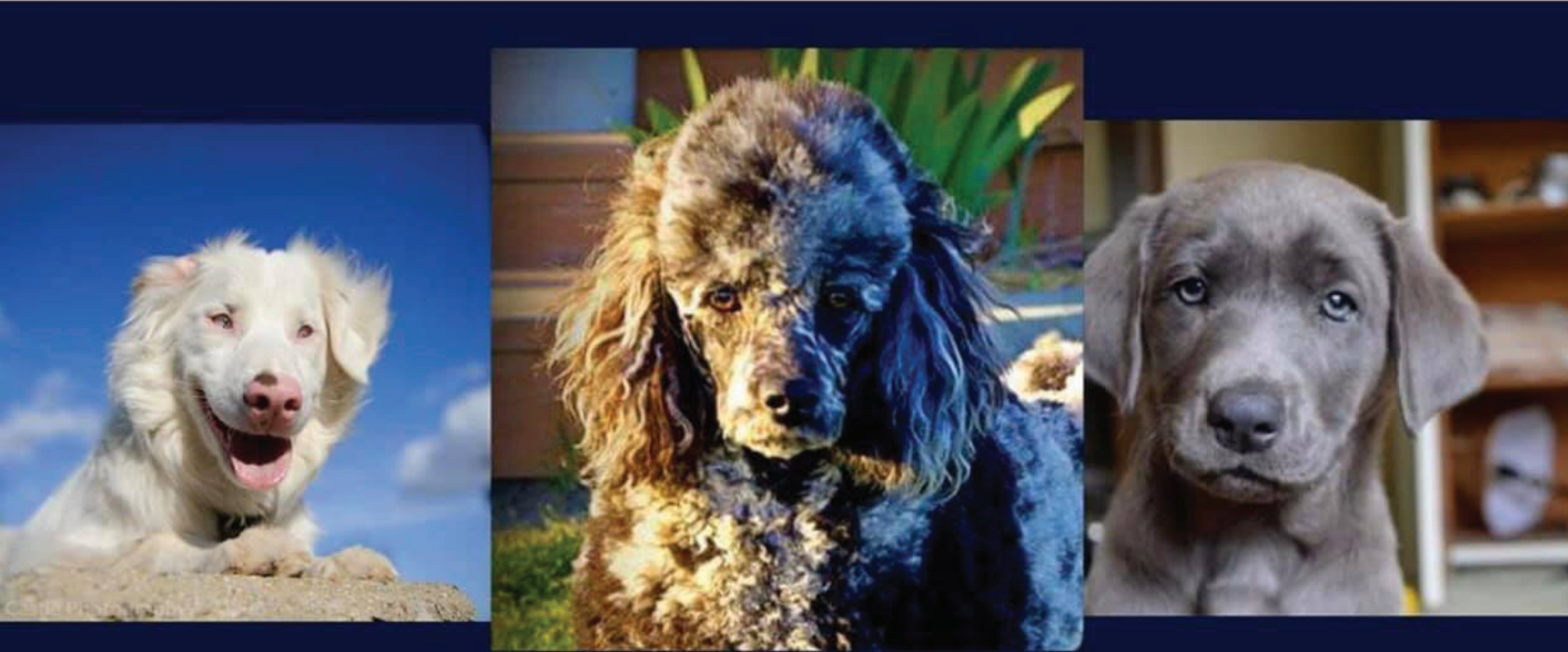


BREEDING FOR COLOR

**ONE OF THE BIGGEST RED FLAGS OF
IRRESPONSIBLE BREEDING**

Credit to @controversialdogfacts



**MUTATION V. MUTT | HEALTH PROBLEMS | WHERE
ETHICAL BREEDERS STAND**

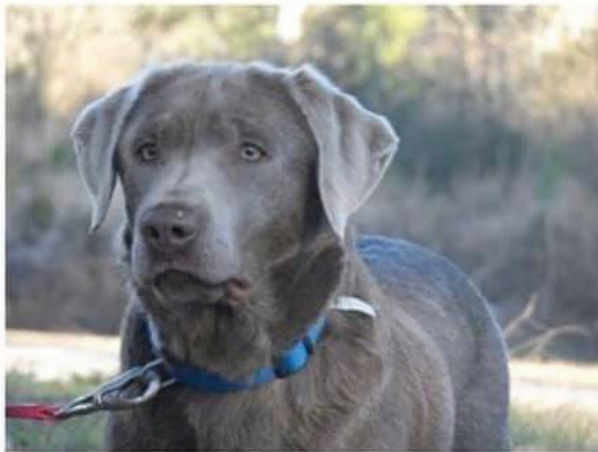
Breeding dogs for certain colorations is nothing new and, at the surface level, presents itself as an innocent practice. However, plenty of unwanted things manifest themselves in dogs bred for off-standard or 'rare' colors. From something as simple as being disqualified in a show to developing life altering medical conditions, here is everything you need to know about the scam that is "color breeding."



