

The **DEFINITIVE** Breed Standard Comparison in **PHOTOS**
Australian Shepherds and
Miniature American Shepherds



AKC
FCI
ASCA

ENGLISH 

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AUSSIES

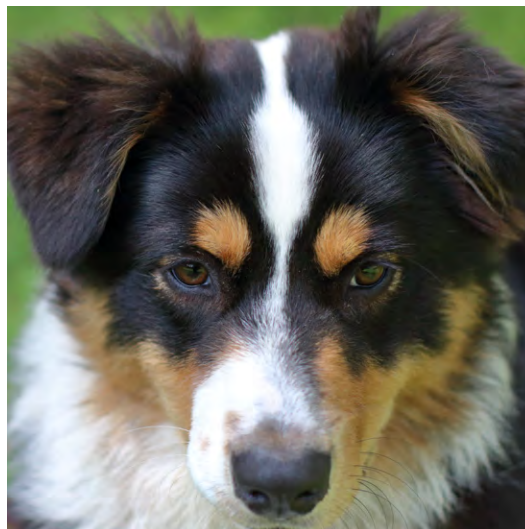
AKC and FCI: Showing attentiveness and intelligence, alert and eager. Gaze should be keen but friendly.

ASCA: The eyes are very expressive, showing attentiveness and intelligence.

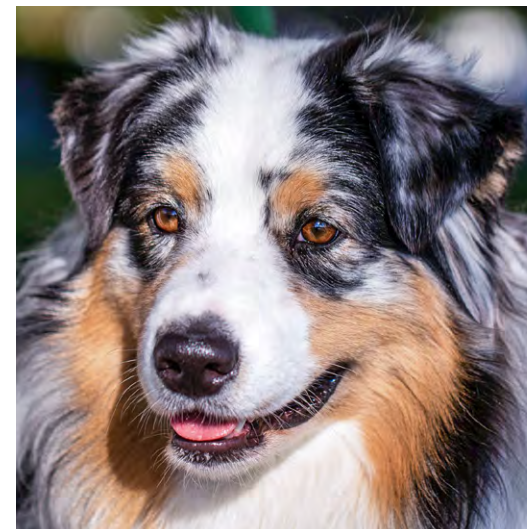
MAS

AKC: Alert, attentive and intelligent. May express a reserved look and/or be watchful of strangers.

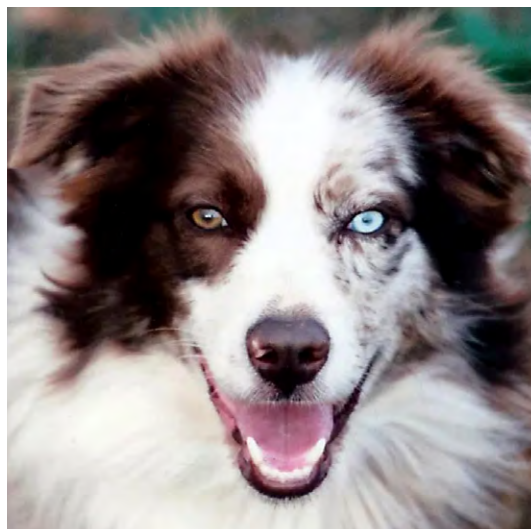
FCI: The expression is alert, attentive, and intelligent. They may express a reserved look or be watchful of strangers.



