

SA Hedgehogs Breeders Association`s Colour Chart



Revision : SAHBA04/2026

Introduction to Colour Chart

This is the third edition of this colour chart. The colour chart was compiled by the **South Africa`s Hedgehogs Breeders Association**, based on existing colour charts from other world wide organisations. It is compiled in such a way that the first time owner can also understand the complexity of colour mutations, easy to read, easy to understand. Photo contributors mostly came from members of the Association, making this Colour Chart local and authentic. All hedgehogs featuring in this colour chart are from South Africa, and most likely are registered on our website!

This means their owners can be tracked and proof of hedgehogs colours can be verified. There are tens of colour charts on the internet available , yet, the hogs are often from unknown sources. We love to honor the hedgehogs by providing names, and give credits to the breeder who bred the amazing animal!

You might notice that some of the colours featuring in other countries colour charts does not appear in this one. We left those colours out, as they are not yet available in South Africa. As new colour mutations appear those are added and chart gets to be reviewed.

Currently (2026) we do not have Platinums and those very dark “True Black”, although we do have Blacks.

Standard: Standard is the original colour of African Pygmy hedgehogs. Their base colour. Sometimes called **Salt & Pepper** or **Dark Grey**, but best described as Standard, as it is what it is, their original standard colour. Babies less than 6 weeks can very much look like blacks. Breeders easily misidentify Standard coloured babies for black, while it is actually then a standard carrying for black. Standard hedgehog babies will typically from the age of 9 weeks start losing their deep black colour and it fades out.

AWK Mona Lilly- Awesome Krimpvarkies



Short Description:

Eyes: Black

Nose: Dark grey to black

Mask: Medium to dark grey

Spines: Black, banded with brown

Skin: Grey to black. Mottling will appear on legs, belly

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 hedgehog. Black hedgehog babies will keep their dark colours after the age of 9 weeks old. That helps determine if a hoglet is a black or a Standard.

Hoglets bred by Awesome Krimpvarkies



Short Description:

Eyes: Black

Nose: Black

Mask: Black- light to dark black

Spines: Black- banding are translucent tips that appear white

Skin: Black – mottling will appear on belly and legs

As with all dark colours, blacks also fade out or become more lighter as they age.

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

AWK Samurix Spike



Kimera- Owner Tiaan de Villiers- Grey Pinto

Short Description:

Eyes: Black

Nose: Dark grey to black

Mask: Light grey or light brown grey

Spines: Dark brown to grey banded with white

Skin: Light to medium grey, slight mottling will be present.

Light Grey: Light Grey , also called **Slate Blue**. As they age, they can become more brown.

Short Description:

Eyes: Black

Nose: Medium brown to grey

Mask: Light brown or light grey

Spines: Banding is white with average medium grey quills

Skin: Liver to light grey, mottling may appear.

HHN- Rusty- Hedgehog Haven - owner L Reyneke



Chocolate: This can be described as a warm brown colour, hedgehogs colour continues to develop up until one year of age.

Photo : AWK Xena- Awesome Krimpvarkies



Short Description:

Eyes: Black

Nose: Rich warm brown to black

Mask: Rich warm brown

Spines: Rich brown to black

Skin: Rich brown to black , mottling may appear

Lilac: Lilac can be mistaken for Chocolate as well, but babies can be easily identified. Lilac babies look like Chocolate, while real chocolates take longer to develop. This is basically a colour combined from a darker colour (melanistic) and a dilute. Lilac can come across with different subtle shades. Other than Chocolate, Lilacs will become lighter and greyer as they age.

Short Description:

Eyes: Black, may have a red dot in the middle of the eye

Nose: Cool-toned dark brown

Mask: Light to medium brown

Spines: Dark brown to black

Skin: Pink to medium liver colour

Lilac - JHT Griet



Jean`s Hedgehogs and Tenrecs

Lilac Pinto- ELLA`s Frankie



Brown: Brown colours come in different shades of brown. To make it easier for first timers, we have separate brown into 4 easily recognisable colours.

