

Thomson thought black and tan, beaver and blue were unpopular. Breeders were keenly aware of what colour was desirable and popular and what colour was not.

So there appears to have been a strong financial incentive to promote whole colours and later shaded sables. Miss Ives' book is full of examples of high prices obtained by British breeders from American buyers – figures often in the £150 to £200 range. New York Times reporters were equally impressed – mentioning \$1200 paid for an English Pom. Some of our breeders who sold Poms to America – like Mrs Dyer – were also given judging appointments there.

The buying power of £1 in 1900 was about 65 times more than in 1999 – therefore £100 = £6,500. In America \$1 in 1900 was roughly the equivalent of \$25 in today's money – so \$1200 = \$ 30,000. Don't forget shipping was extra. Pretty impressive amounts!

Mr Houliker pet-homed Ch Black Prince for the dazzling sum of £200 in the late 1890s setting the pace for Poms with some good wins fetching higher amounts. Miss Ives noted a blue called Blue Star with only two championships (old name for challenge certificates or CCs) went to America for a very high price. Mrs Dyer's orange sable Afon Squinny had no CCs but several wins went to America for £80 (equivalent of £5200). Toy British Poms were sold to Princesses, wealthy Parisians, English aristocrats – Poms were trendy, fashionable and very desirable.

POMERANIANS.		375
7, MANCHESTER. April 1, 2. Judge—Mr. A. G. Kelsey.		
Open, D.—1.	*England's Glory, Ch., 1798S; 2. Elmsgate Rainbow 73T; 3. Tilton Sable Imp 1427P.	
B.—1.	*Elmsgate Gristina 1798S; 2. Dame Grist 1736S; 3. Glenmore Countess 1562T.	
Pomeranians (Miniature).		
Open, D.—1.	*Young Dragon Fly, Ch., 1441Q; 2. Parkneuk Cocoa (late Coronel Midge) 1607T; 3. Flaming June 53T.	
B.—1.	*Haughty Darena, Ch., 1465R; 2. Pioneer's Beauty 1613T; 3. The Quiet Lady 1621T.	
Pomeranians and Pomeranians (Miniature).		
Black.		
Open, M.—1.	Star Shooter 1566S, d.; 2. Olley Stylo (late Selsey Fashion) 1605T, d.; 3. Little Homepride 1582T, d.	
Brown.		
Open, M.—1.	Parkneuk Cocoa (late Coronel Midge) 1607T, d.; 2. Haughty Little Prince (late Daybrook Chocolate Shamrock) 1565T, d.; 3. Imp's Sample 1571T, d.	
Black or Brown.		
Limit, M.—1.	Parkneuk Cocoa (late Coronel Midge) 1607T, d.; 2. Haughty Little Prince (late Daybrook Chocolate Shamrock) 1565T, d.; 3. Star Shooter 1566S, d.	
Shaded Sable or Orange.		
Open, M.—1.	*Haughty Darena, Ch., 1465R, b.; 2. Flaming June 53T, d.; 3. Olley Saucy Atom, Ch., 1400Q, d.	
Limit, M.—1.	Flaming June 53T, d.; 2. Little Minegold 1584T, d.; 3. Young Gold Speck 276T, d.	
Any Colour other than Black, Brown, Shaded Sable, or Orange.		
Open, M.—1.	The Microbe 1597T, d.; 2. Sun Ray 1636T, d.; 3. Parkneuk Perfect 1608T, d.	
Limit, M.—1.	The Microbe 1597T, d.; 2. Sun Ray 1636T, d.; 3. Parkneuk Perfect 1608T, d.	

Many of the early breeders invested heavily acquiring newly imported stock or going on European buying missions personally - they kept large kennels and many employed stockmen to look after and often exhibit their dogs. Bear in mind that the average working man's annual income in 1900 was about £55 and in America about \$560 – compare this to the sale/purchase price of miniature Poms.

A dog with some wins was more valuable. Before the first Pomeranian Club show in 1907 exhibitors were often at the mercy of show organisers regarding colour classes. For example Crufts of 1905 held classes for white, black, brown, orange and any other colour. Therefore blue, beaver, cream, sable and shaded sables were all in the 'any other colour' class along with black and tan and various parti-colours. A breeder of pure blues may have felt it was unfair if a randomly occurring pattern or a so-called 'sport' should, in mixed classes, place over a blue from a carefully managed breeding programme. This may have been why the Standard was amended – by adding great weight against them the success of tan pointed or parti-coloured dogs was lessened.

