



Sherwood Dog Training Club

AKC License Club

January 2023 Newsletter

The Sherwood Dog Training Club (SDTC) was formed in 2003, with official status as a non-profit corporation established in 2006. We also have Tax Exempt status with the IRS as a 501(c)4. We received our notice that we have become an AKC Licensed Club in August of 2008.

Sherwood Dog Training Club Officers and Trial Chairs

President: Danielle Silverstein

Vice President: Linda Ruedy

Secretary: Robin Murphy

Treasurer: Jill Faulmann

Board: Darlene Brushwein

Board: Jan Lewis

Board: Helen Hamilton

Newsletter: Darlene Brushwein

Website:

<https://www.sherwooddtc.org/>



We will have Zoom SDTC Meeting

Wednesday February 1st @ 7pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88463191226?pwd=aytmcnE2Q2FRNUxnMGZEZUoyQUpiUT09>

Meeting ID: 884 6319 1226

Passcode: 521539

The agenda will be posted on the Members page of the club website

<https://www.sherwooddtc.org/>

Reminder: Password for Members page is training



Sherwood Dog Training Club's new io email group is up and running.

We've already begun some discussions of preferred training spots and upcoming matches. This is a great place for members to post information on practice sessions, trials, other organizations' matches, equipment for sale, brags...; also, a place to ask and answer questions.

I have offered to be the group "owner/moderator." s.

To join, email SherwoodDogTrainingClub+subscribe@groups.io.

Any problems, email Laurie Rubin, earthlaurie@sonic.net, and I will try to help solve them.

Happy Valentine's Day

I've only got eyes for you!
And squirrels...
And donuts...
And dog butts...
And dirt...



 **Rover**



Sherwood Dog Training Club plans for 2023.

Forms can be found <https://www.sherwooddtc.org/services>

For a complete Look at all AKC upcoming Agility, Obedience, Rally and Tracking Events

Events: <https://webapps.akc.org/event-search/#/search>

Cancellations: <https://www.akc.org/sports/event-cancellations/>



[Go to the AKC Events Calendar for more information, to download](https://webapps.akc.org/event-search/#/search)
<https://webapps.akc.org/event-search/#/search>

Upcoming UKC Shows

February 3-5, 2023

Canine Action Pack
Cornelius, OR
Obedience, Rally Obedience

May 5-7, 2023

Canine Action Pack
Cornelius, OR
Obedience, Rally Obedience

Mar. 5, 2023

NorCal K9 Events, Cottonwood, CA
Match / Rally & Obedience

August 4-6, 2023

UKC Western Classic
Longview, WA
Obedience, Rally Obedience, Nose work, Agility

Home | [United Kennel Club \(UKC\)](#)

United Kennel Club (UKC) is an international dog registry celebrating bonds, rewarding ability, and



PIERCE COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL
Fun'Raiser DOG FUN MATCH



SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023

PIERCE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, GRAHAM, WA

Entries begin at 8:30 a.m. OUTDOORS RAIN OR SHINE



ENTRIES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

SHOW N' GO OBEDIENCE

Judging begins at 9:00 a.m.

Ring 1 - Utility, Pre Utility, Graduate Open

Ring 2 - Open, Pre Open, Graduate Novice

Ring 3- Novice, 4-H Advanced Novice

Ring 4 - 4-H Sub Novice, Beginner Novice, Pre Novice

You may ask the judges to do the exercises
in any training situation you need.

RALLY RING

JUDGE: CHIPTAYLOR

Starts at 9 AM.

Master 9 AM, Excellent to follow,
Advanced to follow, Novice to follow

Limited to number of dogs we can run per hour.
*We reserve the right to change courses depending on
amount of entries.*

AKC - Canine Good Citizen Test and Novice Trick Test

All breeds and mixed breeds welcome! You must have some type of AKC # to get a title. **BRING A BRUSH OR COMB**

CONFORMATION PRACTICE

Starts at 9:30 AM.

Class by age and divided further by size:

2 - 4 mo., 4 - 6 mo., 6 - 9 mo., 9 - 12 mo., Adult Dogs

4-H SHOWMANSHIP

Starts at 10 AM

Danish System of Judging 4-H rules

Cloverbuds: 5-7 years old

Junior: 8-10 years

Intermediate: 11-13

Senior: 14-18 years

*DIRECTIONS: From 512 or 410 take Hyway 161 So., (Meridian to Mt. Rainier, NW Trek)
The Fairgrounds are on your right before you get to 224th in Graham.*



Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination.
Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.

4 - H FUN'RAISER DOG FUN MATCH

PRE - ENTRY FORM (one per dog) - NO REFUNDS!! Pre Entries must be in by Wed. April 26

Pre - Entry: \$10.00 first entry of dog. \$5.00 each additional entry of same dog (does not include CGC)

Day of Match: \$15.00 first entry of dog. \$5.00 each additional entry of same dog (does not include CGC)

\$5.00 for 4-H Showmanship

CGC or TRICK TEST are NOT included as an additional entry of the same dog. CGC or TRICK TEST is \$10.00 per dog and is a separate Entry Fee.

For more information or questions: barb@nventure.com

Mail entry with check made payable to P.C. 4- H Dog Project to:
Barbara Taylor, Chairman, 2226 E. 68th St, Tacoma, WA 98404

Your Name _____ Obedience Class _____
Address _____ Additional or other Class _____
City _____ Zip _____ 4-H Showmanship Class _____
Phone _____ Breed _____ AKC CGC TEST _____ AKC TRICK TEST _____
Name of Dog _____ Dog's Age _____ e-mail address _____

Exhibitors are responsible for their actions, their children's actions, and the actions of their dog. Exhibitors agree that Pierce County Parks, Washington State 4-H, and The Pierce County 4-H Council are not liable for any injury to them, their family, or animals under their care. Exhibitors further agree that they are responsible for their dog being current on all vaccinations, it's condition of health, and freedom from parasites. Covid 19 - We will go by current Washington State or County mandates at the time.

Adult Signature _____ Date _____

But, I heard...
you can't please
all of the people
all of the time.



“You’ve been talking to the cat again—haven’t you?”

***OBEDIENCE & RALLY TRIALS
FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY
APRIL 7, 8, 9, 2023***

***ENTRIES CLOSE MARCH 23, 2023 NOON PACIFIC TIME
INDOORS PRACTICE ARENA (DIRT FLOOR)***

EVENT SECRETARY

Judi James dba My Dogs Gym
6237 Arbordale Dr SE, Salem, OR 97317
(971) 239-5518 EM: rainspring.mdg@gmail.com

**NOTE NEW
SECRETARY**

Electronic entries will be accepted using jotform
<https://form.jotform.com/Rainspring/may-2023-CKC-ob-ra-entry>

Premium list will be posted on AKC Event calendar and
www.mydoggy.com when available

Email name and address to be put on distribution list for this event
EM: rainspring.mdg@gmail.com

Dog Days Dog Training

Located in the Hazel Dell area of Vancouver, WA:

7206 NE 37th Ave., Unit A
Vancouver, WA 98665

Phone: 360-241-1844

Email: info1@dogdaysnw.com

Dog Days Upcoming Classes for 2023

Foundations for Performance

Tuesday 10:30 am - NEW TIME

Thursday 6:00pm

Saturdays 2:30pm

Obedience - Novice and Beginner Novice

Tuesdays 9:30 am

For availability, please contact the instructors directly.

Info available on the website at dogdaysnw.com





New & Upcoming Classes

Zoom Eye Contact/Attention with Rebecca Dodson of Boldly Go Dog Sports

This is a two-series course. The first 6 weeks of Beginning Attention will introduce you and your dog to attention skills, from stationary to moving as a team. You will learn how to capture your dog choosing to give you attention in controlled environments and in the real world.

Beginning Attention classes started 1/19, but you can still snatch an audit spot and catch up with the recording from class 1. Audit spots receive feedback on any video homework submissions and/or questions in the Attention Facebook group as well.

Intermediate Attention classes will start in March. This second 6 weeks of Intermediate Attention includes building attention with movement and in heel. You will also learn how to effectively correct for lack of attention and learn when to apply the correction. This is a great opportunity if you've already been working attention systematically with Trainers to the Rescue and want to advance you and your dog's attention skills.

Classes meet online every Thursday from 6-7pm. Working spots and audit spots both get live instruction weekly and working spots have the benefit of receiving training feedback during class. Both are invited to post homework videos for feedback and ask questions through the Facebook group. Working spots are \$160 and audit spots are \$80 per 6-week session.

Contact Rebecca at info@boldlygodogsports.com to reserve a spot.

Cindy's Classes

Cindy will be teaching **Foundation for Retrieve** as an online Zoom class. We will have a live and interactive Zoom Meeting for both working and auditing spots. The class is supported by a private Facebook group where everyone is encouraged to ask questions and post videos of your homework.

