

From: Bruce Cattanach

White Haws

Have we not been round the block a time or two on this subject?

White areas in the coat mean incomplete migration/shortage of pigment cells; no cells, no colour, white.

Patterns of coloured areas reflect limits of migration of pigment cells; the tide marks.

Blue eyes; no pigmentation again.

Deafness, no pigment cells in inner ear.

White haws; no pigmentation here either.

Common factor is absence/incomplete migration of pigment cells; all will be related.

Therefore to increase frequency of pups with pigmented haws one has to select for most pigmentation and this can be best assessed in the coat.

Solids obviously have the most, therefore unpigmented haws will be rare to absent.

Flashies are the key group. Here selection for excess flashy white markings should increase the frequency of pups with white haws.

Reciprocally, selection for plainer flashies should reduce the frequency and this is well demonstrated in Continental and even British dogs

Whites would normally be expected to have unpigmented haws but exceptions do prove the rule.

Remarkably at this late stage in my life with Boxers I have learned that on the Continent the great majority of flashy dogs have white markings on the limbs confined to the pastern area or lower, even to little more than the toes. Still with a possible smallish blaze on the face or small star on the back of the neck, plus white on the chest of course. Perfect as far as I am concerned and makes solids far less noticeable as being different.

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