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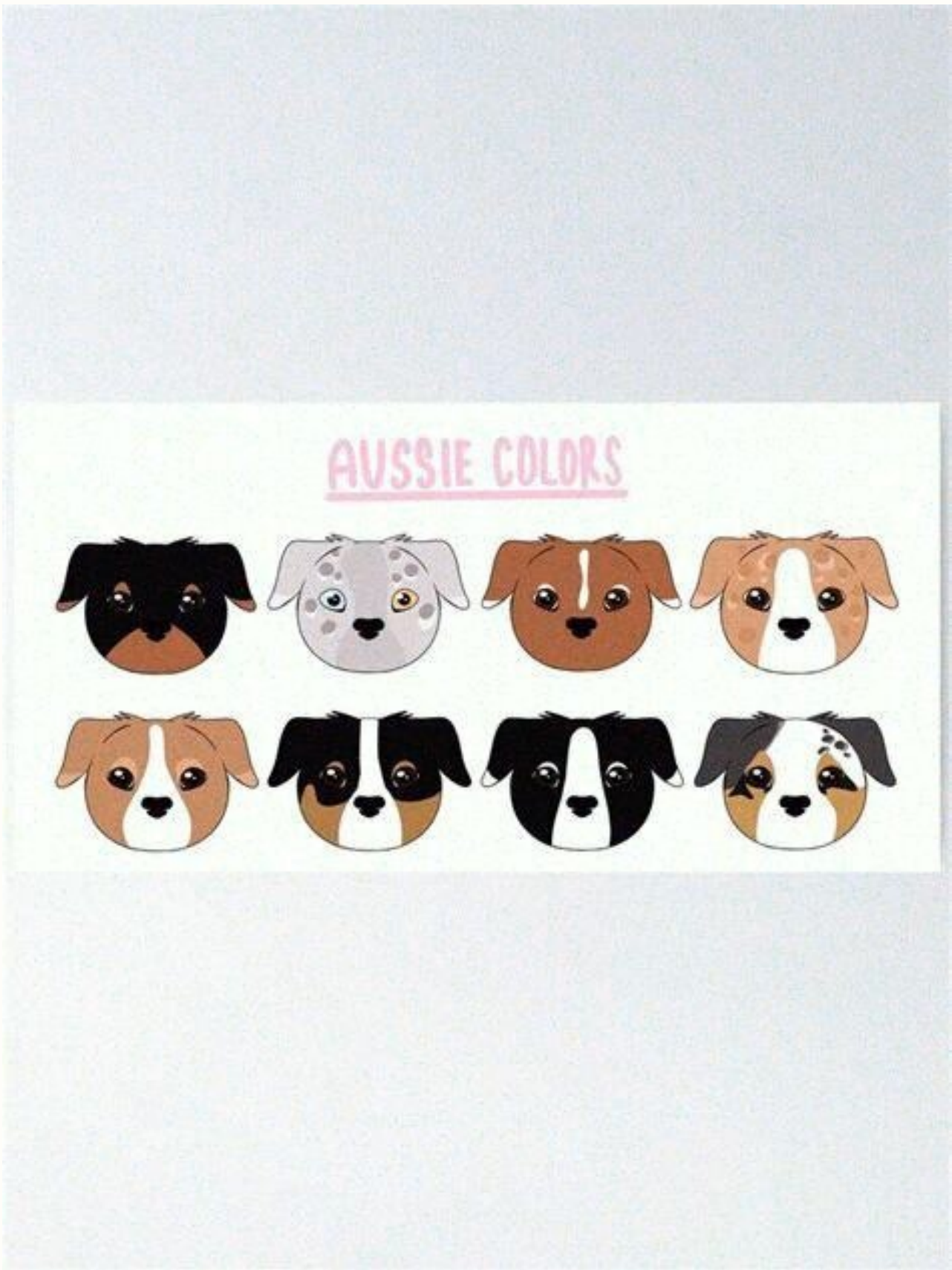
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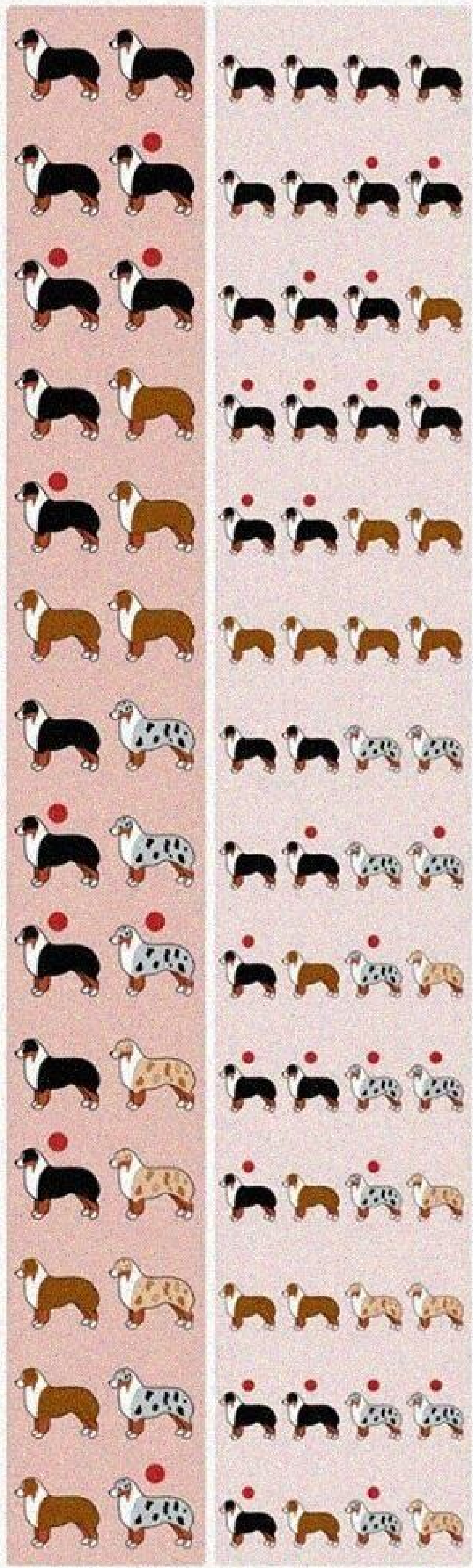