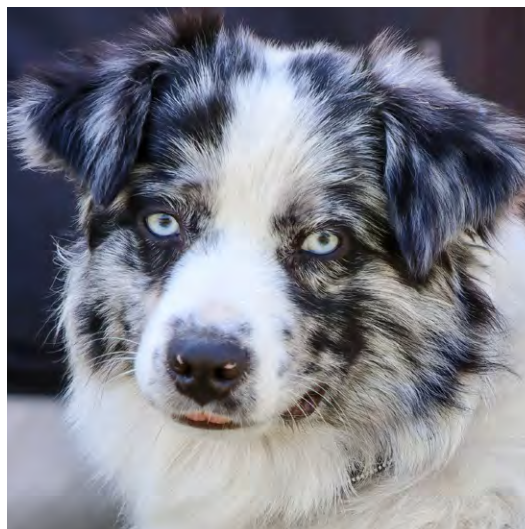
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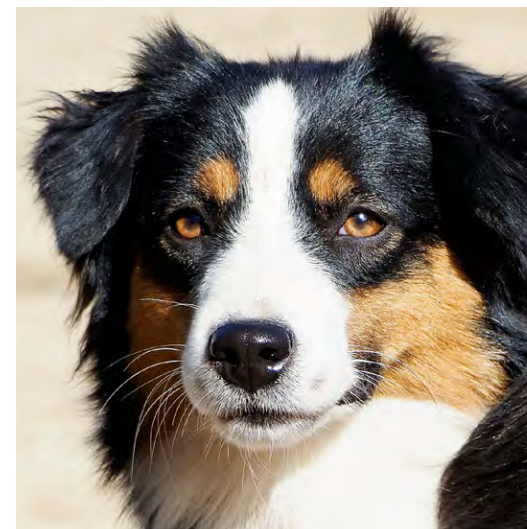
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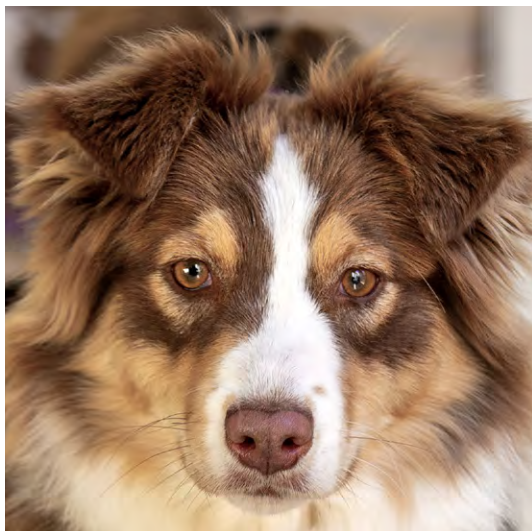
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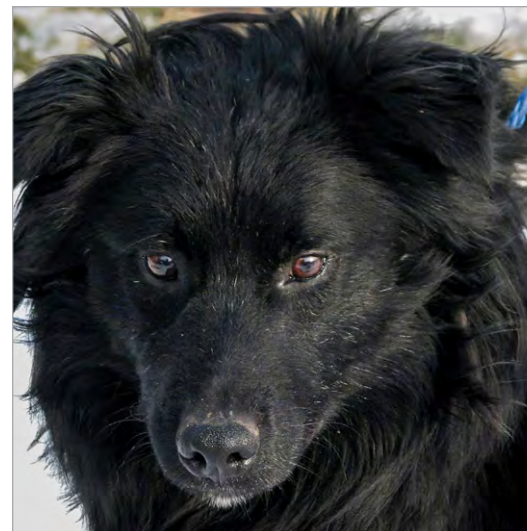
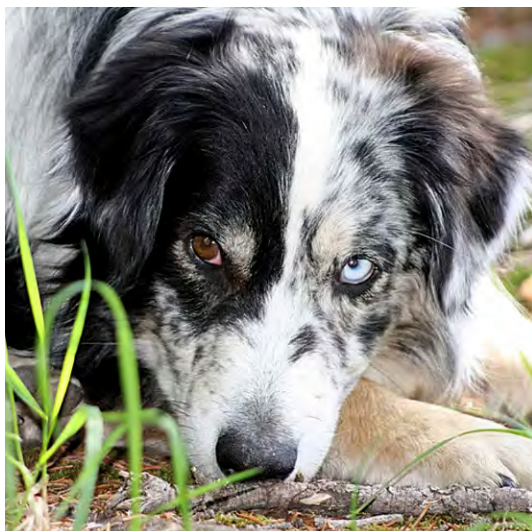
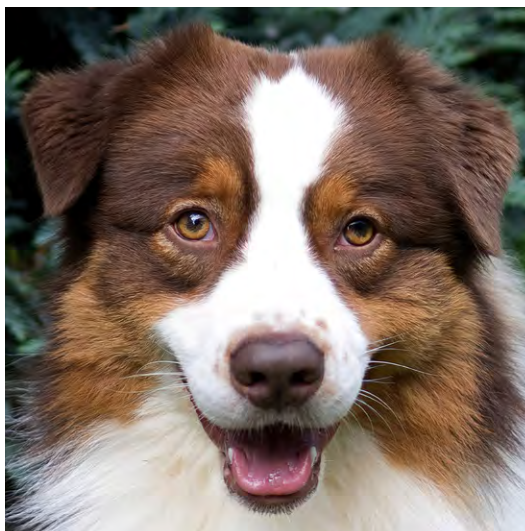


