach the food. Walk backwards, taking the Pomsy further away from the food; this is called a penalty walk.

- Step 5: Repeat this process every one or two steps. Take two steps, if the Pomsy lunges at the free food, stop and walk the Pomsy backwards on another penalty walk. Reward the Pomsy every step or two if they ignore the food.
- Step 6: Repeat this until you have walked all the way past the food lying on the ground. Once fully past the food on the ground, reward your Pomsy and again mark the behavior with a positive phrase such as “Yes” or “Good dog”.

Do not get too close to the food on your first time through the exercise. On your first run through, just make sure that you are close enough to see the food but not too close so that the Pomsy gets a free meal if they misbehave. You do not want to teach your Pomsy that they are rewarded with free food for misbehaving; you want the Pomsy to learn that ignoring food on the floor results in a high value reward.

Move closer and closer to the food each time you successfully complete the exercise. This increases the difficulty as the Pomsy gets closer to free food. Continue to reward your Pomsy for behaving and issue a penalty walk for misbehaving. The end goal is to walk directly over the food so that your Pomsy has to step over each food station without your Pomsy eating or lunging for the free food. In the end, you want to teach your Pomsy to completely ignore the free food even when they could easily misbehave to get a free snack. This process teaches your Pomsy to engage with you at all times, even through the most tempting distractions.

#### **Advanced exercise: In crate**

- Step 1: Place your Pomsy in the crate in your house. Make sure your Pomsy is calm and patiently waiting for you to open the crate door. Your Pomsy should be off leash for this exercise.
- Step 2: Place food on the floor in front of the crate, make sure the Pomsy sees the food on the floor. Keep your foot near the food. If your Pomsy lunges for the food, you will use your foot to block your Pomsy from getting a free snack. Simply cover the food with your foot if the Pomsy dives for it.
- Step 3: Hold treats in your hand. Show the Pomsy that you have treats in your hand; this shows the Pomsy that they will receive a high value reward for behaving.
- Step 4: Open the crate and ask the Pomsy to come to you. The Pomsy should come out of the crate, walk over the food on the floor and come to you. If your Pomsy ignores the food on the floor and comes to you, reward the Pomsy with a treat from your hand and mark the behavior with a positive phrase such as “Yes” or “Good dog”. If your Pomsy lunges at the food, block it with your foot and return the Pomsy to the crate. Repeat this until the Pomsy learns to ignore the food to be rewarded.
- Step 5: Once your Pomsy learns to walk out of the crate and past the food, ask the Pomsy to walk over the food again to go back into the crate. Reward the Pomsy and mark the behavior with a positive phrase such as “Yes” or “Good dog” if the Pomsy successfully ignores the food and returns to the crate.

- Step 6: Repeat this process going in and out of the crate, rewarding the Pomsy each time they successfully enter and exit the crate ignoring the food.

The end goal of this exercise is to have your Pomsy walking directly over the food each time they enter and exit the crate. Your Pomsy should completely ignore the food on the ground, giving you full engagement each time they enter and exit the crate. This teaches the Pomsy to make choice: choose you and a high value reward or misbehave and choose the food on the floor.

### **Advanced exercise: Open container**

- Step 1: Grab a chair and sit on the chair in front of your Pomsy about an arm's length away. Take a container of healthy food, such as a small bowl of chopped chicken and place it on the floor directly by your feet. Keep your hand near the container so you can easily cover the food, do not let your Pomsy eat the food from the bowl.
- Step 2: Take a hand full of treats in your other hand. Show the Pomsy that you have treats in your hand; this shows the Pomsy that they will receive a high value reward for behaving.
- Step 3: Allow your Pomsy to choose between the open container of food and your handful of treats. If the Pomsy lunges for the container of food, cover the food with your hand. Do not let the Pomsy get the food. When your Pomsy sits back and patiently ignores the open container of food, give the Pomsy a treat from your hand and mark the behavior with a positive phrase such as "Yes" or "Good dog".
- Step 4: Each time you successfully complete the exercise, move the container of food closer to your Pomsy. Keep your hand near the bowl at all times to cover the food if your Pomsy lunges for it. Each time your Pomsy stays sitting and ignores the food, reward your Pomsy with a treat and mark the behavior with your positive phrase.
- Step 5: After a couple successful completions of this exercise, remove your hand from the open container. Allow the open container of food to sit freely on the floor. Each time your Pomsy stays sitting and ignores the food, reward your Pomsy with a treat and mark the behavior with your positive phrase. If your Pomsy lunges for the food, block the container and restart the exercise until you can leave the fully open container on the floor.

Continue this exercise until you move the container of food all the way up to the Pomsy's feet. The goal is to keep your Pomsy's full engagement even when the fully open container of food is right in front of the Pomsy. Repeat this training until you can place a fully open container of food in front of the Pomsy without the Pomsy lunging for a free snack.

### **Advanced exercise: Drop treat**

- Step 1: Stand in front of the Pomsy with a handful of treats. Let the Pomsy sniff your hand, this will get the Pomsy's attention.
- Step 2: Once you have the Pomsy's attention, use your other hand to drop a piece of food at your feet right in front of the Pomsy. If the Pomsy ignores the food and keeps its attention on you, reward the Pomsy with a treat and mark the behavior with a positive phrase. If the

Pomsky lunges for the dropped food cover the food with your foot, do not let the Pomsky get a free snack.

- Step 3: Continue this process until the Pomsky fully ignores the food dropped on the floor. Drop the food closer and closer each time you successfully complete the exercise. Continue to reward the Pomsky for ignoring the food when you drop it.

The drop treat engagement exercise is one of the most advanced engagement training exercise. Only attempt this exercise once your Pomsky has mastered all of the other engagement exercises. For an added challenge, have other people drop the food, such as children or your neighborhood friend. The Pomsky should understand that no matter who drops the food, it should not pick-up the free snack from the floor.

## Engagement Tips

As you know by now, engagement is a key aspect of Pomsky training. Pomsky breeders agree that engagement is necessary to effectively train a Pomsky. Here are some tips straight from Pomsky breeders and trainers on how to effectively keep your Pomsky engaged.

### Tip 1: Start young

As soon as your Pomsky comes home, start teaching engagement. Your Pomsky needs to know at a young age that the owner is the one that provides value. When the Pomsky behaves, the owner is the one that provides praise, the owner gives treats and the owner decides when the Pomsky can play tug. Engagement will be a key to the successfulness of your training efforts so make sure you start teaching engagement at a young age, otherwise they may never learn to engage with you.

### Tip 2: Engagement first

If you teach engagement first, the rest of training will come easy. You must teach engagement before obedience, before commands, and before any other complex tricks that you plan to teach your Pomsky. It is much easier to train when the Pomsky is paying attention, otherwise the Pomsky will be distracted and will not learn anything.

### Tip 3: Know your Pomsky

Find out how to treat your dog. Some Pomsies love to play while others might respond better to vocal praise. As Jo of Moonlit Pomsies says “You need to find out how to treat your dog. Your tone of voice should sound exciting not dull.” All Pomsies are different so find the engagement technique that works best for your Pomsky.

### Tip 4: Use food

As we mentioned in our engagement training section, treats are an effective method of keeping your Pomsky’s attention. Think of treats as a training tool, not a bribe. Use treats to your advantage and teach your Pomsky that they will be rewarded for behaving.

### Tip 5: Keep sessions short

As we mentioned in chapter 2, short training sessions always work best. The same goes when training engagement. Training is mentally stimulating, you do not want your Pomsky to tire and become frustrated with the training. Keep your engagement training session short, no longer than 10 to 15 minutes a couple times per day. Any longer than 15 minutes and you run the risk of doing more damage than good. You will lose your Pomsky's attention and you will end up teaching the Pomsky to be distracted rather than engaged.

### Tip 6: Make training sessions fun

Your Pomsky will not engage if they are not having fun. You need to make yourself the most interesting thing in your Pomsky's life, this way the Pomsky will care more about you than anything else in the

*“Play games, give lots of rewards, and make yourself the most important thing in your dog's life”  
– Jo, Moonlit Pomskeys*

world. Keep training sessions fun and exciting, offer lots of rewards and praise. Make yourself the most important thing in your Pomsky's life.

### Tip 7: Be consistent

You already know this from chapter 2, but consistency is key. Continually refresh your Pomsky's training with quick engagement sessions. Use the treat training method or tug training method throughout the Pomsky's life to keep them engaged and re-teach the engagement process. Being consistent will help you stay in charge and keep your Pomsky engaged.

*“Consistent training will help the owner stay in charge. If you notice your Pomsky is getting “rusty” at their training or they are starting to ignore you, I highly recommend taking the dog back for a refresher lesson”  
– Lauren, Pristine Pomskeys*

## My Pomsky Still Will Not Engage

If you try all of this and your Pomsky still will not engage, or if your Pomsky is past the stage of easily learning engagement, you may need more help. Here are a couple tips from our breeders about what to do if your Pomsky seems to be always disengaged and disrespecting your commands.

### Try an E-collar

Lauren of Pristine Pomskeys recommends using an e-collar saying “when using an e-collar, Pomskeys are much less likely to get distracted. With proper e-collar training, they will quickly learn to pay attention to every command you give.”

Lauren cautions that e-collar training should only be pursued under professional supervision as the subject of e-collars and negative reinforcement is a sensitive subject that should only be used in certain circumstances saying “E-collars can be a very touchy subject. It must be made very clear that this is the most effective way to train some dogs when used properly. I highly recommend this method under professional supervision. It is so important for a dog to be properly trained, for the safety of both the dog and the owner.”

Do not attempt to use e-collars without professional supervision, only use e-collars if you find it is the only way to keep your Pomsy engaged.

### **Work with a trainer**

There are thousands of trainers around the world that specialize in dog engagement. If your Pomsy is unwilling to work with you and you feel worn out, try working with a professional trainer for a couple of sessions. Kanzaidy of SZ Pomsies recommends you to “start young and drill obedience. Go to puppy classes, get a trainer, pursue a Certified Canine Good Citizen and enter into agility, rally or obedience events.”

## **Summary**

Without engagement, your Pomsy will not listen. If your Pomsy is not engaged, they will never be trained. To keep your Pomsy engaged, start engagement training at a young age and be consistent on the training throughout your Pomsy’s life. Engagement is not only necessary for the early stages of training, but it is also necessary for the long-term behavior of your Pomsy and your Pomsy’s ability to learn new commands.

Using the engagement training methods that we have described, you should be able to teach your Pomsy engagement within a week. Continue these methods throughout the Pomsy’s life to continually refresh your Pomsy on engagement. You will need your Pomsy to be engaged forever so do not let your Pomsy forget it.

Here are the biggest takeaways from this chapter:

- Engagement means your Pomsy will drop anything to pay attention to you
- Without engagement, your Pomsy will never learn any commands
- Engagement training should begin at a young age and teaching should continue for the Pomsy’s entire life
- Use the various engagement training methods that we have described to teach engagement. Move onto the advanced engagement training exercises once your Pomsy masters the basics.
- Be consistent. Start teaching engagement and do not stop. If you have trouble with a stubborn Pomsy, consult a professional trainer.



## Engagement - Next Steps

Now that you have finished the engagement chapter, here are the next steps:

1. Use the treat engagement training technique. Do this a couple times per day and incorporate this into your obedience and command training.
2. Use the tug engagement training technique. Do this a couple times per day.
3. Attempt the advanced engagement training methods. Continue these methods periodically for the life of the Pomsky.
4. Continue on to chapter 4

## Special Thanks

Special thanks to those that contributed to this chapter. If you have any questions or want to learn more about each contributor, please click the link below to view their POA membership page:

- [Jo - Moonlit Pomslys](#)
- [Kanzaidy - SZ Poms kies](#)
- [Lauren - Pristine Poms kies](#)

# Chapter 4: Command Training

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By now, you are well on your way to training the perfect Pomsy. We have our training technique nailed down, we are teaching our Pomsy to engage and we are being consistent. Now it is time to teach our Pomsy some commands.

A lot of readers skip the first three chapters and come right to this chapter to begin teaching commands. If you are one of those readers, that is okay. You are allowed to skip around this book. You do not need to read each chapter in order but just make sure that you are comfortable with the topics of chapters 1, 2 and 3. Remember, if you are not consistent and if your Pomsy does not engage, you will not be able to teach commands. If your Pomsy does not engage, they will not learn.

## Command Training

Every well-trained dog understands commands, this is the bread and butter of training. When you hear “dog training”, you think command training. In this chapter, we are going to introduce eleven different commands (six basic commands and five advanced commands) including the best phrase and gesture to use for each command, along with step-by-step instructions to teach your Pomsy each command.

We will first introduce the six basic commands. The basic commands are the most important commands to teach your Pomsy, these are vital to the success of a well-trained dog. Teach your Pomsy the basics first before moving onto the advanced commands. The basic commands include:

- Recall
- Sit
- Laydown
- Stay
- Drop
- Leave

After the basic commands, we will introduce five advanced commands. The advanced commands are fun tricks to teach your Pomsy, these commands are not necessarily important for every Pomsy but they are great for keeping your Pomsy engaged and learning. The advanced commands include:

- Kiss
- Speak
- Paw
- Roll over
- Play dead

Remember to start with the basics. Get the basic commands down first; these are absolutely the most important aspect of this chapter. Do not get too excited about teaching your Pomsky party tricks. As Lauren of Pristine Pomskeys says, “Even though they may be boring, they are crucial to the harder commands. Do not expect your dog to learn 5 new commands in one day. Understanding that the process is slow is important. Training cannot be rushed.”

*“Understanding that the process is slow is important.  
Training cannot be rushed.”  
- Lauren, Pristine Pomskeys*

As we said in chapter two, training a Pomsky is a lifelong task. It is important to start small and work your way up. Start with the priority commands such as recall, sit and stay. Once you master the simple commands, it will be much easier to move onto the complex tricks and advanced commands.

## Before You Begin

Before you start with the step-by-step exercises, let us cover a couple basics that are vital to successful command training.

### Choose a phrase

Remember the consistency chapter, you must choose one phrase per command and stick to it. Each command should be associated with a unique word. You cannot say “down” for lie down and also say “down” for get off the furniture. Choose one unique word per command, “down” should mean get off the furniture while “lay” means lay down.

Choose a unique phrase per command and stick to it. Make sure your family is on the same page knowing which phrase to use for each command.

To be consistent, download our [command phrases and gestures cheat sheet](#). This download lists variations of phrases for each command along with our suggested phrase. This cheat sheet includes a table for you to select which phrase and gesture you will use for each command, making it easy for you and your family to be consistent with the choice for each command.

### Choose a gesture

Similar to how you chose a unique phrase for each command, you must also choose a unique gesture. Each command should be associated with a gesture. Point to the ground; say “down” to indicate get off the furniture, tap on the floor and say “lay” to indicate lay down. As Jo of Moonlit Pomskeys says, “Dogs speak body language not English.” It is important to use a gesture to teach your Pomsky commands.”

*“Dogs speak body language not English. Use one command and one word for one action.”  
- Jo, Moonlit Pomskeys*

Choose a unique gesture per command and stick to it. Make sure your family is on the same page knowing which gesture to use for each command.

To be consistent, download our [command phrases and gestures cheat sheet](#). This download lists variations of gestures for each command along with our suggested gesture. This cheat sheet includes a table for you to select which phrase and gesture you will use for each command, making it easy for you and your family to be consistent with the choice for each command.

### **How often to train**

How often you train depends on a number of variables including your lifestyle, what command you are teaching and how trained your Pomsy is at this stage in the training process.

Short incremental training sessions a couple times per day work best when training a Pomsy, any longer than 15 minutes can be counterproductive and runs the risk of frustrating your Pomsy. By this point, you should have already filled out the [weekly training schedule](#) in your consistency plan from chapter two. In the schedule, you should have set aside two or three 15-minute periods per day for Pomsy training. We recommend using these time blocks to teach commands. At this point, you should no longer need these time blocks for engagement training, so we recommend you begin using these 10-15-minute periods for command training.

Lauren of Pristine Pomsies says, “I usually work with the dog at least once a day for 10-15 minutes cycling through a couple commands. As soon as the dog gets a good idea of the command you are working on, cycle to a new one. At the end, I do a final run through of all the commands the dog should know up to that point.”

### **How long it will take**

The length of time to train a command depends on the complexity of the command. Some commands can take weeks to master while others can be taught in a day. If you keep consistent and put in the time and energy, it should take about 8 weeks to train your Pomsy on the basic commands such as come, sit, stay, and lay down.

Remember, you should consider the Pomsy in training its entire life even if your Pomsy is trained on the basics within a couple weeks. Lauren of Pristine Pomsies recommends a refresher training session on commands every couple of months after the Pomsy masters the command. This helps to keep the Pomsy’s mind sharp and ensures the Pomsy does not forget any important commands.

### **Technique**

Our step-by-step instructions are based on the positive technique that we touched on in chapter one. Breeders agree that using treats and positive reinforcement is the best method for training a Pomsy on

*“Reward, reward, reward. Then the act becomes a habit and the dog does it regardless of being rewarded.”*

*- Chree, Mountain Shadow Pomsies*

commands. As Chree of Mountain Shadow Pomsies says “When training I reward, reward, reward. Then the act becomes a habit and the dog does it regardless of being rewarded.”

## Basic Commands

Time to take action. In this section, we are breaking down the basic commands. You are going to choose a phrase for each command, choose a gesture for each command and you will go through the step-by-step instructions to teach your Pomsky the given command.

In this section, we are going to cover:

- Recall
- Sit
- Laydown
- Stay
- Drop
- Leave

Focus on one command at a time when you first start training. We recommend going in order of how we have listed these commands; starting with recall, then sit and so on.

Once your Pomsky picks up the basics, you can begin combining two commands into one training session. For example, asking your Pomsky to “come” and then “sit” after they obey the come command. For now, focus on teaching one command at a time before moving onto the next.

*“For simple commands like sit or lay down, these can be taught and practiced in the same lesson.”*  
- Lauren, Pristine Pomsies

### Basic Command - Recall

Recall is one of the most important and probably the most common command to teach a dog. Recall is the act of calling your Pomsky back to your location, meaning your Pomsky drops whatever it is doing and comes running to your side.

It is important to have a strong recall command. You should be confident that your Pomsky will drop anything to come running back to you when commanded. Recall can be a lifesaver. It can save your Pomsky if they are off leash running across the road or keep your Pomsky out of trouble if they are sniffing something they should not be.

#### Recall phrase

For the recall command, we recommend saying, “Come”. For example, “Charlie! Come!” to encourage your Pomsky to come running back to your side when they wander away.

#### Recall gesture

As a gesture, we recommend bending slightly at the knees and waist with arms open and palms facing the Pomsky. This puts you a little lower to the ground, closer to the Pomsky. Arms open is an inviting gesture that indicates to your Pomsky that they will be rewarded if they come running into your open chest.

For example, with your Pomsy looking at you, bend over slightly, open your arms a bit with palms facing out towards the Pomsy and in an excited tone say “Come! Come on boy! Come Charlie!”. This gesture is open and inviting, making the Pomsy want to come towards you. For added positive reinforcement, you can wave your hands towards you, pat your knees or snap your fingers a little to get the Pomsy more excited to run to you.

Remember, you can view the entire list of possible phrases and gestures on our [command phrases and gestures cheat sheet](#).

### **Teaching recall**

Now that you have your phrase and gesture chosen, here is the step-by-step process to teach your Pomsy the recall command.

- Step 1: Start in the house in a quiet area without any distraction. Have a handful of treats for this training.
- Step 2: Position yourself into a squat position with your arms open, you want your gesture to be low and inviting. Say the word "Come" in a positive and upbeat tone of voice.
- Step 3: If the Pomsy begins to walk towards you, encourage the Pomsy with verbal praise in a happy and upbeat tone of voice. Once the Pomsy fully reaches you, reward the Pomsy with praise and a treat. If the Pomsy does not start moving towards you after you have given the “come” command, attach a leash to the Pomsy and guide the Pomsy to the spot where you called them. Praise the Pomsy while leading them to the spot where you said “come”. This teaches the Pomsy to move towards you when you say “come”.
- Step 4: Repeat this exercise until your Pomsy is responding to the “come” command and gesture. Reward your Pomsy each time the exercise is completed successfully.
- Step 5: Once your Pomsy is coming on command indoors, increase the difficulty by practicing in different areas with different distractions. Practice outdoors, while out for a walk and at the dog park. Your Pomsy should listen to the recall command no matter where you are. Continue to reward your Pomsy with treats and praise each time they respond to the recall command.
- Step 6: Continue to increase the difficulty as you teach your Pomsy the recall command. Add some distractions, such as throwing a toy or treat across the room then give the “come” command before they can reach the treat. Your Pomsy should ignore the distraction and come running back to you. You want to increase the difficulty as much as possible while you are in a safe training environment so when the time comes that your Pomsy is off leash and about to chase that squirrel across the road, you can give the recall command and be confident your Pomsy will stop and listen.

