**Merle Frenchies in NZ - Comment**

Since I posted that a breeder in NZ has imported and is going to start breeding Merle coloured frenchies (on top of the blues she is currently breeding) I have been sent a number of messages and would like to provide further clarification why breeders such as myself and various long established kennel clubs around the world are very much against the breeding of this and other fad colours.

Fad colours are not new to the frenchie world and have been tried in the past. The results of breeding such colours were not great with skin and eye issues coming to the fore. In their wisdom the kennel clubs decided that these colours needed to be avoided and a colour standard established which is where we are today. If you go to the internet you will find numerous articles on why such colours are undesirable. A good and most recent article is one by Karen Dibert. a retired frenchie breeder, and can be found on this link:

http://www.dogster.com/…/why-you-dont-want-a-purebred-dog-i…

It explains in very straightforward language why you do not want to indulge (and I believe this is the correct word to use) in buying a fad coloured frenchie.

Now you might say to yourself but the breeder has told me that the fad coloured frenchies have been health tested etc. This may be true but you need to remember this is at the puppy stage. Conditions with fad colours tend to either show themselves immediately (such as deaf or blindness) or when the dog matures. As most of you will get a puppy you will not see these conditions until maturity and if it did exist at birth you will never see it because the breeder is very likely to have put the puppy down. To give you another perspective its similar to a food allergy that is experienced by frenchies as they grow older however unlike a food allergy which is an easy fix; dealing with blindness or skin alopecia is not. It will cost time and money but more importantly heartache to yourself and your dog and no one should want that.

Specifically Merle coloured frenchies, now let me be frank, this is NOT A NATURALLY occurring colour in french bulldogs. It is a colour produced through the cross breeding with mostly chihuahuas. What you are seeing is the latest trend with fad colour frenchies. Now you will see pictures of these dogs on the internet (and in this FB group) where they look very much like a standard coloured french bulldog. Let me state this as a breeder, what you seeing is the -3 standard deviation of the litter i.e. the one example that looks normal. What you are not seeing is the rest who will more than likely not look so good and importantly not healthy (and you can see this on the internet) - more chihuahua than frenchie and/or be blind or partially blind.

I have been asked the question "if these fad colours are so bad then why are breeders choosing to breed them?". The answer to this question is easy: MONEY. I understand they are going for twice the rate of standard frenchies and possibly more.

After the reading above you still wish to pursue a fad colour frenchie, all I can say to you is good luck because I honestly believe you will need it. I also want to clarify that none of the comments from me or my fellow ethical breeders against fad coloured frenchies is not written out of any bitterness. Its because as long term breeders of frenchies we feel a level of custodianship to the breed that has given us so much love and joy. That custodianship means ensuring that the breed remains as healthy as possible and that people who decide they want to own a frenchie get the best possible dog and for me (and I am sure all my fellow ethical breeders will agree) that means healthy.

Thankyou

**Errol**

**Gesundheit Kennel**

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