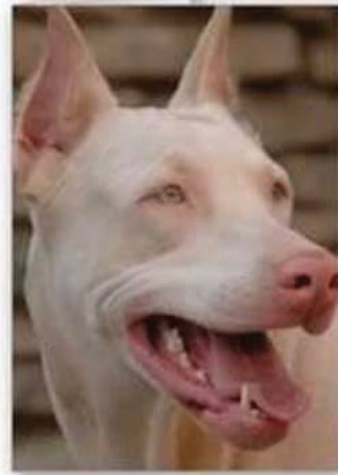
MUTT OR MUTATION?

Certain breeds of dogs are capable of carrying coat color genes that other breeds cannot. For example, while a purebred Australian Shepherd can carry the genes for merle, a purebred Poodle won't be able to. Therefore, merle poodles are mutts.

Understanding the color genetics of a particular breed is vital to knowing if rare-colored dogs of that breed are mixed breeds or just a rare mutation.



THIS SILVER LAB IS
A MUTT.



THIS ALBINO DOBERMAN
(PADULA'S QUEEN SHEBA)
IS THE RESULT OF A
MUTATION.

I cannot touch on every example, but on the next few slides you will be able to see some of the most common color scams.

ULTIMATE SCAM ONE: MERLE POODLES



- Because purebred poodles will always have an m-locus that reads 'mm' (meaning not merle!), one of the parents must have been a breed that does come in merle.

- If a merle poodle comes back 100% poodle on a dna test, that does not mean it hasn't had cross-breeds in its ancestry. DNA tests are only accurate for three generations.

FAST FACTS

- Standard Poodles come in a vast array of colors; merle is not one of them.
- Merle is a co-dominant trait, meaning it cannot be carried like a recessive trait could.
- This means that unless one of a dog's parents is merle, the puppies cannot express the trait.



ULTIMATE SCAM TWO: DILUTE LABS



- Dilute labs, therefore have had the gene introduced through crossbreeding (usually with weimaraners).

- As with merle poodles, this may be too many generations back to show up in a dna test.

FAST FACTS

- Dilute colors are controlled by the d-locus.
- Purebred labs will always have a "DD" at the d-locus, meaning that purebreds cannot be dilute (meaning silver, charcoal or champagne.)



MORE THAN A SCAM: HEALTH RISKS

Sometimes, the issue at hand isn't whether or not you're paying for a purebred, but whether or not you'll be paying expensive medical bills - all for the 'rare color.'



This dog is suffering from microphthalmia (small, underdeveloped eyes) due to being a double merle. It is likely also deaf/blind and has skin problems.



This dog is an albino Doberman and this gene can cause many issues such as skin and eye problems.



Blue French Bulldogs have a 'faulty' dilution gene. This means blue Frenchies are prone to color dilution alopecia.

"BUT WHAT IF MY DOG IS A PUREBRED AND IS HEALTHY; IT JUST HAS A RARE COLOR?"

The point of ethically breeding purebred dogs is to better the existing population and preserve the quality examples of a breed.



CAN BETTERMENT BE ACHIEVED WHEN THE BREEDER'S FOCUS IS BREEDING FOR COLORS THAT WOULD BE DISQUALIFIED OR CONSIDERED A MAJOR FAULT IN THE SHOW RING? IS IT STILL ETHICAL BREEDING IF THE BREEDER'S AIM SWITCHES FROM BREED BETTERMENT TO 'EXOTIC' COLORS?

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BREEDING FOR COLOR AND HAVING DOGS RANDOMLY THROW UNEXPECTED COLORS:

Now, there's a difference between a breeder who specifically breeds for off-standard, rare or exotic colors and breeders who unexpectedly have a litter with one pup of an off-standard color.



If a reputable dalmatian breeder has a lemon dalmatian puppy pop up in their litter, it means the puppy has a genotype of 'ee' at the e-locus. This simply means the parents were carriers of the recessive gene at the e-locus (Ee) and if bred again, should only be bred to dogs that are homozygous EEs to ensure that they don't continue to produce off-standard lemon dogs, and the lemon pup will be given to a pet home and will not be bred.



If a dalmatian breeder decides to continue breeding the parents that produced the lemon pup to one another, charges more for the lemon pup, or breeds the lemon pup, they are color breeders! stay away!

IN CONCLUSION

REPUTABLE BREEDERS HAVE A GOAL OF PRODUCING DOGS THAT ARE HEALTHY, PUREBRED AND CONFORM TO STANDARD. THEREFORE, REPUTABLE BREEDERS WILL STAY AWAY FROM RARE/EXOTIC COLORS, AND SO SHOULD THEIR BUYERS.