Shaded sables, although not a whole-colour, had no such modifier providing they conformed to the required 3 shades throughout rule. Enormously popular they were more profitable to breed as any whole colour could be bred to popular sable stud dogs in the hope of producing a good shaded sable. Of course any unexpected tan pointed offspring would be unwelcome and less valuable to the breeder.

Exhibitors were very competitive and beyond protecting their investment is the issue that wins translated into money. Any and all wins counted and right up until the 1960s adverts are full of wins. It is not uncommon to read of a stud dog with 300 first places for instance. So it is possible money motivated opinions on size and colour.

Left - Manchester Show results from 1913 showing 1st places of Black and Tan - The Microbe

Modern exhibitors may be unaware that all shows offered prize money and according to the rules found in early KC Stud Books a show could not have CCs unless the prize money was in excess of the entry fee. This money was to be £2 for first place, £1 for second place and 10/s for third place. Open shows could offer less. Many Trophies were assigned a monetary

value and could be won outright – some silver ones valued as much as £25. Additionally some shows had lots of special prizes for instance at the October 1913 The North of England Pomeranian Club there were 81 extra prizes. For example - Mr Dickinson offered 5/s for the best Litter of shaded sables (yes ... litters of 5 weeks to 4 months old were also exhibited) – Miss McPherson offered 10/- for best orange shaded sable bitch in Class 20 – Mrs Lindley gave 5/- to the best white dog in the show and 2/6 to best white bitch.

At the same show Mr Mellor's black puppy Bit-O-Style could be purchased for £100. Surprisingly - dogs could be valued in Catalogues and then sold at the show – the Club holding the show receiving a commission. If a dog did well and two people wanted to buy the exhibit an auction was held and the difference between the asking price and the catalogue price was split between the seller and the Club. This practise applied to all the Pomeranian Clubs as well as all the other clubs!

With all that in mind and by placing oneself in the pre-1915 show era it may be easier to evaluate to what degree, if any, money influenced exhibitors of the day.

Note – As late 1974 The Pomeranian Club Championship Show entry schedule had a column for "Price if for sale" – although it is unclear if commissions applied for sales at a show as in days of old. Prize money at that show was £2 for first place, £1 for second place, 50p for third place, 25p for Reserve and 15p for VHC (except for brace and veteran). The entry fee was £1 per class non-members, .75p per class for members and benching cost .35p. Among the numerous special prizes was Mrs Dyke of Hadleigh Poms prize of £1 for the 2nd place winner of Open Dog or Open Bitch. In 1975 the KC required all Gen. Championship shows to schedule shows without prize money and place this money into 'a central account to fund the purchase of benching'. So this may possibly have marked the end of prize money for breed classes at championship shows.

## Was there any other reason to discourage black and tan?

It appears there was once a belief (as expressed in 1959 by a former President of the American Pomeranian Club – Mrs Nicholas) that black and tan was rated 'objectionable' in order to 'protect the lovely clear colours'. She felt black and tan Poms in a breeding programme would lead to clouding and eventual loss of colour clarity. Additionally she felt it would result in dogs being too heavily sabled and black masks and markings (shadings) on light coloured dogs. Plus the tan in a black and tan that should be a deep mahogany may lighten. Mrs Nicholas referred to the use of black and tan in the Pekingese breed to intensify mask and tipings in light colours.

Apart from the fact that what applies to one breed does not necessarily apply to another the most salient fact here is this was not Miss Ives' viewpoint – she blamed the deterioration of whole colours between 1907 & 1911 on ALL the sable Poms!

Miss Ives' comments on interbreeding sables and whole colours were – 'The indiscriminate breeding already alluded to, of which we have seen so much of late, though it may produce sables of curious, varied, and very pretty gradations of colour, is undesirable. We have seen bitches of every recognised colour paying visits to sable stud dogs – a fact which is likely to produce unsatisfactory results in time to come. .... Very strongly do we advise breeders to keep the sound colours clear from sable mixtures'.