

SA Hedgehogs Breeders Association`s Lesser Tenrec Colour Chart



Revision : SAHBT01/2024

Introduction to our Tenrec Colour Chart

This colour chart was compiled by the **South Africa`s Hedgehogs Breeders Association**, based upon the guidance from the very skilled Tenrec Breeder, Jennifer Griffith Ayers from Vulcan Exotics from The United States of America.

Most of the colours presented in the colour chart are available in South Africa, but photo`s were not available at the time of the compiling of this document. As photos becomes available from our South African breeders, it will replace the current ones, graciously supplied by our USA ally.

Developing a colour chart for tenrecs is a fairly new concept, yet it is needed as they do have different colours. Tenrecs colours are very unstable as they can seasonally change shades of colour. From birth to adult their colours can also changed drastically! Currently you can get 13 different colours in Lesser Tenrecs, as showcased and described in this document.

This document will be updated continuously as and when new information are brought under our attention.

According to our knowledge, this is the only colour chart for Madagascar Lesser Tenrecs available in a formal document at the time of publication. Not only in South Africa, but world wide. If there is an existing document prior than this, we humbly apologize!

Black: Black is caused by eumelanin pigmentation that causes skin and quills to be dark. This is a dominant genetic trait. The dominant black eumelanin began as neurological signal, that is sent to the pituitary gland that releases a hormone who communicates with the Agouti gene, and the end-result is a very dark or black tenrec.

Jennifer Griffith Ayers, Vulcan Exotics



Short Description:

Eyes: Black

Nose: Black

Mask: Black- light to dark black

Spines: Black

Skin: Black

Grey: Grey is a diluted or faded form of the black. Grey colours come`s in different hues / shades of grey. To make it easier to identify, we split the colour Grey into Dark Grey, Silver Grey and Light Grey.

Dark Grey: It is easy to identify a dark grey as they have relatively dark facial features but lighter quill-colour than black. Their whole appearance is grey.

Jennifer Griffith Ayers, Vulcan Exotics



Short Description:

Eyes: Black

Nose: Dark grey to black

Mask: Dark grey to light brown-grey

Spines: Dark Grey banded with white on the tips.

Skin: Light to medium grey.

Silver Grey: Light Grey tenrecs has a silver appearance that separates them from the regular grey. They are also known as Light Grey

Jennifer Griffith Ayers, Vulcan Exotics



Short Description:

Eyes: Black

Nose: Medium brown to grey

Mask: Light brown or light grey

Spines: Average medium grey quills

Skin: Liver to light grey.

Grey: The standard grey is a diluted form of the dark grey, much lighter in appearance, the level of darkness of greys can change seasonally.



Madelein Coetzee- Axl



Angelique du Plessis- Zeus

Short Description:

Eyes: Black

Nose: Medium brown to grey

Mask: Light brown or light grey

Spines: Medium grey quills with white tips

Skin: Liver to light grey.

Copper: This can be described as a reddish rich brown colour. Available in South Africa, but considered rare. Copper carries Chocolate genes.

Jean Folscher- Jean`s Hedgehogs and Tenrecs- South Africa



Short Description:

Eyes: Black

Nose: Liver brown to warm brown

Mask: Liver to light brown

Spines: Reddish brown to dark brown

Skin: Pale brown to liver.

Ruth Smith- Sweetie Pie- South Africa

Dark Red: This colour looks like rust and have an overall rusty appearance that can be easily distinguished between other brown colours and copper. This colour is very rare and carrying black genes. SAHBA could not verify the existence of one in South Africa at the time of publishing.

Jennifer Griffith Ayers, Vulcan Exotics



Short Description:

Eyes: Black

Nose: Dark brown / liver

Mask: Deepest form of brown.

Spines: Deep rusted red-brown with a pale tint and black tips.

Chocolate: This colour is a warm rich colour. It was noted that a copper-coloured hedgehog can develop a more darker chocolate colour over time.

Jennifer Griffith Ayers, Vulcan Exotics



Short description:

Eyes: Black

Nose: Liver brown to warm brown

Mask: Liver to light brown

Spines: Rich dark brown with black tips

Skin: Pale brown to liver.

Brown: Brown colours comes in different shades of brown. To make it easier for first timers, we have separate brown into 3 easily recognise-able colours. Brown, Light Brown and Pale Brown.

Brown: This is a regular brown, in South Africa, a very common colour, not rare at all.

Lizl van Vreden- Awesome Krimpvarkies



Short Description:

Eyes: Black

Nose: Light to medium liver brown.

Mask: Light to medium brown.

Spines: Medium brown colour, banded with white tips.

Skin: Nude to dark brown.

Light Brown: Pale light brown quills that gives the tenrec a Welsh oak appearance. This colour is fairly common in South Africa.

Jennifer Griffith Ayers, Vulcan Exotics



Short Description:

Eyes: Black

Nose: Light brown / light liver

Mask: Light medium brown

Spines: Light brown / oak brown colour with white tips

Skin: Nude to light brown.

Pale Brown: This is the lightest form of brown you can get. Slightly darker than Dirty Blonde, with the difference that a pale brown gave a golden image with a light brown undertone.

Madelein Coetzee- Molly



Short Description:

Eyes: Black

Nose: Light liver brown

Mask: Nude

Spines: Tan colour or very pale brown with white tips

Skin: Nude, can be tan or pale brown.

Blonde: This colour comes in two shades, blonde and dirty blonde. This is the palest form that tenrecs can get. The colour shades of blonde may vary a bit from yellowish to creamy, and a dirty creamy look.

Blonde: Pale creamy quills with very light brown tinted banding. The light brown almost has an orange hue to it.

Madelein Coetzee- Spike



Short Description:

Eyes: Black

Nose: Light brown / light liver

Mask: Pale to light brown mask

Spines: Pale quills with light brown-orange banding

Skin: Nude to pale brown.

Dirty Blonde: This colour indeed looks like a blonde tenrec that is dirty. The creamy quills has a more brownish appearance than the “orange” hue the regular blonde has.

Jennifer Griffith Ayers, Vulcan Exotics



Melanie Duvenhage- Monkey

Short Description:

Eyes: Black

Nose: Brown nose

Mask: Brown mask

Spines: Creamy pale quills with a brownish banding. May have dark tips.

Skin: Light brown.