

## Statement on Black Boerboels



Source: Johan van Wyk, Genetics Committee, SABBA Board  
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There seems to be some uncertainty in the Boerboel community regarding SABBA's stance on Black Boerboels.

It is important to not confuse the issue of black Boerboels and the Development Register. The rationale behind the establishing of the Development Register is to keep a door open for the registration of lost and/or new Boerboel blood. The system is strict enough to protect the current gene pool from being contaminated.

The matter of black is no different to that of white. We do not describe or accept white dogs in the standard of excellence, but we also do not exclude them. Pigmentation in white dogs is normally the main issue, but the appraisal system will address this. Black hair is actually sought after in the Boerboel. How many people prefer a black mask as opposed to no mask? So, the black hair colour is provided for already. We also accept 50% black, or even more, in some dark brindle dogs. There is enough proof of the possibility of black manifesting in dogs of the accepted colours - this becomes even greater when you mate them with brindles.

SABBA does not accept black as a colour – there are three accepted colours, i.e. any shade of yellow, brown, or brindle. As piebald is accepted as a variation of the brown, yellow and even brindle, so is black accepted as a variation of brindle. There is also the question of cross breeds (Rottweiler, etc.) The conditions of the appraisal system will provide for disqualification in such instances. Personally, I do not view this as a problem - at issue is the quality of the dog and not the colour. The functionality lies within the pigmentation - not in the hair colour.

I do not know of black dogs with registration papers required for SABBA registration. Therefore, they will be dealt with in the Development Register.

In summary – black is not a SABBA recognised colour. It is merely accepted as a variation of the black in the brindle.