Breeding australian shepherds colors. How to breed aussiedoodles.



These puppies may also exhibit other health issues, including eye abnormalities and insufficient pigmentation on their noses and around their eyes. Responsible breeders avoid this type of breeding due to the potential health risks to the puppies. When considering an Australian Shepherd puppy, it's essential to inquire about the genetic and health background of the parents. A reputable breeder should willingly share the pedigree and avoid mating two merle-colored dogs. If not, there's a risk of adopting a puppy with genetic conditions requiring lifelong special care. Separately, the Cryptic Merle, also known as the "Phantom Merle," is an unpredictable result of the merle gene mutation. These dogs may resemble a Tri-colored Australian Shepherd but with additional white patches or merle splashes. Some Cryptic Merles show no visible merle patterns, leading to their nickname. The SINE (Short Interspersed Nucleotide Element) gene mutation is responsible for the diverse appearance of the merle coat. The length of the SINE gene dictates the size of the dark spots on the coat. Breeding a Cryptic Merle with another merle dog can result in both Tri and Merle puppies, but there's a small chance of producing Double Merles with the associated health risks. Therefore, breeding Cryptic Merles is generally discouraged. For those interested in the genetics of Australian Shepherd coat colors, an 'aussie color breeding chart' can be a valuable resource to understand the potential outcomes and associated risks of different pairings. It's a tool that can help breeders and prospective owners make informed decisions about the health and well-being of these dogs. Australian Shepherds exhibit a diverse palette of coat colors, ranging from single hues to intricate patterns. Among these, Blue Merle and Red Merle are prevalent, with Black Tri and Red Tri following suit. Solid colors such as black, brown, and red are less common. For a comprehensive understanding of the Aussie color breeding chart, this article delves into each possible shade.