Dark Brown

Medium Brown

Light Brown

Pale Brown

Dark Brown: This is the darkest form of brown you can get. A very rich brown colour. As the hedgehog age, it might fade out to a lighter shade of brown.



HHN- Bandit- Hedgehog Haven



AWK- Aria- Awesome Krimpvarkies

Short Description:

Eyes: Black

Nose: Dark brown / liver

Mask: Deepest form of brown, near black

Spines: Deep brown banded by creamy white

Skin: Dark brown to grey, mottling will be present

Medium Brown: This is a regular brown, in South Africa, a very common colour, not rare at all. Brown is basically a dilute from black.

AWK Otjie- Awesome Krimpvarkies WF- Suri – Owner Lizl van Vreden



Short Description:

Eyes: Black

Nose: Medium to dark brown / liver

Mask: Light to medium dark brown

Spines: White, banded by medium brown colour

Skin: Nude to dark brown – mottling can appear

Light Brown: Banding on this colour's quills is average-wide and give the hedgehog a "oaky" appearance.

(adult example)



(juvenile example)



Short Description:

Eyes: Black, can have a red dot in the eyes that makes it appear dark ruby.

Nose: Light brown / light liver

Mask: Light medium brown

Spines: Light brown / oak brown colour

Skin: Nude to light brown, may have mottling

Pale Brown / Brown dilute: This is the lightest shade of brown you can get. Very creamy brown colour. Banding average wide as well.

FSV- Fanie se Varkies



Short Description:

Eyes: Black

Nose: Light brown

Mask: Tan or very pale brown

Spines: Tan colour or very pale brown

Skin: Nude, can be white, if mottling is present it will be tan or pale brown.

Copper: Copper is a new colour (2024) and currently regarded as rare. Their eyes are red to ruby before opening, but turns darker after eyes are open. Their colours changed from being born to the age of 6 weeks. Can become lighter as they aged.

Short Description:

Eyes: Dark Ruby, becomes darker as they age. Can even be black as adults.

