



Ch Dragonfly born in 1903 was registered 'shaded sable' but was an orange shaded sable. Although he was not the first orange sable he is thought to be the foundation of the colour. He sired three champions and their progeny also excelled. He made public appearances at Pom Shows as late as 1913. His sire was Cheetwood Swell and his dam was the unregistered bitch Cheetwood Judy. He weighed 5.5lbs.

Mr T born in 1894, although registered as 'red', was described by eye-witness May Bird as an orange sable, she wrote - 'the orange sable Pom is one of the very rarest. Only 3 appeared Mr T, his daughter Gemma and Rozelle Thelma. These lovely dogs do not breed true to colour, a large proportion of the pups coming a grey sable, which is not popular with either breeders or buyers'. As late as 1919 Mrs Williams said they were 'apt to be flat-coated'. However, breeders rose to the challenge of perfecting this colour and were rewarded with great success. After the World War I this colour and orange dominated the show scene.

Ch Mars became the 'pillar' of the colour orange although, like Dragonfly, he was not the first of his colour. Mars did have a light nose but this was clearly not held against him. He was born in 1906. (Note - the author has catalogued 176 known ancestors of Mars, with many of the colours, spanning 13 generations all the way back to Mr Lender's dog Fritz, the first known black to be exhibited in 1874.)

There was much debate by 1910/11 about the exact definition of both colours and the precise definition of sable tipping - what shade of sable, black or dark brown? If the standard states white shading is wrong on an orange then why is black shading permissible on an orange sable? If an orange has a black muzzle, is it an orange or a bad orange sable? (Ref. Original letters, Bendelow 1990)

By 1920, Pomeranian breeding/showing was back on track after a few years of little activity due to the Great War. Of 911 that were registered 124 were recorded in the 1921 Stud Book. Just over 100 of them were some

form of orange or orange shaded sable. Some of the colours included 'rich orange sable' rich, brilliant deep red, black points' 'rich orange, jet black eyes and nose' 'orange shaded sable' 'light orange or fawn' many were simply 'orange'. The love of orange continues to this day.



left/below - An outstanding example of a black 'Mannheimer' type small German Spitz representative of those imported by Victorian Pom breeders. This little dog and his very proud owner were photographed about 1910 in Stuttgart. It would be safe to say this dog's type has virtually remained the same through all the years. Photo owned by author.



Note: The author's archives include a private letter written in 1961 by a former President of The Pom Club about black and tan. A previously little known fact will now be revealed - the litter brother of the immortal Bonny Ideal, the most popular and influential stud of his day, was a black and tan! The letter states Bonny Ideal's descendant's Hadleigh's Pride and a son of Suncharm of Hadleigh produced black and tan pups. In 1967 Andersley Lolita of Rosebert, a black and tan daughter of Ch Kestrel of Hadleigh entered the Stud Book - her son was another popular stud. So in this way, almost a hundred years after the Standard revision, the black and tan colour/pattern continues onward in Britain.

Today's Standard in Britain is little changed since 1909. Some of the whole colours are rarely, if ever, seen in the show ring, such as pale blue, light brown, beaver and white. Unfortunately parti-coloured Poms are seldom exhibited and this is probably due to the clause 'in mixed classes, where whole coloured and parti-coloured Pomeranians compete together, the preference should, if in all other points they are equal, be given to the whole coloured specimens'.

Black and tan Poms can be exhibited, there are no disqualifying colours, and infrequently they are shown, one qualified for Crufts as recently as 2002.

Links to some websites featuring images of painting of some early Pomeranians:

The Family of Sir William Young by Zoffany - 1770 Cream dog of larger variety of Pomeranian <http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/walker/collections/18c/zoffany.aspx>

Richard Bakewell by Boulton circa 1778 / Bakewell was a famous stock-breeder from Derbyshire / Small red sable Spitz - now categorised as German Spitz Klein or Mittel National Portrait Gallery - Portrait NPG 5949; Robert Bakewell

Similar type to Earl Spencer's dog Mouton - this dog was once owned by the Prince of Wales and his portrait painted by Thomas Gooch (1750-1802) is now owned by Earl Mount Charles of Slane Castle. Keeshond Archives is a wonderful site with a terrific photo history of the breed - Keeshonds prior to 20th century

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