

base colour was mentioned for the parti-coloured dogs. Unlike the FCI, to this day the standard does not stipulate a white background colour. In Miss Ives book, revised by Miss Wilson (1929) black and tan is accounted for in the section on parti-colours.

The first black and tan in the Stud Book is Squirrel born in 1904, placing 2nd in the Open class at Crystal Palace in 1905 (by Nanky Poo x Sable Queenie).

below - a couple of Mrs Wearing's mismarked Poms



Among all the dogs recorded with two colours some really were parti-coloured Poms and this is why the early records are very confusing. There are numerous 'black and whites' and 'grey and whites' also 'blue and whites'. Leyswood Tom Tit (born 1897) was registered as 'chocolate and white' but May Bird reported that he was the only parti-colour, other than a bitch named Daisy, of note at shows. She later called him a "Harlequin". Another Pom called Harlequin lky (born 1894) was a 'blue and white' so it is possible lky was a parti-colour (his sire was Prince Bismarck most likely the dog exported to America a little later). The first Pom with 'parti' in the colour designation was Shelton Novelty a 'parti-colour white with black markings'. Mafeking of Rozelle pre-dates Novelty by some five years but he was called 'a tricolour' even though some books refer to him as a parti-colour. As the standard makes no provision for tricoloured dogs it must be assumed the Pom Club's definition of 'parti-colour' was a fairly liberal one at this time.



By 1906 the Standard was tweaked again, the brackets were removed from the colours listed after shaded sable, so red, orange and fawn were now whole colours, and definitions were added for shaded sables and the colour orange. Shaded sables were to have three or more colours shaded throughout with no patches of self-colour, and orange was to be self-coloured throughout and light shading was discouraged.

December 1909's revision removed sable and shaded sable from the whole colours, fawn was removed and replaced with beaver, cream was added, and the words 'light or dark' added to brown and 'pale as possible' added to blue. However, the colour 'tan' was added to the mismark clauses - 'dogs other than white with white or tan markings, are decidedly objectionable and should be discouraged' and also 'dogs with white or tan feet or chest would not be parti-coloured dog'. The nose requirement for black and tan was removed so it is reasonable to assume black and tan was now considered objectionable. The clause 'decidedly objectionable and should be discouraged' was later modified to just '...white or tan markings highly undesirable'. Although the exact requirements of black and tan were never defined, it is still the opinion of top breeders that a good black and tan should have full 'terrier' markings including pencil lines & thumb marks. A debatable issue in the new clause concerns a white dog with tan markings as the rule applied to dogs 'other than white'.

It is ironic that while discouraging black and tan, the colour blue was promoted despite the problem of Colour Dilution Alopecia or 'blue failing' as it was called in this era. May Bird is the only person who raised the issue although others alluded to a problem. In 1897 she said of Squib and Cracker 'if he was the happy possessor of a Pomeranian's coat, Cracker would be perfect, but alas his head, legs, and back have only down upon them. His brother Squib has a better coat, but even he suffers a little from the "blue failing"'. Earlier in the year she had commented on Cracker being 'minus his coat' and also on Chocolat, later a champion. Of him she said 'though his tail and ruff nearly hide the fact, the coat on his back is barely an inch long'.



Blue Boy is in their ancestry and also behind Miss Ives famous Ch Boy Blue. He is not known to have suffered from CDA. Mrs Williams commented in her book 'blues, which, unless large, generally have hairless ears'. Cracker was noted to be small by May Bird so it is possible that size was connected with "blue failing"? Mr Hicks wrote that Mrs Vallance, Miss Ives, Mrs Parker and Mrs Loy were the principal breeders of blue Poms, Mrs Vallance 'for some years showed two specimens, Cracker and Squib, of very fine bone but rather scanty coat, especially on the back'.

left - Squib and Cracker - blue Poms with CDA, born in 1896

Mrs Williams noted (1919) that blue Poms were seldom seen. Mrs Hofman commented on blue Poms in America in Mrs Parker's book (1937) 'although there were many blues shown at early shows, they are never seen at the shows today.' In the 1929 edition of Miss Ives book, revised by Mrs Thomson of Lochryan Poms, it's reported that 'Mrs Stratton has for years made strenuous efforts to revive blues, but much ill-luck has been her portion'. Less than 10 blue Poms are highlighted as worthy of note, and it is remarked that blue 'may also be said to have practically ceased to exist'. Was it just the difficulty of obtaining the desired light blue or the problem of CDA being more common in the smaller size (Williams) promoted in the Standard.

