

Silver & Blue: Reading the Clearing

An untestable locus you read from the coat and the pedigree, not from a panel

There is no DNA test for greying

The gene is unidentified. Any panel claiming to test "the greying gene" or "the G locus" is selling an inference, not a result. Status is read from the adult coat and the pedigree - observed, never predicted.

Two mechanisms - do not confuse them

- Progressive greying: born dark, CLEARS with age. Black nose throughout. Dosage-based.
- Dilution (dd): born dilute on day one, never dark at any point. Slate nose from birth. This is true blue / lilac - a different dog.

Greying by dosage

Base	One copy (G/g)	Two copies (G/G)
Black (B ₋)	Blue	Silver
Brown (bb)	Café-au-lait	Silver beige

Timeline & the face/paw test

- Face and paws clear first (faster hair cycle). Lightening there by 6-8 weeks is the earliest sign.
- Two copies (G/G): face and paws lightening by 6-8 weeks, silver by 12-18 months.
- One copy (G/g): slower, over 2-3 years, and stops at blue.
- These windows come from breeder observation and pedigree records, not a published study; no validated onset or completion timeline exists and individual dogs vary.
- Read the grown dogs, not the puppies. A "black" adult going blue-grey at the muzzle has the factor.

Cleared blue vs true blue - the nose tells you

A cleared blue (G/g) was born black and has a black nose. A true blue (dd) was born dilute and has a slate nose from birth. They inherit differently and are not interchangeable in a plan.

A true blue or lilac (dd) also carries a documented risk

Colour dilution alopecia: progressive coat thinning, sometimes with skin irritation. No poodle-specific rate has been published, but any dd dog developing thinning or patchy coat, especially past a year old, is worth a vet visit rather than something to wait out.

WHAT TO RECORD (THERE IS NO TEST)

- Birth colour and nose colour - a black nose points to greying - a slate nose to dd

THE POODLE GENETICS LAB REFERENCE SET

E & B Loci - Merle Health Risk - Phantom Matrix - Silver & Blue - Parti Planner - Full Loci Card
Full guides, the calculator and sources at poodlegenetics.com/genetics-guide