This series is 2 six-week sessions. Session 1 starts with Chin in the Hand and building a steady and reliable Hold, Grab, and Presentation. Session 2 will continue with moving the dumbbell to the floor, marking, casting, proofing games. This class is appropriate for competition obedience and hunting/retrievers.

Each 6-week session is \$160 working (4 teams)/\$80 audit (unlimited).
Class starts Tuesday, January 31st, and meets every Tuesday at 6-7 pm.

At long last, Cindy will be teaching **Foundation for Agility** Thursday nights from 6-7pm. This is a live and in-person class. We will introduce all the agility equipment, including bar jumps, tunnels, teeter-totter, dog walk, A-frame, and tire jump. Pre-requisite for the class is successful completion of our Foundation for Competition class, or instructor approval. If there is enough interest, there is a possibility of adding a second class at 7-8pm.

Maximum 4 teams per class. \$160 for six weeks. Classes start Thursday, February 2nd.

Cindy has one opening in her ongoing **Novice-Open Class** on Wednesdays 7-8 pm.

Contact Cindy at trainerstotherescue@gmail.com for a spot in any of her classes.

Sally's Classes

Sally has openings in her ongoing Rally classes.

Contact Sally at sallyw61@yahoo.com for inquiries.

Nancy Seaman's Foundation for Competition Class

Nancy has room in her Foundation for Competition class. This class teaches your dogs the fundamentals to competition classes. As a pre-requisite, it will set you and your dog up for success in future classes. This is a 6-week session, starting 1/27, meeting every Friday from 10-11am.

Contact Nancy to reserve your spot at searis10@gmail.com or (503) 307-037.

Auntie Sally's Pet Classes

Auntie Sally continues to offer Puppy and Adult Pet Dog Classes here on Sundays. We appreciate your referring your friends to these classes! It's difficult to find really good pet dog classes, so we are committed to making space for them at our facility.

Contact Sally Wojahn at auntiesally2@frontier.com.

New! Retrieving Workshops!

Huge thanks to Jill Suydam for organizing the two Retriever Workshops that we hosted here last weekend. Advanced teams met in the morning, and Beginning teams in the afternoon. Jill advertised and filled both workshops in a matter of hours! Jac Harbour taught the workshops, and Jill and Rebecca Dodson made sure that every team got plenty of coaching time with Jac, Lili Lobingier, and Cindy Leung. You can see the fabulous photographs at [Skinny Dog Photography](http://SkinnyDogPhotography.com). We were so fortunate that Beth Gordon of Skinny Dog Photography was willing to stand in the pouring rain in full camo to capture what these teams accomplished.

How to Wean Your Pet Onto New Food Without Upsetting Their Stomach

Step 1:

Feed **10% new food blended with 90% old food** for several days.

Step 2:

Observe your pet's stool and if all seems well, move to **20% new/80% old.**

Step 3:

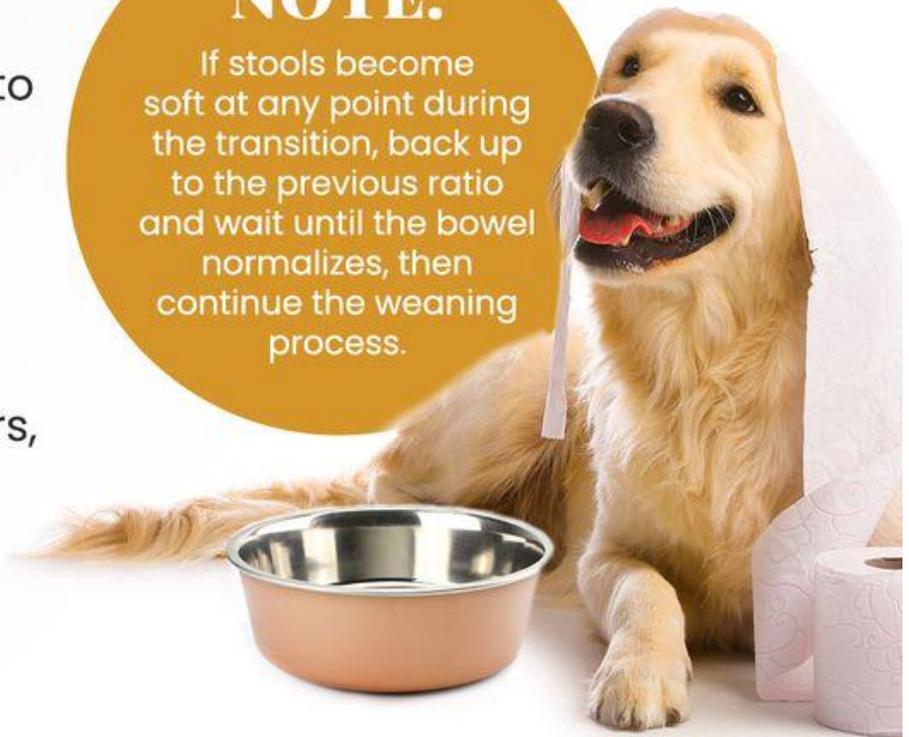
Again, observe for changes in their stool; if none occurs, move to **30% new food and 70% old.**

Step 4:

Continue adjusting the proportions until you're feeding only the new diet.

NOTE:

If stools become soft at any point during the transition, back up to the previous ratio and wait until the bowel normalizes, then continue the weaning process.





Introducing:

OTCH HARVEST WITHOUT A TRACE UDX 4 OM5 CLUE

We achieved this goal in December at the last show of the year. We start the UD and OTCH journey back in August of 2021 and completed in December of 22!

What an amazing journey it was! Fun, eventful, rewarding, rollercoaster ride!

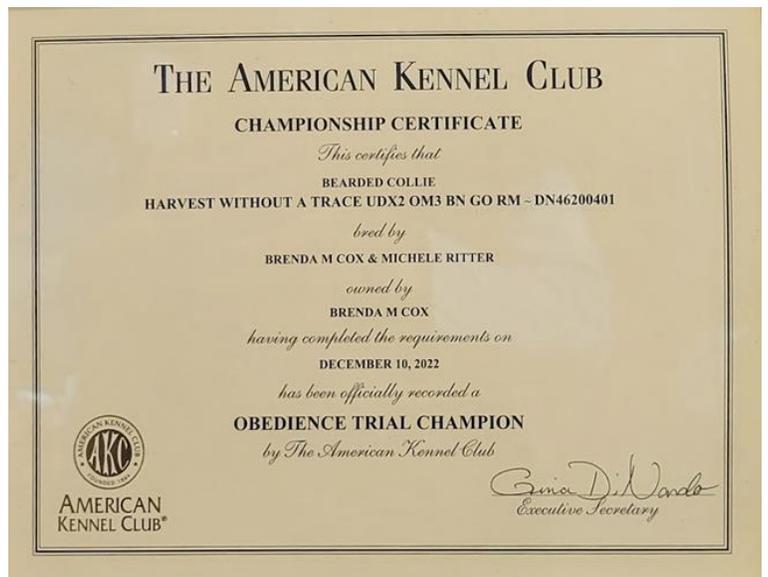
Clue is my second OTCH Beardie and number 6 Beardie to have earned one. Laverne was my first and sits at #5. 15 years between 4th and Laverne at 5th. That was a rewarding journey as well. So now I have 5th and 6th in a row. We are officially in the history books for this breed. We hope to go out to the NOC to represent our breed and compete there.

Can Beansoup help me to keep my streak going? Time will tell. We are gearing up for Utility this year. What kind of a ride will this be? Let's find out

I do offer one on one lessons for anyone on the utility/UDX/OTCH journey.

If interested in problem solving or anything in your way, please contact me for a private lesson.

Brenda Cox
541-515-4427





mariascrivan.com



Maria
Scrivan



Big fat brag for Micah
"Marinella's Wouldn't It Be Nice"
Winners Dog 6 out of 7 shows.
Three majors, Three Best of
Winners

- New Champion
- Novice Tricks Title
- Intermediate Tricks Title

Dixie Matsen



Emily earned UDX QQ #18
at the Tualatin KC trial.
Carolyn Wray



Musculoskeletal Development of the Puppy

Birth – Twelve Months

by Georgia Lewis PhD Candidate, BSc (Hons) VNRVN

DOGS are one of the most morphologically diverse species as they can range from a 1kg Chihuahua to a 100kg English Mastiff. With gestation ranging from 58 to 68 days all puppies begin life at a similar size, with no teeth and their eyes closed. There is little difference between gestation timescales, however growth and size post-partum varies greatly, depending on the breed (Table 1). Although there is such a variation in size, nutritional and exercise advice for the first twelve months of life scarcely differs. This can have an impact on the growth of a puppy and result in a number of pathological and skeletal conditions.

