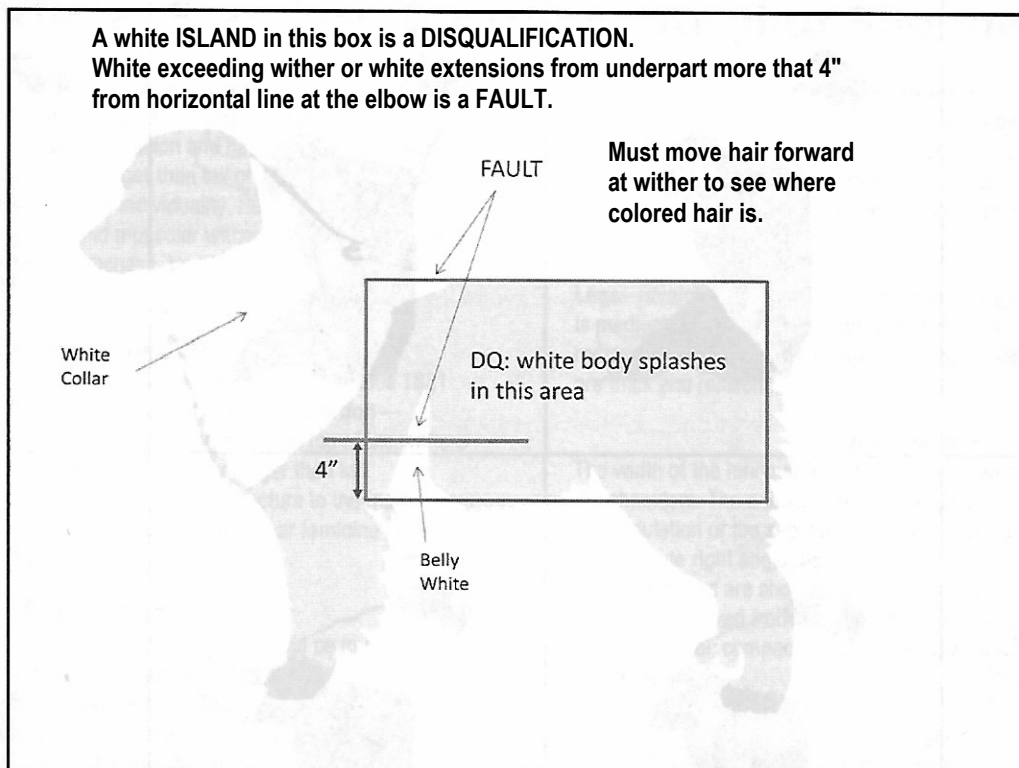


Move hair forward to see where colored hair is



The stated disqualification in the AKC breed standard reads: "White body splashes, which means white on body between withers and tail, on sides between elbows and back of hindquarters in all colors."

1. The comma is important in this statement. It is indicating that what comes after it refers to what is in front of it. Another way to read the statement would be White body splashes, which means white *[body splashes]* on body between withers and tail, on sides between elbows and back of hindquarters in all colors.
2. A judge may only disqualify a dog for a stated breed standard disqualification. White collar extension and white belly extension are not mentioned in any disqualification for the AKC breed standard.
3. Based on the diagram and taking into consideration the argument that a white collar extension is a disqualification, then one would also have to disqualify any belly white extension within the red box on the diagram above. However this is not a stated disqualification in the breed standard, but as with the collar extending past the point of the withers, it would be a fault.
4. *AKC The Complete Dog Book, 19th Edition*: Glossary page 738: Splashed: Irregularly patched, color on white or white on color. Splashes: In Boston terriers, pied brindle spots on a white ground.
5. *Canine Terminology* by Harold R. Spira, page 124: Spot...Occasionally the term 'spot' is employed to describe a distinct patch of color on other parts of the body. It is not unreasonable to liken the term "splash" with "spot."
6. In AKC white body splashes in different breeds are often referred to as "islands" of white fully surrounded by color. Extensions of white are described as "peninsulas" of white extending into color.
7. It is possible that the genes controlling the collar and belly extensions are related to the Irish Spotting Pattern and potentially the white body splashes could be due to the Piebald gene. Hence it would be normal in a breed standard to discuss the two effects as separate items as is done in this breed standard.
8. Breed disqualifications are not open to interpretation. They have to be clearly stated and a dog may only be DQ'd based on a stated disqualification. Interpreting that a white collar and/or belly extension are disqualifications can only occur if one "misinterprets" the current statement.
9. Since the Australian Shepherd became fully recognized in 1991 few dogs have been disqualified for a white collar/white belly extension. The vast majority of AKC judges are reading the breed standard as it is written and applying it as it is written.