

YAKUTIAN LAIKA, CORRECT COLOURS AND PIGMENTATION

Information for owners, breeders and judges about colours of Yakutian Laika breed.

The National Breed Club "Yakutian Laika" (NBC) receives requests from dog breeders with questions about colours in the Yakutian Laika breed, and we consider it important to provide the following clarifications: The FCI-Standard N° 365 dated September 26, 2019 breed of the Yakutian Laika, describes the colours as follows:

- (EN) Colour: White and any patching (bicolour or tricolour).
- **DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:** Any solid color except white;

Unfortunately, the standard does not contain clear and detailed formulations for assessing colors in the breed, and we hope that in the process of further changes to the standard, more accurate and detailed descriptions of colors will appear.

Based on general text of the standard, one may get the impression that all non-monochromatic colors are acceptable, which is not correct. The Yakutian Laika has a wide variety of colors due to varying degrees of hair coloring. All representatives of the breed have a spotted color, which appears in varying degrees, from completely white to moderately spotted.

All colors of Yakutian Laikas can be divided according to the degree of spotting:

- **ONE COLOUR:** White color with no pigmented spots on the coat;
- **TWO-COLOUR:** - Spotted – white colour with individual pigmented areas;
- Piebald – pigmented colour with individual white spots;
- Raincoat - pigmented colour with a distinctive pattern, including white markings on the muzzle, collar, chest and underparts, legs and tip of the tail;
- **TRI-COLOUR:** Same colors as two-color, but with tan markings.

In all colours, the nose, eyelids, lips, paw pads and claws must be pigmented or partially pigmented. Special attention should be paid to the presence of pigment on the eyelids and lips of white-headed dogs. The colour of the nose, eyelids, lips, paw pads and claws are black in all colours except brown, in which they are colored brown.

Pigmented areas of the coat can have different saturation and intensity of black, red, agouti (gray) and brown. The pattern and distribution of pigmented spots can be either symmetrical or asymmetrical. There may be specks on a white background. The distribution of depigmented color zones in YL is formed according to the type of Irish spotting. If white markings are present only on the toes or only on the front of the chest, then such dogs should be considered as solid colors, in any case, the white area should not be less than 10%.

It should be noted that the most characteristic colours of the Yakutian Laika are combinations of agouti (gray) with white or black with white. Red or brown combinations with white are less common.

NBC "Yakutian Laika" draws attention to the fact that colours such as brindle and harlequin (merle) are not typical for Yakutian Laikas, and they cannot arise independently in our breed. Dogs with these colours are not considered purebred Yakutian laikas and are not allowed for breeding. Following changes to the standard, brindle and merle colours will be considered disqualifying and the score for such

dogs will be "disqualification". Separately, mention should be made of the blue color or any variety of dilute colors, which should not be confused with the zone (gray) color, which always has a black nose, eyelids, lips, claws and paw pads. Color genetics is a complex topic and it is not always possible to get an accurate and definitive answer. However, in theory, dilute colors can occur in our breed as in any other breed, but they should not be considered standard or typical of the breed.

According to the current Yakutian Laika standard, the nose, eyelids and lips should be black or brown in brown dogs. Dogs with dilute coloration do not have black pigment. Dogs with dilute coloring do not have black, but gray or cream colored nose, eyelids, lips and fingertips. Therefore, the NBC Yakutian Laika believes that such dogs currently cannot receive ratings higher than "satisfactory", or at least "good". It should also be noted that in the Yakutian Laika breed there are cases of seasonal lightening of the pigmentation of the nose and eyelids; Sometimes pigmentation weakens in dogs in winter for various reasons, but is always restored in summer, and the colour of such dogs cannot be considered blue. At the moment, not a single dog of brindle or blue colour has been registered in the Russian Kynological Federation (RKF). Marle dogs have been registered, but they have all been excluded from breeding programs, and at the moment there are no merle color carriers in the breed. In 2019, the Russian Kynological Federation (RKF) approved the following list of colors for the Yakutian Laika breed:

- White
- White & black
- Black & white
- White & brown
- Brown & white
- White & red
- Red & white
- White & sable
- Sable & white
- White & grey
- Grey & white
- White & black with tan
- Black & white with tan
- White & brown with tan
- Brown & white with tan
- Non Standard

We know that in some countries the following list is used:

- White
- Bicolour
- Tricolour
- Non-Standard

This list does not contradict the FCI-Standard N° 365 dated September 26, 2019 for the Yakutian Laika breed, and therefore, from our point of view, such a list is acceptable. These lists do not clarify what is considered a non-standard color. The NBC has prepared an appeal to the RKF Standards Commission with a request to amend the FCI standard regarding disqualifying faults for colours:

- Colors of any solid color, except white.

- Colors brindle, harlequin (merle), blue (dilute) and their varieties with white and/or tan. We recognize that the process of making changes to a standard takes a long time. However, we consider it necessary to give a clear message to all owners, breeders and breed judges now. Non-standard colors are considered:
- Solid colors: black, red of all shades, brown, agouti (gray) of all shades, brindle, harlequin (merle), blue (dilute).
- Bicolor: brindle and white, harlequin (merle) and white, blue and white.
- Tri-color: brindle and tan with white, harlequin and tan with white, blue and tan with white.

We hope that these explanations will help you better understand the variety of colors in the Yakutian Laika breed, as well as the principles and standards for their evaluation at Dog Shows

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(official text on the NBS website (Russian) <https://yakutian-laika.com/node/731>)

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