Unfortunately, this practice increases the likelihood of the offspring being born with sensory impairments, such as blindness or deafness, affecting roughly 25% of the litter. These puppies may also exhibit other health issues, including eye abnormalities and insufficient pigmentation on their noses and around their eyes. Responsible breeders avoid this type of breeding due to the potential health risks to the puppies. When considering an Australian Shepherd puppy, it's essential to inquire about the genetic and health background of the parents. A reputable breeder should willingly share the pedigree and avoid mating two merle-colored dogs. If not, there's a risk of adopting a puppy with genetic conditions requiring lifelong special care. Separately, the Cryptic Merle, also known as the "Phantom Merle," is an unpredictable result of the merle gene mutation. These dogs may resemble a Tri-colored Australian Shepherd but with additional white patches or merle splashes. Some Cryptic Merles show no visible merle patterns, leading to their nickname. The SINE (Short Interspersed Nucleotide Element) gene mutation is responsible for the diverse appearance of the merle coat. The length of the SINE gene dictates the size of the dark spots on the coat. Breeding a Cryptic Merle with another merle dog can result in both Tri and Merle puppies, but there's a small chance of producing Double Merles with the associated health risks. Therefore, breeding Cryptic Merles is generally discouraged. For those interested in the genetics of Australian Shepherd coat colors, an 'aussie color breeding chart' can be a valuable resource to understand the potential outcomes and associated risks of different pairings. It's a tool that can help breeders and prospective owners make informed decisions about the health and well-being of these dogs. Australian Shepherds exhibit a diverse palette of coat colors, ranging from single hues to intricate patterns. Among these, Blue Merle and Red Merle are prevalent, with Black Tri and Red Tri following suit. Solid colors such as black, brown, and red are less common. For a comprehensive understanding of the Aussie color breeding chart, this article delves into each possible shade. The Australian Shepherd's coat can be found in various colors, including: - Blue Merle - Red Merle - Black - Brown - Red - Red Tri - Black and White - Grey - Yellow - Sable - Yellow Merle Sable or yellow represents the rarest coat color, often leading to disqualification in breed standards due to its potential to conceal the merle gene. This poses a risk for breeding Double Merle Australian Shepherds, which may have vision and hearing impairments. A Blue Merle Australian Shepherd's coat is a blend of blue, grey, white, and tan in a mottled pattern, a transformation from their original solid black due to the merle gene. This gene also influences eye color and skin pigmentation, resulting in lighter eye colors and pink patches on the nose and paws.

