









Rare and Fancy Colours in Gerbils





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Most of us are used to seeing four or at most five colours of gerbils at the pet store. Brown or "Agouti," Black, Orange called "Argente," and Grey, called "Lilac." We might even see one of these colours in a spotted or pied variety:

Common Colours in Gerbils:

Agouti	Black	Argente	Lilac
 [A* C* D* E* G* P*]	 [aa C* D* E* G* P*] black gerbils with no white at all are rare	 [A* C* D* E* G* pp]	 [aa CC D* E* G* pp]
Pied Agouti	Spotted Black	Pied Argente	Pied Lilac
 [A* C* D* E* G* P* Spsp]	 [aa C* D* E* G* P* Spsp]	 [A* C* D* E* G* pp Spsp]	 [aa C* D* E* G* pp Spsp]

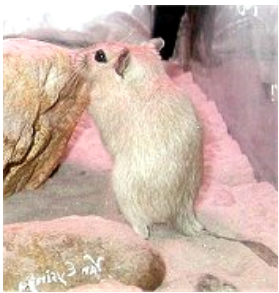







or we might see them lightened with one c recessive gene:

Dove	Sapphire	Argente Cream	Topaz
 [aa Cc(h) D* E* G* pp] Lilac with c ^h gene	 [aa Cc(chm) D* E* G* pp] Lilac with c ^{chm} gene, darker head and tail	 [A* Cc(h) D* E* G* pp] Argente with c ^h gene	 [A* Cc(chm) D* E* G* pp] Argente with c ^{chm} gene, darker head and tail





There are a number of fancy colours coming available these days. Some of them are very rare indeed, and others are slightly more common. Flip over this page for a peek at these new colours!

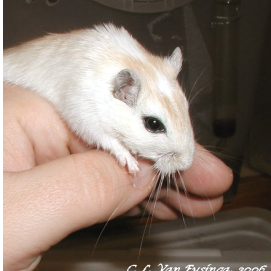







Here is a quick guide to recognizing the new colours that you might happen to see. Cheam Gerbils is working on providing a greater selection of fancy colours to pet lovers and local pet stores. Please ask us what we have available.

Colourpoints: two "c" recessive genes are present. Rare in BC.


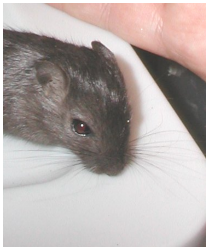






Colourpoint Agouti	Burmese	Pink Eyed White	Himalayan/DTW
 <p>[A* c^{chm}c^{chm} D*E* G* P*]</p> <p>has a ticked appearance, nose, paws, ears and tail (points) darken with age</p>	 <p>[aa c^{chm}c^{chm} D*E* G* P*]</p> <p>points darken with age</p>	 <p>[** c^{chm}c^{ch} D*E* G* pp]</p> <p>pink eyes, coat white all over</p>	 <p>[** c^{ch}c^h D*E* G* P*]</p> <p>Dark Tailed White, a white gerbil with grey points, ruby eyes and a dark tail that does not darken until 6 months old.</p>
Light Colourpoint Agouti	Spotted Burmese	Siamese	Spotted Siamese
 <p>[A* c^{chm}c^h D*E* G* P*]</p> <p>points darken with age</p>	 <p>[aa c^{chm}c^{chm} D*E* G* P* Sp^{sp}]</p> <p>points darken with age</p>	 <p>[aa c^{chm}c^h D*E* G* P*]</p> <p>points darken with age</p>	 <p>[aa c^{chm}c^h D*E* G* P* Sp^{sp}]</p> <p>points darken with age</p>

Algerian Fox Series: two "e" recessive genes are present. All Rare in BC.

