

GSP COAT COLOR & PATTERNS

The purebred German Shorthaired Pointer is found in two coat colors; liver OR black in either solids or a combination with white in various coat patterns such as ticking, patches or roan. Coat pattern should not be mistaken as a color nor is one coat pattern or head marking favored over another. **Shorthairs should be judged on conformation and movement NOT coat pattern or head markings.**

In the U.S. the Shorthair standard, under color it states: "The coat may be of solid liver or a combination of liver and white such as liver and white ticked, liver patched and white ticked, or liver roan. A dog with any area of black, red, orange, lemon or tan, or a dog solid white will be disqualified."

A problem arises when one has to consider the color liver when contrasted against a bright white area of the coat and available lighting. Liver color can range from light to dark as does the corresponding skin pigment found on the dog's nose, lips, around the eyes and foot pads. The lighter shades of liver are easy to distinguish.

Over the past couple of years some very dark liver dogs have been DQ'd for supposedly having black hair intermingled in their patches, spots or ticking when a simple look at the skin pigmentation of the dog's most prominent feature, it's NOSE would have determined the color to be liver.

In the Shorthair breed the gene for the color black is a simple dominant as is the gene for solid colored coats, no white found on the dog. Graying from age or white hair as a result of injury is not considered part of the genetic white pattern. Liver being recessive cannot carry the black gene and cannot produce black pups or pups with both liver and black in their coat. It is genetically impossible for two liver coated dogs to produce a dog with a black coat or black hairs intermingled with liver hairs. Shorthair breed color genetics should not be compared with the potential color genetics of other breeds.

There are some very dark liver Shorthairs and it is a disservice to them and their owners to ignore the "NOSE" by using an armband, or other source of the color black produced by ink and/or dye.

At some point in the future should there be a standard revision to allow the black Shorthair to be shown there would be no doubt about the dark liver coat color but for now, please remember...the NOSE.

Following are links to genetic breakdown of the coat colors and patterns for the GSP.

Gene loci for coat color and pattern can be found at:

http://www.dogstuff.info/gene_loci_gsp_byrne.html

Outcomes of matings, in regard to color and pattern; i.e. Black vs Liver and Solid vs Non-Solid("ticked"):

http://www.dogstuff.info/mating_outcomes_gsp_byrne.html

GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTER CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.



Color Statement – German Shorthaired Pointer

Disqualifying coat colors have recently been seen in the AKC conformation ring. The Judges Education Committee of the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America would like to clarify coat color and markings in the GSP.

The breed standard states: *The coat may be of solid liver or a combination of liver and white ticked, liver patched and white ticked, or liver roan. A dog with any area of black, red, orange, lemon or tan or a dog solid white will be disqualified.*

“Any area” would include, but is not limited to, a marking pattern of a color other than white or liver on the legs, under the tail, and/or on the head such as those found on a Doberman. These patterns or any marking of a disqualifying color should not be confused with the commonly seen dead hair or sun bleached coat.

For more information please visit our website <http://www.gspca.org/Breed/Standard/Illustrated/>
The GSPCA appreciates your interest in our breed.

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