White Poms illustrate another quirk in the Standard, although still the first colour on the list of whole colours, like Beaver that is still listed, these colours are rare. The white Pom that dominated the show scene until the late 1880s steadfastly resisted successful miniaturisation. Miss Ives book states 'Miss Hamilton, devoted years to breeding small whites but the results were disappointing except as regard smaller size. The little ones lacked real type, buoyant disposition' and were 'often soft or short coated, sad, little pathetic creatures'. Adding 'by degrees all traces of the old whites have been lost'.

right - Miss Cresswell's Star of Devon born 1894

Mr Drury (1903) - 'Evidently room for small whites, and great success will attend those who can bring out dogs of that colour from 4 to 5lbs. - provided they were well proportioned and pocket-versions of their larger brethren'. Vale Nicholas (1907) wrote - 'Breeders of white Poms seem unable to reduce them in size and at the same time maintain purity of colour, the results being Whites, which usually weigh 8lbs and upwards and are usually beaten by Blacks, Browns etc. of 4 to 5lbs.' However, Mr Nicholas hoped 'that steady perseverance will in time be rewarded by the appearance of a Toy White - typical and pure in colour. The only small ones so far seem to have been very weedy and flat-coated, and nothing under 7lb or so has had the build and character required'. Both Mr Nicholas and Mr Hicks cite Princess Duleep Singh's Pom 'Bambino', 4.5lbs in weight as an exception. Hicks mentioned that this dog was the smallest white ever bred and said there had always been difficulty in breeding under 8lb whites.



In Mrs Parker's book (1937 edition) - 'It is a puzzle to me why someone who has the necessary cash does not import some pure whites, especially the miniature whites, from the Continent, and re-introduce this lovely colour, with their jet black eyes and nose'. She mentioned that Mrs Patten (Waynflete & Redhill) was the only breeder who had bred a typical miniature white. Examples provided include the 3lb Syringa Waynflete (born in 1917) and Albus Waynflete also born in 1917. Albus was a gt grandson of both the white Ch Belper Fritz and the wolf sable Ch Shelton Sable Atom. In Miss Ives book Miss Barrow is noted as the only person attempting to re-introduce whites, using Waynflete lines, but 'she is working against many difficulties and disappointments to produce small whites'.

May Bird commented circa 1898 - 'two real white Toys were in Limit, and the awards they received were not such as to encourage breeders. Little Tim was VHC (4th), though he has an enormous coat, and is a lovely size, while Miss Hamilton's Felicite was only "commended" (5th) but she wouldn't show a bit.' All the white Champions were in fact over 8lbs.

Shaded sables and then orange became the rage in the early 1900s. In 1902 a dog described by Theo Marples as 'the immortal king of the sables', Ch Sable Mite (left), was born. Marples said, 'his colour came about quite haphazard' - in fact he was the son of The Little Nipper a rusty black and his dam Laurel Fluffie was a mismarked black. Marples felt he 'initiated the rage for shaded sables' this little 4 1/2 lb wonder often showed in brace with his half-brother Ch Shelton Sable Atom (they were both considered to be wolf sables) and their owner, by then Mrs Vale Nicholas, refused £500 for the pair. Ch Sable Mite's son called Shelton Merlin had a look that is often seen to this very day. Sable Atom was a popular and versatile stud sire of Poms of the following colours - deep cream, light shaded sable (cream sable), shaded sable, orange sable, wolf shaded sable, black, light orange, blue, and the two Gateacre litter brothers one was sable and the other black and tan. He also sired the mismark Home Farm Lily 'black, with little white on chest'.