Long bones, are responsible for providing strength and structure to the body to enable locomotion (Figure 1). The cartilaginous precursors of long bones are laid down during the foetal period. At birth the scapula, os ischi, os ilium and the cartilaginous scaffold of the diaphysis are almost totally

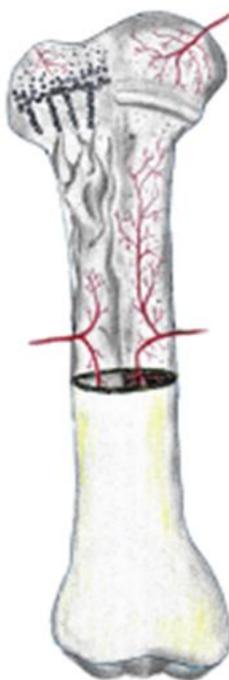


Figure 1: Development of a Long Bone; Left: Open Growth Plate During Endochondral Ossification, Right: Ceased Cell Proliferation and Maturation in Closed Growth Plate.

replaced by bone. Ossification begins in the diaphysis where cartilage is enclosed by forming an outer layer of bone. As a result, the still rapidly dividing chondrocytes (cartilage cells), are forced to arrange themselves on top of each other forming columnar cartilage. The growing cartilage is forced to grow in peripheral directions as the cortex now prevents outward expansion and makes bone form lengthways. As the cortex thickens, diffused chondrocyte nourishment decreases. Capillary vessels begin to sprout through gaps in the bone cortex and supply nutrients, osteoblasts and osteoclasts to the diaphysis, enabling the initiation of endochondral ossification (Figure 1).

Endochondral ossification continues until the animal has reached maturity. The process involves the replacement of hyaline cartilage to bone by osteoblastic cells. Primary ossification centres are located in the diaphysis of long bones where osteoblasts lay down new bone towards bone ends. Secondary centres of ossification then develop at the epiphysis, where mineralisation occurs and results in the development of true articular cartilage. Osteoclastic cells then begin to remove bone from the centre of the diaphysis which forms the marrow cavity and trabeculae of the cancellous bone. The epiphyseal (growth) plate remains cartilage-bound to enable bone to continue lengthening. Once the dog has reached its full size, growth will cease and the cartilage in the growth plate is replaced by bone, creating a total and bony skeleton (Figure 2). Depending on bone type and region within the body, growth plates will close at different times (Table 2).

Dog Size	Dog Breeds	Weight Range (kg)	Rapid Growth Period	Timescale to Fully Grown (Entire)
Toy	Chihuahua, Pomeranian, Maltese, Toy Poodle	< 5	Birth-11 weeks	6 - 12 months
Small	Jack Russell Terrier, Dachshund, Pug, Miniature Schnauzer	5 - 10	Birth-14 weeks	8 - 12 months
Medium	Border Collie, Cocker Spaniel, Beagle	10 - 25	Birth-16 weeks	8 - 18 months
Large	German Shepherd, Labrador Retriever, Golden Retriever, Bulldog, Boxer, Siberian Husky	25 - 40	Birth-18 weeks	11 - 18 months
Giant	Great Dane, Mastiff, St. Bernard	> 40	Birth-20 weeks	12 - 24 months

Table 1: Table Depicting Dog Size, Typical Breeds, Average Weights and Growth Timescales. (Hawthorne et al., 2004)

continued overleaf

Growth Plate/ Physis	Approximate Age Closure
Scapula: Supraglenoid tubercle	4 – 7 months
Proximal humerus: greater tubercle to humeral head	4 months
Proximal humeral physis	10 – 13 months
Distal humerus: lateral and medial condyle parts	6 weeks
Distal humerus: medial epicondyle	6 months
Distal humerus: condyle to diaphysis	5 – 8 months
Proximal radius	5 – 11 months
Proximal ulna: olecranon	5 – 10 months
Proximal ulna: anconeus	3 – 5 months
Distal radius	6 – 12 months
Distal ulna	6 – 12 months
Accessory carpal bone	2 – 5 months
Proximal metacarpal i	6 months
Distal metacarpals ii – v	5 – 7 months
Phalanges	4 – 6 months
Pelvis: acetabulum	4 – 6 months
Pelvis: iliac crest	12 – 24 months
Pelvis: tuber ischii	8 – 10 months
Proximal femur: neck	6 – 11 months
Proximal femur: greater trochanter	6 – 10 months
Proximal femur: lesser trochanter	8 – 13 months
Distal femur	6 – 11 months
Proximal tibia: medial and lateral condyle	6 weeks
Proximal tibia: tuberosity to condyle	6 – 8 months
Proximal tibia: condyle to diaphysis	6 – 12 months
Proximal fibula	6 – 12 months
Distal tibia: physis	5 – 11 months
Distal tibia: medial malleolus	5 months
Distal fibula	5 – 12 months
Tuber calcis	3 – 8 months

Table 2: Approximate Ages for Epiphyseal Plate Closure. (Hammond and McConnell, 2013)

FACTORS AFFECTING GROWTH

Aside from the size of the dog, there are a number of factors that can contribute to their growth and development. Depending on the size of specific breeds, puppies have exponential growth until they reach certain ages (See Table 1). Males take longer to reach adulthood than females, so their sustained growth needs to be considered with the following factors.

Diet

Puppies begin weaning and start eating solid food from three weeks of age. They are fully weaned from their dams by the time of rehoming at typically around eight weeks. During the first twelve months, it is crucial that growing puppies have a sufficient diet which meets their high energy requirements. Dietary imbalances are commonly seen in growing dogs, so it is important to ensure a dog's diet is suitable for its age and breed.

Lifestage	RER Requirements
< 4 months	3.0 x RER
50% - 80% of adult weight	2.5 x RER
> 80% of adult weight	1.8 – 2.0 x RER

Table 3: RER Requirements for First Twelve Months of Age. (Hemmings, 2018; Gajanayake et al., 2011)

Resultant malnutrition from under-feeding can cause stunted growth and overfeeding can result in obesity. Obesity has a direct impact on joint and limb formation due to increased loading forces on joints. This can result in the malformation of a joint, leading to conditions such as secondary osteoarthritis. Although obesity is a risk factor in all young breeds, it can have a greater impact on larger breeds due to excess weight being carried on growing bones for longer growing periods. In order to ensure prevention of malnutrition, puppies should be fed a diet that consists of a calculated calorie intake, utilising an individual resting energy requirement (RER) (Table 3). The RER, is the minimum amount of energy a dog requires to maintain homeostasis at rest, and can be calculated by the formula; $70 \times (\text{Bodyweight [kg]})^{0.75}$

To avoid malnutrition and consequential pathological conditions or skeletal deformities, a sufficient diet must also include specific nutrients and minerals. Larger breeds are susceptible to over supplementation of nutrients, which can result in a number of skeletal conditions. It is important to be aware of the size of the puppy and its potential growth to ensure it is given a diet with the correct amounts of the following:

Calcium

Calcium is vital for the development and maintenance of bone and is absorbed through the intestines. The average adult healthy dog requires 0.1 to 0.2 mmol/L per day, however growing dogs will require a higher level of calcium in their diet to account for bone growth. It is especially important to ensure puppies have ample time to feed from their dams and avoid premature weaning. Increased levels can result in hypercalcaemia. This is detrimental in giant breeds as more than 3.3g of calcium per 100g can cause osteochondrosis, whereas this only results in microscopic irregularities in miniature breeds. Low levels of calcium; less than 0.55g per 100g

for giant breeds and 0.05g per 100g for miniature breeds, can cause pathological fractures as a result of osteopenia and osteoporosis.

Vitamin D

Vitamin D is crucial for the growth of bones and calcium absorption. It has a significant role in maintaining the skeletal calcium balance which promotes bone reabsorption and subsequent function of the parathyroid hormone. A diet deficient in vitamin D can result in osteomalacia and rickets in all breeds. It is imperative puppies are fed a good quality diet, recommended by a veterinary surgeon, as they require supplementary amounts of vitamin D, due to their inability to photosynthesise sufficient amounts through their skin from natural sunlight.

Protein

Protein is also an important factor for a dog's growth. A puppy's protein requirement peaks at weaning and generally requires 22% to 23% of protein daily. A diet low in protein will result in weight loss and retardation or cessation of growth. As larger dog breeds will continue their growth for longer, it is important their diet does not reduce protein at the same stage as small and miniature breeds. Increased protein in a puppy's diet can result in skeletal abnormalities and become a potential contributing factor for conditions such as hip dysplasia due to increased development of the acetabulum and femoral condyles. As a result of the ill-fitting joints, this can progress into degenerative joint disease and secondary osteoarthritis.