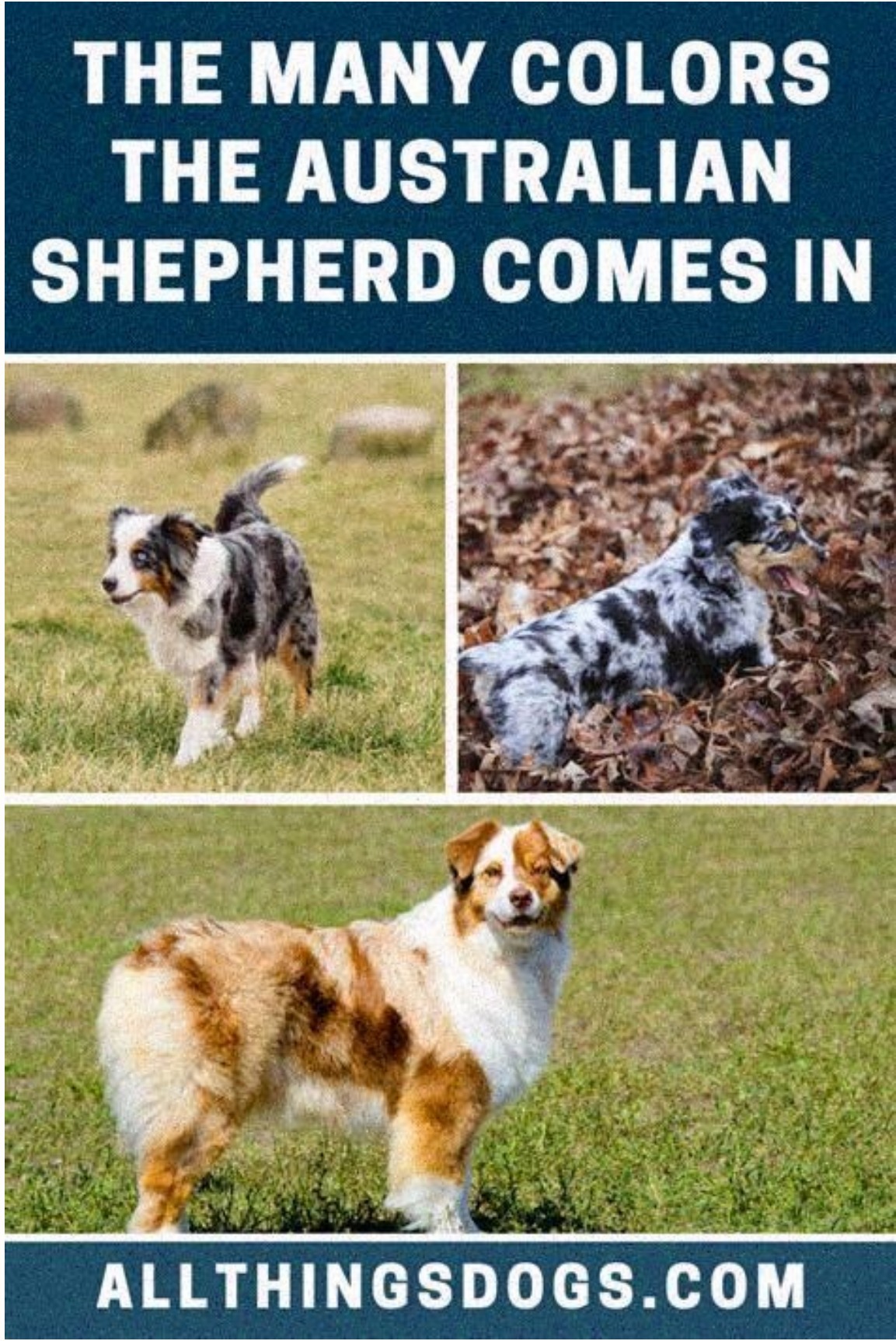


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Shepherds, which may have vision and hearing impairments. A Blue Merle Australian Shepherd's coat is a blend of blue, grey, white, and tan in a mottled pattern, a transformation from their original solid black due to the merle gene. This gene also influences eye color and skin pigmentation, resulting in lighter eye colors and pink patches on the nose and paws. Contrary to rarity assumptions, Blue Merle Australian Shepherds are quite common due to the dominant merle gene and are more frequently seen than their Red Merle counterparts. The cost for a Blue Merle Australian Shepherd ranges from \$3000USD to \$4000USD, attributed to the meticulous breeding process to avoid health issues associated with Double Merles and their visually appealing coat patterns and eye color.

