

**While we can readily identify an Albino, genetic testing is the only means to identify non-albino carriers of the defective gene.**

Responsible breeders of the Doberman Pinscher will abide by the

DPCA Code of Ethics:

[http://dpca.org/club/DPCA\\_COE.htm](http://dpca.org/club/DPCA_COE.htm)

To find a responsible breeder in your area:

[www.dpca.org/breed/breed\\_referral.htm](http://www.dpca.org/breed/breed_referral.htm)

For more information:

[DPCAAlbinoDoberman@dpca.org](mailto:DPCAAlbinoDoberman@dpca.org)

DPCA Website:

[www.dpca.org](http://www.dpca.org)

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/DobermanPinscherClubofAmerica>

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Mrs. Judy Doniere, Second Edition 2001.

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## *The ALBINO DOBERMAN PINSCHER*

*Buyer Beware*

*The DPCA does not condone or support the breeding of the "white"/albino Doberman as it is a genetic mutation with some serious physical consequences and it is not bred to the official DPCA standard.*

*From the DPCA standard: Color and Markings*

Allowed colors: **black, red, blue, and fawn (Isabella).**

Markings: **rust**, sharply defined, appearing above each eye and on muzzle, throat and forechest, on all legs and feet, and below tail. White patch on chest, not exceeding 1/2 square inch, permissible.

Disqualifying Fault : **Dogs not of an allowed color.**

**White (Albino) is not a color; it is a lack of color caused by a defective gene**

## **THE PROBLEM**

While we can readily identify an Albino Doberman Pinscher by its **lack of pigmentation** making it appear white or cream, we can test non-albino Doberman Pinschers to ensure they are not carriers of the albinism gene. This allows breeders to eliminate carriers from their breeding programs. It has been proven that the albino mutation is not related to our dilution genes (red, blue and fawn). In 1982, the AKC approved the DPCA's amendment to the Doberman standard disqualifying "**dogs not of an allowed color.**" This prevented the Albinos from being shown in the conformation ring, but unfortunately does not stop the continued breeding of these unfortunately affected Dobermans by people unconcerned with health and temperament.

Buyers of so-called "rare white" puppies (at sometimes exorbitant prices) need to be aware that they are purchasing a dog with potentially **very expensive health and/or temperament problems** which will prevent the puppy from developing into the companion dog the buyer is most likely seeking.

The intentional breeding of albinism in Dobermans is equal to intentionally breeding hip dysplasia, epilepsy or a host of other harmful conditions. Albino Dobermans are being bred despite the fact that they have a **much higher probability of developing crippling conditions** and are being marketed to the uneducated public as "rare" or "unusual" when the reality is, they are the product of a **genetic mutation**.

## **THE "Z"LIST**

The DPCA is utilizing a tracking system, called The "Z" List. Dobermans with a "Z" designation on their AKC registration papers are descendents of the first AKC registered albino Doberman. "Z" tracking, along with genetic testing for the defective gene, are the means to eliminating albinism in the Doberman Pinscher. Buyers should ask to see all registration papers of sire and dam prior to committing to a puppy.

## **Albinism is a deleterious mutation which affects the whole body.**

### **SIGHT**

We know that Albinos are phototropic (sensitive to sun light). They often have severe vision problems resulting from abnormal development of the retina.



### **SKIN**

Albinos are prone to skin cancer and skin lesions. Due to the lack of pigment, they are extremely susceptible to skin damage from the sun.



### **TEMPERAMENT**

Due to the intense inbreeding to obtain the appearance of "white coat," the temperaments on a great many Albinos can be unstable. These problems range from fear biting to outright