Phosphorus

Phosphorus is believed to combine with calcium to strengthen and aid the structure of bone. It is important to maintain the calcium-phosphorus ratio to ensure there is adequate calcium within the bones. Young, growing dogs are recommended to have a daily phosphorus intake of 2 to 3 mmol/L.



Figure 2: Complete Ossified Skeleton of a Dog Post Growth Plate Closure.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

Home Environment

Puppies can be rehomed from eight weeks of age. This results in a variation of environmental factors impacting how the puppy will develop. In a new home, owners should avoid allowing puppies the use of stairs and also from playing on slippery surfaces to avoid harsh impact on growing bones and joints. The handling of puppies is important and should be carried out with great care. Owners with young children should be especially mindful when the children interact with the puppy to ensure no injury is caused. Similarly, it is also advised that puppies within multi-dog households should be monitored when interacting with other dogs in the home. Young dogs' bones are not fully developed and are

unable to sustain stress or force due to their epiphyseal plates still being cartilaginous (Figure 3). Exercise therefore must be limited until dogs have reached maturity to prevent injury. It is advised that a dog is exercised for five minutes per month of age. Stairs and large slopes should be avoided to prevent any damage to the puppy's growth plates.

Neutering

Typically dogs reach adolescence and sexual maturity between six to 18 months. For behavioural and potential health reasons, dogs are usually neutered between six and 24 months of age. Neutering is the removal of reproductive organs and results in a consequential decrease in gonadal steroid production. Gonadal hormones regulate skeletal growth and it was



Figure 3: Depiction of Radiographic Puppy Bone Development; Left: at 1 week, Centre: at 6 weeks, Right: at 12 weeks of age.

continued overleaf

anecdotally believed that early neutering stunted growth through inhibition of hormones. Decreased levels as a result of early neutering in fact delay growth plate closure and lead to elongated long bones. These elongated limbs can result in altered function of muscular anatomy which also predisposes the dog to muscle, tendon and ligament injuries and calcification. Males take longer to reach full maturity so early castration can result in underdeveloped muscles and definition as well as elongated limbs. A similar state of poor muscle development also occurs in premature spays. Owners and veterinary staff should be mindful that dogs have reached their adult size before neutering to reduce the chance of delayed growth plate closure, unless it is for a diagnosed issue.

CONCLUSION

The growth of a dog is very complex. Due to the diversity within the species, bone growth can range from six months to two years. Other factors, including a puppy's diet and exercise, can influence the development of bones. As a result, bone malformation leads to secondary conditions such as degenerative joint disease and osteoarthritis. It is important for breeders, owners and veterinary staff to be aware of these factors to ensure dogs develop at the correct rate to reduce the repercussions of poor development in the dog's later life stages.

Georgia Lewis,

PhD Candidate, BSc (Hons) VN RVN

**Animal Department
Hartpury University,
Hartpury, Glos, GL19 3BE**



Hartpury is a specialist educational provider located in Gloucestershire with more than 3,600 college and university level students studying postgraduate and undergraduate degrees, A-levels and diplomas in the areas of sport, equine, animal, agriculture and veterinary nursing.

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Below is the next in a series of Random Tidbits of information (from me) in regards to the AKC Obedience Regulations. Knowledge of the Regulations provides you the power for...

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Today's Random Little Tidbit – ["Visual" Jump Chart added to Existing Jump Chart](#)

In the Saint Bernard Library <https://saintbernardarchive.com/library/> (under **Judging Materials**) there is a link to **Charts**. In this file are various charts and tables which I have created to assist me when judging or stewarding. As with all items in the Library, you are welcome to add the materials to your attaché for future judging or stewarding.

In the latest updated **Charts** file (and the **Stewarding Packet** file) is what I call a "visual" Jump Chart to be added to the existing Jump Chart (which lists all the various jump height tables, full heights, $\frac{3}{4}$ heights & $\frac{1}{2}$ heights). By laminating the two charts back-to-back one will have all the needed information in one spot for easy and quick reference for verification, especially before the team enters the ring. The two Jump Charts are also helpful in assisting the stewards to preview, and to be mentally ready, to set the jumps correctly for the next team entering the ring.

[From the Obedience Regulations...](#)

Withers — highest point of the dog's shoulder

Chapter 4, Section 11... "Jump heights shall be set in multiples of 2 inches with no dog jumping less than 4 inches or more than 36 inches. A jump height is determined by the height of the dog at the withers (see table in Appendix B for standard jump heights). The actual height of the dog shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of 2 inches to determine the minimum jump height, with the exception of dogs eligible for the 4-inch jump height. Dogs eligible for the 4-inch jump height must be less than $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches at the withers."

"The stewards, based on the jump height listed, will pre-set the jumps. The judge will make certain the jump is at least the minimum required height for each dog and must also be aware that the jump may be set at a higher height if requested by the handler. Judges may, at their discretion, verify the height of any dog at the withers."

Chapter 4, Section 15... "The broad jump will consist of four white telescoping hurdles, all about 8 inches wide. In the ring, they will be arranged in order of size, evenly spaced, covering a distance equal to twice the height of the high jump setting for each dog. Four hurdles will be used for a jump of 48 to 72 inches, three for 28 to 44 inches, two for a jump of 16 to 24 inches, and one for 8 inches. When decreasing the number of hurdles in the jump, the highest hurdle will be removed first. It is the judge's responsibility to see that the distance jumped by each dog is in accordance with these regulations."

Please view the Charts on the following pages...

Blog Address: <https://akcobedrlyjudges.wordpress.com/about/> Sign up to receive updates.

John Cox, AKC obedience judge. dog-talk@comcast.net

AKC Obedience Jump Charts

(Chapter 4, Section 11)

by John Cox ©

Regular Classes + Approved Breeds for $\frac{3}{4}$ Jump Height & Preferred Classes --- $\frac{1}{2}$ Jump Height

Measured height nearest multiple of 2" to the height of the dog's withers.



Height to be Jumped	Broad Jump Hurdles	High Jump Chart Board Combinations
4"	(8) 1	4" = 4
8"	(16) 2	8" = 8
10"	(20) 2	10" = 8 + 2
12"	(24) 2	12" = 8 + 4
14"	(28) 3	14" = 8 + 4 + 2
16"	(32) 3	16" = 8 + 8
18"	(36) 3	18" = 8 + 8 + 2
20"	(40) 3	20" = 8 + 8 + 4
22"	(44) 3	22" = 8 + 8 + 4 + 2
24"	(48) 4	24" = 8 + 8 + 8
26"	(52) 4	26" = 8 + 8 + 8 + 2
28"	(56) 4	28" = 8 + 8 + 8 + 4
30"	(60) 4	30" = 8 + 8 + 8 + 4 + 2
32"	(64) 4	32" = 8 + 8 + 8 + 8
34"	(68) 4	34" = 8 + 8 + 8 + 8 + 2
36"	(72) 4	36" = 8 + 8 + 8 + 8 + 4

Chart for $\frac{3}{4}$ the Height at the Withers

Measured Height	Height to Jump	Broad Jump
Less than 10"	4"	(8) 1
10 to less than 12 1/2"	8"	(16) 2
12 1/2 to less than 15"	10"	(20) 2
15 to less than 17 1/2"	12"	(24) 2
17 1/2 to less than 20"	14"	(28) 3
20 to less than 23"	16"	(32) 3
23 to less than 25 1/2"	18"	(36) 3
25 1/2 to less than 28"	20"	(40) 3
28 to less than 31"	22"	(44) 3
31 to less than 33 1/2"	24"	(48) 4
33 1/2 to less than 36"	26"	(52) 4
36 to less than 39"	28"	(56) 4

Chart for $\frac{1}{2}$ the Height at the Withers

(Preferred Open & Preferred Utility)

Measured Height	Height to Jump	Broad Jump
12" or less	4"	(8) 1
Greater than 12" up to 18"	8"	(16) 2
Greater than 18" up to 22"	10"	(20) 2
Greater than 22" up to 26"	12"	(24) 2
Greater than 26" up to 30"	14"	(28) 3
Greater than 30" up to 34"	16"	(32) 3
Greater than 34"	18"	(36) 3



Broad Jump: To cover a distance equal to TWICE the height of the High Jump

4 hurdles shall be used for a jump of 48" to 72"
 3 hurdles shall be used for a jump of 28" to 44"
 2 hurdles shall be used for a jump of 16" to 24"
 1 hurdle shall be used for a jump of 8"

When decreasing the number of hurdles in the Jump, the highest hurdle(s) shall be removed first.