### **Teaching recall – another method**

Jo of Moonlit Pomsys teaches her Pomsies the recall command a little differently. Here is how Jo recommends you teach your Pomsy to come.

- Step 1: Start in the house in a quiet area without any distraction. Have a handful of treats for this training.
- Step 2: Allow the Pomsy to sniff your hand to let them know you have treats, give the Pomsy a treat for engaging with you.
- Step 3: Throw a treat across the room and let the Pomsy go get it.
- Step 4: The Pomsy will come running back to you for more treats after it finds the first treat that you threw across the room. Reward the Pomsy with a treat when they come running back.
- Step 5: Repeat this game for about 5 minutes. Continue to throw a treat across the room and allow your Pomsy to come running back, reward your Pomsy when they come running back.
- Step 6: Once you are comfortable that the Pomsy understands the game, start saying the phrase “come” and use your recall gesture when the Pomsy comes running back to you. Throw a treat and let the Pomsy go find it. Once the Pomsy eats the treat, they will come running back for more. As the Pomsy is running back, give the “come” command and gesture.
- Step 7: Repeat step 6 until your Pomsy associates the “come” command and gesture with a reward.
- Step 8: Once your Pomsy has mastered the game, ask your Pomsy to “come” without throwing a treat. If your Pomsy comes running to you, reward them with a treat. If your Pomsy does not respond to the come command, repeat the exercise and continue the game until your Pomsy associates the phrase “come” with the correct action and reward.

Once your Pomsy learns the recall command indoors, try the command in different areas and continue to increase the difficulty. Try using the command when out for a walk. Call your Pomsy into different rooms, let your Pomsy run around the garden then call them back, and have a friend or family member call the Pomsy. The gradual increase in difficulty teaches your Pomsy to respond to the recall command no matter the circumstances, reward the Pomsy each time they correctly respond to the recall command.

Pomskies are quick learners so you should be able to teach your Pomsy the recall command within one to two weeks of training if you set aside time for a couple training sessions per day. The recall command is important. It is a command you will be using everyday so you should plan to continue teaching and practicing the recall command for the Pomsy’s entire lifetime.

## **Basic Command – Sit**

Sit is another critical command, this teaches the Pomsy to stop and sit on their butt. The sit command can be used to calm your Pomsy, if your Pomsy is hyperactive or jumping simply ask them to sit and behave.

### **Sit phrase**

For the sit command, we recommend simply saying, “sit”. For example, “Charlie! Sit!” to encourage your Pomsy to sit where they are.

## Sit gesture

As a gesture, we recommend lifting your hand above the Pomsky's head and pointing down at the floor or at the Pomsky's backside when you say "sit". The Pomsky will follow your hand as you raise it above their head, guiding the Pomsky into a natural sitting position. The action of pointing downwards is an easy gesture for the Pomsky to recognize and remember.

## Teaching sit

Now that you have your phrase and gesture chosen, here is the step-by-step process to teach your Pomsky the sit command.

- Step 1: Start indoors in a quiet training environment with few distractions. Crouch down in front of your Pomsky and hold a treat up to your Pomsky's nose allowing them to sniff and engage with your hand.
- Step 2: Move your hand upwards above the Pomsky's head allowing the Pomsky to follow the treat with their nose as you raise your arm. This will naturally lower the Pomsky's butt as they raise their head higher and higher.
- Step 3: As your Pomsky begins sitting naturally, say "sit" and point to the floor with your hand raised above the Pomsky's head. If your Pomsky does not fully sit, put your other hand on the Pomsky's butt and gently guide the Pomsky down into a sitting position. You may need to assist the Pomsky into a full sitting position the first few times through the exercise. If the Pomsky still does not sit, do not reward with a treat. Simply put the Pomsky on a leash, walk in a quick circle and then restart the exercise from step 1. The quick walk in a circle acts as a reset. This allows the Pomsky to get up and refresh before jumping back into the training exercise.
- Step 4: Reward the Pomsky with a treat and lots of praise when the Pomsky sits with its butt fully on the floor. Marking the sitting motion with the word "sit" and your chosen gesture will teach the Pomsky to sit and be rewarded when they hear the command. Lauren of Pristine Pomskeys cautions to make sure the Pomsky is fully sitting on the ground before you offer a reward because some Pomskeys will learn to squat instead of fully sitting.
- Step 5: Repeat this exercise a couple times per day for two weeks, or until your Pomsky learns that sitting when commanded results in a treat.
- Step 6: Continue to practice in various settings with increased difficulty such as outdoors and at the dog park. You should continue to ask your Pomsky to sit a couple times per day even after you master the sit command. Ask your Pomsky to sit before walks, before they eat and when a guest comes over. Once comfortable, you can pair this command with your recall training. Call your Pomsky to you and then ask the Pomsky to sit. Remember to always reward your Pomsky with treats and praise when they obey the sit command.
- Step 7: Continue to increase the difficulty as you teach your Pomsky the sit command. Ask your Pomsky to come and then sit before you reward with a treat and add some distractions, such as throwing a treat across the room then give the "sit" command before they can reach the treat.



With consistency, you should be able to teach your Pomsky the sit command within one to two weeks of training. Continue training the sit command throughout the Pomsky's life. This is an important command that the Pomsky will need to perform frequently. As mentioned in step 6, you should use the sit command daily to reinforce the behavior. Ask the Pomsky to sit before walks, before mealtime, and before going out to potty.

## Basic Command – Lay

The lay command teaches your Pomsky to lie down on the ground. You should teach your Pomsky the sit command before attempting the lay command.

### Lay phrase

For the lay command, we recommend saying “Lay down”. For example, “Charlie, lay down!” to encourage your Pomsky to lie on the floor.

### Lay gesture

As a gesture, we recommend tapping on the floor in front of the Pomsky.

### Teaching Lay

Now that you have your phrase and gesture chosen, here is the step-by-step process to teach your Pomsky the lay command.

- Step 1: Start indoors in a quiet training environment with few distractions. Ask your Pomsky to sit. When the Pomsky sits, reward the Pomsky with a treat.
- Step 2: Once the Pomsky is sitting in front of you, tap the ground and say, “lay down”
- Step 3: Some Pomsies will naturally lie down but most will need a little help. If your Pomsky lies down, reward with a treat and lots of praise. If your Pomsky does not lie down, kneel next to the Pomsky and place your left hand on the Pomsies shoulder. Place your right hand underneath the Pomsky's front legs. Say “Lay down” and gently shift the Pomsky's front legs forward while applying a very slight pressure to the Pomsky's shoulder (about as much pressure as if you were lightly petting). This will naturally put the Pomsky into a laying position. Stroke the Pomsky's back once laying to encourage the Pomsky to relax and indicate that the Pomsky did not do anything wrong. It is important to note that you do not want to force your Pomsky to the ground. The laying motion should be natural to avoid harming the Pomsky in anyway.
- Step 4: As soon as the Pomsky is fully laying, give lots of positive praise and reward the Pomsky with a treat.
- Step 5: Repeat this exercise until the Pomsky associates the phrase “lay down” and your gesture of tapping the floor with the action of lying down.
- Step 6: Once your Pomsky masters the action of going from the sit position to the lay down position, increase the difficulty by asking your Pomsky to “lay down” from the standing position. Your Pomsky should be able to switch from standing to lying when commanded.

- Step 7: Continue to practice in various settings with increased difficulty. Similar to the sit command, you should continue to ask your Pomsky to lie down a couple times per day even after you master the lay command to reinforce the behavior. Once comfortable, you can pair this command with your recall training. Call your Pomsky to you and then ask the Pomsky to lay. Remember to always reward your Pomsky with treats and praise when they obey the lay command.

Repeat this exercise a couple times per day. If your Pomsky has already mastered the sit command, it should be relatively easy for your Pomsky to master the lay command. We estimate that it will take about one week of consistent training for your Pomsky to master the lay command.

## **Basic Command – Stay**

Before moving onto the stay command, make sure your Pomsky has mastered the sit command. The stay command is an extension of the sit command. This command teaches your Pomsky to sit in one spot as you walk away.

### **Stay phrase**

For the stay command, we recommend simply saying, “stay”. For example, “Charlie, stay!” to encourage your Pomsky to stay where they are.

### **Stay gesture**

As a gesture, we recommend holding your hand out with fingers facing up at the sky and palm facing the Pomsky like a stop sign.

### **Teaching stay**

Now that you have your phrase and gesture chosen, here is the step-by-step process to teach your Pomsky the stay command.

- Step 1: Start indoors in a quiet training environment with few distractions. Ask your Pomsky to sit. When the Pomsky sits, reward the Pomsky with a treat.
- Step 2: While the Pomsky is sitting in front of you, hold your hand up like a stop sign and say “stay”.
- Step 3: After you say, “stay”, take a single step backwards away from the Pomsky while keeping eye contact. It is important that you do not keep saying “stay”. Just say the word once and keep your hand up like a stop sign as you walk away.
- Step 4: If your Pomsky stayed and did not move when you took a step backwards, reward the Pomsky with a treat. If the Pomsky comes walking towards you when you step back, ask the Pomsky to sit again and wait a couple of seconds while the Pomsky sits. After a couple seconds, say “stay” again with your hand held like a stop sign and attempt to take a step back. Repeat this

until your Pomsy understands “stay” means they must stay still in one spot. Once your Pomsy allows you to take a step back, reward the Pomsy with a treat and praise.

- Step 5: Once you master the stay command taking one-step back, increase the difficulty and try to take 2-3 steps back after giving the stay command and gesture. Continue to gradually increase the number of steps after you give the stay command before rewarding the Pomsy with a treat. Remember, you only need to say “stay” once no matter how many steps backwards you take.
- Step 6: Once your Pomsy is comfortable with the stay command, add a release command. This is a command that tells your Pomsy when to stop staying. For the sake of simplicity, we recommend using your recall command. After you say “stay” and take a couple steps back, hold the position for a few seconds then say “come!” and reward with a treat and praise when the Pomsy comes running to you. This teaches your Pomsy to stay in one spot until you tell them to come.
- Step 7: Continue to increase the difficulty after your Pomsy masters the stay and release process of step 6. Practice the exercise in different locations. Say stay then walk away into a different room, say stay then turn your back, and have strangers or friends give the stay command. Your Pomsy should respond to the stay command no matter the circumstances.

Train the stay command once per day for three weeks. The stay command is a little tricky, especially with the high-energy Pomsy breed. Do not expect too much too soon and do not get discouraged if your Pomsy does not pick it up right away. Stick to the training and dedicate a couple of weeks. The Pomsy is a smart breed so it should be able to pick up the command within three weeks of consistent training.

## **Basic Command – Drop**

Drop is a command that every dog should know. The drop command should be used when the Pomsy has something in its mouth that it should not be holding. This teaches your Pomsy to release an item from its mouth on command, for example if your Pomsy is chewing a shoe you can use the drop command to instruct your Pomsy drop the shoe. This is an important command that can keep your curious Pomsy safe when they’re trying to eat something out of the trash or off the street that they shouldn’t have in their mouth.

The key with the drop command is to teach your Pomsy that a reward is given if they drop what’s in their mouth.

### **Drop phrase**

For the drop command, we recommend saying “Drop It”. For example, “Charlie! Drop It!” to command your Pomsy to drop whatever they have.

### **Drop gesture**

As a gesture, we recommend crouching down in front of your Pomsy and extending an open palm facing upwards. This indicates to your Pomsy to drop the item in your hand.

### **Teaching Drop**

Now that you have your phrase and gesture chosen, here is the step-by-step process to teach your Pomsy the drop command.

- Step 1: Start indoors in a quiet training environment with few distractions. Keep a couple high value treats in your hand such as chicken or turkey. You will need something of extremely high value that the Pomsy really wants and values more than anything.
- Step 2: Give the Pomsy something that it likes to chew on, such as a favorite toy or dental bone. Allow the Pomsy to chew the toy for a couple seconds.
- Step 3: Once the Pomsy is engaged with the chew, put your high value treat up to the Pomsy's nose and say, "drop it" while holding your other hand underneath the Pomsy's mouth with your palm facing up.
- Step 4: If the Pomsy listens and drops the toy, immediately praise the Pomsy and reward with a high value treat. If the Pomsy does not drop the toy, this means you have given the Pomsy something they like too much. To retrieve the chew from the Pomsy, you will need to make an offer the Pomsy cannot refuse, such as a walk or a car ride, until the Pomsy releases the item that they are holding. Restart the exercise but this time use a different chew toy that is not as valuable to the Pomsy. You want to make sure the Pomsy drops the item the first few times through the exercise. Instead of a chew, try giving the Pomsy a tug toy or ball that they will gladly drop in return for a treat.
- Step 5: Reengage your Pomsy with the toy or chew after they drop it. Allow the Pomsy to continue chewing for 5-10 seconds then repeat the exercise using a high value treat and the "drop it" command. Repeat this until the Pomsy associates the "drop it" command with the action of dropping what is in their mouth.
- Step 6: Once your Pomsy masters the drop it command, increase the difficulty by giving the Pomsy a new chew or new toy that is more valuable than the chew you gave in the first time through the exercise. Repeat the exercise making the Pomsy drop the new toy.
- Step 7: Continue to test your Pomsy with the drop command throughout the day. If you see your Pomsy pick up a toy, go over to the Pomsy and ask for a drop. When the Pomsy listens and drops the toy, give a reward and then play with the Pomsy to reinforce that the Pomsy is not in trouble.

Repeat this process a couple times per day for one to two weeks. After two weeks of this training, your Pomsy should fully understand the drop command. Make sure you do this exercise in different areas of the house, outdoors, and at the dog park to make sure the Pomsy understands that "drop it" means the Pomsy must release what is in its mouth no matter the circumstance. Do this training with other members of your family and friends giving the drop command. This teaches the Pomsy that no matter who uses the command, it must listen. You want to make sure that your Pomsy is as comfortable as

possible with the drop command as it could save your Pomsky's life if they pick up something hazardous in their mouth.

### **Teaching drop – another method**

Jo of Moonlit Pomskeys teaches her Pomskeys the drop command a little differently. Jo uses a game, such as a game of tug, to teach drop. This is a similar game to how we teach engagement in chapter 3.

Here is how to teach drop using a game:

- Step 1: Use a tug toy to get your Pomsky's attention. Take the toy and swing it around or squirm it around back and forth on the floor to get your Pomsky's attention. Instead of a tug toy, you can also use a chew. You should use something the Pomsky values that it will not want to drop.
- Step 2: Once your Pomsky engages, get your Pomsky excited and tugging for 10 seconds.
- Step 3: Get the toy back from the Pomsky. Do this by freezing the toy against your body so that there is no slack and you are no longer tugging.
- Step 4: As soon as the Pomsky releases the toy, mark the good behavior with the word "drop" and reward the Pomsky with a high value treat such as a piece of chicken.
- Step 5: After you reward the Pomsky with a high value treat, give the toy back to the Pomsky. This teaches the Pomsky that "drop" does not mean it is being punished but it just means they are rewarded for responding.
- Step 6: Repeat the process until your Pomsky associates the word drop with a high value reward. To end the game, put the toy away and reward your Pomsky with a treat and praise. You want to end the game in a good way to reinforce the good behavior of the Pomsky.

## **Basic Command – Leave**

The leave command teaches your Pomsky to ignore something. For example, if you spill juice on the ground, you can use the leave command to have your Pomsky ignore the spill.

This is an important command as it can keep your curious Pomsky safe when they are sniffing something in the road or when they are sniffing around the trash trying to find some free food. Give the leave command to instruct your Pomsky to leave it alone.

Similar to the drop command, the key is to teach your Pomsky that a reward is given if they stop what they are doing and leave it alone.

### **Leave phrase**

For the leave command, we recommend saying "Leave It". For example, "Charlie! Leave It!" to encourage your Pomsky to leave something alone.

### **Leave gesture**

As a gesture, we recommend a single wave of your hand from one side of the object to the other with palm facing down motioning over the object that you want your Pomsy to ignore. For example, if your Pomsy is sniffing around the trash, take your right hand and wave in one swoop from right to left with palm facing down over the trash while saying, “Leave it”.

This gesture might not work in all situations. This only works if there is an immediate object near your Pomsy that you want the Pomsy to ignore. If you want the Pomsy to “leave it” when they are far away, you will have to rely on the phrase and not the gesture.

## **Teaching Leave**

Now that you have your phrase and gesture chosen, here is the step-by-step process to teach your Pomsy the leave command.

- Step 1: Take a handful of treats and hold it in a fist. Let the Pomsy sniff your hand to figure out that you are holding treats.
- Step 2: Say, “leave it” and use your hand gesture to wave over the fist of treats.
- Step 3: Continue holding your hand with treats closed in a fist until the Pomsy realizes that sniffing and begging will not make you open your hand.
- Step 4: When the Pomsy pulls their head away and sits back say, “Leave it” with your hand gesture and reward the Pomsy with a treat from your hand.
- Step 5: Repeat this until your dog associates “leave it” and the hand gesture with the action of sitting back and waiting. Reward your Pomsy each time they sit back and ignore your handful of treats. Ignore your Pomsy and do not give a reward if the Pomsy sniffs your hand and tries to get the treats from your fist.
- Step 6: Increase the difficulty once your Pomsy learns to sit back when you say, “leave it”. Show the Pomsy that you have an extra high value treat in your hand, such as turkey or chicken. Place a regular treat on the ground and say, “leave it” while using your hand gesture to indicate to the Pomsy that they should ignore the treat on the ground.
- Step 7: If your Pomsy ignores the treat on the ground and stays sitting focused on you, reward the Pomsy with the high value treat. If the Pomsy lunges for the treat on the ground, cover the treat with your hand and do not let the Pomsy have it. Continue the process until your Pomsy learns to completely ignore the treat on the ground. Reward your Pomsy each time they behave correctly.
- Step 8: Continue to increase the difficulty. Try placing the treat on the ground closer to the Pomsy, or place the treat on the ground and walk away after giving the leave command. Try having different members of your family give the leave command and practice the exercise in different areas such as outdoors or at the dog park. Reward your Pomsy each time they successfully ignore the treat on the ground.

The end goal is to teach your Pomsy to completely ignore a distraction. Similar to what we discussed in the engagement chapter, you should be able to place an open container of food on the floor with the

leave command. Your Pomsy should completely ignore the container of food when commanded to leave it.

## Advanced Commands

These advanced commands are tough and should not be attempted if your Pomsy is not ready, attempting these commands too early will do more harm than good. Only attempt these advanced commands after your Pomsy has mastered the basics. If your Pomsy has not mastered the basics, they will not be able to perform any of these advanced commands.

Similar to the basic commands section, in the advanced commands section you are going to choose a phrase for each command, choose a gesture for each command and you will go through the step-by-step instructions to teach your Pomsy the given command.

We have listed the advanced commands in order of difficulty, with the first being the easiest to teach and the last being the hardest. Kiss is the easiest to teach whereas play dead is the most difficult advanced command to teach.

In this section, we are going to cover:

- Kiss
- Speak
- Paw
- Roll over
- Play dead

### Advanced Command – Kiss

The kiss command teaches the Pomsy to lick your cheek, like a puppy kiss. We are teaching this as an advanced command for those of you that enjoy puppy kisses. Some owners do not want to teach their Pomsy to lick while others gladly welcome a little slobber; that choice is up to you.

#### Kiss phrase

For the kiss command, we recommend simply saying, “kiss” or “can I have a kiss”. For example, “Charlie, can I have a kiss?” to indicate to your Pomsy to lick your cheek.