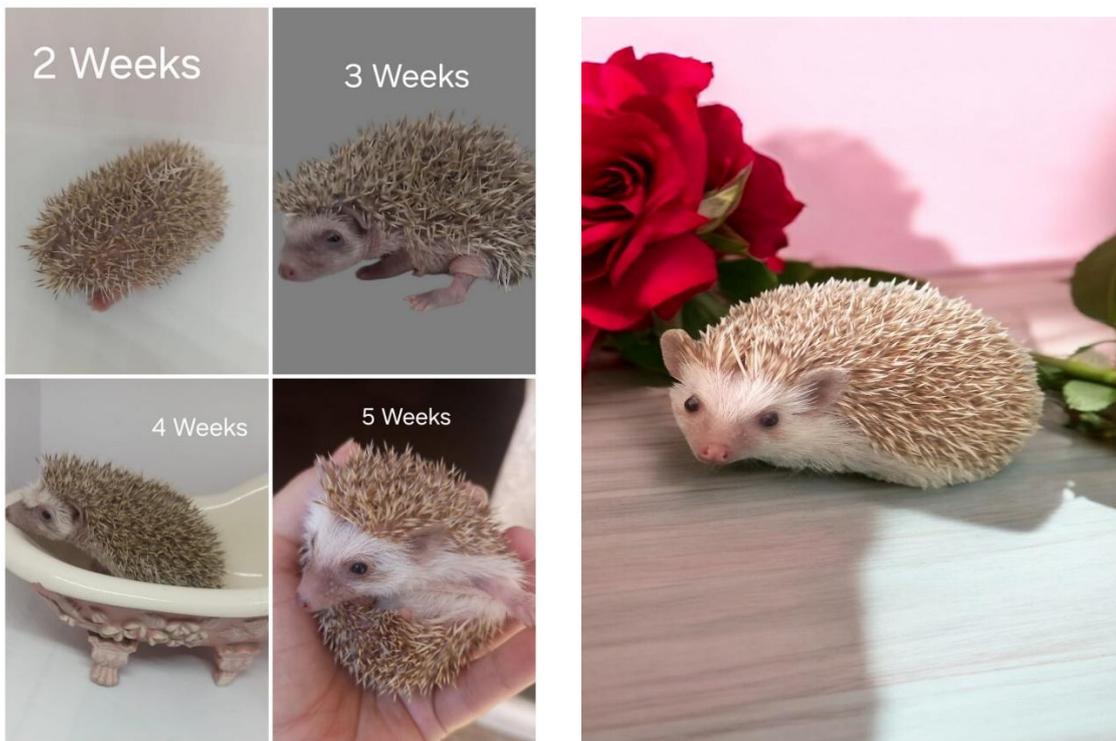
Nose: Liver

Mask: Light to medium beige

Spines: Dark orange to medium brown

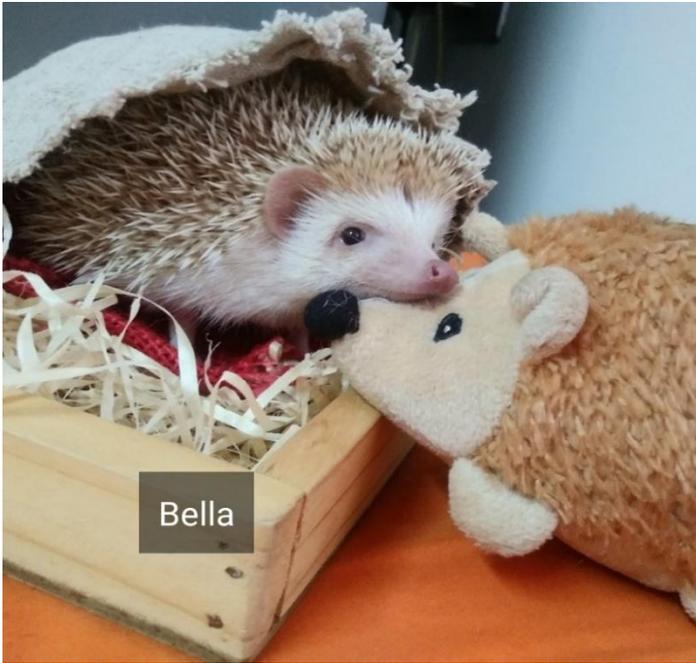
Skin: Light to medium liver

AZH- Cyrus- Azalia`s Hedgehogs



Cinnamon: Cinnamons have an brown-orange appearance. This colour can also come in different shades, but very subtle shades. For those reasons we don't have a "dark or light" cinnamon.

AWK – Bella Awesome Krimpvarkies



AZH- Handsome Azalia`s Hedgehogs



Cinnamon Carrying for Black

Short Description:

Eyes: Black, very rare cases red.

Nose: Pink

Mask: Light to orange brown

Spines: White banded with light cinnamon brown

Skin: Pink to light liver

Cinnicot: These orange looking colours are basically what happens when the baby inherits genes from both parents. Also, a form of a brown dilutes with a red eye dilute. Within Cinnicots are two “colours”, Ruby eyed Cinnicot and Black Eye Cinnicot. The only difference between the two are the colour of the eyes. The name cinnicot might be the result of combining the words cinnamon and apricot, as Cinnicots appearance looks like a mixture of a cinnamon and an apricot.

Ruby Eyed Cinnicot (Pink-eye dilute) Black Eyed Cinnicot

AWK Choppy

HHN-Dumbledore –Hedgehog Haven



Short Description:

Eyes: Dark Ruby red / Black

Nose: Pink to liver

Mask: Light liver – mostly fades out

Spines: Cream, banded with medium orange brown, equally orange and brown.

Skin: Pink to light liver

Fawn: This is also a new colour, fairly hard to determine as their colours change a lot from baby stage to adult. Eyes also red/pink and becomes darker, almost black as they aged. Their skin and nose are light livered coloured and not pink as Cinnicots, as they can be mistaken for Cinnicots sometimes. The eyes that changes colours also may confuses breeders. Especially difficult to determine colour if it is a pinto, solid colours are easier to recognised.