52 Approved Breeds Jumping $\frac{3}{4}$ Their Height at the Withers

Akita	Dandie Dinmount Terrier	Newfoundland
Alaskan Malamute May 1, 2020	Dogue De Bordeaux	Norwich Terrier
Argentine Dogo	Estrela Mountain Dog	Otterhound
Basset Hound	French Bulldog	Pekingese
Bergamasco	Glen of Imaal Terrier	Pembroke Welsh Corgi
Bernese Mountain Dog	Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen	Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen
Black Russian Terrier	Great Dane	Portuguese Podengo
Bloodhound	Great Pyrenees	Pugs
Bolognese	Greater Swiss Mountain Dog	Saint Bernard
Borzoi	Irish Wolfhound	Scottish Terriers
Bulldog	Kishu Ken	Sealyham Terrier
Bullmastiff	Kooikerhondje	Shih Tzu
Cardigan Welsh Corgi	Kuvaszok	Skye Terrier
Caucasian Mountain Dog	Lagotto Romagnolo	Sussex Spaniel
Chinese Shar-Pei	Leonberger	Swedish Vallhunds
Chow Chow	Mastiff	Thai Ridgeback
Cumber Spaniel	Neopolitan Mastiff	West Highland White Terrier
Dachshund		



Jump Setting Guidelines

High Jump Board Combinations

4"	=	4
8"	=	8
10"	=	8 + 2
12"	=	8 + 4
14"	=	8 + 4 + 2
16"	=	8 + 8
18"	=	8 + 8 + 2
20"	=	8 + 8 + 4
22"	=	8 + 8 + 4 + 2
24"	=	8 + 8 + 8
26"	=	8 + 8 + 8 + 2
28"	=	8 + 8 + 8 + 4
30"	=	8 + 8 + 8 + 4 + 2
32"	=	8 + 8 + 8 + 8
34"	=	8 + 8 + 8 + 8 + 2
36"	=	8 + 8 + 8 + 8 + 4

Broad Jump Hurdle Layouts

High Jump Hurdles Set at:	Broad Jump Hurdles Set at:	
4"	8"	One Hurdle
8"	16"	Two Hurdles
10"	20"	
12"	24"	
14"	28"	Three Hurdles
16"	32"	
18"	36"	
20"	40"	
22"	44"	
24"	48"	Four Hurdles
26"	52"	
28"	56"	
30"	60"	
32"	64"	
34"	68"	
36"	72"	

All Hurdles are 8" in width

Lining up the Hurdles

The right hand sides of the hurdles are aligned in a straight row.



The shortest hurdle stays in place and all others telescope out from it - spaced evenly apart.



John Cox dog-talk@comcast.net



Sending love

What Makes the Merle in Dog Coats? The Science Behind the Pattern

By [Caroline Coile, PhD](#)

Nov 01, 2022 | *American Kennel Club Article*

Merle in dogs is one of the most intriguing coat patterns in the dog world, both in its appearance and its genetics. Also known as dapple, merle is characterized by irregular blotches of fur set on a lighter background of the same pigment, such as solid black on gray (called blue merle) or solid brown on tan (red merle). Blue and partially blue eyes are often seen with the merle pattern, as well.

Although beautiful and unique, this color can also be associated with health problems, primarily deafness and blindness. Awareness is key to responsible breeding; it is not recommended to breed two merles together.

There are several merle dog breeds where the pattern is commonly found and accepted as a breed standard, including:

- [Australian Shepherd](#)
- [Miniature American Shepherd](#)
- [Collie](#)
- [Shetland Sheepdog](#)
- [Dachshund](#)
- [Cardigan Welsh Corgi](#)
- [Pyrenean Shepherd](#)
- [Great Dane](#)
- [Mudi](#)
- [Catahoula Leopard Dog](#)
- [Chihuahua](#)
- [Border Collie](#)
- [Pomeranian](#)

Research shows that the gene responsible for merle in dogs is the same in every breed, indicating that it is an ancient mutation that predates the formation of dog breeds. It is unlikely to have arisen independently in different breeds.



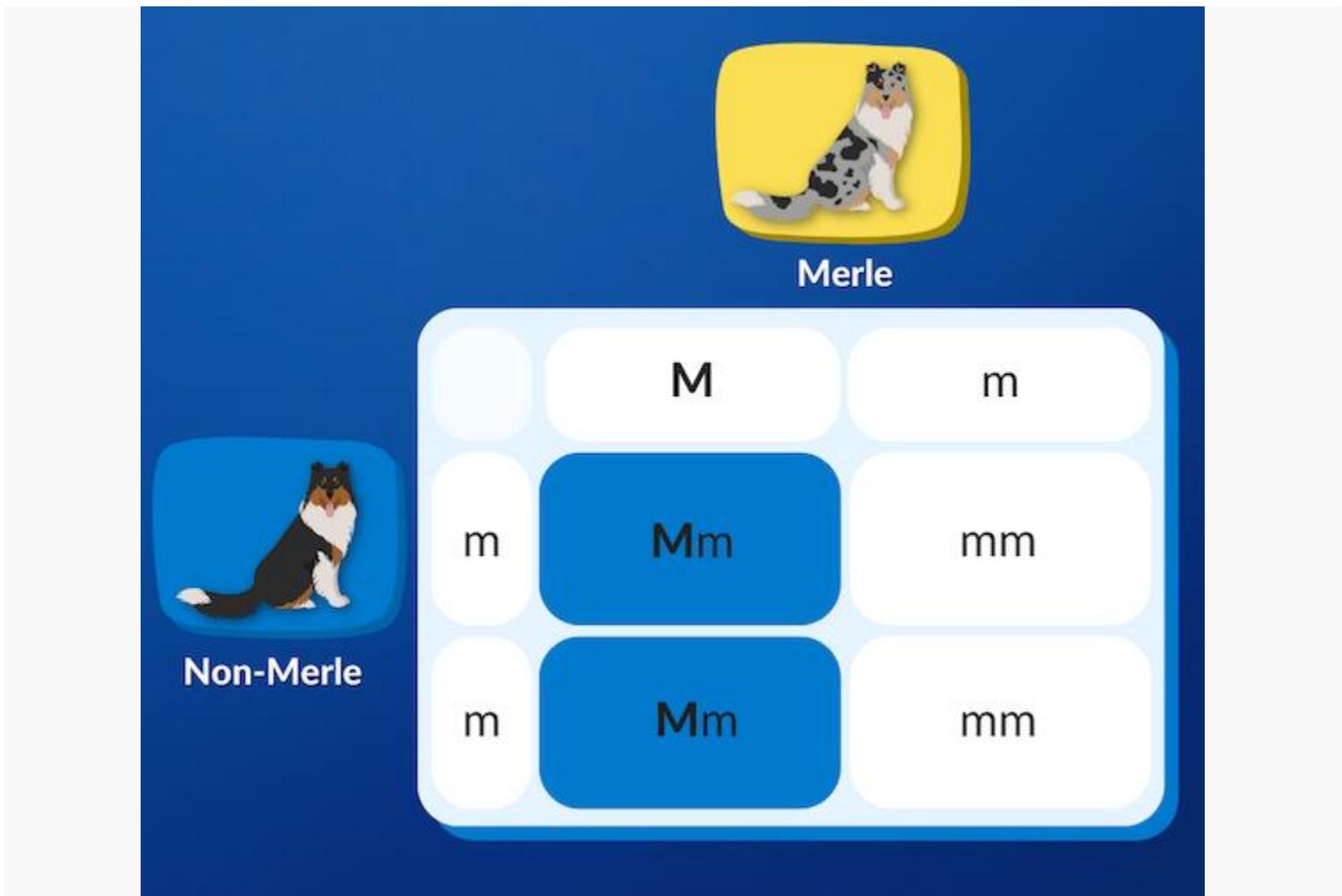
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What Gene Causes Merle in Dogs' Coat?

The merle coat color lies in basic genetics, where there is a dominant and recessive trait to produce those gorgeous splotches. This is the merle allele (M) and one copy of the non-merle allele (m). The merle (M) allele is a semi-dominant gene, meaning it only takes one copy of the M allele to produce a merle. So, every merle dog has one copy of the merle allele (M) and one copy of the non-merle allele (m), meaning every merle dog has an Mm genotype, and, therefore, every non-merle dog has an mm genotype.

The merle allele was first discovered at Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine in 2006. The merle coat color is governed by a type of mutation called a SINE insertion in the [SILV](#) (also called [PMEL17](#)) gene.

What about dogs with two merle alleles (MM)? These "double merles" (or "double-dapples") don't look like merles. They usually have much more white on them—and some can be almost pure white. The fully pigmented splotches are much smaller, and the background color is much whiter.



Gabe Fuller

An example of a punnet square between a merle and a non-merle.

