

# Favourites here for over a century

The Pug has been in Australia for well over a hundred years, but who knows to which state it first came?

In the reign of Queen Victoria, the Pug was at a peak of popularity in England, and some migrants to one or another of our seaboard state capitals, would have shipped their pets along with them, certainly some of the wealthier, paying their passage. There is little record.

In the Agricultural Society of NSW catalogue of 1870, two Pug dogs were listed, not named or any detail printed, just Class 220 Pug Dogs. 930 W Wheeler, Petersham, 1 st, 929 J Barnett, Parramatta Street 2nd. Class 221 Pug Sluts. No Entries. (This unsavoury name for female canines persisted until 1895, when it was changed to the slightly better one that we have today).

Some people were helped by masters of vessels, like Captain Wagstaff of the "La Hogue", a London registered migrant and cargo ship, who in 1878 imported Romeo and Juliet for E F Steven of Pitt Street, Sydney. Mr Steven, a year later, imported Judy a sister of Tum Tum; they were from Max (Punch) x Vic. Vic was a daughter of Click, the son of Lamb and Moss, two Chinese Pugs taken to England from Peking in the 1860s.

In 1883 a J J Richardson, Survey Department, Sydney and London, imported Topsy, weight 15 lbs, Lady Willoughby bred. Later, Mr Orr from the White Horse Hotel in Parramatta bought Jack, bred by Captain Rossi of Goulburn, whose father, a Captain in the British Army, was appointed Superintendent of Police, NSW, by Lord Bathurst in 1824.

In the 1880s, J Murphy of Five Dock, NSW, breeding and showing a variety of breeds, including Pugs, under the names of Shorty, Dot, Jap, etc, adopted the prefix of two of his later imports, Kennel King and Kennel Belle, becoming one of the first to use a prefix.

Two other breeders at this time were J T Claesson with Sunlight prefix and a Mr A J Gray, an Agricultural Society of NSW office bearer, listed on the 1888 Centennial Exhibition Members Card, was breeding Pugs under Eton and Mimosa prefixes.

Most of the information so far has been obtained from the archives of the Agricultural Society of NSW, the only guide for this period. At the handing over of the reins from the Victorian Poultry and Kennel Club to the Kennel Control Council of Victoria, documents have been lost or misplaced. In most states records of any kind before the second world war seem to be non-existent.

W Beilby's book *The Dog in Australasia*, published in Melbourne in 1897, stated:

"A few years ago quite an impetus was given to the breed in Victoria, when Mr G Webb introduced a few English bred ones. His South Suburban Baron and South Suburban Gipsy are the progenitors of most of our stock." Baron was another descendent of the famous dog Click.

He goes on to say: "In 1879 Mr C A H Williamson of Launceston, Tasmania, a consistent supporter of the breed for a number of years, imported a good pair in Fritz and Beauty, both by the same sire, Mr J Nunn's well known Baron (5661). A few of their progeny were exported to NSW shortly afterwards."

Beilby then states: "In Adelaide the breed is more numerous than in any other of the colonies, but little interest seems to have been taken in the recording of pedigrees or in exhibiting."

He also says that although the black Pug was becoming very popular "in the old country ... none of this colour have yet been introduced into the Australian shows, therefore a new field is open to some of our enterprising lady fanciers."

A field that was indeed to be taken up. Colouring towards the end of the nineteenth century, we find catalogued as apricot and fawn, grey and white, grey and black, silver and grey, and so on. Henry Ford himself must have stepped into NSW at this time with his "as long as it is black". By 1910 the blacks outnumbered the fawns in NSW, and in 1913 separate classes were allocated for the colour.

An extract from a book published 1920 in Sydney by Rice C Court, titled *The Dog Book for Australasia*: "Without going into any discussion as to the Pug's origin, it may be said that he is just Pug, either fawn or black. The latter variety has ousted the fawn in public favour and what is more, is generally speaking, far better from an exhibition point of view."

There was a gradual decline of blacks in the 1940s and 1950s. Fawns were then given a major shot in the arm by a flood of imports just after World War II. The classing system was changed in 1959 to the one that we have today.

A number of ladies were to make their presence felt with both fawns and blacks through their combined imports and breeding programmes in the early years of this century. They established kennels, whose names echoed through pedigrees for years after, ie Wicklow, Drayton, Corrad (from Tasmania).