Short Description:

Eyes: Very dark red, almost black as an adult.

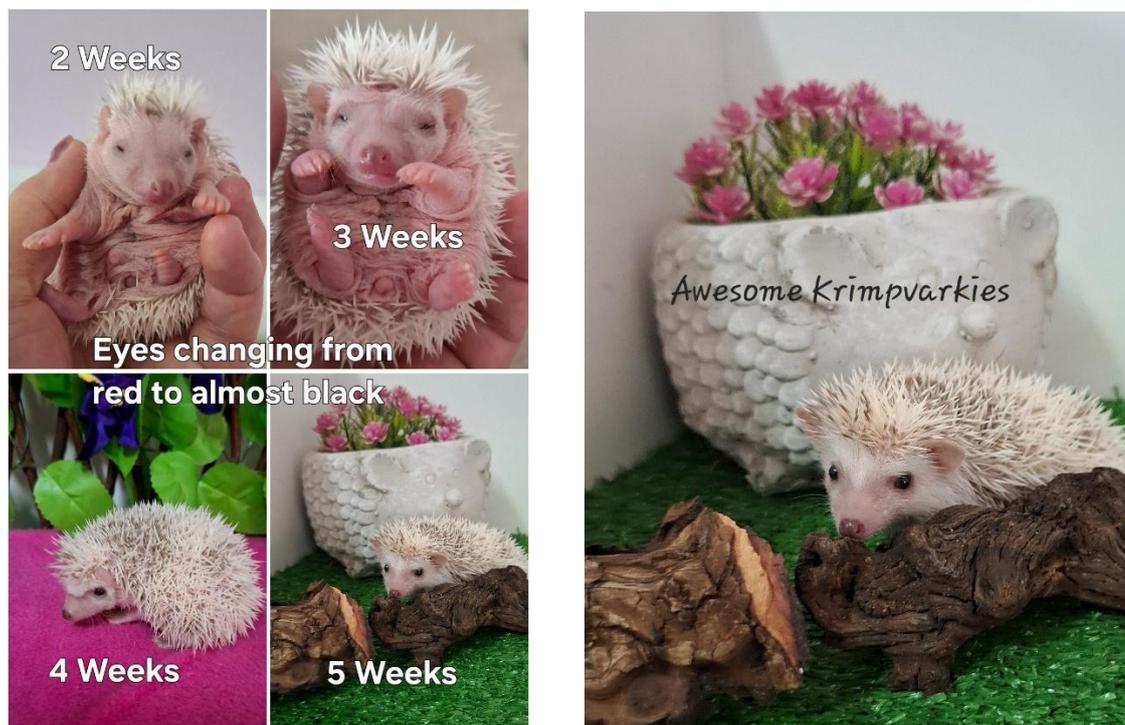
Nose: Pink to liver

Mask: Light Beige- orange

Spines: Medium to dark brown

Skin: Pink to light liver

(Fawn pinto) AWK Manneljie- Owner Tokkie Lottering



MPH- Seher- Fawn Low Pinto- Magriet Pretorius



Apricot: Pale orange colour with average banding, most often much lighter than the cinnicot. Keypoint to take note of, is that apricots don't have black eyes.

FSV- Fanie se Varkies



Short Description:

Eyes: Red- eyes darker than albino but brighter than dark ruby

Nose: Pink to light liver

Mask: Light beige / orange

Spines: White , banded with pale orange

Skin: Pink to very light liver, mostly pink

Pale Apricot / Blonde: This is colour is a very pale creamy colour with apricot banding

AZH Sonic



Solid Pale Apricot

Short Description:

Eyes: Red

Nose: Pink

Mask: Light beige

Spines: Light beige- beige / blonde

Skin: Pink

AWK- Huffleberry Flynn MHKZN



Pinto Pale Apricot

Albino: Although Albino made it to the colour chart, it is actually not a colour. Albinism is a skin condition when the animals real colour are suppressed by the lack of pigmentation. Meaning an albino can be in fact a grey or brown, or any colour, but the true colour does not show. For this reason, many amateur breeders are surprised when they breed with albinos and the some of the babies colours are different from the parents colours. This “colour” is also genetically carried over.

