

THE POMERANIAN HISTORY

POMERANIANS ARE A SPIRITED TOY DOG WITH A BOLD PERSONALITY WITH THEIR FULL FLUFFY COATS, THEIR ALWAYS SMILING BRIGHT AND CHEERFUL. YOU MAY WONDER WHAT THESE LITTLE DOGS WERE ACTUALLY BRED TO DO. POMERANIANS HAVE QUITE A REMARKABLE HISTORY BEHIND THEM THAT INCLUDES ROYALTY AND A TRIP ON THE TITANIC.



A MINIATURE POMERANIAN FROM 1915

THE ORIGIN AND HISTORY OF THE POMERANIAN:

WHERE DID POMERANIANS COME FROM: THE POMERANIAN AS WE KNOW IT TODAY, DESCENDED ORIGINALLY FROM THE SPITZ FAMILY OF DOGS IN THE FROZEN ARTIC REGION OF ICELAND.

WHAT DID POMERANIANS USE TO LOOK LIKE: (A SPITZ THAT WAS MUCH LARGER THAN THE MODERN POMERANIAN WITH A WOLFLIKE CHARACTERISTICS. (SMALL EARS TO HELP WITH FROSTBITE AND AN INSULATING UNDERCOAT THAT IS DENSER THAN THE GUARD HAIRS TO TRAP THE WARMTH AND PROTECT THEM FROM THE HEAT.)

WHAT WERE POMERANS BRED FOR: THEY WERE BRED FOR SEVERAL THINGS INCLUDING HERDING, PROTECTING LIVESTOCK, GUARDING AND PULLING SLEDS.

HOW DID POMERANIANS GET THEIR NAME: AT SOME POINT IN TIME, THE SPITZ WAS TRANSPORTED INTO EUROPE, MOST COMMONLY ALONG THE SOUTHERN COAST OF THE BALTIC SEA. THIS PARTICULAR BALTIC REGION WAS CALLED POMERANIA, WHICH NOW INCLUDES PARTS OF PRESENT DAY POLAND AND GERMANY, AND IT'S WHERE THE POMERANIAN NAME CAME FROM (POMMERE OR POMMERN MEANS "ON THE SEA". ALTHOUGH NOT THE ORIGIN OF THE BREED, THIS AREA IS CREDITED WITH THE BREEDING WHICH LED TO THE ORIGINAL POMERANIAN TYPE OF DOG. PROPER DOCUMENTATION WAS LACKING UNTIL THE BREED'S INTRODUCTION INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM.

WHERE THEY ALWAYS CALLED POMERANIANS: THEY WERE NOT REFERRED TO AS POMERANIANS. THEY WERE CALLED BY SEVERAL OTHER NAMES WHICH INCLUDE FOX DOG, LULU, POMMER, WOLF SPITZ, GERMAN SPITZ, VOLPINO AND SPITZ DOG. PRIOR TO SECURING THE BREED'S NAME OF POMERANIAN.

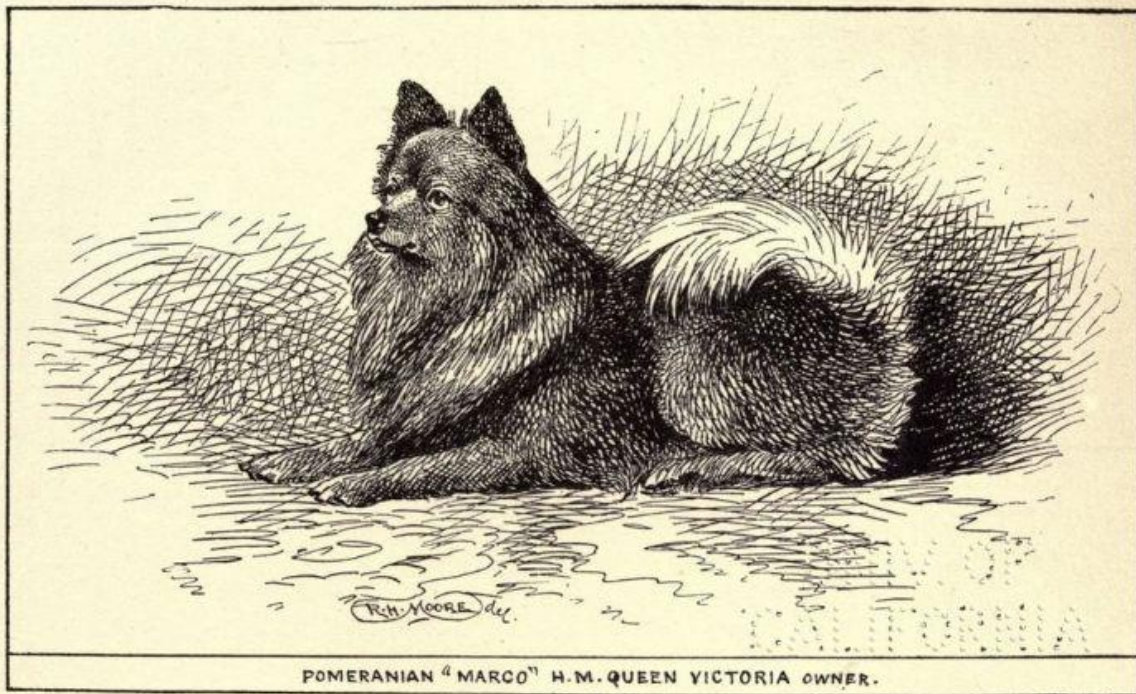
MANY PEOPLE DIDN'T REALIZE THAT SOME OF THE FIRST RECORDED PICTURES AND PAINTINGS OF THE POMERANIAN DOG ARE OF WHITE AND PARTI COLORED. MANY OF THE PAINTINGS AND PRINTS FROM THE 18TH CENTURY FEATURE POMERANIANS OF DIFFERENT COLORS AND SIZES.



