



Chapter

1.

COLLIE VARIETIES

The Collie has a long-standing reputation as one of **the most beautiful of dog breeds.**

Though many people may have a mental picture of the Collie as looking like Lassie, or Lassie-colored, the Collie is actually bred in **two different coat types** and **four different color variations** that add to the breed's great beauty and appeal.



BREED TYPE

The overall “look” of the Collie is defined by **The Collie Standard** (click here) — a specific set of required breed characteristics developed over the past 120 years and perfected by breeders ever since.

COAT:

There are two types or varieties of Collie: the **ROUGH** Collie and the **SMOOTH** Collie. Both varieties are the same except for the length of their coats. The Collie is a double-coated breed with a harsh outer coat beneath which lies a downy undercoat.



Rough



Smooth

© AKC

COLOR:

Rough and Smooth Collies both come in the same four color combinations:

- **Sable and white**, which is shades of brown ranging from light straw to dark mahogany with white markings;
- **Tri-color**, which is black with tan and white markings;
- **Blue merle**, which is gray to silver with tan and white markings; and
- **White**, which is predominantly all white with a sable, tri-colored, or blue merle head and body markings.



Rough Collie, blue merle



Rough Collie, sable



Smooth Collie, white

Note:

The smaller Shetland Sheepdog is sometimes referred to as a “Miniature Collie” when, in fact, the Shetland Sheepdog, or “Sheltie,” is a separate breed, originating in the Shetland Islands of Scotland, with its own breed Standard.





The colorful Collie

Rough Collie, mahogany sable



Photo by Jan Haderlie

Smooth Collies, tri-color and blue merle



© 2006 The American Kennel Club, Inc.

Rough Collie, white



Rough Collie, tri-color

