

# Identifying the APPALOOSA





Description: White with spots over body and hips Face Markings: None Leg Markings: left hind partial stocking



Description: Spots over body and hips Face Markings: None Leg Markings: Right front pastern, right hind ankle



Description: White with spots over back and hips Face Markings: Star, stripe and snip Leg Markings: Left front pastern, left hind ankle, right front half-pastern, right hind half-stocking





Description: Roan over body and hips Face Markings: Star Leg Markings: Left front lightning marks, left hind partial pastern, right front lightning marks, right hind partial pastern



Description: Solid Face Markings: Star Leg Markings: Left hind half-stocking, right hind pastern



The Appaloosa has a bold and colorful heritage, originating some 20,000 years ago. L Its appearance and unique qualities earned it special recognition in the drawings of cave dwellers, worship in ancient Asia, and status as a prized mount of Spanish explorers, Native Americans and western settlers. Today, the Appaloosa's color, versatility, willing temperament and athletic ability make it a popular choice for a number of activities.

## Appaloosa Characteristics

#### Mottled or Parti-colored Skin

This characteristic is unique to the Appaloosa breed. Therefore, mottled skin is a basic and decisive indicator of an Appaloosa. Mottled skin is different from commonly found pink (flesh-colored or non-pigmented) skin in that it normally contains dark areas of pigmented skin. The result is a speckled or blotchy pattern of pigmented and non-pigmented skin. Examples of this are found to the right. If a horse has mottled skin, it may be found in several places. In addition to the muzzle and eye areas, mottled skin may spread from the center of the anus or vulva to the surrounding area. Mottled skin may also be found on the sheath or udder. Many breeds will have specks of non-pigmented skin in this region which should not be confused with the Appaloosa's mottled skin.

### White Sclera

The sclera is the area of the eye that encircles the iris — the colored or pigmented portion. The white of the human eye is an example. All horses have sclera and although all horses can show white around the eye if it is rolled back, up or down if the eyelid is lifted, the Appaloosa's is usually more readily visible than other breeds. 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. An example of sclera is found to the right.



Description: White with spots over loin and hips. Both eyes blue Face Markings: Bald face, snip lower lip Leg Markings: Left hind stocking, right hind stocking



Description: White with spots over loin and hips Face Markings: Star, snip, snip lower lip Leg Markings: Left front lightning marks, left hind half-stocking, right front light ning marks, right hind half-pastern



Description: Roan over loin and hips Face Markings: Star and stripe Leg Markings: Left hind half-pastern, right hind pastern

Description: Solid Face Markings: Snip Leg Markings: None



Description: White with spots over back and hips Face Markings: Star and snip Leg Markings: Left hind pastern, right front partial half-pastern, right hind lightning marks



Description: White over back and hips Face Markings: None Leg Markings: None



Description: White with spots over loin and hips Face Markings: Blaze Leg Markings: Stockings all four



#### **Striped Hooves**

Many Appaloosas will have bold and clearly defined vertically light or dark striped hooves. An illustration of this characteristic is found to the right. 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.



For more information in your area of interest, contact the Appaloosa Horse Club • 530 S. Asbury Street Suite 3 • Moscow, ID 83843 (208) 882-5578 • (208) 882-8150 FAX • www.appaloosa.com

Appaloosas do not always display the above characteristics. In this case, Appaloosa parentage is verified through genetic testing, making these horses eligible for participation in approved Appaloosa Horse Club events. Not all Appaloosa base color, pattern and characteristic combinations are depicted on this chart. Illustrations by Suanne Wamsley.



Description: White with spots over back and hips Face Markings: Star, stripe and snip Leg Markings: Left hind stocking, right front stocking, right hind partial half-stocking