WHEN WAS THE FIRST POMERANIAN DISCOVERED: AN EARLY MODERN RECORDED REFERENCE TO THE POMERANIAN BREED IS FROM NOVEMBER 2, 1764, IN A DIARY ENTRY IN JAMES BOSWELL'S – (BOSWELL ON THE GRAND TOUR: GERMANY AND SWITZERLAND.) "THE FRENCHMAN HAD A POMERANIAN DOG CALLED POMER WHOM HE WAS MIGHTY FOND OF. THE OFFSPRING OF A POMERANIAN AND A WOLF BRED BY AN ANIMAL MERCHANT FROM LONDON IS DISCUSSED IN THOMAS PENNANT'S (A TOUR IN SCOTLAND FROM 1769).

POMERANIANS IN ENGLAND: TWO MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY INFLUENCED THE EVOLUTION OF THE BREED. IN 1767, QUEEN CHARLOTTE, QUEEN-CONSORT OF KING GEORGE III OF GREAT BRITAIN, BROUGHT TWO POMERANIANS TO ENGLAND. NAMED PHOEBE AND MERCURY, THE DOGS WERE DEPICTED IN PAINTINGS BY SIR THOMAS GAINSBOROUGH. THESE PAINTINGS DEPICTED A DOG LARGER THAN THE MODERN DAY POMERANIAN, REPORTLY WEIGHING AS MUCH AS 30 TO 50 LBS (14-23 KG), BUT SHOWING MODERN TRAILS SUCH AS THE HEAVY COAT, EARS AND TAIL CURLED OVER THE BACK.