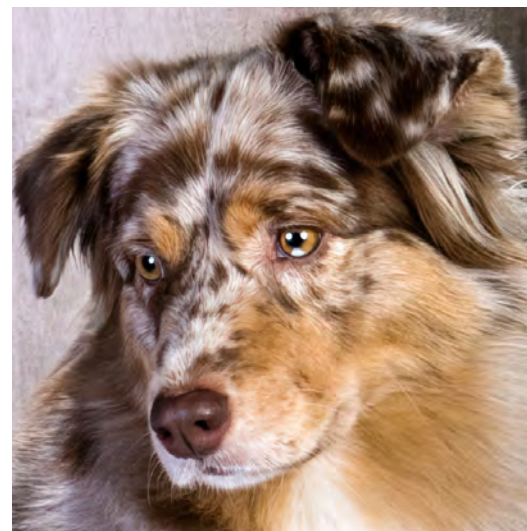
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SOUTH RAM OUTFITTERS PHOTO



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AUSSIES

AKC and FCI: Solidly built with moderate bone. Structure in the male reflects masculinity without coarseness.

ASCA: Masculinity is well defined.

MAS

AKC: Solidly built with moderate bone in proportion to body height and size. Structure in the dog reflects masculinity without coarseness. **FCI adds:** The overall structure gives an impression of depth and strength without bulkiness.



MARIA ULZUTUEVA PHOTOGRAPHY



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AUSSIES

AKC and FCI: Solidly built with moderate bone. Bitches appear feminine without being slight of bone.
ASCA: Femininity is well defined.

MAS

AKC: Solidly built with moderate bone in proportion to body height and size. Bitches appear feminine without being slight of bone. **FCI adds:** The overall structure gives an impression of depth and strength without bulkiness.

Hair of medium texture, straight to wavy, weather-resistant, and of medium length.

- The undercoat varies in quantity with variations in climate.
- Hair is short and smooth on the head, ears, front of forelegs, and below the hocks.
- Backs of forelegs and breeches are moderately feathered.
- There is a moderate mane and frill, more pronounced in dogs than in bitches.

AUSSIES

FCI: Hair: Of medium texture, straight to wavy, weather resistant and of medium length. The undercoat varies in quantity with variations in climate. Hair is short and smooth on the head, ears, front of forelegs and below the hocks. Backs of forelegs and breeches are moderately feathered. There is a moderate mane and frill, more pronounced in dogs than in bitches.

SEVERE FAULT: Non-typical coats.

ASCA: Coat: The coat is of medium length and texture, straight to slightly wavy, and weather resistant. The undercoat varies in quantity with climate. Hair is short and smooth on the head, outside of ears, front of forelegs, and below the hocks. Backs of forelegs are moderately feathered and breeches are moderately full. There is a moderate mane, more pronounced in dogs than bitches.

