



Were Poms called Spitz dogs?

Yes, this was a common alternative name from about the mid 1800s in America and was occasionally used in Britain and frequently used in Germany and Belgium. In America it usually referred to medium or larger sized dogs. As early as 1775 the name Pomeranian was used in America for small/ medium dogs – such as General Lee's black Pom Mr Spada or Spado. When his dog was lost in 1775 it was referred to as 'a black shaggy dog of the Pomerania breed' – so there must have been others in Colonial America as otherwise people would not know what to look for.

left - Mrs Prosser's Joe featured in Stonehenge's book. In the American edition he is called a Spitz dog in the British edition a Pom. Joe's image is from 1877 after he won a first place at a show in London.

Did the Kennel Club first recognise the Pomeranian as a Spitz dog in 1870?

No this is incorrect! The Kennel Club was founded in **April 1873** and did not exist in 1870. The Pomeranian was one of the original breeds recognised in the non-sporting variety in 1873. In the first Kennel Club Stud Book of 1874 the breed was classified as a Pomeranian and not by the term Spitz Dog.

left - From the KC's first Stud Book of 1874 showing Pomeranians were one of the original breeds recognised by the KC

Only in Pom books do you find the 1870 date and this comes about because of misleading information given in Mr G Hicks' book of 1906 and subsequent authors depending too heavily on his accuracy repeated this date.

According to E.W. Jacquet (for many years the Secretary of the Kennel Club and in charge of compiling the Stud Book 1903 – 1921), - Mr Shirley and some like-minded individuals felt there was a need to regulate dog showing and the exhibition of dogs to minimise fraud and irregular practices – in much the same way as the Jockey Club regulated equine matters. Of the many dog shows in 1869 one was sponsored by the newly created National Dog Club – it was a financial failure and the Club 'ceased to exist'. In 1870 some of the promoters of the show asked Mr Shirley and some other influential people to help them organise a similar show held at Crystal Palace in 1870. Many of the same people organised another show in 1871 and although it also ran at a loss the concept inspired Mr Shirley to set about founding a permanent organisation and his dream was accomplished in April 1873 with the founding of The Kennel Club. Along with 12 other gentlemen Mr Shirley set about devising a code of rules for dogs shows and so forth. The Prince of Wales (future King Edward VII) became the Club's patron in 1873. The first KC organised show was held in 1873.

If still in doubt please read this page on the Kennel Club's website: The Kennel Club

CLASS XXXIII.—POMERANIAN.	
DOGS AND BITCHES.	
3663.	ALBA.—Mr. R. Thoroley's, Birmingham. Chief Performance: Birmingham, prize in variety class, 1862.
3664.	BLANCO.—Mr. J. A. Williams's, Edgbaston, Birmingham; breeder, Mr. W. Hathaway, of North Malvern. Chief Performance: Birmingham, prize in variety class, 1863.
3665.	CARLO.—Mr. J. Carling's, High-street, Birmingham. Chief Performance: Birmingham, 2nd prize, 1868.
3666.	CARLO.—Mrs. Gardner's, 29, Arlington-street, Glasgow. Chief Performances: Edinburgh, 2nd prize, 1871; Glasgow, 1st prize, 1872; 2nd prize, 1873.
3667.	CARLO.—Mr. W. Marshall's, 30, Montague-street, Edinburgh. Chief Performances: Edinburgh, 2nd prize, 1872; 2nd prize, 1873.
3668.	CARLO.—Mr. C. Ranson's, 142, Strand, London, W.C.; breeder, Mr. D. Garner, of Croydon. Chief Performances: Islington, 2nd prize, 1864; Cremorne, 1st prize, 1864.
3669.	CHARLIE.—Mr. W. Golding's, Sale, Cheshire. Chief Performance: Manchester, 1st prize, 1871.
3670.	CHARLIE.—Miss Grace Loren's, 12, Bread-street, Hill-street, Birmingham; breeder, Mr. Bandana. Chief Performance: Birmingham, 2nd prize, 1866.
3671.	CHARLIE.—Mr. R. Oldham's, 54, Thomas-street, Manchester; born 1866. Chief Performances: Crystal Palace, 1st prize, 1873; Manchester, Free Trade Hall, 1st prize, 1873; Birmingham, 2nd prize, 1872; 1st prize, 1873; Nottingham, 3rd prize, 1873.
3672.	DON.—Miss Annie Simpson's, Weston-road, Handsworth, Birmingham; breeder, Mr. J. Beraford; born 1869. Pedigree: Out of a bitch the property of Mr. J. Wright, M.P. Chief Performance: Birmingham, 1st prize, 1871.

Were all the Poms at early dog shows large and white?