AWK Penelope- Awesome Krimpvarkies



Short Description:

Eyes: Very bright, translucent red

Nose: Pink

Mask: Pink

Spines: Creamy white to brilliant white

Skin: Pink

Silver & Snowflake: This is when a hedgehog colour`s fades or turns white (greys out) after several weeks of age- normally from week 9 on. Born dark and then silvering out happens. It is a rapid form of greying, although, with some hedgehogs the process can be slower. It creates the image if the hedgehog was dusted with snow. Key Factor: the quills that is white must be the whole quill, and not just the tips. **Silvers or Snowflakes can have any base colour such as Grey, Brown, Chocolate etc.** The silver mutation is also dominant.

At SAHBA we are going to split the Silver from the Snowflake for more easier identification. The slower process of greying will be classified as Silver and the rapid form of greying Snowflake.

Silver Mutation:

Silver is where the hedgehog displayed the early greying, but on a bit slower pace and not as drastically visible as the Snowflake. In other charts Silver might be described as a “poor” Snowflake, or a “Low” This dominant mutation appears after the first quilling of babies. Early signs might a few solid white quills between the normal banded quills. As the quilling progress, more white quills appear, and the quills that stay banded, will have a larger white section than the dark banded section. The banded area will be closer to the skin of the hedgehog. Yet the base colour of the hedgehog will still be very visible. Some of the darker base colours like Black or Standard might appear then lighter. Silver will have 30% and less solid white quills. Silver can come across in any base colour.

FSV Asterix AWK- Silver Grey



Short Description:

Eyes: Black

Nose: Depending on base colour

Mask: Depending on base colour

Spines: Depending on base colour

Skin: Depending on base colour

Snowflake:

The "snowflake" color pattern is a result of genetic variations that affect melanin production, leading to the white and pigmented quills. Snowflake is a rapid form of early greying. In a matter of a few weeks a dark hedgehog can turn white, but will keep their dark mask and skin, and in most cases of Snowflakes, the base of the quill will still be dark banded. The difference between platinum and snowflake is that snowflakes still have quills that are banded. This is a recessive variation

of the dominant colors. Snowflakes will typically have above 40% of solid white quills, and the banded ones will be dark at the base of the quill.

Snowflakes can have any base colour.

Other Sub-classifications in the Snowflake colour:

Charcoal - the recessive of Grey (Grey Snowflake)

Between 30 and 70% of the quills are solid white.



Short Description:

Eyes: Black

Nose: Black

Mask: Black

Spines: White, banded by black.

Skin: Grey

Brown Snowflake

See the radical transformation of a brown snowflake.

Before quilling at 6 weeks and after quilling



DD Tumbleweed

Short Description:

Eyes: Black

Nose: Liver to Dark Brown

Mask: Dark brown to black

Spines: White, banded by brown.

Skin: Liver to light grey

Other Snowflakes we have not yet come across in South Africa:

Chocolate

Cinnicot

Cinnamon

Body Patterns: Body / coat patterns do not determine the colour. It is more on how the base colour are displayed on the hedgehog`s body. Here we listed Roan and Pinto`s