SEVERE FAULT: Non-typical coats such as excessively long; overabundant/profuse; wiry; or curly.

MAS

Coat: Moderation is the overall impression of the coat. Hair is of medium texture, straight to wavy, weather resistant, and of medium length. The undercoat varies in quantity with variations in climate. Hair is short and smooth on the head and front of the legs. The backs of forelegs and breeches are moderately feathered. There is a moderate mane and frill, more pronounced in dogs than in bitches. Hair may be trimmed on the ears, feet, back of hocks, pasterns, and tail, otherwise he is to be shown in a natural coat. Untrimmed whiskers are preferred.

SEVERE FAULT: Non-typical coats.



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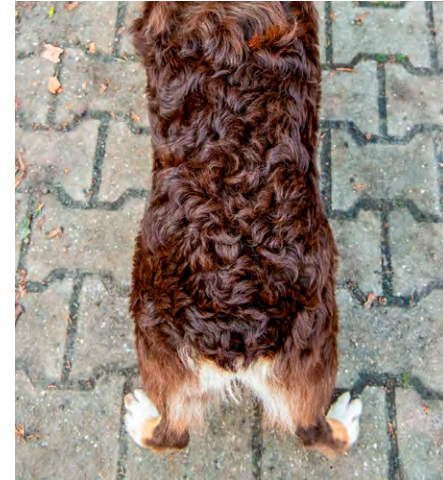
JUDIT KORÓZS-PAPP PHOTO



Excessively long



Overabundant, profuse



Wiry or curly

DORIEN VOGELAAR PHOTOGRAPHY

ASCA: Non-typical coats such as excessively long; over-abundant/profuse; wiry; or curly.

Non-typical coats are **SEVERE FAULTS** in both breeds.

Coats should be serviceable and low-maintenance.

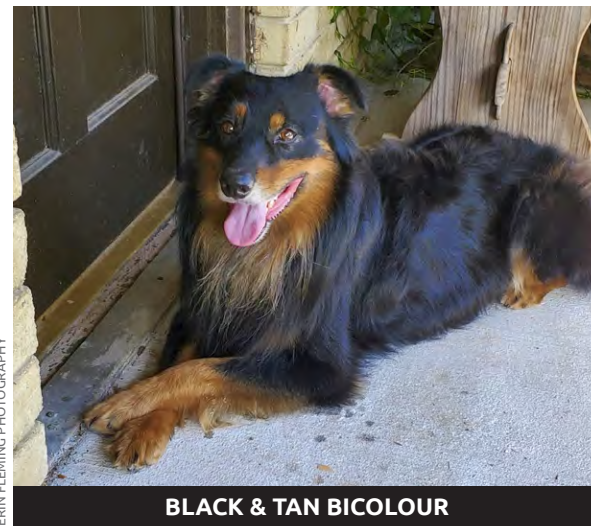
Aussies and MAS were developed to work livestock on all terrain and in all weather conditions. Their coats should protect them from the elements, be low maintenance, and be self-cleaning: after getting wet and/or dirty, a correct coat dries rapidly and the dirt literally falls off.

Undercoat: The undercoat is insulation, it helps keep the dog cooler in summer and warmer in winter. Aussies and MAS shed lightly all year, but more heavily in spring and fall. Dogs typically lose their winter undercoat in spring, when it is replaced by a shorter, lighter one for summer. In the fall, this cycle is reversed. Females may also shed during or after their season, and during or after a pregnancy. Dogs may also lose hair in response to stress, skin conditions, or allergies.

Mane, frill, and feathering: Less coat collects less mud and dirt and is easier to maintain.

WHY are non-typical coats undesirable?

