

D'Argent? Litter vs. Frosted

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Q I'm newer to d'Argent and I have a question regarding one of the litters that I had. The mom to this litter is Seal Point Siamese and dad is as far as I am aware, an Agouti d'Argent. These babies looked Agouti when they were younger but once they got hair, they became a bluish color. As far as I am aware there is no Russian Blue on mom's side and they are way too dark to be Blue. I am unsure what exactly is going on. This line originated from a breeder in Canada.



The babies just shy of a week.



The babies at 10 days old.

The babies at 10 days old.



The babies at 2 weeks of age.

A D'Argent is a dominant gene so if dad is one, then the kids are more than likely d'Argent. Most of the babies look very silvered and very light in color which normal Black d'Argent don't look like at this age (they start out Black



The mom to the litter.

The dad to the litter.

then get the silvered tips). Some Black d'Argent will start to silver once their fur comes in, others after they molt from baby coat into adult coat. The silvering tends to stay longer when it comes in earlier and can fade if they are slower to develop it.

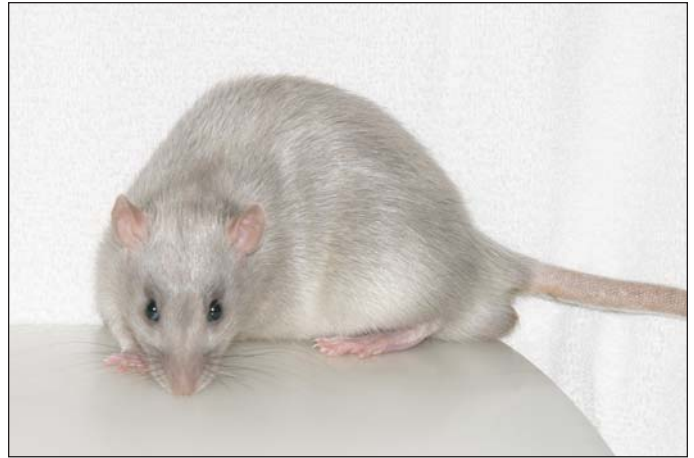
One is definitely Agouti, one is Black but the rest that are so light it's hard to say if they are just Black but heavily silvered or if there is something else going on. They do look like they have a black undercoat in the 2-week-old pics. Since d'Argent have a mask that can show up as soon as 3-4 weeks of age, look for that as they get older. However, in the photo of dad, it's hard to tell, but I don't see silvered tips to the hair like a d'Argent has and can't see the face to see if there is the tell-tale mask. He does have a lighter Agouti color similar to Agouti d'Argent www.afrma.org/ratunstdnonreccoats.htm#dargentrat.



L-R: Russian Blue d'Argent, Russian Blue Agouti d'Argent, Agouti d'Argent, plain Agouti, Black d'Argent, and normal Black kittens owned and bred by Nikki Kimura, Pacific Coast Rattery, CA. It is easy to tell the Agouti and Black d'Argent at this age by their silver tipping. Photo ©2015 Nikki Kimura.



A 7.5-week-old Agouti d'Argent owned and bred by Nikki Kimura, Pacific Coast Rattery, CA. Photo ©2015 Karen Robbins.



A Russian Blue d'Argent owned and bred by Nikki Kimura, Pacific Coast Rattery, CA. Photo ©2016 Karen Robbins.



A moultng Black d'Argent kitten owned and bred by Nikki Kimura, Pacific Coast Rattery, CA. Photo ©2016 Nikki Kimura.



A 7.5-week-old Black d'Argent owned and bred by Nikki Kimura, Pacific Coast Rattery, CA. Photo ©2015 Karen Robbins.



A Mink d'Argent owned by Nikki Kimura. Photo ©2015 Nikki Kimura.

With the coats of the parents looking like Bristle Coat or another curly-coated type (the whiskers on mom look straight with some curled and has the messy-looking coat like Bristle Coat; dad has some whiskers that look more straight and others with some curl), that will affect what the color looks like on the kids since it looks like all the kids in the 2-week-old picture have a curly/wavy coat.