#### Kiss gesture

As a gesture, we recommend crouching down so your face is at the Pomsy’s eye level and tap your cheek a couple times. This indicates where you want the Pomsy to kiss.

#### Teaching kiss

- Step 1: Ask your Pomsy to sit in front of you.

- Step 2: Take a little dab of peanut butter and place it on your body where you want the Pomsy to kiss. Most owners prefer cheek kisses so place the dab of peanut butter on your cheek.
- Step 3: Crouch down to the Pomsy's eye level and say, "give me a kiss!" while tapping on your cheek near the peanut butter. This indicates to your Pomsy that it is okay to lick off the tasty treat.
- Step 4: Reward your Pomsy with another treat after they give you kisses.
- Step 5: Repeat this exercise sporadically throughout the day, a couple times per day for one week. Only do this exercise once per training session, you do not want your Pomsy licking peanut butter off your face for 15 minutes straight. That will not teach your Pomsy anything.
- Step 6: Once your Pomsy gets used to licking peanut butter off your cheek, ask for kisses without peanut butter. Reward your Pomsy if they properly respond with kisses. If the Pomsy does not respond to the kiss command, repeat the training with peanut butter for a couple more days.

This command is relatively quick to teach, your Pomsy should be able to learn the kiss command within one week of training. To reiterate, we do not believe that teaching kiss will lead to bad behaviors such as excessive licking. This command is just a cute trick that helps to form a strong bond between owner and Pomsy. This is not a crucial command. If you do not want to teach the kiss command, we recommend you skip this training.

## Advanced Command – Speak

The speak command teaches your Pomsy to bark or howl on command. Similar to the kiss command, we are teaching this as an advanced command for those of you who want your Pomsy to speak. Some owners do not want to teach their Pomsy to bark. If you do not want to teach your Pomsy that barking is allowed or if you are already having trouble controlling your Pomsy's barking, you can skip this command.

### Speak phrase

For the speak command, we recommend simply saying "Speak". For example, "Charlie, Speak!" to indicate to your Pomsy to bark or howl.

### Speak gesture

As a gesture, we recommend opening and closing your hand like a duckbill or a sock puppet. Hold your hand up and close your four fingers down to your thumb, like a duckbill opening and closing. This opening and closing of the hand is a good distinct sign that looks like a mouth opening and closing, this indicates when you want the Pomsy to speak.

### Teaching speak

- Step 1: Get your Pomsy excited and engaged. Do this by playing a game of tug, or take a treat and tease the Pomsy to get them excited and riled up.



- Step 2: Once your Pomsy is riled up and excited, show the Pomsy a high value treat so that they want the treat and will do anything to get the treat.
- Step 3: Once the Pomsy engages for the treat, hide the treat behind your back. Hold the treat behind your back until your Pomsy gets too anxious from waiting and begins to bark and whine. If the Pomsy does not begin barking, try showing the treat again and re-engaging the Pomsy to get them excited and barking. Be patient, this may take a couple minutes before your Pomsy decides to bark. You can bark and make a bit of noise to encourage your Pomsy to make some noise.
- Step 4: Right before your Pomsy barks say, “Speak” to mark the behavior and use your hand signal opening and closing your hand like a sock puppet. After the Pomsy barks, reward the Pomsy with a treat and praise. This allows the Pomsy to associate the phrase “speak” and hand signal with a high value reward.
- Step 5: Repeat this exercise for 5 to 10 minutes per day until your Pomsy begins to associate the phrase and hand gesture for speak with the action of barking.
- Step 6: As your Pomsy begins to master the speak command, begin to ask your Pomsy to speak sporadically throughout the day. Do this randomly without engaging and without riling up your Pomsy. With enough practice, your Pomsy will bark whenever you give the speak command. Reward your Pomsy with a treat and praise when they respond to the speak command.

The speak command is relatively easy and quick to train, your Pomsy should be able to learn the speak command within one week of training. Do not attempt to teach the speak command until your Pomsy is fully trained. You do not want to teach your Pomsy that barking results in a treat. You need to teach your Pomsy that this is a trick and they should only bark when instructed to speak. Similar to the kiss command, this is not a crucial aspect of Pomsy training. If you do not want to teach your Pomsy to bark, we recommend you skip this training.

## **Advanced Command – Paw**

The paw command teaches the Pomsy to lift up its front paw and place it in your hands. Some refer to this as the “high five” command. This is one of the easier advanced commands that we will cover. The Pomsy is a very smart breed and should learn the paw command relatively quickly.

At a minimum, your Pomsy must know the sit and stay commands before teaching paw.

### **Paw phrase**

For the paw command, we recommend saying “paw” or “give me paw”. For example, “Charlie, give me paw!” to encourage your Pomsy to lift their paw and place it on your hand.

### **Paw gesture**

As a gesture, we recommend crouching down or bending over to the Pomsy’s level then raise your right hand above the Pomsy’s head to get their eyes and extend your left hand with palm facing

upwards in front of the Pomsy about chest high. Your left hand should be at a comfortable level for the Pomsy to lift their paw and place in your hand.

Be careful not to confuse this gesture with the “drop it” gesture, both gestures require an open palm facing upwards which is why we recommend holding your right hand up above the Pomsy’s head while holding your left in front of the Pomsy with palm facing up.

### **Teaching paw**

Now that you have your phrase and gesture chosen, here is the step-by-step process to teach your Pomsy the paw command.

- Step 1: Start indoors in a quiet training environment with few distractions. With a handful of treats in your right hand, ask your Pomsy to sit in front of you.
- Step 2: Once the Pomsy is sitting in front of you, crouch down to the Pomsy’s level and say “Give me your paw” while holding your right hand full of treats around the Pomsy’s eye level and extending your left hand in front of the Pomsy with palm up. Holding your right hand around the Pomsy’s eye level gets their attention and lets them know you are giving a command. The Pomsy will be able to see your left hand out of their peripherals; this is where the Pomsy will learn to place their paw.
- Step 3: With your left hand, gently lift one of your Pomsy’s front paws and hold it in your hand around the Pomsy’s chest level. This teaches the Pomsy that the paw command means they should place their paw in your open palm. It is important to note that dogs have a dominant paw, just like humans have a dominant left or right hand. Your Pomsy might prefer lifting one paw instead of the other. If your Pomsy seems uncomfortable, try the trick with the other front paw. Choose the paw that seems most comfortable for the Pomsy; do not go back and forth between paws until you first teach your Pomsy how to lift one paw.
- Step 4: After lifting the Pomsy’s paw and holding the paw in the appropriate comfortable position for a couple seconds, reward your Pomsy with a treat and lots of praise.
- Step 5: Repeat this process of lifting the Pomsy’s paw a couple times per day. You need to teach the Pomsy that if they put their paw in your hand, it results in a treat.
- Step 6: After a couple training sessions of lifting the Pomsy’s paw, attempt to give the command without any assistance lifting the Pomsy’s paw. Simply put your palm out and ask for a paw. If the Pomsy places their paw in your hand, reward with a treat and lots of praise. If the Pomsy still does not lift their paw, repeat steps 2 through 4 until your Pomsy can complete the exercise without your help. You will be able to tell when the Pomsy is beginning to learn the trick. After completing a couple successful training sessions, you will notice that your Pomsy naturally begins to lift their paw when you try to assist. This is a good indication that your Pomsy is ready to attempt the trick without your assistance.
- Step 7: Once your Pomsy masters lifting one paw, you can teach the Pomsy to lift their other paw. For example, you can say “paw” to have your Pomsy lift their right paw. Then when you are holding the Pomsy’s right paw, say “other paw” to encourage your Pomsy to put the right

paw down and lift the left paw. To do this, repeat the training session and lift the Pomsky's left paw when you say "other paw".

It will not take long for your Pomsky to learn the paw command. Practice this exercise for a couple minutes per day for one to two weeks. Limit paw training to short bursts over multiple days; you do not want to frustrate your Pomsky by grabbing its paw too many times in a row.

## **Advanced Command – Roll over**

The roll over command teaches your Pomsky to lie down and then roll over on the ground. Your Pomsky must master the basic commands before attempting roll over. At a minimum, your Pomsky must know the sit, lay and stay commands before teaching roll over.

Before teaching the roll over command, you must know if your Pomsky is comfortable rolling onto their back. Some timid Pomsies do not enjoy the motion of rolling over. Do not force your Pomsky to learn this trick if your Pomsky does not enjoy the motion of rolling over. If you begin teaching and the motion makes your Pomsky uncomfortable, stop the training all together. Remember that these advanced commands are supposed to be fun, these tricks are not a necessity so do not force your Pomsky to learn any advanced commands if it makes the Pomsky uncomfortable.

### **Roll over phrase**

For the Roll over command, we recommend simply saying "Roll over". For example, "Charlie, Roll over!" to encourage your Pomsky to roll over on the floor.

### **Roll over gesture**

As a gesture, we recommend you stick out your pointer finger and move your hand in a circular motion as if you are pointing at an analog clock and moving your finger clockwise from the 12 on the clock in a circular motion around the clock until you reach the 12 again.

### **Teaching roll over**

Now that you have your phrase and gesture chosen, here is the step-by-step process to teach your Pomsky the roll over command.

- Step 1: Start indoors in a quiet training environment with few distractions. Ask your Pomsky to lie down. When the Pomsky lays down, reward the Pomsky with a treat.
- Step 2: Once the Pomsky is lying in front of you say, "Roll over" while pointing and moving your hand in a circular motion to indicate that the Pomsky should roll over.
- Step 3: After giving the roll over command, gently nudge the Pomsky from the laying position onto their side and roll them over. Be careful; do not use a lot of force to roll your Pomsky. You should only need to nudge the Pomsky slightly to get them on their side then give a little lift to begin the Pomsky's roll. Let the Pomsky finish the roll over rotation using its own weight and momentum. Do not force the Pomsky to roll over fully, just give the Pomsky enough of a start

until their weight and momentum naturally finish the rolling motion. Allowing the Pomsky to naturally finish the roll is safer than forcing the Pomsky to fully roll. If the Pomsky is not happy with how you are touching them or if the Pomsky seems uncomfortable with the motion, do not continue the training.

- Step 4: Immediately reward the Pomsky with a high value treat and praise as soon as the Pomsky finishes the roll. This is a difficult trick so make sure to praise your Pomsky with lots of love and treats.
- Step 5: After successfully completing the exercise a couple of times, try commanding the Pomsky to roll over without nudging the Pomsky's side and without assisting in the roll over. You want the Pomsky to roll over without your help. You will need to assist the Pomsky with the action of rolling the first few times through the exercise but the end goal is to have the Pomsky use their strength and momentum to roll themselves over. If the Pomsky successfully rolls over without your help, reward the Pomsky with a treat and lots of praise. If the Pomsky does not roll over, repeat step 3 until your Pomsky can successfully roll over without your help.
- Step 6: Repeat this exercise a couple times per day. Do not over do the repetition of this exercise. You want your Pomsky to have fun when training, meaning you need the Pomsky to want to roll over. Your Pomsky will not be happy if you are rolling them over 20-30 times per session. Keep these training sessions short, a couple minutes and a couple rolls per session until the Pomsky associates the phrase "roll over" with the action of doing a barrel roll on the floor.

The roll over exercise is a difficult one to teach. Do this a couple times per day and plan to repeat the exercise for a couple weeks until your Pomsky can fully roll over on their own.

## **Advanced Command - Play Dead**

The play dead command is a fun party trick, this command teaches the Pomsky to "act dead" on command. This is one of the more difficult tricks to teach your Pomsky. Do not attempt to teach the play dead command until your Pomsky is fully trained on the basics. At a minimum, your Pomsky must master the sit, lay, stay and roll over commands before attempting the play dead command.

### **Play dead phrase**

For the play dead command, we recommend simply saying "play dead" or depending on your hand gesture, you could say "Bang!" like a gun shot. For example, "Charlie, play dead!" to encourage to your Pomsky to "drop dead".

### **Play dead gesture**

As a gesture, we recommend pointing your hand like a gun, with pointer finger extended and thumb up in the air. When you say your command, pretend to shoot the gun. For example pretend to pull the trigger of the hand gun and say "Bang!" while jerking your hand back like you fired a fake bullet.

## Teaching play dead

- Step 1: Start indoors in a quiet training environment with few distractions. With your Pomsy standing in front of you, ask your Pomsy to lay down.
- Step 2: Once lying, guide your Pomsy to lay down on one side so that one shoulder is on the floor and the other shoulder is in the air with legs horizontal to the ground. Do not use a verbal command for this; you just want to teach your Pomsy the appropriate laying position without a command. Do this by gently nudging the Pomsy onto their side from the “lay down” position, similar to the roll over command training. Most dogs will naturally lean to one side when lying down; this is an indication of which side is more comfortable for the Pomsy. When guiding your Pomsy to lie on one side, choose the side that the Pomsy is naturally leaning towards. Alternatively, you can get the Pomsy to lie on their side by holding a treat to the Pomsy’s nose while they are lying down and move the treat to the Pomsy’s shoulder. The Pomsy will attempt to follow the treat with their head as you move the treat to their shoulder, it will put them in a natural laying position on their side. This may take a little while to teach your Pomsy so be patient and remember to be careful not to use a lot of force when rolling your Pomsy on their side.
- Step 3: Once the Pomsy is lying on its side, reward with a treat and praise.
- Step 4: Continue this process until your Pomsy is comfortable with the motion of going from the lay position to lying on its side. Gradually increase the amount of time the Pomsy lays on its side before rewarding with a treat. Remember, this will be the “dead” motion where your Pomsy will be lying on the floor motionless, so ideally you want your Pomsy to be laying on their side motionless for 5 seconds. Continue this process until your Pomsy is comfortable with the motion and able to lay motionless for at least 5 seconds. If the Pomsy is able to lay motionless on its side for 5 seconds, reward the Pomsy with a treat.
- Step 5: Once your Pomsy is comfortable going from a lay position to the “dead” position lying on the floor, begin to add your verbal phrase and gesture. Repeat step 2 except this time say “Bang!” and use your play dead gesture of a hand gun right before you gently nudge the Pomsy onto their side. This allows the Pomsy to associate the play dead command with laying on their side. Allow the Pomsy to lay motionless for 5 seconds then reward with a treat and praise.
- Step 6: Continue step 5 until your Pomsy goes from the “lay down” position to the “dead” position when you give the play dead phrase and gesture. Reward your Pomsy with a treat and praise each time the Pomsy successfully rolls onto its side and lays motionless for 5 seconds after the play dead command. If your Pomsy does not respond to the play dead phrase and gesture, return to step 2 or step 5 to continue teaching your Pomsy the command.
- Step 7: Once your Pomsy masters the act of rolling from the “lay” position to the “dead” position on command, give the play dead command to the Pomsy when the Pomsy is sitting or standing. When given the command, your Pomsy should stop, drop to the lay down position and lay on their side motionlessly in one fluid motion. When the Pomsy successfully moves from the standing position or sitting position to the dead position, reward with lots of treats and praise. If your Pomsy does not understand how to go from standing or sitting to the dead position, you may need to repeat the training exercise a couple times. Go back to step 5, except

this time have the Pomsy start from a standing or sitting position, then give the play dead command and walk the Pomsy through the process of first laying down then rolling onto the side before rewarding with a treat and praise.

- Step 8: Once your Pomsy masters the play dead command indoors, take your Pomsy to new locations to practice the command. Practice in different areas of the house, around different groups of people and allow other people to give the play dead command. Your Pomsy should respond no matter where you are or who is giving the command.

Be patient when teaching your Pomsy the play dead command, you may need to dedicate a couple training sessions specifically to step 2, step 5 and step 7. Meaning, this command can take weeks to master. Dedicate a couple 5 to 10-minute training sessions per day for this exercise. Do not overdo the training, as you do not want to frustrate your Pomsy. Plan on training two to four weeks before your Pomsy masters the command. This is a tough command with a lot of moving parts so be patient and do not rush your Pomsy.

## Summary

This is one of the most actionable chapters in the book. I hope by the time you are reading this summary, you have already gone through some of the step-by-step exercises with your Pomsy. If you have not done it yet, put the book down and start training. Start with the recall command right now.

If you are not training yet, you should at least begin planning. Download our [command phrases and gestures cheat sheet](#) and choose the phrase and gesture that you plan to use for each command. Rank the commands in order of priority for which commands you will teach first. Remember to start with the basics and do not even think about moving onto the advanced commands until your Pomsy has mastered all of the basic commands.

Fill out the cheat sheet and show it to your family, remember that everyone in your family needs to be consistently using the same phrase and gesture for each command. If your family is not consistent, you will confuse your Pomsy. Keep everyone on the same page with the phrase and gesture that you are using for each command.

*“Stick to one at a time. Once a command is mastered then move on to the next. You don't want to throw too much information at the dog and get them confused and frustrated.”*  
- Lauren, Pristine Pomsies

Here are the biggest takeaways from this chapter:

- Find a training schedule that works for you and stick to it. Plan for two or three short training sessions per day, find a schedule and keep consistent.
- Start with the basics. Once your Pomsy masters the basics, you can move onto more advanced commands and tricks.

- When you are just starting out, stick to one command at a time. Once your Pomsky begins to pick up the commands, you can combine commands and increase the difficulty of training but do not throw too much at the Pomsky at one time.
- Take action right now. Start training as soon as you possibly can, the basic commands can be lifesavers. Make sure your Pomsky masters all of the basics before moving onto anything more complex.
- Your Pomsky is always in training, to keep your Pomsky engaged and having fun try moving onto the advanced commands after the basics.

## Command Training - Next Steps

Now that you have finished the commands chapter, here are the next steps:

1. Download the [command phrases and gestures cheat sheet](#) and pick a phrase and gesture for each command.
2. Begin training the basics. Start with recall, then sit, and then stay and so on down the list of basic commands. Allow your Pomsky to master each basic command before moving onto the next. Gradually increase the difficulty by combining basic commands, training in new locations and having different people give the command.
3. Once your Pomsky masters the basics, move onto the advanced commands. The advanced commands will keep your Pomsky engaged, helping to build a stronger bond between Pomsky and owner.
4. Keep training your Pomsky. Do not stop with the list of commands in this book, there are hundreds of other commands and wrinkles to each command. Go out and teach your Pomsky more commands beyond this book.
5. Move onto chapter 5

## Special Thanks

Special thanks to those that contributed to this chapter. If you have any questions or want to learn more about each contributor, please click the link below to view their POA membership page:

- [Chree - Mountain Shadow Pomskeys](#)
- [Jo - Moonlit Pomskeys](#)
- [Lauren - Pristine Pomskeys](#)

# Chapter 5: Energy Management

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By now, you most likely know that the Pomsky is a high-energy breed. Huskies were raised as sled dogs, meaning they are one of the most energetic dogs you could own. As a descendent of the husky breed, the Pomsky exhibits these similar traits. They are naturally born with lots of energy to spare.

The good news is, we know how to manage a Pomsky's high energy. In this chapter, we are breaking down a couple tips and tricks from Pomsky breeders and trainers to help manage your Pomsky's endless amount of energy.

## Pomsky Energy

Pomskies are energetic, especially Pomsky puppies. They will run laps around your house and jump around all day long without slowing down. A little energy is not a bad thing, but too much energy is difficult to manage and makes training even more difficult. To put this in perspective, here are a couple quotes from Pomsky owners describing their experience with the Pomsky breed:

*"My biggest challenge is getting her settled down enough to listen. She is very active and goes until she crashes. My husband and I are trying to train her but she tends to be so excited we find it can be a challenge to get her to listen. We reward her with treats. But she gets so excited she can hardly contain herself."*

*"The hardest part about owning a Pomsky is that they are very energetic. They are not spazzy or overly hyper by any means, they are just a very high energy dog that needs exercise similar to a lab or border collie."*

*"Every time my pup goes outside, it is like his first time outdoors. He will just run and run until he wipes himself out."*

Sound familiar? For most Pomsky owners, this hits close to home. The good news is, Pomsky energy can be managed. With proper training and exercise, you can learn to harness and properly expend your Pomsky's energy. As Kanzaidy of SZ Pomskies says, "Pomskies are naturally high energy but that can be tamed down with focus and obedience training, mental stimulation and lots of exercise. If you raise your Pomsky incorrectly and let it run amuck with no discipline or order, then the behavior will get worse and worse until your Pomsky is completely out of control."

