



## THE AUSTRALIAN TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

### ATCA Position on Non-Standard Colors in the Australian Terrier

*The Australian Terrier Club of America, Inc. (ATCA) voted at the Board Meeting of December 4, 2017 to issue this statement to all AKC Judges licensed to judge Australian Terriers.*

**The ATCA Board and Judges' Education Committee's statement on non-standard color in our breed is as follows: Any non-standard colors, e.g. brown/tan or liver/tan, is unacceptable in the conformation ring.**

**ATCA is requesting that judges not consider dogs of non-standard color when selecting for placement in the conformation ring.**

The Australian Terrier Club of America Standard does not have any disqualifications currently. However, we **must** distinguish between breed standard color description and registration color description. ATCA is extremely concerned about the introduction of non-standard colors into the breed without knowledge or understanding of the genetic impact on the breed in the areas of health as well as coat color, eye color and pigment in the eye rims and the nose.

**ATCA, as the parent club, is the guardian of the standard, and the Australian Terrier Club of America Standard lists the acceptable colors for the breed as: Blue & Tan, Solid Red and Solid Sandy.**

**Note:** *The 1997 letter(below) to judges on Blue and Tan Color in the Australian Terrier was a standard color clarification of ATCA's concerns regarding the loss of Blue and Tan color.*

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***The Australian Terrier Club of America, Inc. (ATCA) voted at its Annual Meeting in October 1997 to issue this statement to all AKC Judges licensed to judge Australian Terriers.***

The ATCA is deeply concerned that one of the color types in this breed, the distinctive Blue and Tan color, is being lost, through breeding and/or through artificial enhancement, to Black and Red, or to Black or Blue coats with tan smut in the body coat.

According to our Standard for the Australian Terrier, the allowed color types are (of equal preference): Blue and Tan, Solid Sandy, and Solid Red. The section on **Color and Markings** in the Standard reads as follows:

**Colors:** Blue and tan, solid sandy and solid red. **Blue and tan** - Blue: dark blue, steel-blue, dark gray-blue, or silver-blue. In silver-blues, each hair carries blue and silver alternating with the darker color at the tips. Tan markings (not sandy or red), as rich as possible, on face, ears, underbody, lower legs and feet, and around vent. The richer the color and more clearly defined the better. *Topknot* - Silver or a lighter shade than head color. **Sandy or Red** - Any shade of solid sandy or solid red, the clearer the better. *Topknot* - Silver or a lighter shade of body coat.

**Faults:** All black body coat in the adult dog. Tan smut in the blue portion of the coat, or dark smut in sandy/red coated dogs. In any color, white markings on chest or feet are to be penalized.

It is not the intent of the Parent Breed Club to exclude black-and-red or smutty coated dogs from winning if they are the overall best specimen on a given day. Neither do we intend color faults to take precedence over other stated faults or other deviations from the Standard, or for color in general to take precedence over the other features described in the Standard. However, we do want judges to be mindful of what the color faults are in this breed, and to know that at this time the Parent Breed Club is concerned about the possibility of losing the correct Blue and Tan color.

The Australian Terrier is not flashy, exotic, extreme or exaggerated. The breed has a natural beauty, and the balance of the dog must be maintained when the dog is in motion as well as when he is posed and still.