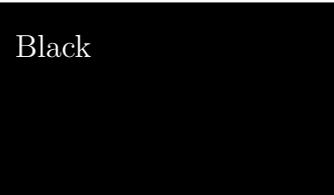
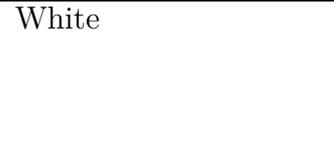
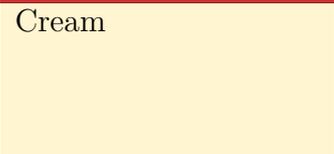
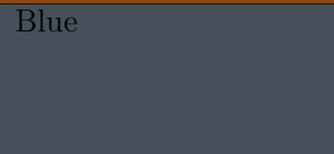
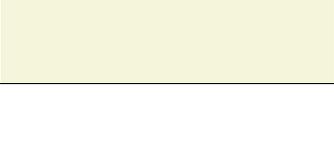


Poodle Color Chart

Introduction

Poodles are renowned for their diverse coat colors and patterns, which are determined by complex genetic interactions. This chart provides an overview of the most common solid colors and patterns found in poodles, along with their genetic basis and characteristics. Colors can change as poodles age due to genes like the progressive greying gene, and patterns such as parti or phantom add further variety. Note that merle is not a naturally occurring poodle color and indicates mixed breeding. For more details on poodle genetics, consult reputable sources or DNA testing services like VetGen.

Solid Colors

Color	Approximate Shade	Description and Genetics
Black		Deep, inky black with black points (nose, eye rims, lips). Born black and retains color without fading. Genotype: BBEE, BBEe, BbEE, or BbEe. Most common solid color. [?, ?]
White		Pure white at maturity, may have cream tints as a puppy. Caused by recessive red gene (e/e) with intensity modifiers. Black points preferred, brown acceptable. [?, ?]
Apricot		Light red or orange hue, often fades with UV exposure. Caused by recessive red gene (e/e) with intensity modifiers. Black points preferred, brown acceptable. [?, ?]
Red		Rich rust to deep mahogany, may fade over time. Caused by recessive red gene (e/e), possibly influenced by the Rufus gene. Black points preferred. [?, ?]
Cream		Very light, almost white, with a red tint. Caused by recessive red gene (e/e) combined with fading genes. Rare due to specific breeding requirements. [?]
Brown		Deep chocolate with liver points and dark amber eyes. Born brown, may fade slightly but remains distinct. Genotype: bbEE or bbEe. [?, ?]
Blue		Diluted black, ranging from dark grey to steel blue. Born black, fades due to one copy of progressive greying gene. Black points. [?, ?]
Silver		Light grey to platinum, born black, fades by 1-2 years due to two copies of progressive greying gene. Black points. [?, ?]
Cafe Au Lait		Light tan, like coffee with milk. Born dark brown, fades with one copy of progressive greying gene. Liver points. [?, ?]
Silver Beige		Diluted brown with silver sheen, born brown, fades by 2 years. Liver or black points. Requires brown and fading genes. [?, ?]

Patterns

Pattern	Visual Description	Characteristics and Genetics
Parti	White base with colored patches	White base (at least 50%) with patches of any solid color (e.g., Black Parti, Brown Parti). Caused by piebald gene (s/s). Historically common. [?, ?]
Phantom	Solid base with tan markings	Solid base (e.g., black, brown) with tan markings on eyebrows, muzzle, chest, legs, under tail. Requires phantom gene (at/at or at/a). [?, ?]
Sable	Cream/apricot with black tips	Cream or apricot base with black-tipped hairs, often on ears and tail. Dominant sable gene (ay/ay, ay/at, or ay/a). Fades significantly with age. [?, ?]
Agouti	Wolf-like banded hairs	Rare in poodles, hairs have alternating bands of color (e.g., black and tan). Genetically complex, often mistaken for sable or phantom. [?]

Notes

- **Color Changes:** Many poodle colors (e.g., Blue, Silver, Cafe Au Lait, Silver Beige) fade or “clear” by age 2 due to the progressive greying gene. Apricot and Red may also fade with UV exposure. [?]
- **Merle Warning:** Merle is not a natural poodle color and indicates mixed breeding, disqualifying the dog as a purebred in registries like UKC. [?]
- **Breeding Considerations:** Color mixing requires understanding genetics to avoid health risks and maintain diversity. DNA testing (e.g., VetGen) can clarify genotypes. [?]

References

- [?] Le Harrell’s Standard & Miniature Poodles, www.lhpoodles.com
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