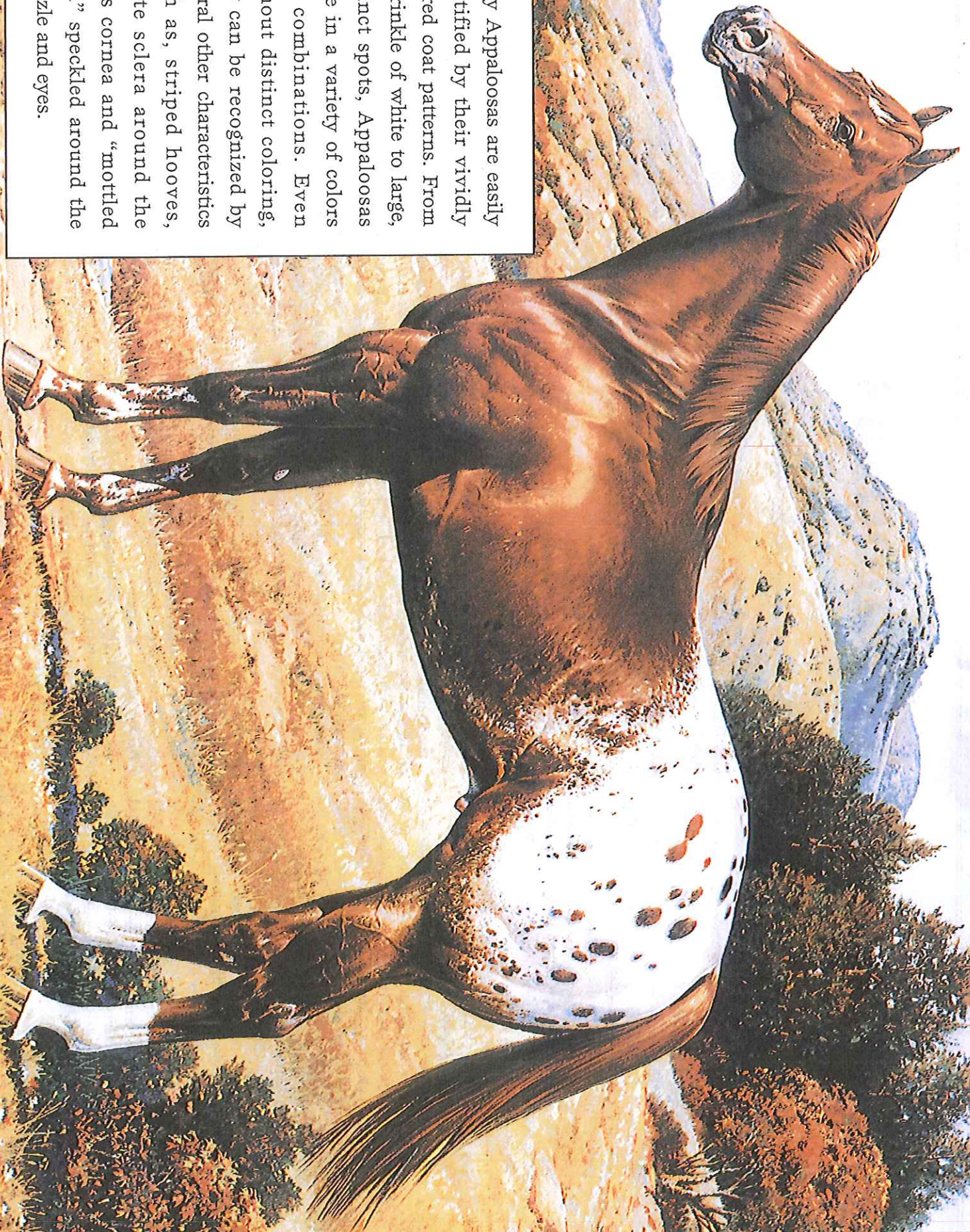


Many Appaloosas are easily identified by their vividly colored coat patterns. From a sprinkle of white to large, distinct spots, Appaloosas come in a variety of colors and combinations. Even without distinct coloring, they can be recognized by several other characteristics such as, striped hooves, white sclera around the eye's cornea and "mottled skin" speckled around the muzzle and eyes.