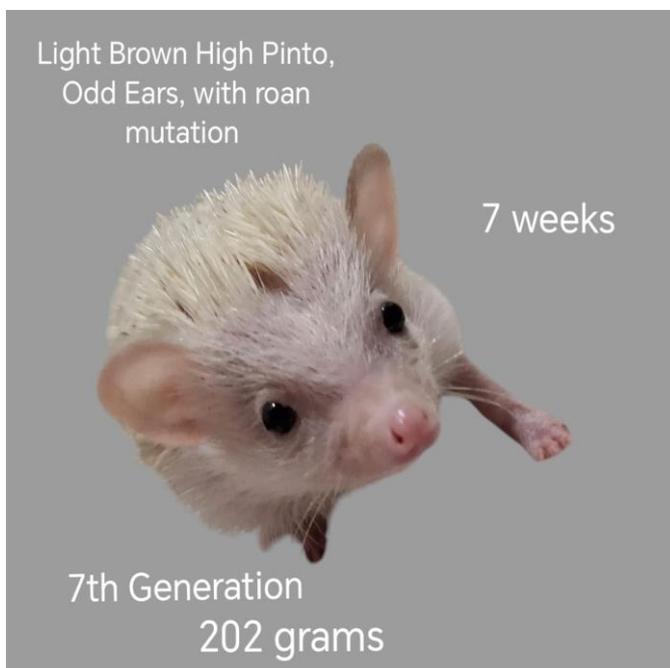
Roan: This is when babies are born white and only change into colours from 2 weeks after birth. This mutation can only be confirmed when the babies are 2 weeks and older. Normal hedgehog babies are born colourless and changed into colours within hours to a few short days. The development of a roan`s colour is much slower. This is a whitening pattern coat colour trait. It mostly affects the body, with white and coloured quills mixed evenly. In other animals it will be hair, with hedgehogs it is the quills. Mixed evenly mean one quill are white and the next are coloured. **Roans can be any base colour, such as grey, brown, cinnamon, chocolate, apricot, cinnamon.** Since breeder`s don`t always check in on mother and babies under two weeks of age, the mutation often goes unnoticed.

DORI- Sir Pinto-Owner Lize Smith

As a baby.



As an adult.



Pinto`s: This body pattern is a mutation called Piebaldism. Certain areas of the body had a lack of colour. It creates white patches on the skin, causing hedgehogs to have coloured and white areas across their bodies. This results into facial markings such as Splitface, Blaze Face, Splitnose, Snipnose, Eyeliner etc. Pinto comes in all the colours such as Black, Grey, Brown, Chocolate, Cinnamon, Cinnicot.

Pinto`s also can be divided into 5 more classes such as Low Pinto, Medium Pinto and High Pinto, Reversed Pinto`s and Full Reversed Pinto.

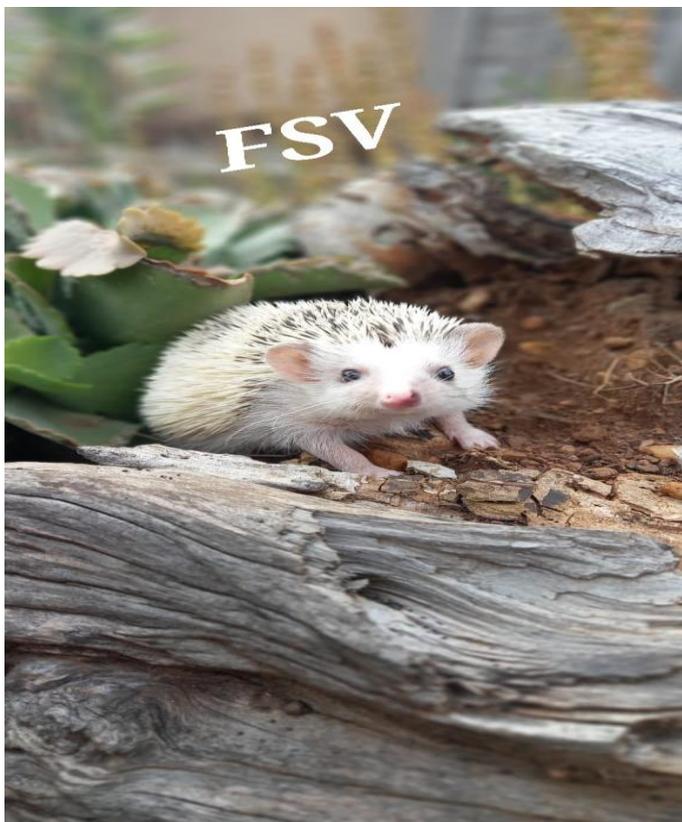
Low Pinto: This is when a hedgehog has a white patch that is 10-15% of the body.