For further insights, consider exploring the Merle Australian Shepherd Guide, which covers variations like Blue, Red, Harlequin, and Double Merles. Red Merle Australian Shepherds bear a resemblance to Blue Merles but originate from a red base coat. Red Merle Australian Shepherds display a unique mottled coat blending red, copper, beige, and white. Their distinctive appearance may also include blue eyes and unpigmented skin areas. These dogs are less common than their Blue Merle counterparts due to the recessive nature of their red base coat, in contrast to the dominant black base coat found in Blue Merles. However, Red Merles are not exceedingly scarce and are available from numerous breeders. Their price ranges from \$3,000 to \$4,000 USD, reflecting their rarity and the careful breeding practices required to avoid producing Double Merle offspring. Names like Valentine, Scarlet, and Ruby are often associated with these dogs due to their vibrant coat colors. Black Australian Shepherds are characterized by their sleek, jet-black coats, complemented by a black nose and dark eyes. Their rarity stems from the dominant merle gene, which typically results in a diluted coat pattern rather than a solid color. As a result, solid black Australian Shepherds are uncommon, with prices ranging from \$3,500 to \$4,000 USD. More frequently, you'll encounter Australian Shepherds with predominantly black coats featuring additional colors. For those interested in the various sizes of Australian Shepherds, including Teacup, Toy, Mini, and Standard, further information is available. Brown Australian Shepherds are not found in a solid brown variant. Instead, they exhibit brown shades within their coats, as seen in Red Merle and Red Tri-color Australian Shepherds. Lastly, Red Australian Shepherds boast a solid red coat, varying from light copper to a deep reddish-brown hue. For enthusiasts and potential breeders, an Aussie color breeding chart can be an invaluable resource for understanding the genetics and rarity of these coat colors. It provides guidance on the likelihood of different coat color outcomes, helping to plan breeding strategies accordingly. Red Australian Shepherds are distinguished by their unique solid red coats, with lighter brown noses and hazel eyes. Their rarity is attributed to the recessive nature of the red gene, making them one of the least common coat colors among Australian Shepherds. The cost for a solid red Australian Shepherd typically ranges from \$3500 to \$4000 USD, reflecting their scarcity. The Red Tri Australian Shepherd, on the other hand, displays a combination of red, white, and copper patches. Predominantly red, these dogs have significant white markings on their chest and front legs, with smaller patches on their muzzle and forehead. Copper accents are found around the muzzle and eyes, as well as where the red fur transitions to white. Ranking as the third or fourth most prevalent coat color, Red Tri Australian Shepherds are less common than Merle and Black Tri varieties but are still relatively accessible, priced between \$2500 and \$3250 USD. Black and White Australian Shepherds present a primarily black coat accented with prominent white markings on the chest and muzzle, and occasionally on the legs or paws. Black spots may adorn their muzzle area. These dogs have dark black noses and light brown eyes. While not as rare as other colors, Black and White Australian Shepherds are frequently seen and are priced between \$2500 and \$3500 USD. Commonly referred to as Grey Australian Shepherds, the Blue Merle Australian Shepherd is characterized by a coat with large silvery grey sections. This naming convention stems from the greyish hue of their distinctive fur pattern. For those interested in the breeding and characteristics of Australian Shepherds, an 'aussie color breeding chart' can provide valuable insights into the genetics and inheritance patterns of these coat colors. Understanding the breeding chart can help breeders and enthusiasts predict the likelihood of different coat colors in offspring, contributing to the preservation and development of this beloved breed's diverse color palette. Australian Shepherds exhibit a diverse range of coat colors, often with darker brown or black patches intermingled with tan spots. Notable coat variations include the Sable Australian Shepherd, characterized by a dual-toned coat with shades ranging from rich chestnut to light lemon, capped with dark brown or black tips. These dogs also display prominent white patches on their chest, muzzle, and front legs. However, the sable coloration is not recognized within the breed standards due to its potential to conceal the merle pattern, which poses significant breeding risks.

Unbeknownst to breeders, a Sable Australian Shepherd may carry the merle gene, and accidental breeding of two such carriers can result in a Double Merle offspring, also known as Lethal White, prone to severe vision and hearing impairments.

