



QUEEN VICTORIA – FANCIER OF VOLPINO

H.M. Queen Victoria is perhaps the most significant fancier of the Volpino. She returned from her holiday in Florence with her foundation stock. As the Queen preferred small/medium size dogs the size of the Italian dogs suited her. Her son later Edward VII owned a 4lb black Toy German Spitz or Mannheimer acquired in Bad Homburg, so it is obvious she could have bought very small dogs if she so desired. Gena was known to weigh 7.5lbs. Marco (12lbs) was allegedly brought over from Florence but is of the small German Spitz type of that era.

George Krehl, the editor of the *Stock-keeper*, visited the Queen's kennel in 1891. This visit was featured in *The Scotsman* newspaper on Dec 26th 1891. It states 'The Queen's pets are not Pomeranians in the ordinary acceptance of the term, being rather Italian Spitz dogs'. The names of her original dogs and their progeny reflect Italian ancestry - Beppo, Lenda, Nino, Gilda, Alfio, Mina and Lula. The Stud Books of 1892, 1893 and 1894 record some of the Queen's dogs and show successes. The Queen favoured white, lemon and white, fawn and buff coloured dogs.



Comparison - roll your cursor over above photo to watch Queen Victoria's Volpino Beppo turn into our own Volpino Sophie

Whenever you read about the Queen's first Poms (other than Marco) think Volpino!

THE VOLPINO'S CONTRIBUTION TO POM COLOUR



Of great importance was the arrival of Mister T (KC #1742A) a 'red' by Prince of Orange and Trappola born in 1894. His colour was admired and thus the Italian Volpino now influenced colour development. Although usually white some were fawn and others were shades of gold, orange or red. Miss Ives reported she exported her two brilliant red Volpinos to America. She noted some were a bright rich orange with black pigment. It was the orange colour that had caught the eye of dog breeders.

Miss Hamilton, the first President of The Pomeranian Club in 1891 owned a Volpino called Trappola, the dam of Ouida of Rozelle in 1896 (KC no.1816C).

In Mr Bendelow's book (1990) is an article written in 1911 by Mrs Hall-Walker (Lady Wavertree) of Gateacre Poms, she wrote of her acquisition of the wolf sable Ch Dainty Boy and her trip to Italy to find 'a little shaded wife for him'. She continued to go to Italy looking for 'little yellow and white lupetties' to breed with her black or white Poms. In this manner she acquired her orange, Gateacre Lupino (Stud Bk XXVII - #2081) born August 1897 and bred by Mr Spoletti.

Of interest to those who study breed origins will be the exhibits at the 1913 American Pomeranian Club show in New York from the Royal Kennels of Queen Margherita in Rome, Italy. Mr George Ford of New Haven, Connecticut, had acquired Tulipiano, Violetta, Bello, Bianco and Bambino Caesar from the Queen. The Queen herself had entered a brace at the show. Also bred by the Queen and owned by Miss Maben was Piccina, 'an exceedingly small orange'. It is very possible that some or all of these 'Poms' were in fact Volpino. It is an odd coincidence that Queen Margherita lived in the

Quirinal Palace (in Rome) and one of the regional names for the breed is the cane del Quirinale. She also visited Queen Victoria in Florence so one might be tempted to guess she influenced Queen Victoria as prior to this holiday the Queen had never shown any interest in Spitz breeds.

In 1912 at the Toy Spaniel Club show (other small breeds had classes) in New York, Mr Henry Furst was 2nd in Puppy Dog with Florentine Luppetto. Perhaps a clue!

Mr Hicks said in 1907, 'that a variety of the Pomeranian or Spitz has found a habitat in Italy for many years is well known to all English travellers in that country. The type peculiar to Italy is of a bright yellow or orange colour, and is fast becoming a favourite one in England at the present time.' Hutchinson called the Volpino a ladies dog par excellence.

However, not all of the Italian dogs were white, fawn or golden orange in colour. Nora Wydenbruck wrote of a little black dog called Nina, a Florentine "luppetto". John Addington Symonds wrote in 1903 of owning a little black Spitz called 'Cio' purchased in Venice and Robert Herrick's 1931 book '*Little Black Dog*' features an Italian Pomeranian bought for \$10 - presumably black.