AWK-Cleopatra-AZL -Gloreen Karsten



Medium Pinto: This is when colour and white patches are more evenly spread over the body (35%-45%)

FSV- Phantom- Fanie Se Varkies



HSA- Krummel-AWK



High Pinto: This is when the hedgehog is mostly white over the body with only one or two-coloured patches (65% and up). Might have a mask. Skin mostly pink where there are no coloured patches. Single patches are often relatively large in comparison to a Reversed Pinto, and more centred towards the head area.

*AWK- James Dean Whiggles-
High Pinto Brown*



MHKZN Reagan JHT- owner Jean Folscher

Reversed Pinto: This is when a hedgehog is mostly white with one small patch of coloured quills. 80%-90% of their quills will be white with a very small patch or a few quills banded. Eye colour can be deep ruby red or black. Skin mostly white / pink and no mask.

AWK- Marilyn Monroe- Black eyed Reversed Pinto



Full Reversed Pinto: This is when the hedgehog is totally white with black eyes or ruby red eyes. Few of the quills might be pigmented, but it is sometimes almost invisible, or just the tips of a few quills can be pigmented. Mostly it will be less than 10 quills. Some full reversed pintos may even have a pigmented patch on the skin, but it does not affect the quills. You may have heard of the term Leucistic. This mutation occurred because of selective breeding and a small genetic pool. The dark red eyes indicate the presence of dark pigmentation where other animal species will only have black eyes. Because of no evidence found of wild African Pygmy hedgehogs that are leucistic, we use the term Full Reversed.

Black Eye Full Reversed Pinto

DORI- Snowwhite-AZH



Ruby Eyed Full Reversed Pinto

Awk- Saint Ruefus



Short Description:

Eyes: Black or Dark Ruby Red

Nose: Pink

Mask: No visible mask

Spines: White

Skin: Pink

Ticking:

This is not a body pattern. Ticking is when a hedgehog baby or adult have these small spots that looks like ticks on the quills. It is in fact extremely small banding or narrow banding stripes, and normally it disappears when the hedgehog quills. This mutation appears only within the pinto colours. It was noticed that some pinto adults did retain some of their ticking, but most of it disappears after the second quilling phase. This is currently regarded as a rare mutation, but more

cases of ticking started to appear in South Africa as we are capturing it now in our data base.

Azalia`s Hedgehogs-Spokie – Gloreen Karsten



Facial Patterns: Facial patterns do not determine the colour of a hedgehog. This is more a result of the base colour and body pattern. Pinto`s are known for interesting facial markings, but facial markings are also present in solid base colours.

Classic Mask- Mask extend from nose to eyes. May have eye patches.

AWK Caturix Coco- Awesome Krimpvarkies



White Face: Face is completely white with no mask at all.

HHN- Dobi- Hedgehog Haven



Partial Mask: This is a mask that is covering a small part of the face. Not less than 10%. It is broken or uneven patches / facial markings that disrupt the classic face mask. Often gets mistaken for a partial Splitface if the mask is on one side of the face.

AWK – Pixi Freya – Awesome Krimpvarkies



Split face: Half of the hedgehog's face is white, and the other half is the base colour of the hedgehog. In photos below is a hedgehog with a Splitface, where the masked was interrupted / broken up by the nose but still considered as a Splitface.

AWK Sir Valentino- Interrupted Splitface- Awesome Krimpvarkies



ELLA- Pepper – Ellas Hedgehogs –

Blaze face: This is where the classic mask is broken, with a clear white stripe divides the mask from the quill line all the way towards the nose. Sometimes it can be a bit off centre.

AZH- Echo- Blaze Face- Azalia`s Hedgehogs- Gloreen Karsten



ELLA- Yuki KN- Ellas Hedgehogs- wide blaze face



Partial Blaze: The classic mask is broken with white, but not down all the way to the nose. Some would stop just short before the nose.

