

Ch Prairie King born 1894 was registered as 'sable' but identified by Miss Ives as brown, Ch Brilliant born 1893 was registered as 'sable and white' but later referred to as fawn by Mr Charles Lane, Brilliant's son Park Emerald born 1896 was also registered as 'sable and white' but Ives called him a warm cream.

Other variations of tan pointed dogs also occurred as in 'black and brown' and 'blue and sable'.

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## What marking were expected on black and tan (or black and sable) Poms?

The description of a perfect black and tan was never explained in the Pom Standard, other than it should not have white shadings (1898), so it is unclear whether they required markings comparable to the Toy Black and Tan Terrier or The King Charles Spaniel. The King Charles Standard in 1894 stated - 'rich, glossy black and deep tan; tan spots over the eye and on cheeks, and the usual markings on the legs are required'. There is no mention of pencil marks or thumb spots on legs as required in the Toy Black and Tan Terrier standard. The ancient name for black and tan was black and fallow indicating a yellowy brown colour.

It is important to remember that Standards up to and including the 1909 revision applied to all sizes including breeds now separately classified such as the Keeshond, German Spitz - Wolf, Gross, Mittel, Klein and the Italian Volpino. Hutchinson noted in 1935 that in the grey variety 'black markings on the knee are called "thumbmarks", are considered a fault, but some judges also object to black markings on the dog's feet just above the nails, described as "smutty feet". In fact "clear" legs and feet are preferable'. The type now known as a Keeshond (once considered, and shown as, a Pom) was acceptable in wolf grey, silver-grey, ash-grey or tawny in Europe and in the 1930 UK Standard the preferred leg colour was pale yellow (gelbe in German meant yellow or tan). With this in mind, apart from the baffling presence of these markings on wolf shaded sable dogs, it could be arguable that black markings on tan legs were undesirable and this might include tan pointed dogs.

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## Pomeranian Champions sired Black and tans

Careful analysis of the pre 1915 Stud Books has revealed that famous champions were either the sire or grandsire of the majority of black and tans. In this way (with the benefit of modern colour genetics) it's clear that tan pointed dogs are a possibility in the lines of virtually every good quality Pom from that day onwards.

Ch Blue Boy, Ch Ruffle, Ch Nanky Poo, Ch Shelton Sable Atom, Ch The Sable Mite, Ch Dragonfly, Ch Flaming June, Ch Young Nipper, Ch Home Farm Triumph and Ch Crimbles Duke all sired black and tans. Ch St Julien exported and shown in America was also the grandsire of a black and tan in England.

Records reveal black and tan descendants of very popular non-champion stud dogs Shelton Merlin, Bayswater Swell and The Little Nipper.

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## Richardson Carr of Home Farm Poms - a fan of black and tan

Perhaps the foremost advocate of the term 'black and sable' was Richardson Carr of the famous Home Farm kennel - registering his first Pom of this colour in 1907 (so therefore in 1908 Stud Book) he used a version of the King Charles standard initially - 'black, sable legs and markings'.

Mr Carr did not personally show his Poms but acquired some of England's top dogs and as a breeder sold them to top exhibitors who did very well. Mr Carr was the estate manager for Nathan Rothschild at Tring in Hertfordshire (a Collie and Arab horse enthusiast) - he was also one of the select few who were members of The Kennel Club. He sold his kennel and resigned from the KC in order to serve in the Medical Corps in World War One France.

As stated earlier - Home Farm Mite bred by him was called a black and tan by Miss Ives but registered by Mr Carr as black and sable so in his opinion his black and tan dogs were black and sable!

Using this euphemism the colour pattern continued to be exhibited just as before the standard revision. After all there was no objection to the colour 'sable'.

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## Financial Incentive?

Lady Wentworth mentioned powerful exhibitors who were members of specialist clubs and whose main interest was sometimes 'to fill their own pockets'. So it's worth considering if this could have applied in Poms while bearing in mind that she never specifically comments on any individual or particular breed club.

Lady Wentworth was of the opinion that 'club judges are allowed no liberty of opinion' and should they place an influential member down the line they would either be 'severely hauled over the coals' or never given another judging appointment.

She felt judging in some breeds 'has long been a perfect farce; the dealers play into one another's hands, appoint each other as judges and report on their own dogs. Could anything be worse for the improvement of our breeds of dog?' Followed by 'I am afraid that a great number of judges will never be able to resist putting up their friends' dogs, the temptation is so subtle and nothing can possibly happen to them in consequence. The contempt of the people who know a good dog from a bad one is all that they have to fear, and the material advantages of being on delightfully cordial terms with their friends is generally more important to them.'

She then said 'the club list dwindles at last to a few weak-minded toadies, who dare not go against the known wishes of their employers and don't care if they call their souls their own or not. Now this is not for the benefit of any breed.'

Another material advantage was of course money. Success in the show ring at that time did equate to an increase in value for the winning dogs.

In 1901 Mr Charles Lane wrote - '*Other things being equal, the smaller the size, the more valuable they are, and high class specimens frequently change hands at prices ranging from £10 to £200, so it has lately been one of the most profitable breeds to produce, as good specimens have been commanding fair prices, and plenty of buyers were found for anything out of the common at almost any price*'. He then describes trends in colour and 'very long figures' paid or offered for tiny blacks and browns, weighing as little as 3lb.

Robert Leighton's book of 1921 said this of Poms 'under careful management the commerce of buying and selling and breeding may be very profitable. A really good Pom can fetch as much as £250.'

Trends in colour came and went but oranges and orange shaded sables quickly became the most popular colour for decades to come. Miss Ives said shaded sables were actually unpopular until after 1901, when they entered the Breed Standard, beaver was never popular and parti-colours were not popular. Mrs