

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

May 5, 1995

Ms. Vivian Hogan
Secretary, Miniature Pinscher Club of America
26915 Clarksburg Road
Damascus, MD 20872

Dear Ms. Hogan:

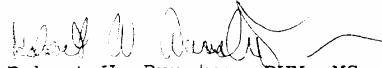
I enjoyed our conversation on Wednesday regarding blue coat coloration in Miniature pinschers. Although I have very little experience with color mutant alopecia in this breed, I have a great deal of experience dealing with it in other breeds of dogs especially Doberman pinschers and Yorkshire terrers. As a battle-scarred veteran of many debates concerning genetic skin diseases in dogs, I would urge you and your Club NOT to accept blue coat coloration in your standards.

I say this because if allowed, you will be promoting the propagation of dogs with a defect that will most certainly not improve your breed long term. Although I cannot say for certain that Miniature pinschers are affected with "color mutant alopecia" the fact that I have identified this disease in almost every other blue-coated breed makes me to suspect that Miniature pinschers with this coat color are equally susceptible to developing this condition.

I am including pictures of a Doberman with color mutant alopecia. As you can see, there is almost complete hair loss affecting the trunk. In addition, there are a large number of comedoes ("black heads"). This latter change predisposes dogs to bacterial folliculitis (the "pimples").

Although I have always found "normally haired" blue-coated dogs to be beautiful and to my knowledge the coat coloration is not associated with any other health problems, still, by allowing this coat color as an acceptable standard you will be increasing the prevalence of an untreatable disease.

All best wishes to you,



Robert W. Dunstan, DVM, MS
Professor
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RWD/sll

enclosure



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