



In 1886, Charles Cruft organised a Toy Dog Show at the Royal Aquarium. He scheduled one class for Pomeranians, not to exceed 10lbs in weight and one black dog was entered. In the show catalogue there was an advert for the next edition of the magazine Pet-Dog journal which would feature pictures of German Toy Pomeranians. There had been a steady flow of smaller German Poms - usually black in colour since around 1874.

These smaller Poms - thought of as Mannheimer Spitz in Germany - became all the rage! Most noticeable are comments that they had docile and sweet dispositions in contrast to their larger white counterparts who had received adverse reports concerning a 'snappish' disposition and their unsuitability to be around young children since 1804.



By 1894, Rawdon Lee wrote that in the 1892 Cruft's dog show all of the Poms who accounted for 94 entries were small. In an era when showing appealed to women the smaller size was deemed most suitable for ladies on both sides of the Atlantic.

Careful research has demonstrated that the larger white Pomeranian was not successfully downsized by British breeders of this era. A few were incorporated in breeding programmes using the smaller German Spitz and Volpino (ranging from 4 to 12lbs).

Due to the continuing trend for small, the larger size, usually white, became unfashionable and this was reflected by changes to challenge certificate awards by 1915 in Britain.

In America - the larger white dogs had slowly regained respectability but most were unregistered. The breed registry for Pomeranians closing about 1901. Historical evidence suggests that the larger white Pomeranian or Spitz dog as it was most commonly called in America was re-packaged by the UKC circa 1913 and called the German or American Spitz. By 1917 following the Americans entering World War One the dog was re-branded again and this time reference to both German and Spitz (a name still associated with the mad dog scare) were removed and the new name given was American Eskimo Dog...sceptics, please take the time out to read the full article - link at bottom of page.

It is no wonder this sad period of canine history which vilified the white pomeranian was hidden away - in fact it was so well concealed in archives that modern enthusiasts are unaware of this problem.

The full article is lengthy and will take about 15 minutes to read which is why I thought it best to summarise this incredible era of history for those who may not have this amount of spare time. The full article can be read by going to the link below.



Please compare left photo of Miss Chell's Poms to the dogs on this link: [Deutsches Reich \(1871-1918\) Kaiserreich](#)

When you click this link, translate website page to English, then on the left tool bar, click the Kingdom of Württemberg link - a page will appear on right, scroll down a photo of Koenig Wilhelm's Spitz dogs can be found about half way down. The photo is titled 'Der Koenig mit seinen Enkeln'.

right - A famous German sculpture in Stuttgart of Koenig Wilhelm II with his beloved dogs.