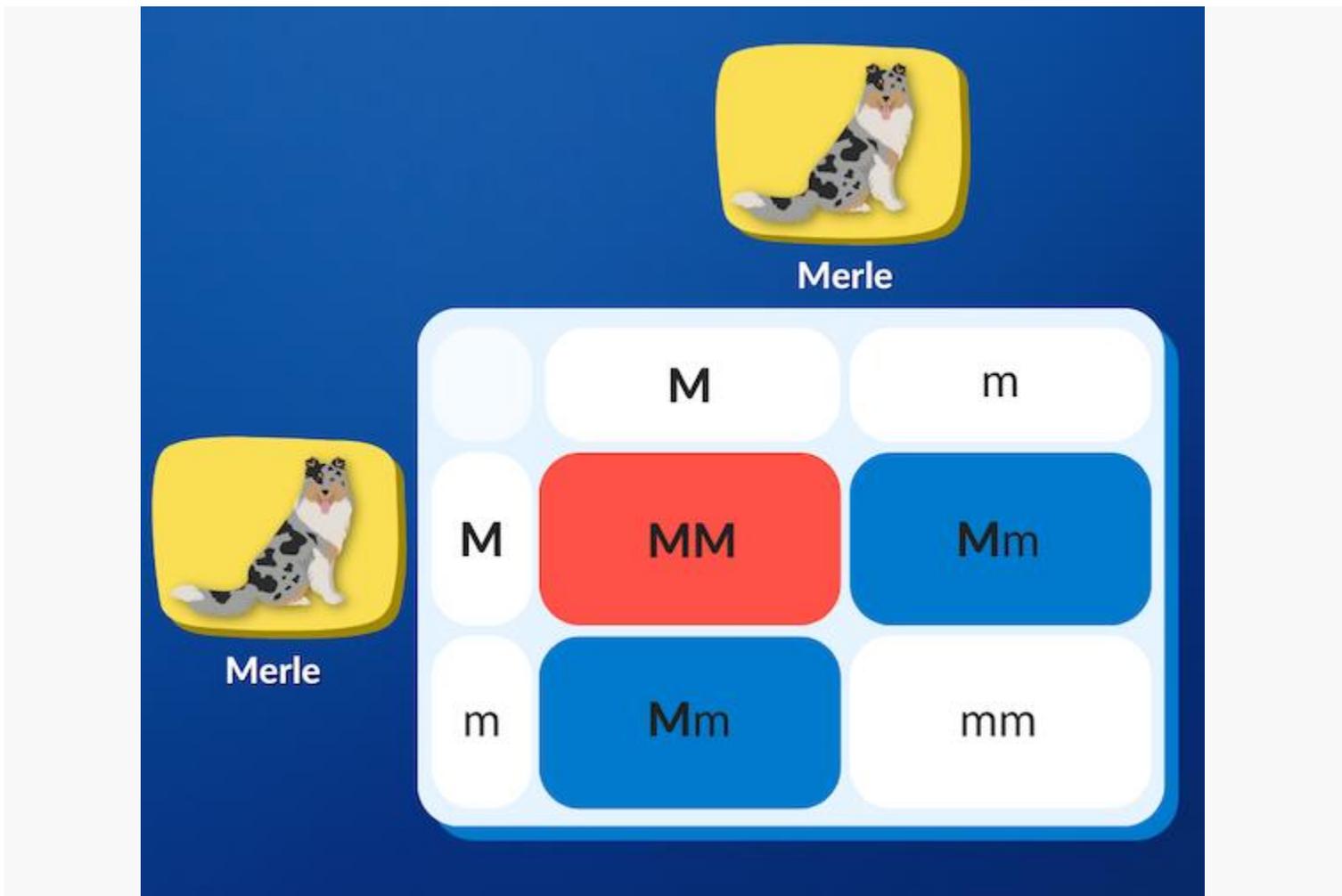
What Health Concerns are Associated With a Merle Coat?

The merle pattern can lead to a slew of health problems. The most common is hearing loss in one or both ears. Having even a single *M* allele actually raises the chance of being deaf, although the chance of an *Mm* merle being bilaterally deaf is still less than 1 percent. The presence of two *M* genes, however, greatly increases the chance of deafness, depending on what breed it's in. For example, in one study, about 10 percent of *MM* Catahoula Leopard Dogs, about 56 percent of *MM* Australian Shepherds, and about 85 percent of all other *MM* dogs studied were deaf in both ears.

Double-merle dogs also often have microphthalmia, in which the eyes are abnormally small (sometimes barely there) and often nonfunctional. They may also have abnormal pupils.

Researchers don't yet know why any of these abnormalities are associated with double merle; possibly it's because the merle mutation affects melanocytes, the cells that produce melanin pigment, and melanocytes are found not only in the skin but in the eye and inner ear, as well as the bones and heart.

Regardless, it's best to avoid breeding a merle to a merle. Because both parents will have the *Mm* genotype, on average only half the offspring will be merle (*Mm*). More importantly, you're likely to produce a quarter that are double-merle (*MM*).



Gabe Fuller

An example on a punnet square between two merles.
 How DNA Tests Can Help Determine Merle

Although not all double-merles have auditory or visual problems, it's best to avoid taking the chance. That sounds simple enough: Just don't breed two merles together. The problem is that not all merles are obvious, such as "hidden" merle and "cryptic merle."

In hidden merle, the merle pattern is hidden by the action of genes at another location. The recessive "ee" genotype inhibits the expression of any dark pigment, including the dark pigment in merles. If a dog were Mm and ee , it would just look cream or red in any pigmented area since the merle mutation only affects dark pigment. In cryptic merle, the merle pattern is expressed only in very small areas, so small you might not notice them unless you searched the dog's entire body for a trace. But these dogs can also carry the M allele and may produce merles as well.

That's why it's essential to DNA test before you breed any dog from a breed or family known to produce merle. A DNA test can tell you if your dog has zero, one, or two M alleles.

As you can see, while the inheritance of merle in dogs seems simple at first, it can get pretty complicated. Fortunately, you don't really need to know any more about the science to appreciate its beauty and to make wise breeding decisions.



LexiTheMonster/Getty Images Plus

Why Do Some Dogs Have More Merle Than Others?

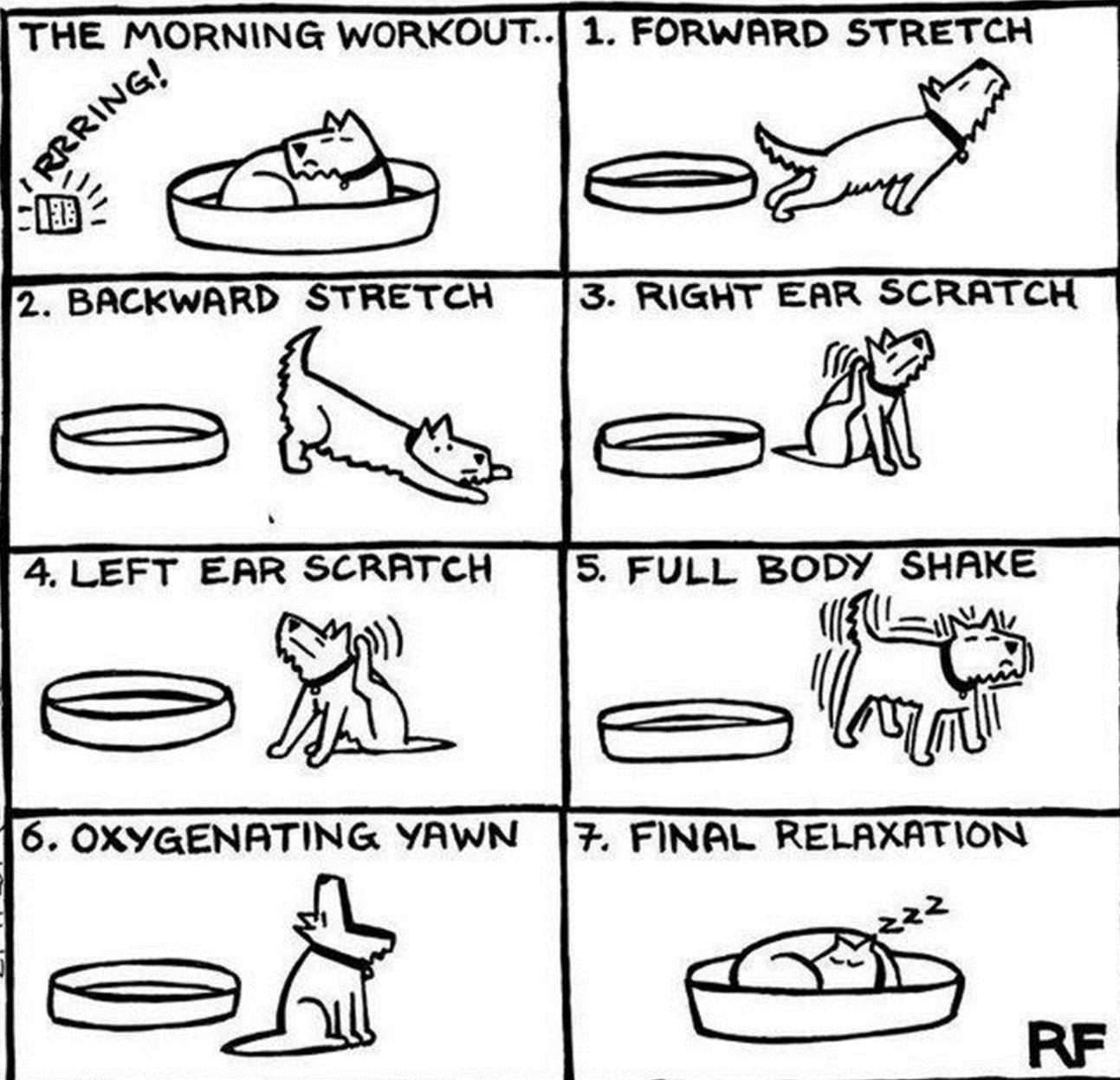
You may notice that some dogs only have the merle pattern on their face, for example, while others show splotches on their entire body. There's some additional science behind that. The *SILV* gene involved with merle in dogs is responsible for producing a matrix that essentially holds the pigment in place. In a non-merle dog, the matrix is completely formed and pigment stays put. But if one *SILV* allele has this insertion of extra genetic material in it, the matrix has holes in it. Pigment granules escape from the holes, leaving a faded coat color.