*"Pomskies are born with high but manageable energy. Huskies were bred to run hundreds of miles while pulling a sled."*

- Cheyenne, Lollipop Pomskies



## Energetic activity

Pomskies exhibit energy in a couple different ways. Below we have detailed some of the most common actions you will see in an energetic Pomsky. Chances are your Pomsky will fall into one or more of these categories:

- Back and forth – when a Pomsky gets excited, they sprint around the house as fast as possible with no real direction or purpose. Kanzaidy of SZ Pomskies calls this “Zoomies” because the Pomsky zooms back and forth running around, jumping on things, and dodging left and right until they burn out.
- Overstimulation – when a Pomsky gets so over excited, they go into an overstimulation phase where the Pomsky is running between toys or running back and forth between guests, cannot pick one point of focus and cannot stay still in one place.
- Circles – when a Pomsky gets so excited, they begin spinning in circles. The Pomsky is so excited they do not know what to do so. They start spinning in endless circles until you give them attention. This is similar to overstimulation and the back and forth energetic traits. Your Pomsky might exhibit all three when they get over excited.
- Jumper – when a Pomsky is so excited, they begin jumping on everything including you and your guests. This is most common when you first come home; the Pomsky gets so excited to see you that they jump up to beg for attention.
- No control – when your Pomsky gets so excited they seem to lose control of their body. This is common in Pomskies that have been taught not to jump. Instead of jumping, they sit on the floor bouncing around and twitching back and forth while wagging their tail trying desperately not to jump but it looks as if the Pomsky cannot control their body as they bounce around while sitting.
- Attention seeker – when your Pomsky desperately needs your attention. Your Pomsky will bring you toys, bark at the door, ask to go outside then come right back in, and then ask to go out again. This energetic Pomsky wants your attention and wants to play.
- Pee – When your Pomsky gets so excited, they cannot hold their bladder. The Pomsky will try to hold it in but they will end up running around the house leaving a little trail of pee behind them. This is not common in the Pomsky breed but it is known to happen with the Pomeranian and similar small breeds. We are listing it as an energetic trait just in case your Pomsky exhibits this problem.
- Slobber – When your Pomsky gets so excited, they begin to drool and foam at the mouth leaving strands of spit all over your house. This is not common in the Pomsky breed but we are listing it just in case. This is more common in other breeds, such as the Bloodhounds and St. Bernard.

*“Pomskies are naturally a high energy breed. If they’re not being walked regularly they can be more hyper than normal.”*

- Mischa, Brookside Pomsky

## Cause of high energy

Pomskies can be struck with a sudden burst of energy seemingly out of nowhere. They will take off and run laps around the living room then jump over obstacles back and forth for no apparent reason. Although it seems like this energy comes out of nowhere there is a couple common reasons why a Pomsky exhibits over energetic behavior. Below, we have listed some of the most common causes for a Pomsky to become suddenly over energetic:

*“Managing high-energy required to things; working the body and the mind.”*

- Cheyenne, Lollipop Pomskies

- Lack of exercise – exercise is the number one reason for an over energetic Pomsky. If your Pomsky has not been properly walked or exercised, they will be full of pent up energy.
- Lack of training – a Pomsky that is not trained daily will be more energetic. Pomskies are a smart breed, if they are not stimulated mentally and physically they will have lots of energy to expend. Proper training helps to stimulate a Pomsky’s mind and bring down the energy level.
- Confined inside – Pomskies that are cooped up inside all day long are more likely to exhibit random burst of energy. If your Pomsky is confined inside all day while you are out of the house, you will have a Pomsky full of energy, unwilling to train or listen when you get home.
- Confined in small space – similar to being confined inside all day, if your Pomsky is cooped up in a small space for long periods, such as a crate or car ride, you will have a very energetic Pomsky on your hands when they are freed to run around open space.
- Mornings – some Pomskies are overly energetic in the morning when they first wake up, especially if they have been crated at night. The Pomsky is excited to take on the day after a full nights rest of regenerating energy.
- Nights – some Pomskies are overly energetic at night just before bed, especially if they did not expend enough energy during the day.
- Something good happens – Pomskies get overly excited and energetic when they know something good is about to happen such as getting a treat, going for a walk or going for a car ride.
- Home alone – Pomskies love people, especially their owner. They will get overly excited and jump or do zoomies when you first walk in the door after leaving them home alone.
- Guests – Pomskies love guests and they love attention. They will jump all over your guests and run around in circles when they get excited about a new person entering the home.

## How to manage energy

The first step to managing your Pomsky’s high energy is acceptance. Accept that the Pomsky is a high-energy breed. There is nothing you can do about it, it is not your fault. It does not mean you have a bad Pomsky, it is simply because the Pomsky is naturally full of energy.

Sure, certain situations will make the Pomsky more erratic and energetic, such as leaving your Pomsky in the house all day, but understand that the Pomsky requires a higher-than-average level of exercise and

mental stimulation. The sooner you accept that, the sooner you will be able to work on managing this energetic breed.

*“If your Pomsky is being naughty, it is usually directed at lack of mental and physical stimulus throughout the day. Working your Pomsky mentally and physically throughout the day can greatly help to bring down the high energy.”*

- Kanzaidy, SZ Pomskies

Managing your Pomsky’s energy

is all about stimulation. Your Pomsky needs to expend all of its energy throughout the day, or else they will run around your house and drive you crazy. There are two types of stimulation that we will cover in this book:

- Mental stimulation
- Physical stimulation

## Managing Energy – Mental Stimulation

Mental stimulation is the process of keeping your Pomsky’s mind busy, meaning your Pomsky is fully focused and engaged on a particular activity. The Pomsky expends a lot of energy when mentally stimulated, this helps to reduce the Pomsky’s overall energy level. A Pomsky that does not get enough mental stimulation will look to release energy elsewhere, leading to bad behavior.

Like we have done throughout this book, let us take action again. This time we are going to look at the following methods of mentally stimulating your Pomsky:

- Obedience training
- Command training
- Advanced training
- Chews
- Toys

### **Mental Stimulation: Obedience training**

Managing a Pomsky’s high energy starts with obedience training. If your Pomsky is not taught what is right versus wrong, they will run wild with nonstop energy that cannot be contained. Start by training your Pomsky on the basics such as no jumping, no barking, and no chewing. This basic obedience training gives your Pomsky a bit of mental stimulation as it forces the Pomsky to think before acting.

You need to remember that energy is manageable. As Cheyenne of Lollipop Pomskies says, “High energy can be managed and trained. Simply do not reward high energy.”

Cheyenne went on to explain that, as owners, we need to teach our Pomskies to behave even when they are full of energy. Do not reward your Pomsky with praise and attention if they start jumping up to greet you when you first walk through the door. Instead, wait for your Pomsky to calm down and behave then reward the Pomsky with affection.

### **Mental Stimulation: Command training**

Command training is a great way to keep your Pomsky busy and burning off energy. Start by training your Pomsky on the basics. Start with the commands we discussed in chapter four including come, sit and stay.

Basic command training is a great mental exercise, it does not only help your Pomsky burn off energy but it is a necessity for the wellbeing and training of your Pomsky. As Cheyenne of Lollipop Pomsies says, "The most important thing is your Pomsky clearly understands that he should behave and listen to your commands."

### **Mental Stimulation: Advanced command training**

Once your Pomsky masters the basic commands, move onto more advanced exercises. Advanced training is fun and rewarding for Pomsies; this training is a great way to engage your Pomsky's mind helping to tire them out both mentally and physically. Attempt to teach your Pomsky the advanced commands we covered in chapter four including paw, rollover and play dead.

Professional dog trainers agree that high-energy dogs, such as the Pomsky, need more than walks and playtime, they need mental stimulation to burn off energy. Advanced command training is a great addition to your exercise routine. It helps to mentally stimulate and tire the Pomsky breed with endless energy.

### **Mental Stimulation: Chews**

Pomsies love to chew. If you want to wear out your energetic Pomsky or if you want to keep your Pomsky busy for a couple hours while you are out of the house, give your Pomsky a tasty chew snack to keep them busy.

Chree of Mountain Shadow Pomsies recommends frozen fruit and frozen veggies to keep your Pomsky busy, such as carrots, sliced sweet potatoes, cucumbers, berries, pears and apple chunks, saying "Frozen fruits and vegetables are a great way to keep their minds busy. I make sure they are organic; they are healthy snacks with no chemicals." Chree recommends letting your Pomsky gnaw on large carrots or try freezing fruits and veggies in a bowl of water so the Pomsky has to lick it out. Try variations of healthy and organic chew snacks to keep your Pomsky's mind occupied. This is perfect for keeping your Pomsky busy while you leave the house and also helps to calm your Pomsky before a training session.

### **Mental Stimulation: Toys**

There are hundreds of toys designed specifically to mentally stimulate dogs. Similar to chews, these toys are perfect for draining some of your Pomsky's high energy while you are out of the house or before you begin training. My personal favorite is the treat-dispensing toy. This toy holds a treat and requires the Pomsky to go through a series of steps to solve the puzzle to receive the treat.

You can also try filling a Kong ball with peanut butter. The Kong toy is a strong rubber ball with a hole on each end. Put a little peanut butter in the middle so the Pomsky has to work by biting the ball in different directions to work the peanut butter out of the ball. Be careful with this trick though as there

have been reports of dogs getting their tongue stuck inside Kong balls. Make sure you buy the right sized ball for your Pomsy.

Use one of these toys to keep your Pomsy busy during dinnertime. Make your Pomsy work for their meal with a kibble-dispensing toy. Simply pour some kibble into various Kong toys or treat dispensing toys and let your Pomsy go to work solving various puzzles to get their food. Increase the difficulty as the Pomsy becomes more proficient at solving the puzzles. This improves your Pomsy's problem solving skills while also draining some of their energy before bed. This will tire out your Pomsy both mentally and physically, allowing you to relax after a day at work.

## Managing Energy – Physical Stimulation

Physical stimulation is the process of keeping your Pomsy moving. With this type of stimulation, you are physically exhausting your Pomsy to burn off all that energy.

Lack of exercise is the main reason why a Pomsy acts overly energetic. It is crucial that you exercise your Pomsy regularly. Whether you are walking or just playing fetch, it should be your goal to get your Pomsy out of the house and running around at least two times per day to expend all of that pent-up energy. Exercise is particularly helpful when your Pomsy is being difficult to train. Try going for a quick walk to burn off some of that energy before you attempt to train.

Now, let us take action again. Below, we have listed three methods to physically stimulate your Pomsy:

- Walk and run
- Outdoor games
- Socialize

### Physical Stimulation: Walk and run

The best and most common way to manage Pomsy's energy is to take your Pomsy for a walk or run. This allows the Pomsy to physically burn off some energy. Make it a habit to walk or run your Pomsy daily especially when the Pomsy is young. This exercise teaches your Pomsy healthy habits, discipline and socializes your Pomsy.

Make this a part of your daily routine, this exercise gives your Pomsy an outlet to release some energy and helps to further form a strong bond between the owner and Pomsy.

*"The best thing is to let them exercise it off. Go for a walk or go to the dog park. Letting your Pomsy physically run their energy off will be the best thing"*

- Kanzaidy, SZ Pomsies

The level of exercise depends on your Pomsy. Each Pomsy is different; some Pomsies need to be walked three times per day while others will be wiped out after just one walk. Jaypee of Pearl of the Orient Seas Puppies manages his Pomsy's high energy by walking up to three times per day whereas Mischa of Brookside Pomsy says walking once a day, sometimes twice, is enough for her Pomsies.

Jaypee also runs with his Pomsy as he said, “Pomskies are truly high energy and love to run. I run 1.5 miles three times a week with my Pomsy and she still has more energy.”

Jaypee cautions that you must know your Pomsy’s limits. Do not overwork your Pomsy as excessive exercising is not healthy. The key is to know your Pomsy and exercise accordingly until your Pomsy is tired and has burned off some energy but do not overdo it. Take it slow at first, especially while your Pomsy is a puppy. Your Pomsy will grow quickly during the first few months, reaching adult size after about one year. Do not overwork a young Pomsy, as the joints and muscle mass need time to develop. A good rule of thumb is 5 minutes of walking per month of age. If your Pomsy is three months old, take the Pomsy for a 15-minute walk once per day. If your Pomsy is six months old, take your Pomsy on a half-hour walk once per day. Do this for the first year until your Pomsy reaches one year old. By this time, you will be walking your Pomsy for 60 minutes per day and you will have a better understanding of how much exercise your Pomsy needs. This is a good rule of thumb to follow to determine how much exercise your Pomsy needs. If you follow this process and your Pomsy is still full of energy, extend the length of your walks or mix in some other mental and physical stimulation to drain more of your Pomsy’s energy.

### **Physical Stimulation: Outdoor games**

Letting your Pomsy run around outside is a great way to burn off some energy. Whether you are playing Frisbee, fetch or tug of war, the more you play with your Pomsy outside, the more energy you will burn off and this keeps your Pomsy happy and healthy.

Teaching your Pomsy a new game is a great way to engage your Pomsy and burn off more energy, the act of teaching a new game requires both mental stimulation and physical stimulation. Here are a couple new games and activities that you can do with your Pomsy:

- Hiking – take your Pomsy to new and exciting areas, bring them to new trails and explore your local town or city. This is a great excuse to get out and explore. Your Pomsy will love it.
- Swimming – this depends on your Pomsy. Some love water while others hate water. If your Pomsy loves water, take them down to a local swimming hole and let them swim around for a while. This is a great way to burn off lots of energy. Swimming will wipe your Pomsy out. Incorporate some games, such as fetch, while your Pomsy swims. Throw a ball into the water and let your Pomsy dive in to retrieve the ball.
- Hide and seek – this game can be played indoors or outdoors. Simply hide some treats around the house or around the yard and allow your Pomsy run around trying to find each of the hidden treats. Have your Pomsy sit and stay while you hide the treats, you want the Pomsy to know that treats are hidden. Once you finish hiding the treats, allow your Pomsy to run around finding the treats. This allows the Pomsy to run around sniffing, tiring out the Pomsy while also stimulating the Pomskies brain as they try to find all of the treats. Increase the difficulty of the hiding as your Pomsy gets better at finding the treats. Add some obstacles so that the Pomsy has to work to get each treat.

- Agility – agility training is a great way to stimulate your Pomsky both mentally and physically. Agility is a sport where the owner directs the Pomsky through an obstacle course in a race for time and accuracy. You can purchase agility obstacles relatively cheap online or from a pet store, or create your own obstacles and teach your Pomsky to navigate the course. This is a great way to mentally stimulate your Pomsky while physically burning off some energy.
- Bikejoring - Bikejoring is the sport of being pulled on a bike by a Pomsky; skijoring is the sport of being pulled by a Pomsky over snow while on skis. The Pomsky wears a harness with a towline that connects the Pomsky to the bicycle or skis while you ride. The Pomsky runs ahead of you connected to the towline and pulls as you pedal the bike or push off on skis. This is a common sport for Huskies, which are natural born sled dogs and it is a fun energy burning activity for Pomsies too. Cheyenne of Lollipop Pomsies says, “I personally love bikejoring and skijoring with my Pomsies. They are indeed half-Husky and love to pull.”

### **Physical Stimulation: Socialize**

Pomsies are a social breed; they get excited to meet new people and other dogs. Burn off some of this energy by taking your Pomsky out to the streets or pet store to meet new people and let your Pomsky run around the local dog park with other dogs. Chree of Mountain Shadow Pomsies says, “They love the outdoors and they love to be social. Take them on walks and let them see other people and other dogs, day cares are a great way to socialize your dog and let them play.”

## **Final Tips – Manage Energy**

They key to managing a Pomsky’s never ending energy is to keep your Pomsky active. If you stimulate your Pomsky mentally and physically throughout the day, you will be able to easily manage your Pomsky’s energy allowing for easier training and an easier to manage Pomsky.

Here are some final tips and advice straight from Pomsky breeders on how to best manage a Pomsky’s energy.

### **Exercise is important**

As we mentioned, lack of exercise is the main reason for an over energetic Pomsky. The Pomsky is a very active dog that needs lots of attention, including mental stimulation and physical stimulation. Exercising your Pomsky daily is the best way to burn off the excess energy. The more exercise, the better. It is good for you and it is good for your Pomsky as well.

If the high-energy makes it difficult to train your Pomsky, try taking your Pomsky to the dog park or out for a walk before you train. Drain some of that energy before you begin the training session.

### **Cool down**

After physical stimulation, give your Pomsky a calm, focused task to help them settle down. If you do not allow the Pomsky to settle down after exercising, they might catch a second wind and get energetic all over again. This is a good time for mental stimulation, such as obedience or command training. Your

Pomsky will still have energy after exercising, but the energy will be much more manageable after physical stimulation, meaning the Pomsky is much more likely to pay attention to the training.

Allow your Pomsky to cool and calm down after exercising, give them free time in a large open area or mentally stimulate the Pomsky with some brain games and training. This cool down helps the Pomsky to calm down and burn off the last bit of energy before catching a second wind.

### **Make a schedule**

As we discussed a couple of times throughout this book, consistency and scheduling is key to a well-behaved Pomsky. You should have already filled out the [weekly training schedule](#) in chapter two. Make sure to schedule some time for play and exercise within this schedule. Chree of Mountain Shadow Pomsies says, “Sticking to a schedule helps with this breed, it lets the dog know what to expect and helps with stress on the dog. Go to bed the same time every night, and let the dog out the same time each morning, feed at the same time, and exercise at the same time each day. Constituency is the key.”

You need to find a schedule that works for you. Set aside some time in the morning and afternoon for a walk. Mischa of Brookside Pomsky says, “I take my Pomsky on a walk in the morning and at night before bed. We also have yard time twice a day, in the morning and afternoon.” Building a routine like this is beneficial for both you and the Pomsky. An exercise schedule allows the Pomsky to burn off energy at a regular time each day, ensuring that the Pomsky will be low key and manageable at the same time each day.

*“Stay consistent and be patient. It can and will be hard at time a dealing with a high energy dog but the more time you work with the Pomsky, the better they will be”*

- Kanzaidy, SZ Pomsies

### **Be patient**

Remember, your Pomsky is naturally full of energy, it is not your fault and it is not your Pomsky’s fault, so be patient with your Pomsky. Be patient and consistent, the more you stimulate your Pomsky the more manageable the energy will be. Make a schedule and stick to it. Play with your Pomsky, train your Pomsky and walk your Pomsky daily for best results.

## **Summary**

The Pomsky, much like a husky, is a naturally high energy breed. Unfortunately, all of this energy makes it difficult to train a Pomsky. Managing a Pomsies high energy is all about stimulation, both physical stimulation and mental stimulation. The more you stimulate your Pomsky throughout the day the easier it will be to manager your Pomsies energy.

Here are the biggest takeaways from this chapter:

- Pomsies are naturally high energy, it does not mean you have a bad Pomsky.



- Managing your Pomsky's energy is all about stimulation. Mentally and physically stimulate your Pomsky throughout the day.
- Mentally stimulate your Pomsky with daily training, engaging toys and healthy organic chews.
- Physically stimulate your Pomsky with walks, runs and new outdoor games.

## Energy - Next Steps

Now that you have finished the energy management chapter, here are the next steps:

1. Choose at least two mental stimulation exercises and add these to your [weekly Pomsky training schedule](#). Take note of which times during the day you will mentally stimulate your Pomsky.
2. Choose at least two physical stimulation exercises and add these to your [weekly Pomsky training schedule](#). Take note of which times during the day you will walk your Pomsky, play with your Pomsky and physically stimulate your Pomsky.
3. Move onto chapter 6

## Special Thanks

Special thanks to those that contributed to this chapter. If you have any questions or want to learn more about each contributor, please click the link below to view their POA membership page:

- [Cheyenne - Lollipop Pomsies](#)
- [Chree - Mountain Shadow Pomsies](#)
- [Jaypee - Pearl of the Orient Seas Puppies](#)
- [Kanzaidy - SZ Pomsies](#)
- [Mischa - Brookside Pomsy](#)

# Chapter 6: Behavioral Training

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Pomskies, like any dog, exhibit certain behavioral traits that make it difficult to train and live with a Pomsky. In this chapter, we are going to review some of the most common behavioral problems of the Pomsky breed and tell you exactly how to manage these problems so that you can train the most well behaved Pomsky.

