

Miss Ives on the topic of CDA

Miss Ives noted Mrs Vallance was a great enthusiast of the colour.

'Among many other blues she owned a pretty brace in Cracker and Squib, the latter the lightest blue adult we have ever seen benched. They sired a number of blues, but transmitted to their progeny a scarcity of coat on ears, back and tail - a defect they themselves possessed. Mr Harvey owned Blee, one of their descendants, a typical bitch as regards shape, colour, and style; she, too, was deficient in coat, and some of her progeny inherited the fault.'

Miss Ives goes on to say, *'up to this time the scarcity of coat had been a drawback to the advancement of this colour; but with the institution of Miss Ives' kennel, and more careful breeding and buying, this fault was speedily corrected'*.

(Note there is a misprint in Ives' book she gives the date 1890 instead of 1899 as the turning point for breeding away from this issue).

Miss Ives stated blue breeders Mr Oldham and Mr Loy (as well as herself) all kept exclusively to the 'heavily coated strain coming from Ch Black Boy, a grandson of Hizza' - and thereby we assume avoided CDA - or at least minimised its effects.

Squib and Cracker - born 19th November 1896

by Montezuma and Niminy Piminy - both parents black in colour

So how did this strain favoured by Miss Ives differ from that of Squib and Cracker who apparently had hereditary colour dilution alopecia?

right - Mrs Vallance's Blue pets - Cracker is in the middle

Surprisingly not very much - Niminy Piminy was also a paternal granddaughter of Hizza (via Nubian Prince) and evidence suggests that Niminy Piminy's dam was possibly a gt g'daughter of Fritz and Magna the sire and dam of Hizza (therefore this association was doubled). Additionally Niminy was a Gt. Gt. granddaughter of Blue Boy (born 1884) and Ch Black Boy was Blue Boy's grandson.

Could the problem have come from the sire of Squib and Cracker Montezuma - his sire & dam were unregistered so we have nothing to go on here.



May Bird once noted about Ch Black Boy's grandson Ch Chocolat 'though his tail and ruff nearly hide the fact, the coat on his back is barely an inch long'. Was he just badly out of coat at this show?

Chocolat's litter brother Merry Boy (a black) sired several blue Poms such as Miss Ives' famous litter brothers Blue Jacket and Blue Bertie (both 8lb in weight) noted by her to have created a sensation as a brace both 'heavily coated, perfectly sound dogs'. However they died 'suddenly in their prime' as did Bit of Blue, Mrs Parker's Quicksilver and a granddaughter of Ch Boy Blue - Cantley Rona.

Ch Boy Blue, purchased by Miss Ives as a puppy from Mrs E. J. Thomas owner of Ch Black Boy, was of this same strain and as Miss Ives 'modestly' stated - he was perhaps the best Pomeranian ever benched!

left - A son of his Bit of Blue (born 1903), owned by Mrs Parker, was the grandfather of orange Ch Mars (1906) - although Miss Ives does not comment on Bit of Blue's coat in a rare photo of him taken for Our Dogs newspaper in 1905 his ears have the tell-tale signs of very mild CDA - compare his ears to those of Cracker.

Descendants of Squib and Cracker

The fact they both had CDA did not prevent them being used at stud - perhaps owing to their exceptional colour. A Stud Ad (from the Ladies Kennel Journal) indicates Cracker (6lb) was 'light pigeon blue'. May Bird thought his coat loss was the worst of the two brothers 'his head, legs, and back have only down upon them'. Squib (7 ¼ lb) was less affected.

Blee, already mentioned as suffering from CDA, was a daughter of Cracker. She was the dam of Prairie Rosette (sire Brown Bobs) and Prairie Blue Grey sired by Ives' Ch Boy Blue. Miss Ives noted Blue Grey was rarely benched & was known as a sire. His progeny included Blue Star, Blue Shell, Blue Flower, Moonlight (sold for a high price to someone in Paris who lost her), Hyndburn Prince, Read Topsy, Grandpa's Pet, Little Miss Blue etc. He was also the sire of parti-colours like Sweet Nero.

Miss Ives stated that some of Blee's progeny 'inherited the fault' but does not give any examples but interestingly Miss Ives must have felt CDA could be bred out of a line as otherwise it's doubtful she would have allowed her famous champion to breed with Blee.

Squib was the sire of - 8lb Blue Doris born in 1900 - her dam was a blue daughter of Nubian King - another grandson of Blue Boy.

Montezuma was also advertised at stud as was another brother of Squib and Cracker called Rascal. A full sister of theirs named Czarina was the dam of the orange 'Herr Mirco' born in 1903 - on his sire's side he was a grandson of Grange Princess - an unshaded blue resulting from a full brother/sister mating from Miss Ives' early stock on her dam's side and on her sire's side a blue son of the chocolate Aigburth Prince.

Fawn, removed from the Standard in 1909, was first noted in 1880 in the registration of Pan a daughter of the Volpino 'Mooskie' - imported from Florence. There is no mention of CDA with this colour in Miss Ives book. Interestingly many early so-called orange Poms were not orange - Ives said fawns and creams were frequently 'misnamed orange'. Miss Ives noted liver-coloured nostrils & eye rims in orange Poms was a fault and the orange colour should be brilliant 'without any suspicion of fawn about it'.