Frosted

Another color that is similar to d'Argent is the Frosted www.afrma.org/ratunstdnonrec.htm#frostedrat which looks very much like the d'Argent but without the mask and they develop a little differently. This is also a dominant gene and the one breeder working on them for a while found there were two different types with "type A" looking different on an Agouti base by bleaching the color from the reddish brown to blonde, and Black looks like a dark Russian Blue and there is some silvering. Type B does not dilute the base color like Type A and it is hard to tell which ones will be Frosted in the litter. These don't really "frost" but silver with their 12-week molt. When Type A is crossed with Type B, the litter has two very distinct types of Frosted that develop. Frosted don't continue to get more silvered as they age though like the d'Argents do. Both Frosted and d'Argent look nearly the same on a black base and only Type A Frosted looks different on an Agouti base.

Comparing Type A to Type B Frosted



An Agouti Type B Frosted (L) vs. Agouti Type A Frosted (R) owned by Erika Holbrook, UT. Photo ©2015 Erika Holbrook.

Agouti Frosted Comparisons



Agouti Type B Frosted (L) vs. Agouti Type A Frosted (R). Type B is hard to tell who is going to be Frosted in the litter—they only have a slight difference to their normal-colored siblings. Type A has a pretty intense difference between Frosted vs. non-Frosted. Rats owned and bred by Erika Holbrook, LalaBean Rattery, UT. Photo ©2015 Erika Holbrook.



An Agouti Type A Frosted (L) vs. Agouti normal color sibling (R). The difference in color is very pronounced. Rats owned and bred by Erika Holbrook, LalaBean Rattery, UT. Photo ©2015 Erika Holbrook.



Agouti Type B Frosted (L) vs. an Agouti normal color sibling (R). Rats owned and bred by Erika Holbrook, Lala Bean Rattery, UT. You can see the color isn't drastically different like on Type A. Photo ©2015 Erika Holbrook.



... and the face view of the Agouti Type A Frosted (L) vs. the Agouti Type B Frosted (R) from picture to the left. Rats owned and bred by Erika Holbrook, LalaBean Rattery, UT. Photo ©2015 Erika Holbrook.



Agouti Type B Frosted (L) vs. Agouti Type A Frosted with the bluish color (R), taken in the shade. Rats owned by Erika Holbrook, UT. Photo ©2015 Erika Holbrook.



... and the same rats from above taken in sunlight. Rats owned by Erika Holbrook, UT. Photo ©2015 Erika Holbrook.

Black Frosted Comparisons



A Black Type A Frosted (bottom) vs. Black normal color siblings (top and middle). This shows the bluish diluted-looking color. Rats owned and bred by Erika Holbrook, LalaBean Rattery, UT. Photo ©Erika Holbrook.



Black normal color (L) vs. Black Type B Frosted (R) showing the diluted color. Rats owned and bred by Erika Holbrook, LalaBean Rattery, UT. Photo ©2015 Erika Holbrook.



Black Type A Frosted (L) vs. Black Type B Frosted (R) showing the difference in silvering at this age. Rats owned and bred by Erika Holbrook, LalaBean Rattery, UT. Photo ©2015 Erika Holbrook.



Black Type A Frosted (top) vs. Black Type B Frosted (bottom) vs. Black normal color (R) showing the differences in silvering and color at this age. Rats owned and bred by Erika Holbrook, LalaBean Rattery, UT. Photo ©2015 Erika Holbrook.



Black Type B Frosted (L), Black Type A (mid), Black normal color (R) showing the differences in silvering and color at this age. Rats owned and bred by Erika Holbrook, LalaBean Rattery, UT. Photo ©2015 Erika Holbrook.

Comparing Frosted To D'Argent



An Agouti d'Argent (L) vs. Agouti Type A Frosted (R) owned by Erika Holbrook, UT. Photo ©2015 Erika Holbrook.



Both Agouti: D'Argent (top) vs. Type A Frosted (bottom). Rats owned by Erika Holbrook, UT. Photo ©2015 Erika Holbrook.



An Agouti Type B Frosted (L) vs. Agouti d'Argent (R) owned by Erika Holbrook, UT. Photo ©2015 Erika Holbrook.



Both Russian Blue: Type A Frosted (L) vs. d'Argent (R). Rats owned and bred by Erika Holbrook, LalaBean Rattery, UT. Photo ©2015 Erika Holbrook. They look the same but develop differently. Both look nearly the same on a black base and only Type A Frosted looks different on an Agouti base.



An Agouti Type A Frosted (L), Agouti d'Argent (middle), and Agouti Type B Frosted (R) all owned by Erika Holbrook, UT. Photo ©2015 Erika Holbrook.