

WHITE OR WHITE



The controversy rages on about Whites - should they be allowed to be shown? A major bone of contention with some people seems to be the Blue-Headed White. Is the individual dog actually a White-Factored White or is it a Double Merle that someone is trying to "sneak by"? Most should be able to be differentiated by sight and/or parentage. The White Factor only acts on the body of the dog. It does not work on the head - thus a White-Factored White will have a normal colored head, Sable, Tri or Blue, whichever the dog is. The doubling up of the merling gene acts upon the whole dog - body and head. The head of a double merle will be White with perhaps a patch or two of Blue on it.

If the dog in question has only one Merle parent, there is no question - he is a Blue-Headed White. If he has two Merle parents and neither has ever had White-Factored offspring before, the parents are probably (note I say probably - Mother Nature plays funny tricks at times. It is possible, but not *probable*, for a White-Factored dog to have produced only Non-White Factored.) Therefore the dog is a Double Merle. If one parent is a White-Factored Merle and the other a Non-White Factored Merle, a White Factored Double-Merle could be produced, but the dog would be a Double Merle.

The question should only arise when each parent is a White-Factored Merle (I am going to assume that nearly everyone would hesitate before breeding a Blue-Headed White to a White-Factored Blue and ignore the consequences of this breeding.) In this case, theoretically out of 16 puppies, one would have 1 Double Merle, 2 White-factored Double Merles, 1 Blue-headed Double Merle, and 2 Blue-headed Whites plus the other non-questionable 2 blues, 4 White-factored Blue, 1 Tricolor, 2 White-factored Tricolors and 1 Tri-headed White. The Problem would arise with the first 6 puppies or the first 4 genotypes. If the puppy has a predominantly White head with perhaps a small patch or two of blue he is probably a Double Merle. If the head is predominantly Blue with perhaps a blaze, he is probably a Blue-headed White. At this point

the dog should be bred to a non White-factored Tricolor. A Double Merle will produce only Non White-factored Blues. A White-

factored Double Merle will produce (theoretically now) half White-factored Blues and half Non White-factored Blues. The Blue-headed White Double Merle will produce only White-factored Blues. The Blue-headed White will produce half White-factored Tricolors and half White-factored Blues. If there are Tricolors produced the dog is a Blue-headed White, if only Blues are produced, particularly after two or more breedings, he is a Double Merle.

Following are some charts telling what to expect from what breedings. Again a few breedings have been left out - a Blue-Headed Double Merle to the same; a Blue-Headed White Double Merle to a Blue Headed White; and a Blue-Headed White to a Blue or Tri-Headed White. I would expect these breedings to be done only for research purposes, if at all. I hope this will help clarify the matter for everyone, so perhaps the question of whether or not to allow Whites to be shown will not rest on the so-called problem of distinguishing the Double Merle from the Blue-Headed White.

wf = White Factored DM = Double Merle
B = Blue T = tricolor
T-hd = Tri headed B-hd = Blue headed

B x B	1 T, 2 B, 1 DM
wf B x B	1 T, 1 wf T, 2 B, 2 wf B, 1 DM, 1 wf DM
wf B x wf T	1 T-hd W, 2 wf T, 1 T, 1 B-hd W, 2 wf B, 1 B
wf B x wf B	1 DM, 2 B, 2 wf DM, 4 wf B, 1 T, 2 wf T, 1 B-hd White DM, 2 B-hd Whites, 1 T-hd White
DM x T	All Blues
DM x wf T	1 B, 1 wf B
DM x T-hd White	All wf Blues
wf DM x T	1 B, 1 wf B
wf DM x wf T	1 B-hd white, 2 wf Blues, 1 Blue
wf DM x T-hd White	1 B-hd White, 1 wf Blue
B-hd White DM x T	All wf Blues
B-hd White DM x wf T	1 B-hd white, 1 wf Blue
B-hd White DM x T-hd White	All B-hd Whites

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