

## BEARD STAINS & DISCOLORATION

Often Mini owners notice a reddish or brownish staining of the beard and perhaps the hair on the paws or leg furnishings as well. There are many different opinions as to the cause of this problem, and there are just as many suggestions for prevention & cure.

Here are several ideas for preventing stains, and a few for home "cures."

Please note: individual cases may not respond to each and every one of these suggestions. Some treatments may need to be applied more than once or even on a regular basis.

**Please do not use bleach or any kind of hair-lightening product on your dog, and please do not follow other internet suggestions of prescription or over-the-counter drugs as stain remedies without consulting your veterinarian first!**

### **PREVENTION:**

- food - (vary protein type: use chicken or lamb instead of beef-based kibble product)
- water - (some people suspect pH value may contribute to discoloration; try bottled water)
- dirty teeth - have teeth cleaned
- a product such as "Purepet Coat Oil" used to lightly coat the hair may prevent stains
- allergies may be at fault in these staining issues. Have the dog tested for allergies.

### **REMOVAL:**

Use all these suggestions with care! Avoid dog's eyes when applying any of these treatments.

- mix equal parts lemon juice & table salt; add one beaten egg WHITE; apply to beard and work through; when dry, brush out
- mix equal parts white vinegar & water; use to wash beard several times a week
- use a "bluing" product such as Lambert Kay "Snowy Coat" Shampoo (in pet supply stores)
- try "Fearing Super White" (available at feed stores); massage a bit into beard and allow to set in for 3- 5 minutes; rinse well.
- use a small amount of "Mrs. Wright's Laundry Bluing" in the dog's conditioning product after shampoo.

(Products containing bluing may appear blue or purple in color, but they will not turn the dog's beard blue. Bluing is not bleach but is normally used in the final laundry rinse to help make whites whiter.)

### **DISCLAIMER:**

There are no guarantees of success asserted with the list of suggestions above. We do not assume responsibility for any misuse of these "treatment" ideas. We believe these applications are harmless when used with normal care, but you (the reader) assume all liability for use with your dog.