Before you begin, download the [Pomsky behavioral plan](#) to use with this chapter (if you have not downloaded this already). This download will help you keep track of which behavioral issues your Pomsky exhibits and help you plan exactly what action you will take to correct each bad behavior.

## Pomsky Behavior Problems

Pomskies exhibit behavioral problems similar to other breeds, some of which can be worse in the Pomsky due to the breed's natural high energy and sometimes dominant nature. Here are the most common behavioral problems seen in the Pomsky breed:

- Barking
- Chewing
- Play biting
- Sensitivities
- Digging
- Begging
- Separation anxiety
- Jumping (on guests)
- Jumping (on furniture)
- Potty
- Respect
- Escaping

### Barking

Almost every dog barks and howls to some degree, the Pomsky is no different. Pomskies bark for a variety of reasons: they will bark to warn you of new visitors, they will bark when they are excited, they will bark when they are bored and they will bark at other dogs. Do not be worried if your Pomsky barks occasionally, barking is natural for dogs, but excessive barking is something to be worried about. Pay close attention when your Pomsky is barking. If you find that your Pomsky is constantly barking for no reason, you may need to take action.

*"Pomskies are fast learners and are very loyal. They want to please the owner."  
- Chree, Mountain Shadow Pomskies*

When your Pomsy is barking for attention, we recommend using the “ignore” method to teach your Pomsy to stop barking. With this method, ignore your Pomsy until they stop barking. As soon as your Pomsy stops barking, reward with a treat. This positive reinforcement teaches your Pomsy that they will be rewarded for behaving correctly, by not barking. For example, if your Pomsy barks because they are stuck in the crate, walk out of the room and ignore your Pomsy until the barking stops. As soon as the barking stops, go back into the room and let your Pomsy out of the crate and reward the Pomsy with a treat. Repeat this process to teach your Pomsy that they will not get their way by barking, but they will be rewarded by waiting patiently. This process reinforces the good behavior of not barking.

When your Pomsy is barking as a warning we recommend using the “treat” method to teach your Pomsy to stop barking. With this method, you are teaching your Pomsy that a reward is given if they behave correctly. For example, if your Pomsy is barking at a guest that just entered the house, take a handful of treats and get the Pomsy's attention. Wait for the Pomsy to stop barking, calm down, and wait patiently. Once the Pomsy stops barking and waits patiently, reward the Pomsy with a treat. Notice that you are not correcting the Pomsy in anyway; instead you are using positive reinforcement to encourage the Pomsy to stop barking. The trick is to give your Pomsy something more exciting than barking; this teaches the Pomsy that if they stop barking they will be rewarded.

Sharlee of Chinook Pomsies recommends the “Shhh” command to teach your Pomsy to stop barking. We will cover this command in more detail in the next section of this chapter where we will break down the steps to teach your Pomsy the “Shhh” command.

Begin correcting your Pomsy's barking habit at a young age. The Pomsy will learn to be more vocal overtime; so the sooner you begin working on a Pomsy's excessive barking, the more successful your training will be. Always use positive reinforcement when teaching your Pomsy not to bark.

## **Chewing**

Chewing is another natural behavior for dogs. Pomsies, especially during the puppy stages, are very likely to develop a chewing habit. Pomsies tend to form chewing habits because they are bored, anxiety prone or curious. Chewing can quickly become a dangerous and very expensive behavioral issue as they are likely to chew furniture, shoes, electrical wires and just about anything they can wrap their mouths around. Like barking, you want to make sure you begin correcting your Pomsy's chewing habit at a young age.

To manage your Pomsy's chewing habit, you must mentally stimulate your Pomsy. The key is keeping your Pomsy busy. Like we talked about in the energy management chapter, you want to make sure your Pomsy is being mentally stimulated throughout the day. Give your Pomsy lots of chew toys, treat dispensing toys and activities that keep your Pomsy mentally stimulated. It is important that you do not give your Pomsy a chance to chew. When you leave the house, put away any chewable items; or if the chewing is really bad, place your Pomsy in a designated play area and restrict the Pomsy from roaming free throughout the house. When you are not supervising your Pomsy, make sure to give the Pomsy lots of toys to keep them busy. Use treat dispensing toys, chews and natural treats to keep your Pomsy's mind engaged as Pomsies are most likely to chew when they are alone, bored and anxious.

When you catch your Pomsy chewing, we recommend using the “treat” method to teach your Pomsy to stop chewing. Grab a handful of treats to get your Pomsy's attention. Once the Pomsy stops

chewing, give the Pomsy an acceptable item to chew. You want this replacement to be more valuable than the first item the Pomsy was chewing. You want to teach the Pomsy that there are better items to chew. For example, if your Pomsy is chewing on a shoe, grab a handful of treats and get the Pomsy to drop the shoe. Wait until the Pomsy is calm and ignoring the shoe. Once the Pomsy is calm and clearly done with the shoe, reward the Pomsy with a treat and put the shoe away. Replace the shoe with a more valuable item. Give the Pomsy a frozen treat or tasty chew toy to teach the Pomsy which items they are allowed to chew.

Chree of Mountain Shadow Pomsies recommends freezing some healthy snacks in a bowl of water. Freeze some berries or fruit in a bowl of water so the Pomsy has to lick the ice to get the treat. Or give the Pomsy a carrot to chew and keep busy, Mischa of Brookside Pomsy says “we give our Pomsies homemade frozen carrot and blueberry popsicles. It keeps them occupied so they will not chew or dig.”

### **Play biting**

Play biting is common in all dogs but can be especially bad in the Pomsy breed; Pomsies are quick and have a strong bite with sharp teeth. Pomsy puppies can be especially mouthy, most commonly when

*“I always recommend getting puppy play biting under control before teething starts”  
- Sharlee, Chinook Pomsies*

the Pomsy is going through a teething phase. Much like humans, dogs go through a teething phase where their teeth are growing in, causing soreness that the Pomsy relieves by chewing and biting. Pomsies tend to play bite when they are going through this teething phase or when they are taken from their mother too soon, over excited, over energetic or agitated.

When your Pomsy is play biting, we recommend using the “ignore” method to teach your Pomsy to stop biting. Simply stand up and ignore your Pomsy when they start play biting. Do not play with your Pomsy or allow them to continue biting. Ignore your Pomsy until the biting stops. As soon as your Pomsy sits and stops biting, reward your Pomsy with a treat and praise. Repeat this whenever your Pomsy attempts to play bite. This teaches your Pomsy that they will be ignored for play biting but they will be rewarded when they sit and patiently wait for attention.

You can also correct play biting using the balanced technique that we discussed in chapter one. Portland Pomsies is a proponent of the balanced technique saying play biting can be fixed by “making a fist with your hand and pushing towards the puppy when they go to bite with a firm “no” helps train them to be gentle”.

### **Sensitivities**

Dogs are extra sensitive and protective of certain parts of their body including the ears, teeth, paws and nails. If you touch one of these sensitive spots the dog will get scared, defensive, and sometimes bite. This is a major issue that only becomes worse as your Pomsy ages, especially when you visit the vet and groomers where the Pomsy will be poked and prodded in these sensitive areas.

Starting from a young age, you need to begin desensitizing your Pomsy. Jo of Moonlit Pomsies recommends to check your Pomsy’s teeth, ears, eyes, coat, skin, paws, nails, and under the tail at least once a week. By checking and touching these sensitive areas it desensitizes the Pomsy, they become more comfortable and willing to let you touch. We recommend starting as young as possible because a

puppy is not as aware of these sensitive areas, they are more trusting and willing to let you touch. If you neglect this behavioral training your Pomsy will become defensive and prone to bite. Begin desensitizing at a young age, otherwise your Pomsy will be overly defensive of these sensitive areas.

### **Digging**

Energetic breeds such as the Pomsy love to dig. Pomsies tend to form a digging habit because they are bored, full of energy, trying to escape, anxious or hiding a possession such as a bone or toy.

Start by identifying the reason for your Pomsy's digging before you begin teaching your Pomsy not to dig. Monitor your Pomsy while they are outside; watch your Pomsy to determine the root cause of your Pomsy's digging. Is your Pomsy bored? Is your Pomsy lacking exercise? Is your Pomsy digging to escape? The proper corrective action depends on why your Pomsy is digging. Once you identify the reason for your Pomsy's digging, you can take the appropriate corrective action.

A Pomsy that digs because of boredom or because they have too much pent-up energy means the Pomsy is not stimulated enough throughout the day. You will need to practice stimulating your Pomsy more throughout the day. You will need to focus on both mental and physical stimulation. Give your Pomsy more mentally stimulating toys, increase the number of training sessions throughout the day, and make sure you are exercising your Pomsy daily. Refer back to the energy management chapter, in this chapter we provide tips and resources to expending your Pomsies energy.

A Pomsy that digs because they are anxious, trying to escape, or trying to bury a possession means the Pomsy needs an alternative to digging. Give your Pomsy new toys to play with in the yard to keep the Pomsy mentally stimulated, or give your Pomsy a designated digging area. Portland Pomsies recommends giving your Pomsy a kiddie pool filled with sand. Portland Pomsies has taught their puppies that digging is allowed within the kiddie pool. This way the Pomsy's urge to dig is localized to an approved area, meaning it is safe for the Pomsy and it will not harm your yard.

It is very important to teach your Pomsy not to dig at a young age as Portland Pomsies noted, "Teaching them from a young age helps to prevent them from digging under fence lines as the Pomsy's urge to escape is strong."

### **Begging**

Begging is a bad habit for any dog. Pomsies beg to get what they want, whether its attention or food, the Pomsy will whine until they get their way. The hardest part about correcting begging is teaching the owner how to act, most owners accidentally encourage begging by rewarding the Pomsy when they beg. If you cave into the begging or if you sneak your Pomsy food from the dinner table, you are essentially rewarding your Pomsy for begging. This teaches the Pomsy that begging is a good behavior. Rewarding a Pomsy for begging means you are using positive reinforcement to encourage your Pomsy to continue begging.

Before you correct your Pomsy's begging, you need to correct yourself. Consistency is the key to proper Pomsy training. If you have not done so already, we recommend you download and complete the [consistency plan checklist](#) from chapter 2. Decide right now if the Pomsy is allowed at the dinner table, if the Pomsy is allowed to whine and if the Pomsy is allowed to eat scraps of food. Complete this plan and share it with your family, your entire family needs to be on the same page to correct your Pomsy's

begging. If you are training the Pomsy not to beg but other members of the family are sneaking the Pomsy food at the dinner table, your Pomsy will not know what is right and what is wrong. Your entire family needs to be on the same page to effectively train your Pomsy not to beg.

We recommend using the “ignore” method to teach your Pomsy to stop begging. Ignore the Pomsy when they start begging. You can effectively ignore the Pomsy in a number of different ways. When the Pomsy begs, simply get up and move away. Go into a different room to eat, restrict the Pomsy to a designated room of the house, send the Pomsy outside until you are done eating, or simply do not respond to the Pomsy. Ignore the Pomsy until the begging stops. If the Pomsy stops begging and behaves, wait until you and your family are completely finished eating and then reward the Pomsy with a treat. If you are eating something healthy such as grilled chicken or turkey, give the Pomsy a bit of your food. Repeat this whenever your Pomsy begs, this teaches your Pomsy that they will be ignored for begging but they will be rewarded when they sit patiently waiting for attention.

### **Separation anxiety**

Separation anxiety is a certain nervousness and angst that occurs in some dogs when they are separated from their owner. A Pomsy with separation anxiety from its owner will exhibit the following traits:

*“Before entering their new family’s home, most puppies have never spent a night alone and it can be a very rough start”*  
- Portland Pomsies

- Pomsy becomes anxious when owner prepares to leave
- Pomsy acts out or misbehaves within the first 15-30 minutes after owner leaves
- Pomsy follows owner around at all times
- Pomsy is always trying to touch the owner

This nervousness from separation anxiety can cause a number of other issues when the Pomsy is separated from its owner including barking, whining, chewing and urination.

A Pomsy that is exhibiting traits of separation anxiety needs comforting and stimulation. Portland Pomsies recommends placing an article of clothing worn by the owner in the Pomsy’s kennel or bed as the smell of the owner helps to resolve anxiety issues such as howling and whining. Keeping your Pomsy mentally stimulated and engaged will also help with separation anxiety. Leaving some treat dispensing toys and games helps to keep the Pomsy busy while you are gone. Some owners leave the radio and television on while they are gone, as they have said the noise helps to calm their Pomsy.

### **Jumping (on guests)**

Pomsies are social creatures. They get excited and jump up to greet new guests that enter the house. Dogs jump as a greeting either because they have learned to jump at their mothers, they are seeking attention, or because they are exerting dominance. No matter why your Pomsy jumps, jumping is a bad habit that should be broken at a young age.

Similar to begging, most owners accidentally encourage jumping by rewarding the Pomsy with attention when they jump to greet. If you happily greet your Pomsy when they jump, you are essentially rewarding your Pomsy for jumping, teaching the Pomsy that jumping is an acceptable

behavior that receives a reward. Before you correct your Pomsky's jumping, you need to correct yourself. Remember to be consistent. Do not ever allow your Pomsky to jump no matter the circumstances.

We recommend using the "ignore" method to teach your Pomsky not to jump. When your Pomsky jumps up to greet you, turn your head and do not make eye contact. Do not speak or touch to your Pomsky until the Pomsky stops, relaxes and patiently waits for attention. As soon as your Pomsky stops jumping and waits patiently, reward your Pomsky with attention. This teaches your Pomsky that they will not be rewarded for jumping but they will be rewarded when they sit and wait. Communicate this training with your guests; you want your guests to treat your Pomsky the same way. When your Pomsky jumps to greet a guest, tell your guest to ignore the Pomsky. Both you and the guest should ignore the Pomsky until the Pomsky stops jumping, calms down and waits for attention. As soon as the Pomsky sits and patiently waits for attention, allow the guest to reward the Pomsky with a treat and praise.

Cindy of Acacia Pomsies taught her Pomsies not to jump on guests using the same method. Cindy says, "Simply turn your back on them. Do not give them attention. When they stop and look at you as if to say, 'hey pay attention to me', mark that behavior with a 'yes' and a small reward. If they jump again, turn your back on them. When they stop and look up at you, immediately say 'yes' and reward."

Lauren of Pristine Pomsies recommends the "down" command to teach your Pomsky not to jump. We will cover this command in more detail in the next section of this chapter where we will break down the steps to teach your Pomsky the "down" command.

### **Jumping (on furniture)**

Dogs do not understand if they are allowed on the furniture or not. If they see you on the couch, they will assume that they are allowed up on the couch with you. You need to teach your Pomsky not to jump on furniture.

We recommend using the "off" command to teach your Pomsky to stay off the furniture. Chree of Mountain Shadow Pomsies uses this with her Pomsies. Chree says to use treats to lure the Pomsky off the couch. When the Pomsky follows the treat and comes running off the couch, mark the good behavior with the word "off". Reward the Pomsky with a treat when they properly come down off the furniture. This reinforces the good behavior and teaches the Pomsky the "off" command. The Pomsky will learn overtime that they are not allowed on the furniture.

### **Potty**

Potty in the house is one of the most frustrating behavioral issues. If not managed early, it will cause a mess in your home. This is most common in puppies under 12 weeks old, as they are still learning where to potty. A puppy under the age of 12 weeks that has not learned where to potty simply needs more training. This is not necessarily a behavioral issue. You should only worry if your Pomsky is older than 12 weeks old and has been properly potty trained, but still goes potty in the house; this will require corrective training. Pomsies tend to potty in the house because they are anxious, timid, over excited, or lacking proper house training.

*"Pottying in the house is our fault. They do not know, we have to teach them."  
- Cindy, Acacia Pomsies*

Start by identifying the reason that your Pomsky is going potty in the house. Determine when and why the Pomsky is going potty. Is the Pomsky going potty when they are over excited? Is the Pomsky going potty when you leave for the day? Is your Pomsky suffering from separation anxiety? The proper corrective action depends on why your Pomsky is going potty. Once you identify the reason, you can take the appropriate corrective action.

A Pomsky that goes potty in the house because of over excitement will need to be managed with preparation and planning. Start by restricting exciting moments to a designated area, you want your Pomsky to excitedly potty in a safe area such as outside or on a prepared area of puppy pee pads. For example, if your Pomsky gets overly excited and goes potty when greeting guests, then try keeping greetings to a minimum and plan your greetings so they happen outside in case the Pomsky has an accident. This way, if there is an accident from over excitement, it will not ruin your carpet or smell up the house. Reward your Pomsky when they go potty in the appropriate area. When the Pomsky excitedly pees outside or pees in a designated area reward the Pomsky with treats and lots of praise. When there is an accident in the house, do not reprimand or punish your Pomsky. Instead, clean up the mess and leave the puppy alone. Do not punish your Pomsky when there is an accident; instead, use positive reinforcement to encourage your Pomsky to potty in the designated areas.

A Pomsky that goes potty in the house because of anxiousness or timidness needs to be managed carefully. This is a sign of a submissive dog, especially seen in dogs that are expecting to be punished such as shelter dogs with a history of mistreatment. Do not punish your Pomsky for inappropriately going potty in the house. Instead, work on building your Pomsky's confidence and trust through bonding activities such as training and mental stimulation. Teach your Pomsky simple commands such as sit, stay, and come with a reward each time the Pomsky successfully completes each command. This is a great way to gain your Pomsky's trust and build the Pomsky's confidence. Continue to build trust and confidence by mentally stimulating your Pomsky with new games and activities. Continue this process with potty training. If your Pomsky has an accident, simply clean it up without punishing your Pomsky. As Cindy of Acacia Pomsies says, "Puppies make mistakes. If you are not paying attention, they do not know it is a mistake. Punishing them for an accident that you find hours later is unfair to them." When your Pomsky goes potty in the designated area, reward your Pomsky with a treat. Continue this each time your Pomsky appropriately goes potty in the correct area. The key here is to encourage your Pomsky using positive reinforcement. Reinforce your Pomsky's good behavior when they potty in the designated areas; you do not want to punish an already timid Pomsky.

A Pomsky that goes potty in the house because of improper training simply needs more potty training. We will cover the topic of Pomsky potty training in chapter 8. If you are having serious troubles, checkout our [Pomsky potty training eBook](#) where we dedicate an entire book to proper potty training, covering the topic in extreme detail.

## **Respect**

As we discussed in chapter 3, a Pomsky's lack of "respect" is actually a sign that your Pomsky is not engaged. Pomsies are naturally obedient. Your Pomsky is not disrespecting you; it is just not engaged with you. Your Pomsky has learned that other things are more interesting than what you have to offer. Engagement means having your Pomsky's complete attention. Whether you are training, giving a command or playing with your Pomsky, engagement means your Pomsky is completely and totally focused on you.



We discussed a couple ways to teach engagement in chapter 3. Refer to chapter 3 for step-by-step instructions on how to keep your Pomsy engaged. If you teach engagement, you will gain the “respect” that you are looking for.

### **Escaping**

Pomsies are sneaky; they always seem to find a way to escape their enclosed safe area. They are natural escape artists and although it may be entertaining watching your Pomsy escape, it is a dangerous activity that should be corrected. You need to teach your Pomsy that escaping is not allowed. Jaypee of Pearl of the Orient Seas Puppies tells a scary story about his Pomsy that managed to escape saying “My Pomsy, Paolyn, managed to snap out of her collar and run away. She went under the community fence where it leads to the main road, a four lane high way. I had to jump over a six-foot fence to go after her. She crossed the middle of the highway and luckily, all cars on both side stopped. She thought it was a game of tag. It was scary.”

Pomsies tend to escape because they are bored, full of energy, or have been left alone for too long. To keep your Pomsy from escaping, you need to keep them stimulated. Here are a couple tips to keep your Pomsy stimulated, deterring them from trying to escape:

- Walk your Pomsy daily
- Teach your Pomsy new commands and tricks. Hold daily 5-10-minute training sessions
- When your Pomsy is alone, give your Pomsy mentally stimulating toys such as a Kong filled with peanut butter or a treat-dispensing toy

## **Behavioral Commands**

Now that we have covered the most common behavioral issues seen in the Pomsy breed, let us review a couple behavioral commands that you can use to help manage a Pomsy’s behavioral issues:

- Down
- No
- Shhh
- Leave it
- Drop it

### **Down - behavioral command**

The down command teaches your Pomsy to stay down. Whether that is down from jumping on a guest or down from the furniture, the down command is a powerful behavioral command that every Pomsy should know. As Lauren of Pristine Pomsies pointed out, the down command is a little complicated to teach because your Pomsy needs to jump to teach them what “down” means. It is also difficult to keep this training positive as the down command feels like a punishment.

