Clarification of the Acceptable Colors of the Australian Terrier

The Australian Terrier Club of America, Inc. (ATCA) Board of Directors voted to issue this statement to all AKC Judges licensed to judge Australian Terriers.

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.

To address questions concerning the introduction of non-standard colors of Australian Terriers into the AKC conformation ring, the Australian Terrier Club of America wants to clarify the **acceptable colors and markings** of the Australian Terrier. We **must** distinguish between breed standard color description and registration color description.

The Standard addresses color in the following sections:

General Appearance

*A small, sturdy, medium-boned working terrier, rather long in proportion to height with pricked ears and docked tail. **Blue and tan, solid sandy or solid red in color**, with harsh-textured outer coat, a distinctive ruff and apron, and a soft, silky topknot. As befits their heritage as versatile workers, Australian Terriers are sound and free moving with good reach and drive. Their expression keen and intelligent; their manner spirited and self-assured.*

Color and Markings
*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 applicable to Sandy or Red, see below): 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.

The standard colors are; blue and tan, solid sandy or solid red. Any non-standard color (e.g. brown/tan or liver/tan) would <u>not</u> be consistent with the approved breed standard.

ATCA appreciates that judges desire to uphold the integrity of the Australian Terrier breed and hopes that this information will assist in your judging the salient characteristics of our breed.