
Submission

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To: NSW Poodle Club <secretarypcnsw@gmail.com>

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MERLE POODLES.

To be put to The Poodle Club of NSW Inc. meeting and hopefully to the National Poodle Council. Each one can be looked at individually.

1. That the words "Eyes blue or blue flecked" be added to Disqualifications in the ANKC Poodle Breed Standard.
2. That Merle Poodles be placed on the Limited Register and marked "Not to be upgraded".
3. That Poodles found to be carrying the Merle gene be placed on the Limited Register and marked "Not to be upgraded".
4. That ALL Poodles imported into Australia be DNA Tested for the Merle gene prior to placement on the Main Register and if carrying the Merle gene be placed on the Limited Register and marked "Not to be upgraded".

Rational

Merle is not a naturally occurring pattern/colour in the Poodle. Therefore another breed must have been introduced into the Poodle for it to occur.

The Merle pattern may be expressed in as little as a few hairs which can be missed in certain Poodle colours.

Due to this there is the possibility of doubling up on the Merle gene with the associate health problems.

The merle pattern/colour has become a fad colour in a number of breeds where it does not occur naturally. This presents a very real danger to the health of these breeds.

Even in a breed where it does occur naturally eg Dachshunds the desire to produce more Merle (dapple) puppies has led to the increase in doing double dapple matings to the detriment of the breed. This is against ANKC, KC and FCI rules and regulations.

Unfortunately this is not the case in the AKC where any colour can be registered on their one register, it is only the Individual Breed Standards that some colours are disqualifications or not permitted.

Altering the Breed Standard for the benefit of the breed.

The Pre 1987 KC (UK) Poodle Breed Standard which is our ANKC Poodle Breed Standard now belongs to the ANKC.

There has already been a precedence to the ANKC making changes/addition to this Standard without consultation with the National Poodle Council eg the description of an Undocked and a Docked Tail.

The ANKC has been aware of the KC (UK) decision to ban the registration of breeds where Merle does not occur naturally (including Poodles) since February 2020.

I personally brought it to the notice of the President of DogsNSW and was told that it would flow onto the ANKC. There has been no correspondence from the ANKC to the NPC re this matter. The President of the ANKC has also been made aware of the decision of the KC (UK), once again there has been no communication.

Testing for the Merle.

There is a DNA Test for Merle and it can be done both in Australia and in most countries overseas. The majority of responsible Poodle breeders in Australia already have their imports fully DNA tested before they are imported, therefore, the requirement for testing for Merle should not be a problem (in fact many imported Poodles are re tested after they come to Australia).

Breed Identification Test

There are problems associated with this test in that if a cross was made more than three generations back the dog being tested will likely come back as being a purebred Poodle. This is why it is most important that we act upon stopping the corruption of our Poodle bloodlines and pedigrees in Australia. There are already Merle Miniatures being bred by non ANKC Breeders in Australia.

The supporting documents will be sent separately as some are large.

R Thomas, Marechal American Cocker Spaniels and Standard Poodles, Tamworth, Australia.