

The Italian Standard published in Hutchinson's Dog Encyclopaedia circa 1935 allowed the following colours; wholly fawn, or white, or black; also allowed, but very little favoured, is light fawn. Two colours mixed together are forbidden. Note - the height at the shoulders was to be 'under 30 centimetres' & the weight 'under 4 kilos.'

**SOME EARLY ROLES OF SPITZ BREEDS**



Mrs Hall Walker of Gateacre Poms noted the 'lupette' was a dog favoured by cabman and carters throughout Italy to 'guard their belongings.' In 1864 the writer William Story wrote of a little Pomeranian atop wine casks on a wine carrier's cart in Villeggiatura, Italy. Ouida's character, Ruffino, was born to dogs belonging to a cabstand in Rome. In Germany the role was similar. Breed expert Herr Kull noted - from the great or carter's Spitz (or Pomeranian) to the Toy size their job was to watch and guard their master and his possessions.



Revoil, the French canine historian, noted in 1867 the Loulou in the Pay Bas (Netherlands) guarded barges. Jardine wrote in 1840 'Dutch inland navigators commonly use them to protect property on barges'. Spitz in Germany and Italy were also effective sentinels in both farmyard and vineyard. In England Poms were often employed by carters and also could be found accompanying coaches - in France and England they sat atop coaches guarding mail and luggage. In America it was said that in the late 1850s and 1860s no coach was complete without a white Spitz dog on the front seat. In Paris in 1867, Harriet Beecher Stowe saw small white Spitz sitting atop the horses pulling the carts of Parisian washer-women. Many early observers noticed the affinity of the smaller Spitz breeds with horses.

This is possibly why they made great performing dogs in the circus (especially working with horses) and other shows. In America at one time Volpinos and larger white Poms or Spitz dogs (now known as the American Eskimo Dog) were popular performers in circuses. The modern Volpino is known to be very good at Agility.



below - From 1935 - old Volpino Standard - Hutchinsons

*Volpini Italiani.*—The word "Volpino" is derived from the word "Volpe", meaning "fox", so that the word "Volpino" means "foxy". And as the Toy Pomeranian has also a "foxy" appearance, especially in the head and muzzle, we can see that the Volpino Italiano is nothing more nor less than an Italian Pomeranian; but it is somewhat bigger than the Toy Pomeranian so known and so popular in this country. Just as the latter is a "ladies dog" *par excellence*, so is the Volpino Italiano. It is a breed that is very popular in Italy, so that a somewhat detailed description of it will not be out of place here.

It is a small dog, very cobby, intelligent, full of the joy of life, and very agile. The head is short, small; the skull is rather stretched from the ears and slightly rounded; the stop is visible, but not exaggerated, the muzzle short and straight,

pointed, the nose black; the teeth perfectly level; the head of the Volpino must on no account resemble that of the Toy Spitz. Faults are a large skull, long or too short muzzle, undershot or overshot mouth, or a nose that is not entirely black. The eyes are large, rounded, of dark colour, and small or too large eyes—prominent like those of the King Charles—of a light colour are considered defective. The ears are small, short triangular in shape, always carried erect, very near each other; they must be very mobile. The faults here consist in long, large, hanging-down ears, and those that are distant from each other. The neck is erect and moderately long. The body is very short in back and loins, with straight upper-line. The bone should be light. The feet small, oblong. Feet like a Fox Terrier's, or too long and flat, are faulty. The tail should always be carried over the back.

The coat is short on the feet, on the hind-limbs, on the muzzle and on the ears; a little longer, but lying very close, on the skull. The hair is very long and abundant on the neck; the coat must be straight, long and abundant on the entire body; the hind-limbs should be covered with fringes, and the tail must be well covered with hair. The hair on the neck and body should not be falling down like that of the Collie. The colours are wholly fawn, or white, or black; also allowed, but very little favoured, is light fawn. Two colours mixed together are forbidden. The height at the shoulder is under 30 centimetres; the weight under 4 kilos.



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