As a phrase for this command, we recommend saying “down” or “off”. For example, “Charlie! Down!” to encourage your Pomsy to jump down off the couch.

As a gesture, we recommend a snap of the finger then point to the floor. This action gets your Pomsky's attention and indicates to the Pomsky to stay on the floor.

Here is how to teach your Pomsky the down command when jumping on guests:

- Step 1: You will need your guest's help with this one. Inform your guests of the training before they arrive, it is important that all your visitors understand that jumping is not allowed. In this instance, you want your Pomsky to jump and greet the guest so that you can teach the Pomsky that jumping is wrong.
- Step 2: Invite a guest over to your house. When your Pomsky jumps to greet the guest, tell your guest to ignore the Pomsky. Both you and the guest should ignore the Pomsky until the Pomsky stops jumping, calms down and waits for attention.
- Step 3: As soon as the Pomsky sits and patiently waits for attention, mark the good behavior with the word "down" along with your gesture. Allow the guest to reward the Pomsky with a treat and praise.
- Step 4: Continue this every time you enter the house and every time a guest enters the house. You need to teach your Pomsky that they will be ignored for jumping but will be rewarded for waiting patiently.
- Step 5: If this process fails, switch up the training and use a leash to teach your Pomsky not to jump. Put your Pomsky on a leash before your guest arrives. Allow your Pomsky to greet the guest, if the Pomsky jumps say "down" and use your hand gesture while holding the slack of the leash so the Pomsky can no longer reach or jump on the guest.
- Step 6: While the Pomsky is on leash, ignore the Pomsky until the Pomsky calms down and sits patiently. As soon as the Pomsky sits and waits patiently for attention, allow your guest to reward the Pomsky with a treat and attention.
- Step 7: Continue this training until your Pomsky learns the "down" command and learns that jumping on guests is not allowed.

Here is how to teach your Pomsky the down command when jumping on furniture:

- Step 1: When your Pomsky is on the furniture, grab a handful of treats and get your Pomsky's attention. Take a treat and lure your Pomsky off the furniture and onto the floor.
- Step 2: When your Pomsky jumps down off the furniture, mark the good behavior with the word "down" and your hand gesture pointing at the ground.
- Step 3: Ask your Pomsky to sit on the floor then reward your Pomsky with a treat and praise. This reinforces the good behavior of staying on the floor. Continue this every time your Pomsky jumps up on furniture. Your Pomsky will learn to associate the down command with the action of jumping off the furniture.
- Step 4: If this treat process fails, use a leash to teach your Pomsky the down command. When your Pomsky jumps on furniture, put the Pomsky on a leash and say "down" while giving your hand gesture. While giving the command, hold the slack of the leash and if needed, give a slight tug to encourage your Pomsky to get up and off the couch.

Step 5: When the Pomsy jumps down off the furniture, ask the Pomsy to sit on the floor. Wait until the Pomsy is sitting patiently, and then reward the Pomsy with a treat. Repeat this until the Pomsy can successfully obey the “down” command while off leash.

### **No - behavioral command**

The “no” command is a catch all behavioral command that teaches your Pomsy not to do something. You can use the no command to teach a Pomsy to stop what they are doing, this is beneficial for stopping a Pomsy from unwanted behavior such as digging, eating trash or escaping their pen. Jaypee of Pearl of the Orient Seas Puppies uses this command to stop his Pomsy from escaping and recommends that other owners use this command rather than yelling, startling or trying to scare a misbehaving Pomsy. As we mentioned in chapter one, we strongly recommend using the positive method of training so we do not like using the no command but in some cases, it is needed.

As a phrase for this command, we recommend saying “no” or “Ah-ah-ah”. For example, “Charlie! Ah-ah-ah, don’t do that.” to encourage your Pomsy to stop what they are doing. Jaypee recommends saying “Ah-ah-ah” instead of the word no, because the word no is overused and has a negative connotation to the Pomsy.

As a gesture, we recommend pointing your finger at the Pomsy. This lets the Pomsy know that you are directly talking to them about their behavior.

*“This stops any unwanted behavior. No need to yell, bang the table, or scare them. A simple command of AH-AH-AH can make them drop what they are doing”*  
- Jaypee, Pearl of the Orient Seas Puppies

Use the choice training exercise from chapter 3, with a few extra wrinkles, to teach the “no” command. In the choice training exercise, we are making the Pomsy choose between alternatives. We want to teach the Pomsy to ignore other distractions no matter how tempting.

- Step 1: Take a handful of treats and hold it in your open palm in front of the Pomsy. Say “no” and use your gesture (point at the Pomsy) and close your hand with treats enclosed. Let the Pomsy sniff your hand but do not give any treats.
- Step 2: Continue holding your hand with treats closed in a fist until the Pomsy realizes that sniffing and begging will not make you open your hand. This teaches the Pomsy that they will not get what they want by sniffing and begging.
- Step 3: When the Pomsy pulls their head away in defeat, open your hand to show the treats. This teaches the Pomsy that acting in a certain way (by backing away) will get you to open your hand.
- Step 4: The Pomsy will likely lunge at your hands once they see the treats, close your hand and say “no” again with your hand gesture. Do not let the Pomsy get any treats. Continue this until the Pomsy sits back and allows you to fully open your hand showing the treats. This teaches the Pomsy that they will not get what they want by lunging for the treats.

- Step 5: Once your Pomsy is sitting back and allowing you to open your hand fully displaying the treats, use your other hand to slowly grab a treat from your open palm and slowly give your Pomsy a treat. If at any time your Pomsy lunges for the treats or attempts to snatch the treat from your hand while giving the treat, put the treat back in your palm and close the treats in a fist. Repeat this until the Pomsy learns that “no” means to leave the treats alone. “No” means they must sit back to receive a treat.
- Step 6: Repeat this until your Pomsy stops and sits waiting whenever you say “no”. Reward the Pomsy if they immediately stop when you say “no”. If the Pomsy does not listen to the command or if the Pomsy lunges for the treats, repeat the exercise until the Pomsy learns to sit back and stop when they hear the word “no”.
- Step 7: Once the Pomsy recognizes the “no” command, teach your Pomsy to obey a second command after they listen to “no”. Give your Pomsy the “no” command, when your Pomsy sits down and waits for a treat, ask the Pomsy to “stay” then get up and walk away. Repeat this process until your Pomsy can successfully obey the “no” command and then obey a second command. Only reward your Pomsy after they obey the second command. You will need this in the future when you tell your Pomsy “no” to stop them from eating trash then say “come” to call them back away from the trash.
- Step 8: Increase the difficulty by placing the treat on the floor in front of the Pomsy. Say “no” and use your hand gesture to indicate to the Pomsy not to eat. As the Pomsy is obeying the no command, ask your Pomsy to “come” to you. Reward the Pomsy if the Pomsy ignores the treat on the floor and obeys the come command. Continue to increase the difficulty by placing a higher value treat on the ground in front of the Pomsy.
- Step 9: Continue to practice this exercise in different locations including the yard, while out for a walk, and at the dog park. Your Pomsy should obey the “no” command at all times. Gradually reduce the number of treats you give to your Pomsy. Rather than giving a treat after each “no” command, begin giving a treat after every five “no” commands. Your Pomsy should obey the “no” command even if they are not rewarded with a treat, you can replace the treat with positive praise and excitement.

### **Shhh - behavioral command**

Sharlee of Chinook Pomsies recommends the “Shhh” command to teach your Pomsy to stop barking. Simply say “shhh” to shush your Pomsy when they are being loud.

As a gesture, we recommend placing your pointer finger over your lips while you make the shhh sound. Point your finger straight up and push against your lips as you make the sound.

*“Barking can be kept under control by teaching the command “ssh” early on. If you wait until the dog is older and the behavior is more engrained it will take much longer to get the same results”*

- Sharlee, Chinook Pomsies

To teach your Pomsy the Shhh command, Sharlee recommends the following process:

- Step 1: Put some treats in a plastic container so you can shake the container of treats to make a noise. Shake the container to get your Pomsy's attention and give the Pomsy a treat. You are simply trying to teach the Pomsy that the sound of a shaking container means the Pomsy gets a treat. Continue this until your Pomsy stops what they are doing and comes running for a treat every time you shake the container.
- Step 2: When your Pomsy is barking, shake the container until the Pomsy stops and comes running for a treat. When the Pomsy quiets and comes running, say "ssshh" with your hand gesture and reward the Pomsy with a treat.
- Step 3: After repeating step 2 a couple times, begin saying "shhh" with your hand gesture without shaking the treats. If the Pomsy stops barking, reward the Pomsy with a treat for obeying the shhh command (this means the Pomsy recognizes the command). If the Pomsy does not stop barking when you give the shhh command, repeat step 2 until your Pomsy recognizes the command. After repeating this step a few times, the Pomsy will learn that "ssshh" means stop barking.
- Step 4: Once your Pomsy masters step 3, begin to phase out the treats. Your Pomsy should learn to stop barking whenever you give the "shhh" command, even without treats. Phase out treats slowly and replace treats with praise and attention.

### **Leave it - behavioral command**

We covered the leave it command in chapter four but we will cover it again here as this is a very useful behavioral command that teaches your Pomsy to ignore something. For example, if you spill juice on the ground, you can use the leave command to have your Pomsy ignore the spill.

For the leave command, we recommend saying "Leave It". For example, "Charlie! Leave It!" to encourage your Pomsy to leave something alone.

As a gesture, we recommend a single wave of your hand from one side of the object to the other with palm facing down motioning over the object that you want your Pomsy to ignore. For example, if your Pomsy is sniffing around the trash take your right hand and wave in one swoop from right to left with palm facing down over the trash while saying, "Leave it".

As we covered in chapter four, here is the step-by-step process to teach your Pomsy the leave it command.

- Step 1: Take a handful of treats and hold it in a fist. Let the Pomsy sniff your hand to figure out that you are holding treats.
- Step 2: Say, "leave it" and use your hand gesture to wave over the fist of treats.
- Step 3: Continue holding your hand with treats closed in a fist until the Pomsy realizes that sniffing and begging will not make you open your hand.
- Step 4: When the Pomsy pulls their head away and sits back say, "Leave it" with your hand gesture and reward the Pomsy with a treat from your hand.

- Step 5: Repeat this until your dog associates “leave it” and the hand gesture with the action of sitting back and waiting. Reward your Pomsy each time they sit back and ignore your handful of treats. Ignore your Pomsy and do not give a reward if the Pomsy sniffs your hand and tries to get the treats from your fist.
- Step 6: Increase the difficulty once your Pomsy learns to sit back when you say, “leave it”. Show the Pomsy that you have an extra high value treat in your hand, such as turkey or chicken. Place a regular treat on the ground and say, “leave it” while using your hand gesture to indicate to the Pomsy that they should ignore the treat on the ground.
- Step 7: If your Pomsy ignores the treat on the ground and stays sitting focused on you, reward the Pomsy with the high value treat. If the Pomsy lunges for the treat on the ground, cover the treat with your hand and do not let the Pomsy have it. Continue the process until your Pomsy learns to completely ignore the treat on the ground, reward your Pomsy each time they behave correctly.
- Step 8: Continue to increase the difficulty. Try placing the treat on the ground closer to the Pomsy, or place the treat on the ground and walk away after giving the leave command. Try having different members of your family give the leave command and practice the exercise in different areas such as outdoors or at the dog park. Reward your Pomsy each time they successfully ignore the treat on the ground.

The end goal is to teach your Pomsy to completely ignore a distraction. Similar to what we discussed in the engagement chapter, you should be able to place an open container of food on the floor with the leave command. Your Pomsy should completely ignore the container of food when commanded to leave it.

### **Drop it - behavioral command**

We covered the drop command in chapter four but we will cover it again here, as this is a very important behavioral command that every dog should know. The drop command should be used when the Pomsy has something in its mouth that it should not be holding. This teaches your Pomsy to release an item from its mouth on command. This is an important command that can keep your curious Pomsy safe when they are trying to eat something that they should not be.

For the drop command, we recommend saying “Drop It”. For example, “Charlie! Drop It!” to command your Pomsy to drop whatever they have.

As a gesture, we recommend crouching down in front of your Pomsy and extending an open palm facing upwards. This indicates to your Pomsy to drop the item in your hand.

As we covered in chapter four, here is the step-by-step process to teach your Pomsy the drop it command.

- Step 1: Start indoors in a quiet training environment with few distractions. Keep a couple high value treats in your hand such as chicken or turkey. You will need something of extremely high value that the Pomsy really wants and values more than anything.

- Step 2: Give the Pomsky something that it likes to chew on such as a favorite toy or dental bone. Allow the Pomsky to chew the toy for a couple seconds.
- Step 3: Once the Pomsky is engaged with the chew, put your high value treat up to the Pomsky's nose and say, "drop it" while holding your other hand underneath the Pomsky's mouth palm facing up.
- Step 4: If the Pomsky listens and drops the toy, immediately praise the Pomsky and reward with a high value treat. If the Pomsky does not drop the toy, this means you have given the Pomsky something they like too much. To retrieve the chew from the Pomsky, you will need to make an offer the Pomsky cannot refuse such as a walk or a car ride until the Pomsky release the item that they are holding. Restart the exercise but this time use a different chew toy that is not as valuable to the Pomsky; you want to make sure the Pomsky drops the item the first few times through the exercise. Instead of a chew, try giving the Pomsky a tug toy or ball that they will gladly drop in return for a treat.
- Step 5: Reengage your Pomsky with the toy or chew after they drop it. Allow the Pomsky to continue chewing for 5-10 seconds then repeat the exercise using a high value treat and the "drop it" command. Repeat this until the Pomsky associates the "drop it" command with the action of dropping what's in their mouth.
- Step 6: Once your Pomsky masters the drop it command, increase the difficulty by giving the Pomsky a new chew or new toy that is more valuable than the chew you gave in the first time through the exercise. Repeat the exercise making the Pomsky drop the new toy.
- Step 7: Continue to test your Pomsky with the drop command throughout the day. If you see your Pomsky pick up a toy, go over to the Pomsky and ask for a drop. When the Pomsky listens and drops the toy, give a reward and then play with the Pomsky to reinforce that the Pomsky is not in trouble.

*"Puppies love structure and require consistency. We need to be black and white with our training and boundaries of what is acceptable and what is not."*

- Cindy, Acacia Pomskeys

## Final Tips – Manage Behavior

Behavioral training is important. Here are some final tips and pieces of advice straight from Pomsky breeders on how to best manage a Pomsky's behavioral issues.

### **Pomskeys are obedient**

It is vitally important to understand that dogs are not disobedient. Dogs, including Pomskeys, are obedient by nature. A disobedient dog is just a dog that has not been taught what is right and what is wrong. As Portland Pomskeys noted, "Pomskeys love to please. They want to satisfy their owner and can learn anything that is willing to be taught. They are extremely intelligent with a high drive to satisfy which helps aid in the training process." If your Pomsky is disobedient, it means something is wrong. Try changing your training style or consult a professional for help.

## **Start young**

As soon as your Pomsy comes home, start training. The younger you begin training your Pomsy the easier it will be. It is tougher to break an old dog of learned habits, if you begin training your Pomsy from a young age you will be much more effective in teaching your Pomsy what is right and what is wrong.

## **Be consistent**

Consistency is the key to successful Pomsy training. If you are not consistent, you will not successfully train your Pomsy. You must be consistent in your behavioral training, teach your Pomsy what is allowed and what is not allowed, and do not waiver. If you want to teach your Pomsy to behave, you need to be consistent on how you train, when you train, and what you train.

## **Consider the Pomsy's diet**

Diet can play a big role in affecting your Pomsy's behavior. If your Pomsy is not eating properly they will not behave properly. As Jo of Moonlit Pomsys says, "Of course the dog will have behavior problems if he is being fed a diet similar to a tub of candy every day." Jo recommends a raw diet because Pomsies can have sensitive stomachs. She noted that a raw diet can be expensive, so a good quality high meat content (80% or more) grain free diet is the next best thing. Look for kibble that lists meat as the first three ingredients and avoid anything that contains meat meal and derivatives.

## **Stimulation helps**

Like we discussed in chapter five, mental and physical stimulation helps to improve a Pomsy's behavior by managing the Pomsy's energy, making it easier to train. Often, behavioral issues are simply caused by lack of stimulation. A Pomsy that is not being mentally stimulated will look to exert their energy elsewhere by digging, barking, and biting. Make sure to be constantly stimulating your Pomsy throughout the day. Teach your Pomsy new commands, teach new games, give your Pomsy lots of toys and exercise your Pomsy daily. The more you stimulate your Pomsy, the better behaved your Pomsy will be.

## **Summary**

Like any dog, your Pomsy will exhibit certain behavioral traits that make it difficult to manage and train. Pomsies are prone to barking, chewing, play biting, digging, begging, separation anxiety, jumping, respect issues and escaping. It's your job to identify and fix your Pomsies behavioral problem before it becomes a habit.

Here are the biggest takeaways from this chapter:

- All dogs have behavioral problems, you need to teach a Pomsy how to properly behave.
- The positive technique, such as the "ignore" method and "treat" method, are best when correcting your Pomsy's behavioral issues.



- A lot of behavioral problems stem from lack of stimulation. Be sure to mentally and physically stimulate your Pomsky throughout the day.
- Start young and be patient. Pomskies are an obedient breed, you just need to stick to the training and teach your Pomsky how to behave.

## Behavior - Next Steps

Now that you have finished the behavior management chapter, here are the next steps:

1. Download the [Pomsky behavioral plan](#), go through step 1 to determine which behavioral issues your Pomsky exhibits. Complete step 2 of the behavioral plan to determine how you will correct each bad behavior.
2. Refer to your [commands cheat sheet](#) from chapter four and update “Step 2: Make Your Selection” with the behavioral commands discussed in this chapter. Make sure to list the appropriate command and gesture that you will use for each behavioral command.
3. Begin correcting your Pomsky’s behavioral issues right away. The younger you start training, the easier it will be.
4. Continue on to chapter 7

## Special Thanks

Special thanks to those that contributed to this chapter. If you have any questions or want to learn more about each contributor, please click the link below to view their POA membership page:

- [Chree - Mountain Shadow Pomskies](#)
- [Cindy - Acacia Pomskies](#)
- [Jaypee - Pearl of the Orient Seas Puppies](#)
- [Jo - Moonlit Pomskys](#)
- [Lauren - Pristine Pomskies](#)
- [Mischa - Brookside Pomsky](#)
- [Portland Pomskies](#)
- [Sharlee - Chinook Pomskies](#)

# Chapter 7: Leash Training

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## Walking On Leash

Much like Huskies, Pomsies are born to pull. This makes it difficult to walk a Pomsie on leash as they will pull you all over the road, zigzag back and forth, and twirl the leash around your legs until you trip. It is natural for a Pomsie to pull, it is their instinct especially when on leash as Pomsies are naturally full of energy and excited to get out in open space to run free. Pomsies are not born knowing how to walk on a leash, a leash constrains the Pomsie's natural behavior, and they do not understand how a leash works. You need to teach them.

### Before you begin

Before you begin training your Pomsie to properly walk on leash, you should teach your Pomsie to love the collar and leash. Pomsies do not naturally enjoy collars and leashes; you must teach the Pomsie that the collar and leash are a good thing, it represents excitement and fun.

Mischa of Brookside Pomsie recommends that you start by acclimating the Pomsie to the collar. Put the collar on the Pomsie for a couple days, allow the Pomsie get used to wearing a collar before attaching a leash. Once the Pomsie becomes accustomed to the collar, attach a leash to the collar and allow the Pomsie to walk around the house for about 10 to 20 minutes with the leash dragging on the floor. This allows the Pomsie to become comfortable with wearing a leash.