Dark Eyed Honey (Algerian Fox)	Nutmeg	Red Eyed Nutmeg (Red Fox)	Pied Red Eyed Honey (Yellow Fox)
 <p>[A* CC D* ee G* P*]</p> <p>hair tips darken with age to produce a "ticked" effect on fur. White belly</p>	 <p>[aa CC D*ee G* P*]</p> <p>brown, ticked all over, colour darkens with age</p>	 <p>[aa CC D* ee G* pp]</p> <p>red all over, even on the belly</p>	 <p>[A* CC D* ee G* pp]</p> <p>same as DEH but has red eyes and no grey points</p>

Honey Cream	Spotted Light Nutmeg	Schimmel	Red Eyed Schimmel
 <p>[A* Cc D* ee G* P* Spsp]</p> <p>Light DEH with spotting gene, colour darkens with age</p>	 <p>[aa Cc D* ee G* P* Spsp]</p> <p>colour darkens with age</p>	 <p>[** CC D* e'e'G* P*]</p> <p>looks like an orange point siamese, body colour fades with age</p>	 <p>[** CC D* e'e'G* pp]</p> <p>has orange points, body colour fades with age</p>
Polar Fox	Silver Nutmeg	Champagne	Apricot
 <p>[A* CC D* ee gg P*]</p> <p>colour darkens with age</p>	 <p>[aa CC D* ee gg P*]</p> <p>colour darkens with age</p>	 <p>[** CC D* e'e'G* P* Spsp]</p> <p>a dark-eyed, spotted schimmel</p>	 <p>[A* CC D*ee gg pp]</p> <p>pale cream colour with ruby eyes, also called Red Eyed Polar Fox</p>

Grey Gene Series: two "g" recessive genes are present. All Rare in BC.

Grey Agouti	Slate	Ivory Cream	Ruby Eyed White
 <p>[A* C* D* E* gg P*]</p> <p>grayish black ticking, black eyes with red glow</p>	 <p>[aa C* D* E* gg P*]</p> <p>pale black with purple hue, black eyes with red glow</p>	 <p>[A* C* D* E* gg pp]</p> <p>ruby eyes, cream fur, white belly</p> <p>blue rim around iris, under eyelids</p>	 <p>[aa C* D* E* gg pp]</p> <p>ruby eyes, white fur</p> <p>blue rim around iris, under eyelids</p>
Colourpoint Grey Agouti / Pearl	Spotted Colourpoint Slate	Light Colourpoint Slate	Black Eyed White
 <p>[A* c^{chm}c^{chm} D*E* gg P*]</p> <p>points darken with age</p>	 <p>[aa c^{chm}c^{chm} D*E* gg P*]</p> <p>a dark gray Burmese, points darken with age</p>	 <p>[A* c^{chm}c^{chm} D*E* gg P*]</p> <p>like a grayish Burmese, points darken with age</p>	 <p>very rare, several gene combinations can make a BEW.</p>

Spotted, Patched, Pied, Striped, Collared or Mottled?

All colours are available in spotted varieties. A gerbil with a spot from nose to back is called striped, and with a spot all the way around the neck is called collared or pied. A spot is also called a patch. If a pair carry the spotting gene, 1/2 to 2/3 of offspring are spotted. Various unknown genetic modifiers intensify the spotting effect, as you can see here in black gerbils.

Spotted/Patched Black	Pied Black	Mottled Black
		
common	common	rare

Extremely Rare Colours:

The dilute gene "d" is currently only available in Europe. Two dilute genes in combination with black produces a **BLUE** gerbil; in combination with Agouti produces a dilute Agouti that appears as a dark-eyed Argente, and a dilute Nutmeg looks very striking as well. These are very rare gerbils indeed!

A spotted gerbil may have a **DARK PATCH** of undiluted colour, and this instance of mosaicism is also extremely rare. This colour cannot be bred for and occurs randomly.

Dark Patched Spotted/Pied Colour	Blue
	
extremely rare, Cheam Gerbils is lucky to own three, probably of a very few in Canada	[aa CC dd E* G* P*] extremely rare, this one owned by Tanya Richert, Austria

I hope this has provoked your interest in gerbils and their genetic diversity. If you have a question about what colour your gerbil is or what colour of pups it might have, drop me a line or email a picture, at: [<rogerve@yahoo.com>](mailto:rogerve@yahoo.com)

Cheam Gerbils