Consequently, Sable Australian Shepherds are seldom bred, making them a rarity. In contrast, Yellow Australian Shepherds are often misidentified as having sable coats due to their predominantly yellow hue with minimal black. This unique coloration has led some to refer to them as Yellow Australian Shepherds. For those interested in the nuances of Australian Shepherd coat colors, understanding the intricacies of the aussie color breeding chart is essential. It provides insights into the genetic combinations that can occur during breeding, such as the unexpected appearance of non-standard colors in a litter. The Australian Shepherd Club of America, established in 1957, along with various regional clubs, continues to explore the breed's genetic diversity. Despite the absence of registration numbers for some of the more distant ancestors, the lineage of these dogs often reveals a tapestry of colors and patterns, reflecting the breed's relatively recent development and ongoing evolution. Tracing back to before 1970, Australian Shepherds exhibited a spectrum of colors, some of which have become rare.

Without standardized registration, diverse genetics flowed within the breed, occasionally resulting in the expression of these uncommon hues. Historically, the Australian Shepherd's lineage was shaped by various herding and possibly hunting breeds, as functionality was the primary concern for ranchers and farmers, not pedigree or coat color. Consequently, the Australian Shepherd's genealogy is predominantly rooted in collie-type breeds, including those brought over with sheep from Australia, contributing to the breed's name and diverse color palette.

The literature on Border Collies, such as 'The Farmer's Dog', notes the occurrence of both standard and non-standard Australian Shepherd colors within the Border Collie breed. Similarly, English Shepherds share this color range, barring the merle pattern. While the incidence of non-standard colors has diminished, breeders should remain cognizant of the potential for their appearance and the genetic mechanisms behind them.

One notable non-standard color is the 'dilute', often stemming from a recessive mutation in the melanophilan (MLPH) gene, historically denoted as 'D'. This mutation results in a lighter coat color across black, liver, or merle patterns, with black turning to slate blue and liver to a buffy-orange hue known as 'Isabella'. However, this dilution does not alter tan markings. For those interested in the genetics of Australian Shepherd coat colors, an 'aussie color breeding chart' can be a valuable resource for understanding the inheritance and likelihood of different colors and patterns in offspring.

Australian Shepherd dogs exhibit a diverse range of coat colors, with some displaying a blue coat accented with white and tan, or a merle pattern blending slate blue with silver. While black and blue merle dilutions are noticeable, liver dilutions can be subtler due to the varying pigment intensity in "red dogs," particularly merles.

These dilutions may present as faded but are not always immediately recognized for what they are. Dilution is also present in other breeds like Great Danes and Dobermans without associated skin issues as seen in some breeds. For a puppy to exhibit a dilute color, both parents must possess the recessive gene. Breeders can utilize DNA testing to identify carriers and mate them with non-carriers to avoid producing more dilute puppies. Breeding candidates should be tested for their MLPH gene status. Interestingly, some Aussies change color as they mature, with their coats darkening to resemble standard black or liver colors. There are also dilute Aussies without the MLPH mutation, and while these variations are recessive, their genetic origins remain unidentified. Another notable color variation is the yellow or red coat with a black