- Excessively long coats collect more rain, snow, dirt, mud, and debris than a practical, tight-fitting coat.
- Profuse, soft textured coats are not self-cleaning and require more maintenance.
- Twigs, burrs and stickers are more difficult to remove from overabundant and curly coats.
- Excess coat can cause a dog to overheat during strenuous activity.
- Ranchers and farmers have little time to groom their dogs, so a low-maintenance coat is essential.



Colour can be black with white markings and tan points (black tri-colour), solid black, black with white markings (black bi-colour), or black with tan points (black bi-colour). There is no order of preference.

Dilution spots on merles are NOT genetically the same as dilute colour.

See page 69.

Dilution spots are isolated off-colour areas in an otherwise normally-coloured merle coat. They can be small or can cover large areas.

On blue merles, dilution spots can be shades of rusty brown or dusty gray. A rusty brown dilution spot does not mean a blue merle dog is red factored (carries the red gene), which is a common misconception.

On red merles, dilution spots are intermediate shades of red/liver.

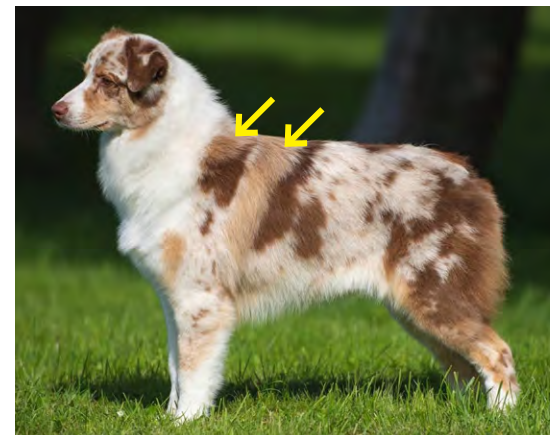
Some of the dogs pictured on this page may be tweed or harlequin patterned merles, a trait that can be inherited independently from the merle gene.

There is probably a degree of inheritance of dilution spots, so this trait should be considered when choosing breeding pairs.

Dilution spots are cosmetic and do not affect a dog's ability to do his job, nor do they have any negative effects on his health, but **they are a deviation from the ideal.**



Dilution spot over the hip on a red merle.



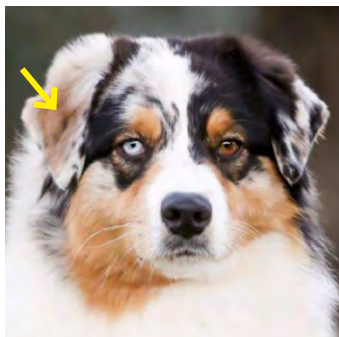
Several shades of dilution spots on a red merle.



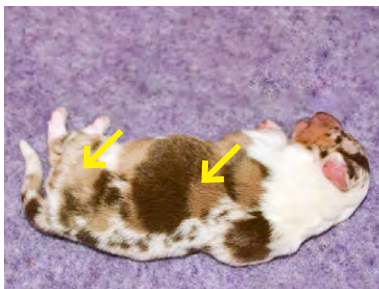
Several shades of dilution spots on a blue merle.



Gray-brown dilution spots on a blue merle.



Rusty brown dilution spot on ear of blue merle.



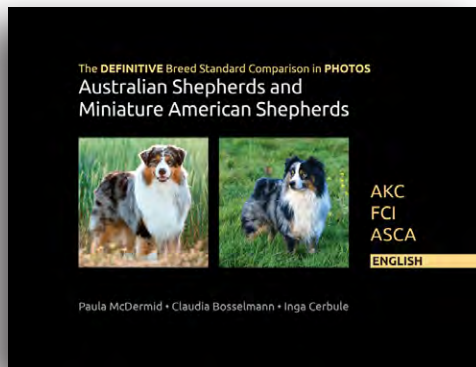
The coats of both puppies have several shades of dilution spots.

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The Definitive Breed Standards Comparison in Photos for AKC, FCI, ASCA

Australian Shepherds and Miniature American Shepherds



380 color photos

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