ELLA- Isla LR- Ellas Hedgehogs



AWK Luna- Awesome Krimpvarkies

Eye liner: Clear dark ring around eyes, giving the appearance of the hedgehog wearing eyeliner. Eyeliner / ring must not connect with cheek patches, if there is cheek or eye patches, there must be white between the eye liner and patches.

Awesome Krimpvarkies- AWK Apollo Olympus – Owner C Stevenson



Awesome Krimpvarkies- Oliver von Prückle- Owner Beulah Wilson

Raccoon Eyes: Classic mask but must have a break between the mask and eye patches.

Awk Princess Zoye



Raccoon mask: Mask is normally only over the eyes, giving the impression of hedgehog wearing a blindfold over the eyes. Faded mask over the nose and from under the eyes downward is also acceptable. This image is not 100% perfect but the closest we've got.

AWK Sir Agravian Awesome Krimpvarkies



Mono Badger: Classic mask with a single stripe that can be wide or narrow, stretching from the mask into the quill line.

Need Photo= Although there is Mono Badgers in South Africa, we couldn't find a suitable photo to use.

Reversed Mono Badger: The resemblance to the mono badger markings is striking, so much that we couldn't ignore this and had to include this facial marking.

ELLA`s Hedgehogs



Dual Badger: Classic mask with two equal stripes in the forehead, extended from mask into the quill line.

AZH- Sonic – Gloreen Karsten



HK Zahara AWK



Split nose and Snip Nose: Body patterns and facial markings often result into the hedgehog having two colours in the nose. Pink and the base colour.

Split literally refers to a clear division in nose colours, while **Snip** refers to a “spot” on the nose.

Split nose: This is where the one part of the nose is pink and the other part coloured. Present with pinto`s. Often a blaze face or split face will result into a split nose.

ELLA-Bolt- AZH- Split nose- Owner Gloreen Karsten



AWK Felconetti von Hogsworth



Snipnose: Also present with pinto`s. This is where only a tiny part of the nose is coloured, or a coloured nose has a small part that is pink.

AWK- Oliver von Prückle

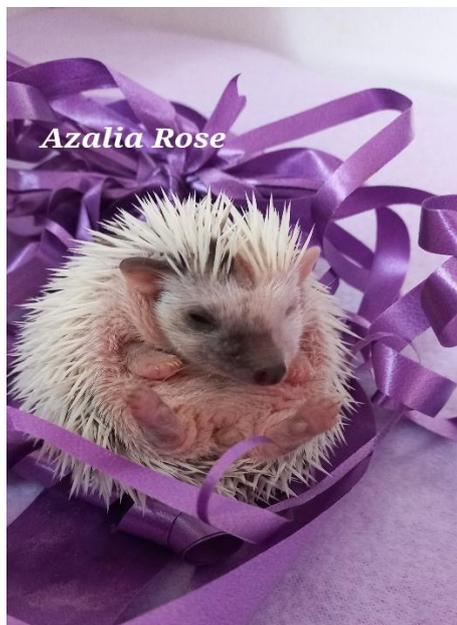
Breeder AZH- Gloreen Karsten

– Owner Beaulah Wilson



Nose pink with one tiny, coloured part. Nose coloured with one tiny pink part

Odd Ears- Odd ears is when a hedgehog have two different coloured ears. Sometimes a hedgehog can have odd ears, and the coloured ear can be a split ear, meaning only half of the ear are coloured. That will be called partial odd ear.



AWK- Azalia Rose - partial odd ear

MHKZN Shamwari AWK- Odd ear

Odd Eye – Heterochromia of the eye is caused by variations in the concentration and distribution of melanin. Odd eyes are still a very rare occurrence in South Africa. We are currently aware of only two in South Africa. They are also related. In animal's heterochromia is in most cases genetic since fur colour and eye colour are delivered by the same gene.

FSV- Dazzle bred by Fanie de Lange. Owned by Lizl van Vreden.



Both hedgehogs are distant relatives.



Surprise Dazzle- Bred by Jean Fölcher