ALL BORDER COLLIE COLORS

Below you will find an infographic of all currently known border collie colors. Keep in mind that exact markings and colors in real dogs might vary from the way the examples look.

The base (amount of white)

Solids

- Black
- Blue
- Choc.
- Lilac

Merles

- Black
- Blue
- Choc.
- Lilac

Modifiers

- Tweed
- Harlequin

A normal merle: dark patches on a lighter color. A tweed merle: patches in different shades on a light color. A harlequin merle: dark patches on white, with no color in between.

Ghost tan and seal

Dogs who carry tan (tri, brindle or sable) sometimes show it due to there not being fully dominant black. Normally dominant black hides the tan but in these cases the tan shows a little, even though the dogs are only carriers. This way dogs for example appear to be tri, though they are actually not.

As a result “ghost tan” and “seal” appear. The term ghost tan is used for dogs that carry some sort of tri. Seal is used for dogs that carry sable.

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Never breed two merles!

When you breed two merles each pup will have a 25% chance of being double merle. These dogs will almost always be born with health issues related to the eyes and ears. They are often blind and/or deaf and some dogs are sterile.

Agsutti / Wildtype?

The color of, for instance, shepherds and wolftype dogs, appears to be seen in some border collies. It tends to look a lot like sable.

Maltese?

These merles tend to look like sable merles, but actually aren’t. This new modifier (currently called Maltese) makes the merle markings less visible and thus harder to see.

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