Appaloosa Horse Club

The International Breed Registry for Appaloosa Horses

ApHC Coat Colors and Markings Sheet

Appaloosa Characteristics

Although Appaloosas are most commonly recognized by their colorful coat patterns, they also have other distinctive characteristics. The four identifiable characteristics are: coat pattern, mottled skin, white sclera, and striped hooves. In order to receive regular registration, a horse must have a recognizable coat pattern or mottled skin and one other characteristic.

Mottled or Parti-colored Skin

This characteristic is unique to the Appaloosa horse; therefore it is a basic and decisive indicator of an Appaloosa. Mottled skin results in a speckled or blotchy pattern of pigmented and non-pigmented skin. If a horse has mottled skin, it may be found in several places; from the muzzle or eye areas, to spreading from the genital regions. Mottled skin around the eyes and/or muzzle can extend over both nostrils and around both lips.

Simple differences in pigmentation of certain areas are common to many breeds and should not be considered appropriate examples of mottled skin. These include patches of light and dark skin on the underside of the tail, or the upper inside of the legs. Pumpkin skin is a general term referring to lightly pigmented, often orange-tinted, skin without the contrast between dark and light areas evident in Appaloosa mottled skin.

White Sclera

The sclera is the area of the eye that encircles the cornea — the colored or pigmented portion. The white of the human eye is an example. All horses have sclera but the Appaloosa's is white and usually more readily visible than other breeds. All horses can show white around the eye if it is rolled back, up or down, or if the eyelid is lifted. Readily visible white sclera is a distinctive Appaloosa characteristic provided it is not in combination with a large white face marking, such as a bald face.

Striped Hooves

Many Appaloosas will have bold and clearly defined vertically light or dark striped hooves. Vertical stripes may result from an injury to the coronet or a white marking on the leg. Also, light-colored horses tend to have thin stripes in their hooves. As a result, all striped hooves do not necessarily distinguish Appaloosas from non-Appaloosas. Look for other Appaloosa characteristics if any of these situations apply to your horse.

Coat Patterns

A remarkable aspect of the Appaloosa is the myriad of color and pattern combinations they can exhibit. Following are seven common terms used to describe Appaloosa coat patterns. The description used by the registration department often differs slightly from the example following each term. Remember, Appaloosa patterns are highly variable and there are many that may not fit into specific categories easily.

Blanket – Refers to a horse that has a solid white area normally over, but not limited to, the hip area with a contrasting base color (ex. white over hips).

Spots – Refers to a horse that has white or dark spots over all or a portion of its body (ex. spots over loin and hips).

Blanket With Spots – Refers to a horse with a white blanket that has dark spots within the white. The spots are usually the same color as the horse's base color (ex. white with spots over back and hips).

Roan – A horse exhibiting the Appaloosa roan pattern develops a lighter-colored area on the forehead, jowls and frontal bones of the face, over the back, loin and hips. Darker areas may appear along the frontal bones of the face and also on the legs, stifle, above the eye, point of the hip and behind the elbow.

Roan Blanket – Refers to a horse having the roan pattern consisting of a mixture of light and dark hairs over a portion of the body. The blanket normally occurs over, but is not limited to, the hip area (ex. roan over hips).

Roan Blanket With Spots – Refers to a horse with a roan blanket that has white and/or dark spots within the roan area (ex. roan with spots over loin and hips).

Solid – Refers to a horse which has a base color such as: bay, bay roan, black, blue roan, buckskin, chestnut or sorrel, cremello or perlino, dark bay or brown, dun, gray, grulla, palomino, red roan, or white; but no contrasting color in the form of an Appaloosa coat pattern.