

FERRET Colours

Within the ferret community there is a wide variety of accepted ferret colours however they do stem from 5 main categories. It is these 5 colourings that are recognised by FERT.

1] Fitch. This is a traditional name for the polecat marked ferret. We use the name 'fitch' in recognition that it is a completely separate animal to that of the wild Polecat, its cousin, and also avoids confusion when talking about the difference between ferrets and wild polecats. The coat will reflect the Polecat's markings with the common robber's mask across the eyes and dark coloured limbs and tail.

2] Albino. Also called the English Ferret. A common colouring and widely used in hunting circles due to it having a greater contrast in hedgerows and undergrowth. A true albino will have the white coat with red eyes. The coat can be sometimes slightly orange or 'apricot' in colour if the animal is intact.

3] Silver. Sometimes called a grey however this is a less common colouring of domesticated ferret. Normally has ruby red eyes and white markings on the chest or feet.

4] Sandy. From light brown to deep golden in colour and can have similar markings to that of a fitch. May or may not have the same face 'mask' markings.

5] DEW or Dark Eyed White. Coat is normally pure white and very similar to the albino however the DEW will have black or dark ruby red eyes.

Certain clubs and associations recognise more than these 5 basic groups however this is normally linked with show events where show entries / applications are based on colour categories. Names like 'Champagne', 'Cinnamon' and 'Butterscotch' are all variations of the same Sandy colouring listed above. In a similar vein, a Silver-mitt or Silver-Bib is a 'Silver' marked ferret with additional white markings; it doesn't really require an additional colour classification.

Coat colour has little to do with character, personality or working ability. Albino animals of all types are often said to be more gentle and docile although there is little supporting evidence. Sometimes albinism is related to poor vision and/or hearing deficiency and this might explain the apparent docility of these animals. But on the whole coat colour is just a matter of variation in nature and personal preference of the owner. A healthy ferret will be a lively, fun-loving and affectionate companion whatever the colour.