nose, stemming from a different recessive gene known as melanocortin receptor 1 (MC1r). This gene affects the base color, leading to shades from pale yellow to deep chestnut. Breeders often refer to the lighter end of this spectrum as "peach." In merle dogs, the pattern may be discernible in youth but generally fades, and tan markings become invisible, though white remains. Dogs with a liver or red merle base will have liver-colored noses and other features. Sable, a color more commonly linked with Collies, may have been introduced to Australian Shepherds through breeding with Collies or Shetland Sheepdogs. However, it's now a rarity, with most dogs described as sable being E-locus recessives. The sable color is caused by the agouti signal peptide gene, which is different from the MC1r gene. For those interested in the intricacies of Australian Shepherd coat colors, an 'aussie color breeding chart' can provide valuable insights into the genetics and inheritance patterns of these beautiful variations. The Australian Shepherd's color genetics are influenced by the Agouti Signaling Protein (ASIP) gene, commonly referred to as "A." The most dominant allele of this gene results in a sable coat, followed by alleles for wild type, tan trim, and absence of tan. Typically, Australian Shepherds exhibit tan trim, making the presence of a sable coat rare, as it requires a sable allele or a specific variant of the beta-defensin103 gene, known as "K," which suppresses tan trim. For a sable coat to manifest, the dog must inherit the recessive allele of the K gene that permits sable and tan, in addition to the sable-causing allele of the ASIP gene. Given the breed's propensity for tan trim, a true sable Australian Shepherd is an uncommon occurrence. When sable is combined with the merle pattern, it results in a "sable merle," often characterized by a less distinct and less appealing coloration. This has led Collie and Sheltie breeders to separate sable and merle lineages to maintain clear coat patterns. In some cases, the merle pattern may be so subtle that it's not immediately recognizable. The saddle pattern, prevalent in German Shepherd Dogs and Airedale Terriers, consists of a dense pigment overlay on the back, contrasting with tan hair that can range from light beige to deep copper-red on the rest of the body, sometimes accompanied by white markings. This pattern indicates the dog's genetic makeup concerning black/liver and merle/solid colors. Although the exact genetic mechanism behind the saddle pattern is not fully understood, it is known to be a variation of tan pointing and involves multiple genes. To exhibit this pattern, a dog must have at least one sable, yellow, or saddle-patterned parent. This pattern is not typically seen in Australian Shepherds that conform to the breed standard. Brindle, a pattern featuring a lace-like overlay of one color on another, often appears as irregular stripes slanting forward from the dorsal line. Common in breeds like Greyhounds and Boxers, brindle is caused by the beta-defensin 103 gene, which is recessive to the no-tan/sable allele and dominant over alleles that allow for tan/sable. While the pattern is distinct on dogs with short coats, it may be less noticeable on Australian Shepherds due to their longer fur, which can obscure the stripes and blend the colors. The stripe color in an Australian Shepherd will vary based on the dog's genes for black or red, and whether it carries the merle pattern. For those interested in the intricacies of Australian Shepherd coat colors, an 'aussie color breeding chart' can provide valuable insights into the potential outcomes of different genetic combinations.

In the rare event that an Australian Shepherd is homozygous for the dilute gene, the coat color may present as a diluted hue, ranging from beige to deep red. Brindle patterns, characterized by dark stripes on a lighter background, can manifest in areas where the coat is tan. While a brindle Australian Shepherd without tan markings is less common due to the prevalence of tan trim, it is possible for a dog with one brindle gene to exhibit brindled tan points. Identifying such patterns can be challenging due to the frequent intermingling of tan with the base coat color in this breed. Breeding two merle Australian Shepherds is known to potentially produce offspring with excessive white, which deviates from the breed standard. The merle pattern is a distinctive trait of the breed, and breed standards have historically discouraged the practice of merle-to-merle breeding and the selection of dogs with abundant white trim, which could indicate a double merle lineage. Despite modifications to accommodate show ring preferences for full white trim, these guidelines persist in current standards. Excessive white in Australian Shepherds is not solely attributed to the doubling of the merle gene. Several genes influence white markings, including one that generates the 'Irish' pattern, prevalent among collie-type breeds, where the absence of white is dominant. Another gene, often seen in Boxers, follows a similar dominance pattern, with mostly white being recessive. Dogs with one copy of each gene variant display markings akin to the 'Irish' pattern. Additionally, various modifiers can either increase or decrease the extent of white on the coat, with less white generally being dominant. Australian Shepherds exhibit the collie-type white spotting. The occasional appearance of mostly white or piebald puppies, which are not double merles, suggests that the breed may also carry the Boxer-type marking gene, albeit less frequently due to selective breeding against excessive white. The specific details of white markings, such as partially or fully white heads, white along the stifles, and body spots, are influenced by hereditary modifiers. A common misconception is that more white correlates with more health issues. However, the presence of white, even in significant amounts, does not inherently lead to problems. For those interested in the genetics of Australian Shepherd coat colors, an 'aussie color breeding chart' can provide valuable insights into the inheritance patterns and potential outcomes of different pairings.