

Miniature Pinscher Club of America, Inc.

Member of American Kennel Club, Inc.

26915 Clarksburg Road
Damascus, Maryland 20872
March 8, 1995

Dr. Barbara Kummel
15021 Dufief Mill Road
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20850

Dear Dr. Kummel:

As secretary of the Miniature Pinscher Club of America, Inc. (MPCA), I am writing to ask for your assistance. As a well-respected veterinary dermatologist, any information you can provide with regard to blue-coated dogs, particularly blue-coated miniature pinschers, would be greatly appreciated.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter to the officers and board members of the MPCA from club members who wish to have the blue color reinstated in the miniature pinscher breed standard. At one time, the blue color was acceptable in the breed standard and blue-colored dogs were shown in the show ring. Since 1980, blue has not been an acceptable color; however, none of the officers nor current board members know exactly why the blue color was removed from the standard.

You will also find enclosed pictures of several blue dogs, pedigrees and copies of letters written by veterinarians providing medical care to blue-coated dogs along with the results of medical tests performed on several blue, one stag red and one red miniature pinscher. I would like to ask you for your expert medical opinion regarding these enclosures.

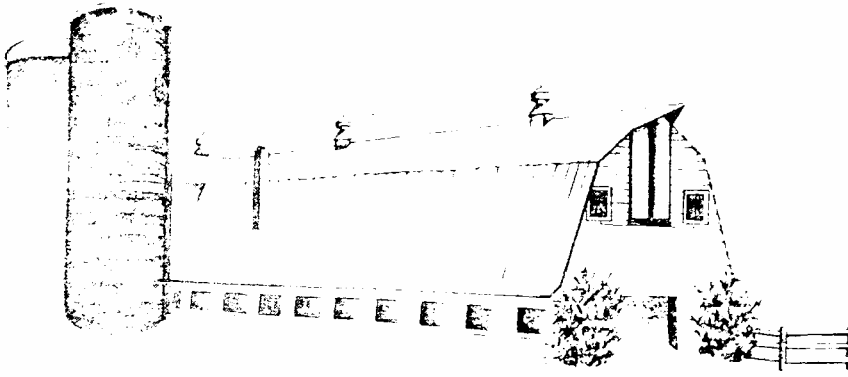
The MPCA annual board meeting will be held on May 20 and 21, 1995. At that meeting, we will be discussing whether or not to reinstate the blue color into the standard. Prior to meeting, I would like to provide the officers and board members with as much information as possible regarding the physical condition/health of blue-coated dogs (miniature pinschers in particular). This will afford each officer and board member an opportunity to read and evaluate the available information and any comments you may have.

I thank you in advance for your attention to this matter and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Vivian A. Hogan, Secretary
Miniature Pinscher Club of America, Inc.

Enclosures



Veterinary Referral Associates, Inc.

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May 3rd, 1995

Vivian A. Hogan, Secretary
Miniature Pinscher Club of America, Inc.
26915 Clarksburg Road
Damascus, Maryland 20872

Dear Ms. Hogan:

I am responding to your letter regarding the blue Miniature Pinscher.

The blue coat color in the Miniature Pinscher and other breeds of dogs is a dilution of the black color and is the result of a mutation (or defect) in the coat color gene(s).

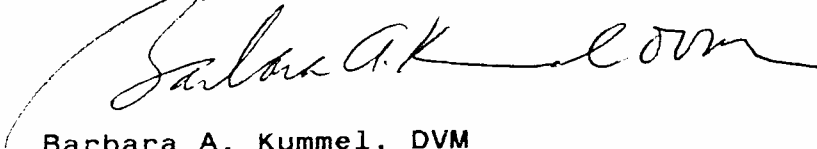
This mutation does NOT result in any other health problems. It is not linked with hypothyroidism or any other endocrine (hormonal) abnormalities.

It is however, not JUST a "hair" problem as stated by some of your members. The sparse hair coat in blues may result in true skin abnormalities because the hair follicle is an integral part of the skin. The pores of the oil (sebaceous) glands have their openings at the same sites from which the hair protrudes from the skin. When the hair is absent, the oil gland may become plugged and result in 'blackheads' or 'whiteheads'. These plugged oil glands are incapable of providing the skin with normal skin oils. The skin oils are very important in providing a protective barrier that spreads over the surface of the skin, keeping it soft and pliable as well as preventing water loss. The oil 'film' also acts as a barrier to help prevent invasion by bacteria and other disease-causing organisms. The abnormal hair follicles in dogs with dilute coat colors (blue and fawn) result in abnormal oil secretion and predisposes them to secondary skin infections.

Some of your members (and respondents) stated that coat abnormalities, such as thinning, are also seen in the black and red Min Pins. These dogs may have one or more of many dermatologic disorders resulting in thin coats. They also very well may carry some of the dilution factors carried by the blues. A black Min Pin MAY have a sparse coat because he/she carries dilute genes.

In conclusion, I consider blue (and fawn) dogs to have a genetic hair AND SKIN defect. These dogs do live normal lives, however, their coat problem often results in skin abnormalities requiring lifelong treatment. I personally do not feel that dog breeders should strive to create defective genes. Therefore the mutation/dilution blue coat color should NOT be reinstated in the Min Pin standard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara A. Kummel". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Barbara A. Kummel, DVM