However, the length of this genetic insertion is not very stable, and as cells divide during embryogenesis, which is the process of the development of an embryo, it may shrink or expand. In some embryonic cells, it shrinks to the point of being nearly normal, and the matrix these cells produce is almost complete. During development, cells derived from these near-normal embryonic cells give rise to patches of the fully pigmented coat.

Thus, merles are a mosaic of copies derived from cells with various degrees of “leaky” matrixes and normal matrixes. The size of each patch depends on how early in embryogenesis the insertion size mutated, with larger patches descended from earlier mutation events.

Merle is a complicated and fascinating color pattern—both in appearance and in genetics. That's why dog breeders and geneticists alike consider merle in dogs beautiful.

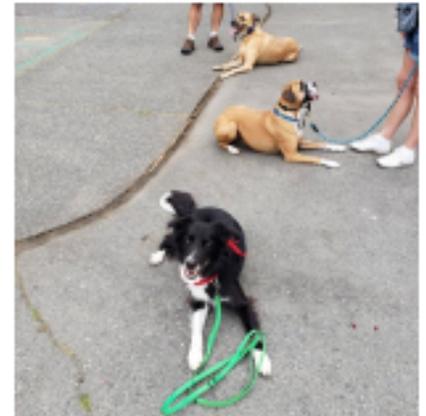
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Relaxation Protocol

Relaxation protocols will help your dog navigate many aspects of life, especially when what we want goes against their instincts. These protocols will teach your dog to relax and in place when you move about the house, when a visitor arrives, and when you take your dog out in public. Setting the stage right away for energy control is important. Teaching a dog to relax and be "off duty" is one of the kindest and most useful things we can do for our pets.



Settle

A settle is like a down but with a hip flopped over and it has an implied duration and calmness. You can shape, capture, or lure this behaviour to start, depending on what works best for your dog's personality and learning history.

Tip: Place the treats on the ground rather than feeding them to your dog's mouth. This helps magnetize your dog to the ground rather than keeping their focus up to your hand or pocket.

We will never ask for a settle and then ask for an explosive fast behaviour. For example, we wouldn't use settle while playing fetch because the expectation for the fun chase will change the energy state of the dog in a settle. If you are playing with multiple dogs, you can use a settle to help one wait. When it is that dog's turn call them to you and ask for a sit or other behaviour before you begin fetch.

Settle will be your dog's job when you are vacuuming, when you stop to chat with a neighbour, when a friend pops by to drop off cake, etc. Pay your dog well for this game! Put a lot of value in teaching your dog to relax and you will have a lovely dog who you can take to a friend's BBQ, to the hardware store, to the bank, or anywhere you like.

Treats

You will use a lot of food to train your dog to relax. You can use your dog's meals to train or other healthy treats. Use treats that are medium or lower value to keep the energy level down. If your dog isn't keen on training for food, choose something exciting enough for them to want to play training games. Consider asking for help to train food motivation as this is a common issue that we help people work through. Although we train many skills using toys, toys are not appropriate reinforcers for relaxing as it encourages excitement rather than relaxation.

Examples:

- Kibble if your dog eats kibble
- Carrots, Peas, Sweet Potato, or other veggies
- Beef or lamb lung



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Markers

As you complete each step in the protocols, calmly say "good" then reach into your treat pouch or pocket and deliver a treat by placing it onto the ground in front of them. Some people choose not to say "good" and that is ok too, the best method depends on your dog's training history. We advise you not to say "yes" or use a clicker however, as these markers are often paired with upbeat, fast, fun games and can affect the energy of the settle.

Ideally, use a treat pouch or easy to access pocket rather than holding the treats in your hand. This little tip will help transition your dog to listening when you don't have treats on you and it also helps keep excitable or food crazy dogs a little calmer.

Talking To Your Dog

Please talk to your dog as you work through the protocol if it feels natural to you. Chat with your dog as you might a young child, explaining what you are doing. It is amazing how much talking to them helps some dogs stay calm. Read more about talking to your dog here: ["The Mr. Rogers Hack"](#)

Mat or No Mat?

Some people will choose to use a mat or dog bed when training this protocol. A mat is handy as you can take it with you when you train in new locations and the presence of the mat helps your dog clue into the game a little faster. However, the end goal is typically that you don't need the mat. Without a mat, you will take more time to help your dog in new locations. If you use a mat you will need to fade the mat out of the training later but the best option varies dog to dog. If you have a very anxious or excitable dog, or if your dog does not like to lie down on cold or hard surfaces, the mat is likely a good option. Raised dog beds, bathmats, and towels make great relaxation mats.

Error Handling

What if your dog gets up during the protocol? Mistakes happen, don't sweat it. Simply ask your dog to settle again, feed them, and move right back to it. If your dog gets up once you have two options.

1. Try the exact scenario again, in case it was just a simple mistake.
 2. Move back a step or two and start again where you know your dog can succeed.
- Dogs don't need to make mistakes in order to learn. My preference for error handling is to move back enough steps that you know your dog can succeed, building up confidence and motivation.

What if your dog gets up twice in a row? Now we really need to be proactive in building confidence and understanding. I suggest you go back to the very beginning of the Basic Protocol. If your pup is still struggling, it is ok to go for a long sniffy walk for you both to decompress, then try again tomorrow.

Credit: Dr Karen Overall

Dr Overall created a Relaxation Protocol that was and is used by trainers all over the world. Along with her other work, it was a fantastic tool for many of us. We have written these updated protocols, based on Dr Overall's work, to suit our current needs with our students as well as our own dogs. <https://www.karenoverall.com/>



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Basic Protocol

Begin with this protocol and advance it as your dog's level of understanding increases. Keep the error handling protocol in mind and reinforce many easy reps to keep the momentum going and to build value in relaxing.

- Settle for 2 seconds
- Settle for 5 seconds
- Settle for 10 seconds
- Settle for 3 seconds
- Settle while you lift one foot off the ground
- Settle for 5 seconds
- Settle while you take one step
- Settle for 5 seconds
- Settle for 10 seconds
- Settle while you take one step and return
- Settle while you clap your hands lightly once
- Settle for 10 seconds
- Settle for 3 seconds
- Settle while you take 2 steps and return
- Settle for 5 seconds
- Settle while you take one step, count to 3, and return
- Settle for 5 seconds



Keys to adding difficulty while building strong, confident behaviours

- Always sandwich challenging reps with easy ones. I.e. If 20 seconds is new or challenging for your dog, practice a 3 second rep both before and after the 20 second rep.
- If you add a distraction such as a friend sitting on a couch, start over from the beginning.

Take It On The Road

Practice the Basic Protocol at home, in the yard, on your walks, in the park, and anywhere you regularly take your dog. When the distraction level increases by training in a new environment, be sure to start the protocol from the very beginning or as far back as needed for your dog to be very successful.



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Teatime Protocol

This protocol is written to help your dog relax in place while you make a cup of tea. This can be modified to include any routine task such as asking your dog to relax while you:

- prepare their dinner,
- give medication to another pet,
- feed the cat, etc.

Begin with the Basic Protocol. Once it is easy, split other daily tasks into small pieces. Splitting big tasks into small achievable tasks is the key to building strong behaviours.