While your Pomsie is running around the house acclimating to the collar and leash, reward the Pomsie with treats and play with the Pomsie to help them feel comfortable and excited. The Pomsie should learn to love wearing a collar and leash because it means the Pomsie will have fun and be rewarded with treats. You can mark this with a cue word such as "walk" or "let's go for a walk!" to alert your Pomsie that it is time to put on the collar and leash, meaning they are about to have fun.

Once the Pomsie becomes comfortable wearing a collar and leash, practice with the leash indoors. Hold the leash and walk the Pomsie around the house just like you would outside, play with the Pomsie and reward the Pomsie with treats to teach the Pomsie to enjoy being on leash. You are simply trying to teach the Pomsie that a leash means the Pomsie is going to have fun, you are not training your Pomsie how to walk on leash yet.

Once your Pomsie learns to love the leash, you can bring your Pomsie outside and begin the on leash training. Your Pomsie will be excited to get outside. There are a lot of new sites, smells, and distractions so your Pomsie will probably start pulling on the leash right away which means it is time to teach your Pomsie how to properly walk on a leash.

## **No Pull – The Stop Method**

With this method, you are going to teach your Pomsky how to properly walk on a leash without pulling.

- Step 1: With a handful of treats and your Pomsky on leash, begin to walk in your intended direction.
- Step 2: As soon as your Pomsky begins to pull, stop dead in your tracks and wait.
- Step 3: Stay waiting, standing in place, until there is slack in the leash and the Pomsky stops pulling. The Pomsky will probably stop pulling to turn around to check on you, seeing why you have stopped walking.
- Step 4: As soon as the Pomsky stops pulling, call the Pomsky back with your recall command. If the Pomsky listens and comes running back to you, ask the Pomsky to sit then say “yes” and reward the Pomsky with a treat. If the Pomsky does not stop pulling, use your handful of treats to get the Pomsky’s attention and lure the Pomsky back to your side. Reward the Pomsky with a treat when they come running back to your side. Repeat steps one through four until your Pomsky successfully stops and comes running back each time you call.
- Step 5: Resume walking after the Pomsky successfully stops pulling and responds to your recall command. You are teaching the Pomsky that if they pull, the walk will stop; but if they stop pulling and listen to your recall, they will be rewarded with treats and will get to keep walking.
- Step 6: As you are walking, reward your Pomsky with treats when they stay near your side without pulling. Your Pomsky will learn to check-in with you to see if you have more treats, reward your Pomsky each time they look back at you. Say “yes” and reward the Pomsky with a treat frequently throughout the walk whenever they check-in or walk by your side.
- Step 7: If at any time your Pomsky starts pulling, repeat step four. Stop walking and wait for the Pomsky to stop pulling. Call the Pomsky back and reward the Pomsky if they listen. Repeat this each time your Pomsky pulls.
- Step 8: As your Pomsky begins to master walking on a leash, reduce the number of treats given to your Pomsky. Soon your Pomsky should be able to walk on leash without a reward.

The stop method teaches the Pomsky that they will be rewarded for staying near you without pulling. It also teaches the Pomsky that the walk will stop if they begin to pull. You should notice a difference in your Pomsky’s walking within a week of this training. Overtime, your Pomsky will begin to learn how to properly walk on a leash. You will be stopping less and you will no longer need to correct your Pomsky’s pulling. Continue to reward your Pomsky each time you walk to reinforce the good behavior.

## **No Pull – The Lure Method**

The lure method is another way to correct your Pomsky’s pulling. Use the lure method as an alternative to the stop method to teach your Pomsky how to properly walk on a leash without pulling.

- Step 1: Starting with your Pomsky on leash, take a handful of treats enclosed in a fist and hold the fistful of treats in front of your Pomsky’s nose to get the Pomsky’s attention. Say, “Let’s go for a walk!” to get the Pomsky excited. Begin walking in the desired direction.

- Step 2: As you are walking, keep your handful of treats down by your side near the Pomsy's nose; you want to keep the Pomsy interested in your hand so that the Pomsy stays by your side at your walking pace. Every couple of seconds, praise and reward the Pomsy with a small treat as you are walking, this will keep your Pomsy engaged and walking by your side without pulling.
- Step 3: If at any time the Pomsy pulls away or zigzags off to the side, immediately stop. Do not let the Pomsy continue to walk. Stay waiting, standing in place, until there is slack in the leash and the Pomsy stops pulling. Get your Pomsy's attention with your handful of treats and call the Pomsy back to your side. Ask the Pomsy to sit then say "yes" and reward the Pomsy with a treat. Once the Pomsy is calm and waiting, repeat steps one and two with the treats by your side near the Pomsy's nose and begin walking again. Your Pomsy should stay right by your side, reward the Pomsy every couple of seconds for behaving and walking without pulling. If the Pomsy pulls or veers off path at any time, stop and repeat step three.
- Step 4: Start by rewarding your Pomsy with a treat every couple of seconds, this will keep your Pomsy engaged and by your side. As your Pomsy begins to master this training, increase the difficulty by waiting longer between treats as you walk. Start by rewarding your Pomsy every couple of seconds, then reward every 10 seconds, then reward every 20 seconds and so on until you can comfortably walk long distances with your Pomsy by your side.
- Step 5: Continue to walk with your handful of treats by your side even after your Pomsy masters walking on leash. Continue to reinforce the good behavior by rewarding your Pomsy with a treat one or two times throughout the walk.

The lure method keeps the Pomsy engaged and walking close by your side. Frequent treats will keep your Pomsy excited to be near you, deterring the Pomsy from pulling. Overtime, your Pomsy will begin to learn how to properly walk on a leash; your Pomsy will naturally walk by your side even without treats. Continue to reward your Pomsy each time you walk, this reinforces the good behavior.

### **Side by side – The Lure Method**

You can also use the lure method to teach your Pomsy how to properly walk by your side. Use this training if your Pomsy zigzags, walks back and forth under your feet, or walks circles around you while on leash. This will teach your Pomsy to walk calmly by your side.

- Step 1: With a handful of treats and your Pomsy on leash, begin to walk in your intended direction. Keep your Pomsy's leash short enough so the Pomsy cannot leave your side, shorten the leash to the position where you would like the Pomsy to permanently walk. You are essentially practicing where you want the Pomsy to walk. Do not keep the leash too short, you do not want to drag your Pomsy or make walking uncomfortable for your Pomsy. Keep the leash short but comfortable.
- Step 2: If your Pomsy begins pulling or attempts to zigzag, use your handful of treats to lure the Pomsy back to your side and desired walking position. When your Pomsy returns to the desired position, mark the behavior with the word "yes" and reward the Pomsy with a treat. Continue this each time the Pomsy moves from your desired walking position. If the Pomsy

does not respond to your lure, stop and stand still. Wait for the Pomsy to calm down and then restart the training at step one.

- Step 3: As your Pomsy begins to learn and master steps one and two, begin to allow the Pomsy more slack on the leash. Allow the Pomsy more room, even with more room the Pomsy should continue to walk in your desired walking position. Continue to reward the Pomsy with treats each time the Pomsy properly walks on the correct side in the appropriate position. If at any time the Pomsy wavers, repeat step two and lure the Pomsy back into the proper position with treats.
- Step 4: Continue to reward the Pomsy for staying by your side. Start by rewarding your Pomsy with a treat every couple of steps and gradually increase the difficulty by waiting longer between treats until the Pomsy forms a habit allowing you to comfortably walk long distances with your Pomsy by your side. Gradually allow the Pomsy more and more leash until you can regularly allow the Pomsy to walk with the full leash without the Pomsy zigzagging or walking around you in circles.

The lure method will teach your Pomsy to stay close by your side. Frequent treats will keep your Pomsy excited to be near you, deterring the Pomsy from zigzagging or pulling side to side. Continue to reward your Pomsy each time you walk, this reinforces the good behavior.

## On Leash Troubleshooting

Training a Pomsy to correctly walk on leash is harder than it looks. Here are some troubleshooting tips to help you conquer common issues faced by Pomsy owners when training their Pomsy to walk on leash.

### Still pulling

Keep implementing the “stop” method if your Pomsy is still pulling. When your Pomsy pulls, simply stop and do not move. Stand still and do not move until your Pomsy stops pulling and comes back to you. Do not pull on the leash; just stand still and wait for your Pomsy to return to your side. Continue this each time the Pomsy pulls. This is essentially an extended training teaching your Pomsy not to pull.

### Not listening

Get your Pomsy’s attention by stopping and walking the other direction. If your Pomsy is pulling, distracted, and ignoring your commands just stop, turn, and start walking the other direction; your Pomsy will snap out of it and be forced to pay attention. Cindy of Acacia Pomsies uses this trick to keep her Pomsy’s attention. If your Pomsy starts to pull away or drifts off to the side of the trail, stop, turn around and go the other way. Do not yank on the leash, but at the same time, do not stop and wait; change your direction and allow the Pomsy to follow. When the Pomsy turns and comes to follow, reward with a treat for paying attention and being with you. It is the Pomsy’s job to pay attention. If you let the Pomsy pull, they will lose interest and will not listen or pay attention.

## Lunging

Stop your Pomsy from lunging at passersby or other dogs by redirecting the Pomsy before they have a chance to lunge. The best way handle a lunging Pomsy is to be proactive. If you see another dog coming, get your Pomsy's attention with a treat and lure the Pomsy away from the other dog to create space, keeping your Pomsy from lunging. Keep your Pomsy engaged with the treat until the distraction passes. Reward your Pomsy with a treat when they do not lunge.

## Easy Walk Harness

If your Pomsy is still pulling and the training is not working, try using an Easy Walk Harness. The Easy Walk harness deters a Pomsy from pulling, it connects to your leash at the Pomsy's chest so when your Pomsy pulls, the harness steers the Pomsy's chest off to the side and redirects their attention towards you. We are in no way affiliated with the Easy Walk product but we have had great success using this harness.

## Walking Off Leash

Dogs are born to be off leash. Pomsies are born to run and enjoy the outdoors without restraining their freedoms to the radius of a leash. You should make it your goal to teach your Pomsy to walk freely without a leash. Not only is off leash training great for the Pomsy but it helps to keep your Pomsy safe.

As Sharlee of Chinook Pomsies says, every dog can and should be off leash trained so that you have the ability to keep them safe if they escape or slip out of their collar.

*"It should be a goal to have your Pomsy walk off leash. If they are not trained to respect your commands without a leash, you can expect your Pomsy to run off the moment the leash is off."  
- Kanzaidy, SZ Pomsies*

### Before you begin

Before you begin training your Pomsy off leash, make sure it is right for your Pomsy. Here are a couple points to consider before you begin training your Pomsy to walk off leash.

- Check local laws – some jurisdictions implement leash laws. Check with your local authority to confirm that you are legally allowed to walk your Pomsy off leash before you begin this training.
- Use dog tags – we highly recommend that your Pomsy wears a collar with dog tags when walking off leash. This is just for safety, in case your Pomsy runs off or gets lost. You want to make sure that anyone who finds your Pomsy can return them to you. As Jo of Moonlit Pomsies points out, in the UK you are actually required by law to tag and microchip your dog.
- Know your Pomsy – each Pomsy is different. Off leash walking is not for everyone. If your Pomsy is prone to escaping, running off or disobeying your commands you may want to focus on obedience training before attempting off leash training. Off leash training can be dangerous, do not attempt to off leash train if your Pomsy is aggressive, timid or if they are likely to run away. An aggressive Pomsy can be dangerous to other people whereas a timid Pomsy may not

enjoy being off leash as they could be scared and run off easily. Consider all factors of your Pomsy before deciding if off leash training is right for you and your Pomsy.

- Master recall – do not attempt off leash training if your Pomsy has not mastered the recall command. Before taking your Pomsy off leash, you must be confident that your Pomsy will come when called, no matter the distraction. Walking off leash comes with a number of new sights, sounds, scents and passerby. All of these new distractions will tempt your Pomsy to ignore your recall command. Master your recall command around distractions before attempting off leash training.
- Master on leash – master walking on leash before attempting off leash training. Pomsies are known to pull, ensure that your Pomsy has mastered proper on leash walking before moving onto more advanced training such as off leash. It will be much easier to train your Pomsy off leash if you have already mastered on leash training, you will be using similar concepts and training tactics to train your Pomsy off leash.
- Practice first – start in a safe area when first attempting off leash training. Practice in a fenced in area, such as a dog park, before taking your Pomsy out to walk the trails. The dog park has plenty of distractions, it's a great place to practice your commands and off leash walking.

### **Off leash training**

With this method, you are going to teach your Pomsy how to properly walk by your side without a leash.

- Step 1: Master the basic commands first. Refer back to chapter four to ensure that your Pomsy has mastered the sit, down, stay and recall commands. Your Pomsy should respond to both your verbal command and hand signal, no matter the distraction. Make sure you have mastered the basic commands before beginning off leash training.
- Step 2: Master on leash training. Refer to the leash training above; ensure that your Pomsy has learned how to properly walk by your side without pulling the leash. Master on leash training before you attempt off leash training.
- Step 3: Once your Pomsy has mastered the commands and on leash training, you can begin teaching your Pomsy how to walk off leash. Start the training with a 50-foot long leash. This leash is intended to simulate the freedom of being off leash; it is enough room for your Pomsy to freely roam without feeling restricted but still provides a safety net in case your Pomsy attempts to run off. With your Pomsy on the 50-foot leash, bring your Pomsy to an area with distractions, such as a dog park or a large open field, and practice your commands. In this step, you simply want to test your Pomsy's ability to quickly and consistently respond to commands. Practice your recall, sit, stay and down commands with your Pomsy on the long leash. Continue to practice these commands until your Pomsy listens no matter the distraction. Practice your on leash training exercises with the 50-foot long leash, your Pomsy should continue to walk directly by your side regardless of the long leash. Bring a handful of treats to engage your Pomsy and reward your Pomsy frequently for behaving and staying by your side. This may

take a couple of weeks to master, continue bringing your Pomsy to new areas and open fields with the long leash to practice around new distractions.

- Step 4: Once your Pomsy masters the training around distractions on a 50-foot leash, begin practicing without the leash in a safe area such as a fenced in dog park or fenced in field. Ensure the area is safe and fenced just in case your Pomsy decides to run off. Practice your recall, sit, stay and down commands with your Pomsy off leash. Practice the lure method from the on leash training exercises to teach your Pomsy to stay by your side even when off leash. Ensure your Pomsy responds quickly and consistently to each command and ensure that the Pomsy is happy walking by your side. Practice walking around the fenced in area keeping the Pomsy off leash within a fifteen-foot radius of where you are walking. Reward the Pomsy for staying near you and reward your Pomsy each time they successfully obey your commands.
- Step 5: Increase the difficulty of your off leash training. Let your Pomsy roam free off leash in the fenced in safe area; allow your Pomsy to find distractions. Once your Pomsy is distracted, call your Pomsy back and ask the Pomsy to sit. You want to ensure that your Pomsy will respond even when distracted. Increase the difficulty by throwing a treat in the fenced in area, allow the Pomsy to run after the treat but call the Pomsy back before they can reach the treat. Reward your Pomsy if they ignore the treat and come running back. Invite a guest to enter the fenced in area. Before your Pomsy can run to greet the guest, call the Pomsy back. Continue to practice in new safe areas with new distractions, reward your Pomsy each time they successfully obey your commands. The goal is for your Pomsy to ignore all distractions. Your Pomsy should drop what it is doing to obey your command. This is vitally important to the success of your off leash training. It may take a couple weeks of consistent practice but make sure you master this before allowing your Pomsy off leash outside the fenced in area.
- Step 6: Walk your Pomsy off leash. Only attempt this step after you have comfortably mastered step five with confidence that your Pomsy will stay by your side and respond to your commands. Start in a safe area, such as a quiet neighborhood or secluded trail away from a busy road. Put a collar on your Pomsy but do not attach the leash, have the leash with you at all times just in case you need to quickly put your Pomsy back on leash. Use the lure method as you are walking your Pomsy off leash. Starting with a handful of treats and your Pomsy off leash, begin walking in the desired direction. If your Pomsy begins drifting away or trying to move from your side, use your handful of treats to lure the Pomsy back to your side and desired walking position. When your Pomsy returns to the desired position, mark the behavior with the word “yes” and reward the Pomsy with a treat. As your Pomsy begins to learn the proper walking position, allow the Pomsy to roam a bit more. Continue to reward the Pomsy with treats each time the Pomsy properly walks in the appropriate position and reward your Pomsy for stopping to look back and check in on you. Give a treat every few steps at first, and then begin increasing the difficulty. Walk longer distance before you reward with a treat until the Pomsy forms the habit of walking by your side. Continue to reward the Pomsy for staying by your side and continue to practice the come, sit, stay and down commands while you are walking off leash. Continue to reward the Pomsy for properly obeying commands. Be prepared



if your Pomsy runs off, always pay attention to what your Pomsy is doing at all times and be ready to quickly put your Pomsy on leash if needed.

- Step 7: If your Pomsy runs away, do not panic. Keep calm and keep the Pomsy in your sight, walk after your Pomsy while calling the Pomsy back. When the Pomsy responds to your recall command, reward the Pomsy with treats and praise. This reinforces the good behavior of listening to the recall command. If this happens, you may need to refresh some of your Pomsy's training. Go back to step three and repeat the training before attempting to go off leash again.
- Step 8: Continue to reinforce your Pomsy's recall whenever you walk off leash. Call your Pomsy away from distractions to test their recall response and reward your Pomsy for properly walking off leash and responding to commands.

## Final Tips

Here are some final tips straight from Pomsy breeders and trainers to help you train your Pomsy to walk on leash and off leash.

### Start young

As we recommend with all training, start training your Pomsy at a young age. Begin teaching your Pomsy how to walk on leash right away. The sooner you begin training, the easier it will be, making walks more enjoyable for you and your Pomsy. Once your Pomsy masters walking on leash, you will be able to move onto more complex training such as advanced commands and off leash training.

*"If they are trained at a young age and know not to pull, then they will not pull as an adult."*

*- Kanzaidy, SZ Pomsies*

### Be consistent

Keep consistent with your training. Each time you go for a walk, you should be training and reinforcing your Pomsy's good behavior. If you stop paying attention and let your Pomsy pull, the training will fail. If you are teaching your Pomsy not to pull, then do not ever let your Pomsy pull; otherwise, the Pomsy will be confused if it is allowed to pull or not. As Jennifer of Smoky Mountain Pomsies says, "Puppies are like sponges, they soak in the training. However, if an owner is not firm and allows them to get away with bad behavior, that is the behavior they will learn." Do not let your Pomsy learn to pull, teach your Pomsy how to walk on leash without pulling and be consistent.

### Master commands

Commands are important. They are vital to successful Pomsy training and will be used throughout the Pomsy's life. Before you even consider walking your Pomsy off leash, master the basic commands. Ensure your Pomsy is proficient in quickly responding to each command, no matter the distraction. Continue to practice your commands while walking your Pomsy.

### **Be safe**

Plan for safety when walking your Pomsy. Walk in a safe area and be alert watching your Pomsy at all times. Start training in a safe fenced in area. Once the Pomsy masters training in a safe area, expand into more difficult and distracting terrain.

Portland Pomsies recommends expanding from a familiar setting to a safe "unknown" setting like a fenced in tennis court or backyard. Soon you will be confident about your Pomsy's training no matter the setting.

*"It is best to keep a Pomsy on leash around busy roads and in public places, but if they are trained properly they will obey off leash commands"*

*- Natalia, Sun Valley Pomsies*

### **Pay attention**

Always pay attention to your Pomsy, do not let your Pomsy run around free with no guidance. Be aware of your surroundings, keep an eye on what is ahead and behind you in case a distraction, such as another dog, comes walking by. If you are walking off leash, put the Pomsy's collar on and bring a leash with you. Be prepared to jump into action if your Pomsy runs off.

### **Use treats**

Treats are a powerful training tool, this is critical to training a Pomsy to properly walk on leash and off leash. Use treats to teach your Pomsy that good behavior is rewarded. Bring a handful of treats each time you are out for a walk; the treat should be something of high value to encourage your Pomsy to listen to your command no matter the distraction.

Be energetic and enthusiastic each time you give a command. Always reward with praise and treats, this encourages your Pomsy to continue behaving and listening to your commands.

