

The Bulldog Color Dilemma

By Robin and Cindy Stansell, Bob Newcomb, and
Susan Rohringer, BCA Color Ad Hoc Committee

Proposal for the Bulldog Club of America



Color is a complex issue



- There are colors that can occur in the Bulldog, but they are undesirable.
- Black and tans, lavenders and blues are examples of colors that can occur.

Colors that result from impure breeding

- Merle is an example of this. Are there more?



How big a problem?



Alternate Colors	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Black & White	65	89	141	218	329	464	510	1816
Black, Fawn & White	56	69	122	142	226	330	365	1310
Gray & White	17	16	56	95	143	256	332	915
Bronze	25	35	38	76	119	153	206	652
Black, Red & White	24	38	68	84	84	142	133	573
Black	12	14	26	31	54	97	109	343
Gray	3	7	10	10	33	61	88	212
Black & Fawn	<u>10</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>240</u>
Total	212	290	496	690	1026	1548	1799	6061

There may be health issues associated with undesirable colors



- Merle is associated with deafness and eye disease.
- Other breeds have found that dilutes (lilacs, lavenders, blues) may be associated with:
 - Autoimmune issues
 - Skin issues
 - Food allergies

AKC Registration only tracks coat color



- If we want AKC to help with the color issue, BCA MUST change the Standard to Disqualify COAT colors.
- Once we DQ coat colors, we have more options in dealing with AKC.

Bulldoggers have taken pride in a Standard that has not changed ...

- However, there has never before been such a concerted effort to drastically change the look of the Bulldog.
- The threat is real and grows more each day.
- We need to stop it now, before it is too late!

Why not just ask AKC to remove undesirable colors from the registry?



- AKC will not revoke dogs with colors that have been consistently used in the past.
- Black & Fawn and Gray are examples of colors which have been used since at least 1992.

Background on the AKC registration system Pre - 1992



- Pre-1992, there were default colors, additional colors and “fill-in-the-blank” colors. Colors appeared on the list on the basis of the frequency of their usage.
- The default colors were on the blue slip.
- If a color was not chosen on the blue slip, then AKC would send an alternative color list which included a “fill-in-the-blank.”

Registration after 1992



The image shows a form titled "Request for a Duplicate Dog Registration Application" from the American Kennel Club (AKC). The form includes a header with the AKC logo and the text "AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB". Below the header, there is a section for "Fees" with a "Processing Fee" of \$1.50. The form also includes sections for "Litter Information" and "Litter Owner Information". The form is designed to be filled out by the owner of the dog, providing details about the dog's registration and the owner's contact information.

- In 1992, the AKC asked all parent clubs to review the colors that were used with some frequency and designate the colors as either Standard or Alternate. BCA did.
- Non-Standard colors were not a problem in 1992, and BCA could not have predicted this color fad explosion.

Non-Standard colors registered



- The color list (both Standard and Alternate) became fixed in 1992.
- No additional colors were added after 1992.
- So the fad color breeders cannot add colors. They are using the 1992 list of colors. For example, the lilacs are probably registered as “fawn” and merles as “gray and white.”
- The color breeders want BCA to expand the list of colors.

Tracking coat colors and patterns



- Why don't we just ask AKC to remove all the merle dogs from the registry? Since merle is not a registration option, AKC does not have any record of merle "Bulldogs" in their data base. Therefore, there is nothing to remove!
- The same thing applies to lavender, lilac and blue.

Current Standard does not clearly identify the problem



The current Standard ...

- Only lists “*preferred colors.*”
- Only lists solid black as “*very undesirable.*”
- No other colors are discussed. Since they are not discussed, they could be interpreted as acceptable, although not preferred.
- The Standard does not seem to make coat color very important. It is only 4 points!

How breed Standards are used by judges: weighing faults



- Disqualifications should be used for critical elements that define the breed.
- Serious faults should be used when the element is important.
- Disqualifications would eliminate the dog from conformation competition.
- Serious faults may prevent or impede a dog from obtaining a championship.

AKC's support or discipline of judges



- AKC will reprimand judges who reward dogs with disqualifications.
- If a Standard does not clearly state the degree of penalty, then the judge is given latitude to interpret the standard.

Only a coat color DQ can prevent non-traditional colored dogs from Championships.

- Other breeds have made statements about color.
- For example, the Salukis do not list brindle as an acceptable color or pattern. Long-time Saluki people have said that brindle is a result of an impure breeding. They did not think changing their Standard was necessary. One recently won their National.

Fad color breeders are vigorously pushing their agenda

- Some color breeders' websites are urging their purchasers to exhibit their colored dogs in AKC shows.
- Other breeds are facing the same issue.
- AKC will assist IF there is a DQ!

Give AKC the tools to help us!



- BCA members are posting on social media that AKC NEEDS to do something about color.
- AKC needs BCA to give them the tools.
- The current situation is like asking a sheriff's department to stop speeders when there are no posted speed limits or radars.

Working with AKC on Registration of Standard colors, patterns and markings

- BCA does control which colors, patterns and markings ARE in the Standard and on the registration form.
- BCA can put the color “fallow” back in the list of Standard colors.
- After we change our Standard, we can really clean up the registration colors.

Strengthen Judges' Education



- Once the Standard is changed, we will be more successful in making the judges pay attention.
 - We can revise BCA judges' education power point and materials; discuss and show acceptable and unacceptable colors and patterns.
 - We can submit articles in The Standard, the quarterly newsletter for AKC judges.
 - File complaints against judges who do not honor the DQ.

Immediate Action is Needed!!



- The Council has approved this committee to submit a Standard Revision to AKC, dealing ONLY with color.
- Encourage all BCA members to approve the Standard Revision.
- Once the AKC Board approves the changes, the Standard Revision will be sent to the BCA membership for approval.

Help BCA Breeders spread the word



**ETHICAL BULLDOGGERS
DON'T BREED COLOR**

- BCA members can link this graphic to the BCA website on the color problems.

More will be developed



- We can do many other things once these steps are taken.
- Act now so we may continue to combat fading colors.

The Council UNANIMOUSLY approved this motion ...



- Motion to approve a Standard Revision Committee composed of Robin Stansell, Bob Newcomb, Cindy Stansell, and Susan Rohringer.
- AKC requires that the parent club first approve a committee to revise the Standard

The Council UNANIMOUSLY approved this motion ...



- Motion to revise the Standard as it deals with coat:
The entire section will be replaced by:

Color of Coat. The color of coat should be uniform, pure of its kind and brilliant. Colors are red, white, fawn, fallow, or any combination of the foregoing. Patterns and markings may include brindle, piebald, ticking, black masks, black tipping, and a minimal amount of solid black in piebalds. *All other colors or markings are a disqualification. The merle pattern is a disqualification.*

The Council approved this motion.



- Motion to revise the Standard as it deals with eye color.

An additional sentence will be inserted in the **Head** section. It will be placed after the third sentence. *"Blue or green eye(s) or parti-colored eyes are a disqualification."*



We Need Your Help!



- Encourage all BCA members to vote FOR the Standard revisions as it relates to coat and eye color.
- The entire Standard is NOT being changed. ONLY the Standard relating to color will be voted upon by the BCA membership.