

It would be fair to say the Pomeranian Club had an enormous challenge when devising a standard to accommodate not only a great variation in size – Pomeranians meaning dogs over 7lb in weight after 1909 and Miniature Pomeranians under 7lb – but also all the colours and variations appearing.

Now we should consider the limitations of understanding the inheritance and genetics of coat colour in this age.

Mr Theo Marples (circa 1907) noted Mendelian principles were not applied and it was by crossing certain colours and observing the results breeders found they could produce some colours 'at will'.

Evidence the black and tan pattern was not clearly understood comes from an otherwise highly knowledgeable author Rawdon Lee. In 1894 he wrote about a black and tan Chow-Chow he had owned 'he was an exceptionally typical specimen, whether this colour was the result of crossing the black and the red I do not know, but as I have been frequently asked my experience of breeding colours together, I may say here that I have found the puppies come either a distinct red or black'.

C.J. Davies' book of 1929 *The Theory and Practise of Breeding to Type and its Application* (page 60) has numerous examples of colours in Pom litters. He noted a pure white bred to a pure black produced 3 black and tan, 2 fawn and several shaded sables of the primitive brindle type. He quoted Castle's view that black and tan was a black dog plus a colour pattern and noted the yellow factor in the white dog contributed to the pattern in the above example. He does not have any examples of this colour union resulting in parti-coloured dogs but his thoughts confirm the use of the term 'pattern' by 1929.

Mrs Parker's influential book 'The Popular Pomeranian' was revised by Miss Wilson (Dara) in 1937 it stated – 'Blacks, whites, and oranges inter-bred produce blues, wolf sables and parti-colours'. Miss Wilson had been in the breed for at least 20 years and it was her view (in 1937) parti-colours were not sports, as thought by Mrs Thomson in 1929, but to be expected when combining those strains of colour.

Returning now to black and tan and tan pointed dogs it may be a little clearer that although some colours could be bred 'at will' others could not. With the benefit of hindsight it would in fact be some years before anyone understood the genetics of recessive coat patterns like black and tan.

## Black and Tan was also called Black and Sable

### PARTI-COLOURS.

Among our first parti-colours were Mr. Temple's rich red-and-white, heavily coated Leyswood Tom Tit, a beautiful dog, as was Mrs. Harcourt Clare's black-and-white, Magpie. Miss Hamilton showed the profusely coated Mafeking of Rozelle. Mr. Charles Horner has several of these broken colours in his kennel. Beautiful Bramble Meg and Merry Magpie made a place for themselves on the bench; the former was sold to Mrs. Edwards (now Mrs. Newsome, of Bray), who was much interested in them and formed a small kennel, so that at a few shows she was able to bench a team; a typical-headed black-and-white was among them in Sweet Nero. Mrs. Kidson's team, Birkin Beppo, Birkin Babette, and Birkin Billie, were beautifully marked black-and-white dogs with profuse coats. The prettiest parti-coloured bitch ever benched was Shelton Novelty, very small and evenly marked, black-and-white, with a particularly heavy coat. Mrs. Taylor's Stockport Bobby was another handsome dog, brown-and-white; he was shown once or twice, won the cup for parti-colours, and died young. Mrs. Sharpe's Queen of May, a very small black-and-tan, exceptionally pretty, headed her classes for a little while, and then she, too, died. Lady Paget showed two pretty dogs in Shelton Gaiety and Mirth; but, taken all round, parti-colours, though attractive, are not popular. Parti-colours must have the colours or patches of colour evenly distributed over the body. A dog with white chest and white feet is not a parti-colour, but a mismarked dog. Judges would do well to remember that whole-coloured dogs in whole-coloured classes should take precedence of light shadings and white hairs, however profuse the coat may be.

In 1912 Mrs. Hargreaves was winning well with a most typical and heavily-coated black-and-tan in *The Microbe*. Mrs. Foote's Home Farm Novelty did good work in his classes. Mrs. McKay had also an exceedingly good specimen in Home Farm Mite.

As stated earlier Miss Ives had noted three black and tan Poms she had seen and liked.

Look at the extract from the 3rd edition of Miss Ives book (left)– as you can see Queen of May is described as 'a very small black-and-tan, exceptionally pretty, headed her classes for a little while, then, she, too, died.' And here is her Stud Book entry in 1909 where she is registered as 'black and sable'

QUEEN OF MAY 1511N; Mrs. W. S. Sharp; br. owner; wh. 19 Sept. 07; s. Shelton Sable Atom, Ch., 2040J, d. Princess of the Sables; c. black and sable. Princess of the Sables, s. Sable Mite, Ch., 1811H, d. Kitty Malone. Winner at Crystal Palace (Toy Dog Show) [10], 1st open; Westminster (Pomeranian Club) [15], 2nd open.

After the standard revision people continued to show and win with black and tan Poms and in the 1914 Stud Book entry (see below) for 'The Microbe' - deemed 'a most typical and heavily-coated black and tan' he was also registered as a 'black and sable'.

THE MICROBE 1597T; Mrs. J. Hargreaves; br. W. E. Cronshaw; wh. 10 Dec. 10; s. Opaline, d. Doe Hill Connie, unr.; c. black and sable. Opaline, s. The Little Nipper 1719G, d. Rennie of Lancaster, unr. Winner at Manchester [7], 1st open, 1st limit.

Next we have the 'exceedingly good specimen Home Farm Mite' he was also registered as a 'black and sable' in the Stud Book of 1911.

HOME FARM MITE 140Q; Richardson Carr; br. Mrs. Davies; wh. 23 May 08; s. The Sable Mite, Ch., 1811H, d. Primula; c. black and sable.

So what was this all about?

## Sable and 'Black and Sable' Poms

While investigating the history of colour in Pomeranians it has become evident that the original meaning of the term 'sable' was not the same as the current interpretation of this colour. The 1901 & 1906 Standards referred to both sable and shaded sable – conveying the idea sable and shaded sable were not always one and the same thing. As late as 1913 the N. of England Pomeranian Club had classes for 'Sable, Shaded Sable and Orange'.

The term 'sable' for Pomeranians eventually came to mean black or dark brown tips on the coat of a shaded sable. But there is evidence that early Pom breeders also used sable to define a colour absent of dark hair.

(I recommend you read an excellent online article by Fred Lanting (Sirius Dog) called 'Sables: Genetics and Myths' – he points out that in Collies, Basenjis and Shelties sable can refer to a reddish yellow dog (no dark tipping) and in Pembroke Welsh Corgis sable gives an 'orange impression'. He also explains that tan in German is gelbe and that translates into English as yellow. This would explain why Mrs Hicks' dog Thirlesmere Pickles (1905) was registered as black and yellow.

Poesy of Tyton, a Rough Collie born 1906 was registered as 'black, tan, and white, all sable face, left leg sable, other three white, white collar, breast, tip of tail'. Sable in this sense relates to Pom breeders describing markings on their black and tans. Other breeders simply used the term black and tan so both definitions were in use.