A Mrs Shepherd, in 1911, imported Princess Dombey and a black, Ch Master Speedwell, bred by Miss Wooldridge of England. The Speedwell prefix was adopted by the new owner. This dog was well named, and made Grand Champion shortly afterwards. He, with his progeny Speedwell Nightwatch, Speedwells Pride, Lady Speedwell - followed through to the Ortona, Havilah, Creswick and Of Mons, to name but a few kennels in NSW. These are to be found in Victorian pedigrees and in those of other eastern states.

A leading Victorian kennel, Winton, established in the 1930s by Mrs Catterall with her Swainston imports, and Miss A Coulter's Ortonas, provided stock on which a number of other prominent kennels were based. L Erickson of NSW had blacks and fawns at his Crestons Kennels. C Thompson established the Leprenas with Masberk, Hazelbridge and Radclive imports.

There was a gradual increase in breed numbers into the 1930s until the restrictions of World War II. Then, with peace, improving communication in all directions, including the rapid expansion of air travel and motor vehicle private ownership, a large number of breeders were now able to exhibit in the breed and major shows of other states, especially Victoria and South Australia.

This brought an interchange of ideas and the "visual contact", such an important factor. There was a surge in imports, a number from the United Kingdom and later from New Zealand. Their lines can be traced in most of today's pedigrees.

All these factors combined were made evident by entries of around 100 Pugs at the Sydney Royals in the early 1950s.

Among the imports - C Thompson, Leprena Kennels, with Masberks Big Ben and Frum, Hazelbridge Gypsy Love; P Holland, Cobby Kennels, with Dudleydhu, Hopeworth Bannerman and Goldengleam Dutch Coon; L Erickson of Creston Kennels with Masberk George; W Lloyd of Ferdo Kennels with Truetype of Goodchance; Miss Mitselburg, Mitsel Kennels, with Gwyneth of Padua and Hazelbridge D'Heren Lad; K Wanless with Hazelbridge Choirmaster and Lyn; Miss Walsh of Bataan Kennels and Hazelbridge Hero; Mrs Chew of Aureate Kennels (later to be transferred to Mrs Alexander) and Black Loki of Longlands, Phil of Myondo, Topsy of Richters, Delores of Petrozanne and Hazelbridge Solo.

Two outstanding stud and show dogs that followed - Leer and Hart's Masgay Majestic from Cobby Cavalier ex Aureate Phileta, and a few years later Aureate China Son bred by Mrs Chew and owned by Mrs Lord, who had just founded her Tengwah Kennels. This dog helped in no small way to establish this kennel, one of many of this time.

During this time, breeders in other less populated states were able to take advantage of stock from these kennels to supplement their own, or to get a start.

"Time right, numbers right, two minds with the same idea." Mr Mulholland, Cobby Kennels and Mr A Driscoll, Waikato kennels, must be given full credit

for the founding of Australia's first Pug Dog Club. A meeting was held at Federation House, Sydney. The Pug Dog Club of Australia was born on May 23, 1949.

A few years later, in Victoria, 33 followers of the breed met at the Railways Institution, Melbourne, and February 10, 1955, saw the Pug Club of Victoria well on its way.

A highlight was their silver anniversary show in 1980, judged by the late Miss Susan Graham Weall, attracting 121 Pugs, making 136 entries shown.

With two clubs now in existence, the NSW club changed its name to the Pug Dog Club of NSW.

An attempt was made to form a club in the 1970s in Queensland, but lacking the support required for affiliation, it was disbanded.

Pug Dog social clubs exist in South and Western Australia, the latter publishing an activity sheet. These devotees are experiencing a similar situation to that which occurred in Queensland. It is to be hoped that some of the prominent breeders in each state will give the support needed.

For dedication and service to anyone breed and club, the secretary of the Victorian Club could well hold the record! Assistant secretary at the club's inception, a little later secretary, a position that she holds today. Both clubs can boast active office bearers who were founding members.

Today the fawn in its various shades far outnumbers the black. There remain a few ardent black enthusiasts throughout the land.

By C R Longley, Leelong Pugs, treasurer of the Pug Dog Club of NSW, on behalf of the Pug Dog Club of NSW and the Pug Dog Club of Victoria,

Thanks to secretary, Mr Ray Alexander, Miss Thelma Roscrow and her helpers from the Victorian Club, Mrs Bonnie Richardson from South Australia, the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW Archives, the NSW State and Mitchell Libraries, and the NSW State Archives .

From the National DOG archives.



**Patrian Janannie, BCC,  
Melbourne Royal 1975**



**Ch Kastama San Se Chin**