*"I suggest taking little training treats with you. Give them treats when they are good on the leash."*

*- Melissa, Ocean View Pomsies*

### **Be patient**

Training does not happen overnight, be patient and be consistent. Take your time and practice daily each time you are out for a walk, use each walk as a training session. As Melissa of Ocean View Pomsies says, "If you put in the time and patience, you will have an amazing dog that can do anything and go anywhere. Patience and praise is what I recommend every dog owner use."

*"Make it fun, every time they get ahead, turn around or stop. When they look at you reward, reward, reward. Build a relationship that they want to be with you. Be more fun than the distractions."*

*- Cindy, Acacia Pomsies*

### **Short and fun**

Just like your other training, keep your sessions short and fun when

teaching your Pomsy to properly walk on leash and off leash. Short and frequent training sessions work best, this keeps your Pomsy engaged and enjoying the training. Allow your Pomsy to enjoy the walk

while training. Reward with treats and allow your Pomsky to investigate the new sights, smells and sounds in between your trainings.

## Leash Training – Next Steps

Now that you have finished the leash training chapter, here are the next steps:

1. Use the stop method or lure method to teach your Pomsky to properly walk on leash.
2. Use the lure method to teach your Pomsky to walk by your side.
3. Begin teaching your Pomsky to walk off leash.
4. Continue on to chapter 8

## Special Thanks

Special thanks to those that contributed to this chapter. If you have any questions or want to learn more about each contributor, please click the link below to view their POA membership page:

- [Cindy - Acacia Pomsbies](#)
- [Jennifer - Smoky Mountain Pomsbies](#)
- [Jo - Moonlit Pomsbys](#)
- [Kanzaidy - SZ Pomsbies](#)
- [Melissa - Ocean View Pomsbies](#)
- [Mischa - Brookside Pomsby](#)
- [Natalia - Sun Valley Pomsbies](#)
- [Portland Pomsbies](#)
- [Sharlee - Chinook Pomsbies](#)

# Chapter 8: Potty Training

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## Potty Training

Potty training is one of the most important aspects of training a Pomsky. It is so important that we have dedicated an entire separate book to potty training a Pomsky. This chapter will provide an intro to potty training and plenty of insights to potty train your Pomsky. However, if you are having trouble and need more insights into the troubles of potty training, check out the Pomsky Owners Association [guide to potty training a Pomsky](#).

### What is it

Potty training means teaching your Pomsky where to go to the bathroom outside, reducing the chance of accidents in the house. Puppies do not know where to go to the bathroom, they will go anywhere anytime they need to go. You need to teach the Pomsky where to go potty. In this chapter, we will go through the process of teaching your Pomsky to potty on a schedule in a designated potty area.

### Why it happens

Pomsies go potty in the house because they have not learned where to go to the bathroom. This is most common in puppies under 12 weeks old, as they are still learning; if not managed early it will cause a mess in your home.

### Signs of potty

Pomsies will exhibit signs when they need to go potty. Pay close attention to your Pomsky and look for these signs. If you do not let your Pomsky out to potty when given the sign, the Pomsky will go in the house and it will be your fault.

*“It helps to learn the signs of a puppy that has to potty. If they stop playing and slowly start walking around sniffing, we take the puppy out to potty.”*  
- Sharlee, Chinook Pomsies

Here are the most common signs that indicate your Pomsky needs to go out:

- Quiet and immediately stops playing
- Walking circles and sniffing
- Barking at the door
- Scratching at the door
- Squatting
- Smell of Pomsky passing gas

## When to begin training

Begin potty training the day you bring your Pomsy home from the breeder. Do not wait. You want to immediately teach your Pomsy where to potty at their new home. Your breeder has already started the potty training process before your Pomsy comes to your home, so your Pomsy should be familiar with the concept of going potty outside.

## Potty planning

Before you begin potty training, you need to have a plan. If you do not have a plan and schedule, your Pomsy will go to the bathroom in the house and your potty training will fail.

In this section, we are going to help you create a plan to potty train your Pomsy. Download and print our [potty training plan cheat sheet](#) to use throughout this chapter. Use this download through each step of the chapter to create a potty training plan, this ensures you are consistent with your training.

## Consistency

Consistency is the most important aspect of successful potty training. If you are not consistent in your training efforts, your Pomsy will not be potty trained. Cindy of Acacia Pomsies says that consistency and supervision are the two most important aspects of potty training, saying that if you are consistent and constantly supervising your Pomsy, you will have your Pomsy potty trained in no time.

*“The hardest part about training a Pomsy is staying consistent with their training and not giving up.”*

- Jennifer, Smoky Mountain Pomsies

Pomsy breeders unanimously agree, consistency is important but it is often the most difficult aspect of potty training. To be consistent, you must plan ahead. Know how to identify the signs of potty, know when to take your Pomsy out, and know exactly how to potty train your Pomsy before you begin.

## How often to potty

You should take your Pomsy puppy out to potty every two hours. As a rule of thumb, puppies can control their bladder one hour per month of age; so if your Pomsy is three months old, you should be taking your Pomsy out to potty at least once every three hours. Do not wait too long in-between bathroom breaks. The longer you wait, the more likely your Pomsy will have an accident in the house.

*“You really have to dedicate your time and schedule around the new puppy to give them the biggest chance of success in potty training.”*

- Portland Pomsies

## Routine

It is important to build a potty routine for your Pomsy. Your routine should include a set time schedule for potty and feeding, a phrase to encourage potty, and a designated potty spot.

Plan to take your Pomsy out to potty immediately after they wake up (even after a short nap), about 15 minutes after they eat, after excessive playing, after coming out of the crate, right before you leave the Pomsy unattended, directly after you come home from leaving the Pomsy unattended, and right before bed. Be sure to take your Pomsy out at these key times, this will help to form a consistent schedule that the Pomsy can stick to as they get older. Natalia of Sun Valley Pomsies recommends taking your Pomsy out as soon as they wake up or get out of the crate regardless of how long the nap or crate time was as this helps to reinforce the routine and teaches the Pomsy when it is time to potty.

Try to keep your Pomsy on a regular feeding schedule as the Pomsy will typically need to potty about 15 minutes after eating. Keeping the Pomsy on a regular feeding schedule allows you to easily create a combined feeding and potty schedule for your Pomsy. Since you know the Pomsy will need to potty soon after eating, you can schedule a set time each day to feed and take your Pomsy outside right after eating, knocking off two important tasks in one block of time. Keep track of the time and make sure to monitor your Pomsy's food and water intake right before bed. Pomsy puppies can sleep through the night, about seven hours, without needing to go potty. To ensure that your Pomsy will not need to potty during the night, put away your Pomsy's water dish and food bowl two hours before bedtime.

Choose a designated spot outside for your Pomsy to potty. This will teach your Pomsy to go potty in the same spot every time. When taking your Pomsy out, use a key phrase to tell your Pomsy that it is time to potty. For example say, "Go potty!" or "Time to go out!" to indicate to your Pomsy that it is time to go. After you say your phrase, take your Pomsy directly outside to the designated potty spot and allow your Pomsy to go to the bathroom. Repeat this to keep your Pomsy going potty in the same spot.

Here is the preferred potty schedule of Mischa from Brookside Pomsy:

- 6:30 AM – wake up and take Pomsies out to potty
- 6:45 AM – feed Pomsies
- 7:00 AM – potty, then free play time outside or training
- 11:00 AM – nap inside or continued play time
- 1:00 PM – potty, then free play time outside or training
- 3:00 PM - nap inside or continued play time
- 5:00 PM – potty, then free play time or training
- 6:00 PM – feed Pomsies and take outside to potty when done
- 8:00 PM – outside to potty
- 10:00 PM – outside for final potty before bedtime

As you can see, Mischa has her Pomsy puppies on a regular potty schedule going out about every two hours including potty immediately when waking up, immediately after eating, and one last time before

bed. This is the schedule that works best for Mischa, you will need to find the routine that works best for you and your lifestyle.

Here is the preferred potty schedule of Cheyenne of Lollipop Pomsbies:

- 7:00 AM – take Pomsby outside to potty
- 7:15 AM – Pomsby breakfast
- 7:30 AM – direct playtime, training or walk
- 8:00 AM – take Pomsby outside to potty again
- 8:15 AM – leave for work. Safe free time for Pomsby
- 12:00 PM – home for lunch, let Pomsby out to potty
- 12:15 PM – Pomsby lunch
- 12:30 PM – direct playtime, training or walk
- 12:45 PM – take Pomsby outside to potty again
- 1:00 PM – leave for work. Safe free time for Pomsby
- 5:00 PM – home from work, let Pomsby out to potty
- 5:15 PM – Pomsby dinner
- 5:30 PM – direct playtime, training or walk
- 5:45 PM – take Pomsby outside to potty again
- 6:00 PM – family time
- 8:00 PM – outside to potty
- 8:15 PM – direct playtime
- 9:00 PM – bedtime

As you can see, Cheyenne’s schedule is similar to Mischa’s as Cheyenne is also taking her Pomsbies out to potty as soon as she wakes up, after they eat, as soon as she gets home from work, and right before bed. This is a good schedule example for someone with a full time job, this schedule works best for Cheyenne and is a good reference for you to mimic and create your own schedule.

Stop reading right now and use the [potty training plan cheat sheet](#) to set your Pomsby’s potty schedule.

### How long to train

Your Pomsby should be fully potty trained within a couple weeks after coming home from the breeder. The time it takes to potty train depends on a number of factors including your routine, your consistency, the ability of your Pomsby, and the amount of time your breeder spent potty training your Pomsby. As a general rule of thumb, you should expect to see consistent results, with limited accidents, within 8 weeks of training. Meaning, your Pomsby should be about fully potty trained by 16 weeks of age.

*“It is totally dependent on the owner and how much work they put into training. You should see consistent results within 8 weeks and by 16 weeks only having an accident here and there.”*

*- Kanzaidy, SZ Pomsbies*

## Potty training

Now that you have constructed your potty training schedule, it is time to begin potty training your Pomsy. Follow the below step by step procedure to teach your Pomsy when and where to go potty.

### How to potty train

- Step 1: As soon as you take your Pomsy home, before even bringing your new puppy in the house, take them to the area in the yard that you have designated as the “potty area”. Choose a spot where your Pomsy can freely go potty every time they are outside. Say “go potty” and stay in the designated spot for a couple of minutes. The Pomsy will not know what you are talking about but it is important to begin teaching your Pomsy this phrase, associated with the potty spot, as soon as they come home.
- Step 2: If your Pomsy goes potty in the designated potty spot, say “Good potty!” and praise the Pomsy for behaving. Give the Pomsy a treat and lots of positive encouragement. If the Pomsy does not go potty this first time, that is okay. Bring the Pomsy inside and allow the Pomsy to calm down and get used to the new setting.
- Step 3: Repeat step 1 every couple of minutes until your Pomsy goes potty for the first time. Keep taking your Pomsy out to the designated potty spot and say “go potty” until the Pomsy successfully goes potty in the correct area. This may take a few tries, your Pomsy will be excited and over stimulated with the new setting. Reward your Pomsy with a treat and praise while saying “good potty!” when the Pomsy finally goes to the bathroom.
- Step 4: Continue repeating step 1 each time you take the Pomsy out to potty. Say “go potty!” and bring the Pomsy to the designated potty area. Praise the Pomsy for successfully going potty. Continue to take your Pomsy out to potty at least every two hours. After enough repetition, your Pomsy will hear the phrase “go potty” and will understand that this means it is bathroom time. Continue to reward your Pomsy each time they potty in the correct location.

### Accidents

Do not punish your Pomsy if they have an accident. Accidents happen, it is part of living with a puppy. Punishing your Pomsy will not teach anything, this only teaches the Pomsy to fear you. Always use positive reinforcement, this is a key to potty training. Take your Pomsy out frequently, try to watch your Pomsy at all times looking for signs that they

need to go out. Understand that even if you are constantly supervising and taking your Pomsy outside, the puppy still might have accidents in the house. Accidents happen.

If you catch your Pomsy in the act of having an accident, say something to interrupt such as the Pomsy’s name or say “Hey!” while being careful not to scare or startle them. Quickly and calmly pickup

*“Remember, positive reinforcement! If a puppy has an accident in the house very calmly pick up the puppy and take them to the area outside where you want them to go to the bathroom. Give them praise if they finish outside.”*

*- Natalia, Sun Valley Pomsies*



your Pomsy and bring them outside to go potty. Reward your Pomsy if they finish going potty in the designated potty area.

If you find an accident in the house but did not directly catch the Pomsy in the act, simply clean up the mess with cleaning products. Once again, do not punish your Pomsy for this. At this point, it is too late to correct your Pomsy, they will not understand what they did wrong. Be sure to use proper cleaning products to fully clean the mess as puppies are motivated to continue pottying in the same spot if it smells like urine. Either take your Pomsy out to see if they need to finish going potty or continue to supervise your Pomsy and wait for the next time the Pomsy needs to potty. As soon as your Pomsy behaves and successfully goes potty in the designated area, reward your Pomsy with lots of praise and treats. Monitor your Pomsy closely. The more frequently your Pomsy has accidents in the house, the more likely your Pomsy will get confused about where they are supposed to potty, increase your supervision and set an alarm to take your Pomsy out more frequently.

## Final tips

Here are some final tips straight from Pomsy breeders and Pomsy trainers to help you potty train your Pomsy.

### Reward

Rewards are important, we have discussed positive reinforcement throughout this book and potty training is no different. Praise your Pomsy and reward your Pomsy with treats immediately after they have finished going potty. Do not wait until your Pomsy comes back inside, reward immediately after the Pomsy goes potty to reinforce the good behavior. If you do not want to reward with treats, simply reward your Pomsy with praise and let them back in the house as their reward.

### Use a potty phrase

Much like training commands, teach your Pomsy a unique phrase that means it is time to potty. Use a phrase such as "Let's go potty!" or "Time to potty!" each time you take your Pomsy to the designated potty area. This will teach your Pomsy that, when they hear the phrase, it is time to go to the bathroom.

*"As I open the kennel door I say "Let's go out".  
When the puppy goes potty outside, always praise  
them by saying "that's a good potty".  
- Mischa, Brookside Pomsy*

### Choose a spot

Take your Pomsy outside to potty in the same spot every time. This spot encourages your Pomsy to go potty, puppies are motivated to continue pottying in the same spot that smells like urine and this keeps their mess to a designated area.

## Set a schedule

Scheduling is important. Schedule everything from potty time, to feeding time and watering time. We highly recommend you download and print our [potty training plan cheat sheet](#) to set the schedule that is best for you. With a puppy, plan to take your Pomsky out at least every two hours in addition to taking your Pomsky out when they first wake up, 15 minutes after they eat, immediately after you come home, and right before bed.

*“The more consistency the better, so we keep our puppies on a schedule and take them out when they would have to go potty. This would be right when they wake and about 15 minutes after they eat.”*

*- Sharlee, Chinook Pomsies*

## Schedule water

Schedule your Pomsky’s water time if you are having trouble with your Pomsky waking up to potty in the middle of the night. Pickup your Pomsky’s water dish about two hours before bed time. A Pomsky puppy should be able to hold its bladder while sleeping for seven hours.

## Schedule feeding

Keeping your Pomsky on a regular feeding schedule can help you better predict when your Pomsky will need to potty. Pomsky’s need to potty about 15 minutes after eating, setting a feeding schedule allows you to more regularly predict when your Pomsky needs to go out as you will know to take your puppy out soon after feeding.

## Supervise

Always supervise your Pomsky, do not give your Pomsky the opportunity to potty in the house. Keep a close eye on your puppy at all times. Look for the signs that your Pomsky needs to potty and act quickly if your Pomsky is about to potty in the house. Cindy of Acacia Pomsies says that pottying in the house is our fault. Pomsies do not know that it is wrong, we need to teach them. If you are not paying attention, they do not know that it is a mistake.

## DO NOT use pee pads

Do not use pee pads. Pee pads are dangerous if your Pomsky chews and ingest the pad, and this teaches your Pomsky to pee in the house. Begin teaching your Pomsky to potty outside right away; do not waste time teaching your Pomsky to pee inside in a specific spot. Teach your Pomsky where to go outside and reward your Pomsky for pottying outside, you do not want to accidentally teach your Pomsky that it is okay to potty inside as this can easily become a learned behavior and a tough habit to break.

*“We never use pee pads for our dogs. It teaches them it is okay to pee or poop in the house. I do not recommend using pee pads and that is just what has worked for our dogs in our home.”*

*- Melissa, Ocean View Pomsies*

## Summary

Potty training is extremely important. Without consistent potty training, your Pomsy will have accidents all over the house. Potty training teaches your Pomsy where to go to the bathroom outside, reducing the chance of accidents in the house.

Here are the biggest takeaways from this chapter:

- A Pomsy will potty in the house because they have not learned where to go to the bathroom.
- Begin potty training your Pomsy right away. Do not use pee pads, teach your puppy to potty outside as soon as they come home from the breeder.
- Know the signs of a Pomsy that needs to potty. This includes walking circles and sniffing, barking at the door, scratching at the door and squatting.
- Set a potty routine. This should include a set time for pottying, water, feeding, a phrase to encourage pottying, and a designated potty spot in the yard.
- Do not punish your Pomsy for having an accident and always reward your Pomsy for going potty in the correct spot.

## Potty training - next steps

Now that you have finished the potty training chapter, here are the next steps:

1. Download and complete the [potty training plan cheat sheet](#), create your schedule to plan your Pomsy's potty routine
2. Complete the step by step potty training exercise to potty train your Pomsy
3. If you need more help potty training your Pomsy, refer to the [Pomsy Owners Association potty training eBook](#)

## Special Thanks

Special thanks to those that contributed to this chapter. If you have any questions or want to learn more about each contributor, please click the link below to view their POA membership page:

- [Cheyenne - Lollipop Pomsies](#)
- [Cindy - Acacia Pomsies](#)
- [Jennifer - Smoky Mountain Pomsies](#)
- [Kanzaidy - SZ Pomsies](#)
- [Melissa - Ocean View Pomsies](#)
- [Mischa - Brookside Pomsy](#)
- [Natalia - Sun Valley Pomsies](#)
- [Sharlee - Chinook Pomsies](#)
- [Portland Pomsies](#)

# Next Steps

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Congratulations! If you have made it this far it means you have completed the Pomsky Owners Association guide to training a Pomsky. If you have come this far and still have training questions, please reach out to us at [contact@Pomskyownersassociation.com](mailto:contact@Pomskyownersassociation.com).

As a friendly reminder, please do not share or redistribute this eBook without the express written permission of the Pomsky Owners Association. The POA team and contributors have dedicated their time to perfecting this book and would greatly appreciate your cooperation. If you would like to share this book with your friends and family, please ask them to [visit this link](#) to receive their copy of *The Complete Guide to Pomsky Training*.

## What now?

Keep training. Even if you have finished every exercise in the book, keep training. You should continue training and practicing new exercises with your Pomsky every day. Training is a lifelong task, keep up the good work and you will soon have the perfect companion.

## More from Pomsky Owners Association

If you are looking for more from the Pomsky Owners Association, checkout our other books and resources including:

- **eBook:** [How to potty train a Pomsky](#)
- **Download:** [Download all the resources from this eBook](#)
- **Clothing:** [Pomsky clothing for the Pomsky owner!](#)
- **Dog bowls:** [Custom dog bowls designed for the Pomsky breed](#)
- **Custom dog tags:** [Create a dog tag for your Pomsky](#)

## Register your Pomsky

Have a Pomsky that you love and want to cherish forever? Register your Pomsky with the POA. [Click here to register your Pomsky today.](#)

As a registered member of the POA you receive:

- A private group to discuss owning a Pomsky
- Registered Pomsky certificate
- Access to private publications and resources for Pomsky Owners

## More training resources:

- eBook: [How to potty train a Pomsky](#)
- Blog series: [5 steps to training a Pomsky](#)
- Blog: [Pomsky health issues](#)
- Download: [Pomsky training guide](#)
- Download: [Pomsky health concerns](#)

## Thank You

Thank you to our readers, our subscribers, our contributors and the amazing team at Pomsky Owners Association for helping with *The Complete Guide to Pomsky Training*. Thank you to an incredibly supportive Pomsky community, we would not be here without you.

Please contact [contact@Pomskyownersassociation.com](mailto:contact@Pomskyownersassociation.com) with any concerns, comments or questions.