

Yellow in Aussies (E-locus)

You will see yellow Aussies being sold as “rare” or as “yellow bis.” These terms are misleading and only add to the confusion with yellow Australian Shepherds.

Yellow is not a light red, or a dilute red. It is caused by the same gene that creates yellow in labs or the color of Golden Retrievers. On the E-locus, you can have EE (non yellow), Ee (carrier of yellow), and ee (yellow). Yellow is recessive, so it does take two copies to express. It is also not rare, it is not a recognized color and is not bred for. With that mindset a homozygous merle is rare as well. Sable is another unrecognized color.

Seeing yellow bi colors or yellow self is nothing out of the ordinary. Yellow masks (blocks) merle and copper/tan markings from being expressed. So essentially, almost all yellow Aussies will be yellow bis or solid yellow. There are a couple exceptions, Harlequin (Mh) and homozygous merles (M/M) can still express merle patterns on yellows.

****Please note that E-locus typically refers to “red” in some other breeds, but in others it is referring to yellow.**



Yellow male out of a blue merle female and black tri male.