- Settle for 5 seconds
- Settle for 15 seconds
- Settle while you take one step and return
- Settle for 5 seconds
- Settle while you take two steps and return
- Settle for 7 seconds
- Settle while you take three steps and return
- Settle for 5 seconds
- Settle for 10 seconds
- Settle while you take three steps, touch the kettle for one second, and return to your dog
- Settle for 10 seconds
- Settle while you take three steps, pick up the kettle for one second, and return to your dog
- Settle for 5 seconds
- Settle while you take three steps, pick up the kettle, take 1 step towards the sink, and return to your dog
- Settle for 5 seconds
- Settle while you move to the kettle, pick it up, move to the sink, and fill the kettle, then return to your dog

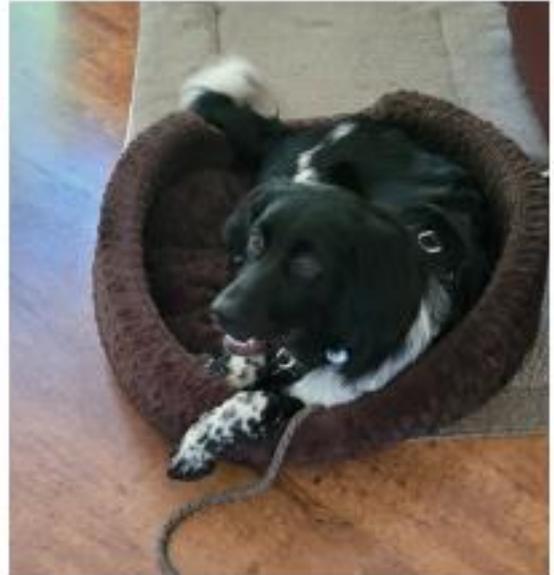


Practice over multiple sessions, only advancing as fast as your dog allows. All dogs learn at different rates, so be patient. Move slow enough that the process has very few errors. This will build a strong, relaxed end behaviour.

Visitors at the Door Protocols

These protocols are written to help your dog relax in place while visitors arrive. Begin with the Basic Protocol and the Teatime Protocol. If the protocols as written are too challenging, break it down into smaller pieces with less duration or less intensity. The right protocol is the one that sets your dog up for success.

Choose a location to settle your dog that is ideally within view of the door, but at least 10' away.



Train this when you do not have actual visitors. Manage real visitors by putting your dog in a crate or bedroom when they arrive. Once you have completed the protocols, have visitors enter and get comfortable seated, then bring your dog out on leash and practice the Basic Protocol, working up to practicing when visitors arrive.

These protocols are not a behaviour modification program to address fearful or aggressive behaviour from your dog when people arrive. Instead, it is a foundation on top of which a behaviour modification program can be built. If your dog has aggressive or extremely fearful behaviour when people come to the door, please ask for help from a certified professional.

The next three pages contain protocols that are intended to be worked through in order, and only after completing the Basic Protocol and Teatime Protocol.

Door Opening Protocol



- Settle for 5 seconds
- Settle for 15 seconds
- Settle while you take two steps towards the door and return
- Settle for 5 seconds
- Settle while you take three steps towards the door and return
- Settle for 10 seconds
- Settle while you walk to the door, touch the door for one second, and return to your dog
- Settle for 5 seconds
- Settle for 10 seconds
- Settle while you walk to the door, touch the doorknob for one second, and return to your dog
- Settle for 10 seconds
- Settle while you walk to the door, open the door 1" for 1 second, and return to your dog
- Settle for 5 seconds
- Settle while you walk to the door, open the door 1" for 5 seconds, and return to your dog
- Settle for 7 seconds
- Settle while you walk to the door, open the door 3" for 1 seconds, and return to your dog
- Settle for 5 seconds

Practice this protocol over multiple sessions, increasing either the length of time that the door is open, or how far you open the door. Do not increase two criteria in one repetition. For safety, you may tether your dog so that they cannot run out the door. A baby gate between your dog and the door is another great option.



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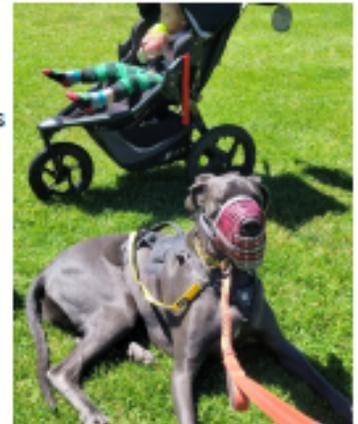


Knocking (Doorbell) Protocol

Before attempting this protocol, complete the Door Opening Protocol and comfortably be able to ask your dog to settle while you fully open the door for 20 seconds. If the protocol as written is too challenging, break it down into smaller pieces with less duration or less intensity. The right protocol is the one that sets your dog up for success.

This protocol is written for knocking at the door, but anytime we write 'knock' you can substitute 'ring the doorbell'. You will not use your actual doorbell to start. Instead, either use YouTube to find doorbell sounds, or record your own doorbell on your phone. It is important at the beginning to control the volume of the doorbell, which you can do using your phone and YouTube or the recording.

- Settle for 5 seconds
- Settle for 20 seconds
- Settle while you knock lightly on a wall or table twice
- Settle for 10 seconds
- Settle while you walk to the door, touch the doorknob for one second, and return to your dog
- Settle for 10 seconds
- Settle while you knock lightly on a wall or table twice, then pause for one second before returning to your dog.
- Settle for 10 seconds
- Settle while you walk to the door, open the door fully for 5 seconds, and return to your dog
- Settle for 20 seconds
- Settle while you knock lightly on a wall or table twice, then pause for two seconds before returning to your dog.
- Settle for 5 seconds
- Settle while you knock a little harder on a wall or table twice, then pause for 2 seconds before returning to your dog.
- Settle for 5 seconds
- Settle while you walk to the door, open the door fully for 20 seconds, and return to your dog
- Settle for 7 seconds
- Settle while you walk to the door, knock lightly and return to your dog.
- Settle for 5 seconds
- Settle while you knock lightly on a wall or table, walk to the door, open the door for 2 seconds, and return to your dog.



Practice this protocol over multiple sessions, increasing either the length of time that the door is open or the intensity of the knocking. Do not increase two criteria in one repetition. For safety, you may tether your dog so that they cannot run out the door. A baby gate between your dog and the door is another great option.

Talking Protocol

Before attempting this protocol, complete the Knocking (Doorbell) Protocol and comfortably be able to ask your dog to settle while you knock loudly, walk to the door, and fully open the door for 20 seconds. If the protocol as written is too challenging, break it down into smaller pieces with less duration or less intensity. The right protocol is the one that sets your dog up for success. Think about the phrases you are likely to use when you have visitors. Use your natural language in the protocol rather than the generic ones we include.

- Settle for 5 seconds
- Settle while you say "Hi! Come on in!"
- Settle for 20 seconds
- Settle while you knock lightly on a wall or table twice
- Settle for 10 seconds
- Settle while you walk to the door, open the door for 5 seconds, and return to your dog
- Settle for 10 seconds
- Settle while you knock lightly on a wall or table twice, say "Come on in!", then pause for 1 second and return to your dog.
- Settle for 10 seconds
- Settle while you knock, say "Hi Joan!", walk to the door, open the door fully for 15 seconds, and return to your dog
- Settle for 5 seconds
- Settle while you knock lightly on a wall or table twice, say "Hi Bob!", then pause for 2 seconds and return to your dog.
- Settle for 5 seconds
- Settle while you knock a little harder on a wall or table twice, say "Come on in!" then pause for 2 seconds before returning to your dog.
- Settle for 5 seconds
- Settle while you walk to the door, open the door fully for 20 seconds, say "Hi, thank you for the pizza!", and return to your dog
- Settle for 7 seconds
- Settle while you knock, walk to the door, open the door fully for 20 seconds, say "Hi, thank you for the pizza!", and return to your dog
- Settle for 5 seconds



Surprise!

Once you have completed the protocols, integrate the surprise factor. When your dog isn't expecting training, knock or speak to an imaginary visitor, ask them to settle on their bed, and rehearse a few repetitions. Practice this no more than twice a day, and balance it with non-surprise sessions.

Sometimes in life, we just need a hug.
No words. No advice.
Just a hug to make you feel better.



 Absolute Dogs.



SDTC Newsletter Advertising Policy

- **Advertisements for rehoming k9 equipment, etc. are always welcome.**
- **Training programs and classes offered by members will be posted with a link to a website for members only [possibly under a column specifically designated for that purpose].**
- **Advertising of puppies/litters will not be accepted**

We are looking for articles from our membership.

- **Do you have a brag or accomplishment?**
- **Have you written an article that the membership could benefit from?**
- **Know of an upcoming event? Example: Obedience trial, Scent trial, Specialty, Health clinic..... etc.**



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