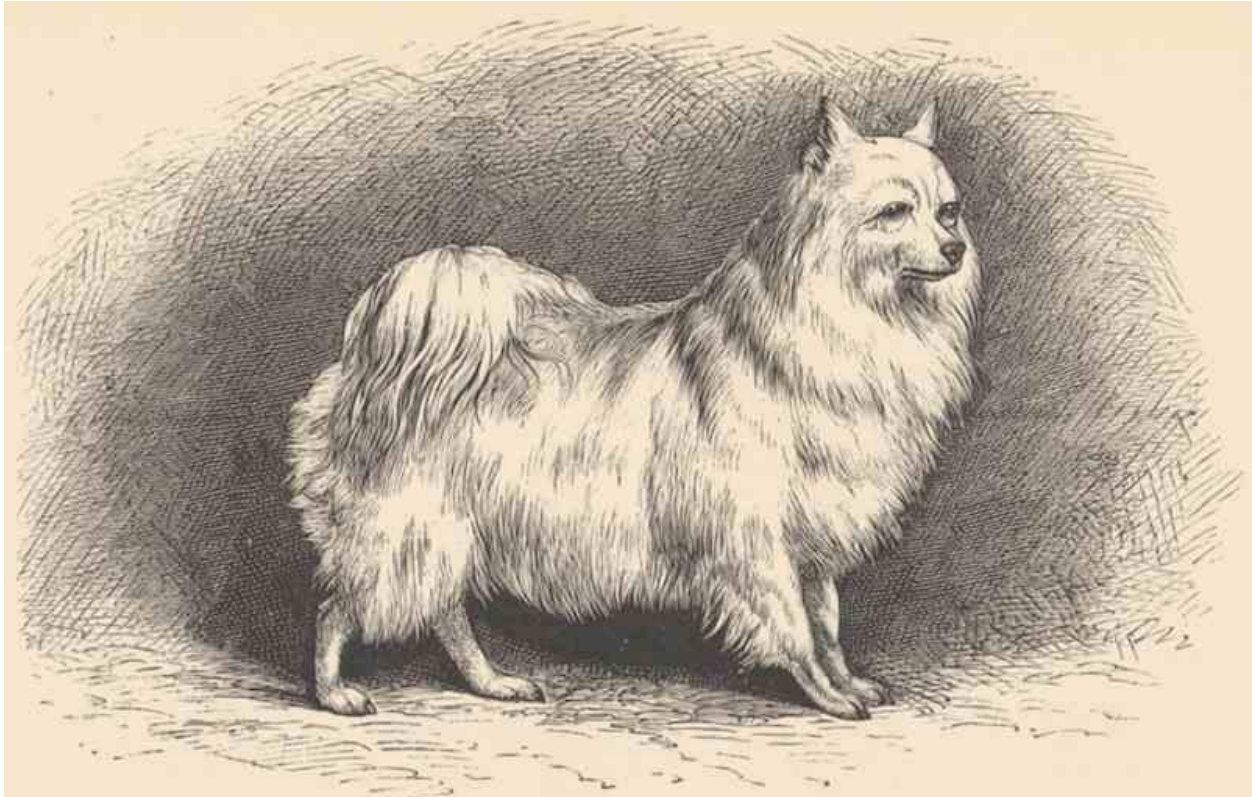
IN 1888 A POMERANIAN NAMED "MARCO" WAS SENT FROM FLORENCE, ITALY TO BECOME THE BELOVED COMPANION OF QUEEN VICTORIA OF ENGLAND, (QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S GRANDDAUGHTER,) MARCO WEIGHED 12 POUNDS. THE QUEEN ALSO IMPORTED A 7.5 POUND WHITE FEMALE NAMED GENA. THE QUEEN'S LOVE OF THE BREED WAS CLEAR TO EVERYONE WHO SAW HER WITH HER DOGS. BECAUSE THE QUEEN WAS A POPULAR MONARCH, THE BREED'S POPULARITY GREW AS WELL. IN FACT, THE QUEEN IS CREDITED FOR ENCOURAGING THE TREND TOWARD THE SMALLER POMS. AT ONE TIME, QUEEN VICTORIA HAD 35 POMERANIANS IN HER KENNEL, AND ON HER DEATHBED, ASKED FOR HER POMERANIAN TURI TO BE AT HER SIDE.

THE FIRST BREED CLUB WAS SET UP IN ENGLAND IN 1891, AND THE FIRST BREED STANDARD WAS WRITTEN SHORTLY AFTERWARDS.

IN 1900 THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB RECOGNIZED THE POMERANIAN AND THE AMERICAN POMERANIAN CLUB (APC) WAS FORMED. IN 1909 THE AMERICAN POMERANIAN CLUB (APC) WAS FORMED. THE APC HELD THEIR FIRST SHOW IN 1911 WITH AN ENTRY OF 262 POMERANIANS. THE FIRST BEST OF BREED WINNER WAS CH BANNER PRINCE CHARMING.

IN 1926 GLEN ROSE FLASHAWAY WON THE TOY GROUP AT THE WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOW (FIRST POM TO WIN A GROUP AT WESTMINSTER). IT WOULD TAKE UNTIL 1988 FOR THE FIRST POMERANIAN "GREAT ELMS PRINCE CHARMING II", TO WIN THE BEST IN SHOW PRIZE FROM THE WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB.

IN 1912, TWO POMERANIANS WERE AMONG ONLY THREE DOGS TO SURVIVE THE SINKING OF RMS TITANIC. A POMERANIAN CALLED LADY, OWNED BY MISS MARGARET HAYS, ESCAPED WITH HER OWNER IN LIFEBOAT NUMBER SEVEN, WHILE ELIZABETH BARRETT ROTHSCHILD TOOK HER PET TO SAFETY WITH HER IN-LIFEBOAT NUMBER SIX.



POMERANIAN.

Mr. James Fawdry's Dog, CHARLIE (K.C.S.B., 7744). Pedigree unknown.