

Identifying the APPALOOSA

Black



Description: White with spots over entire body
Face Markings: None
Leg Markings: None

Blue Roan



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

Dark Bay or Brown



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

Bay Roan



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

Dark Bay or Brown



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

Grulla



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

Black



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

Gray



Description: Solid
Face Markings: Star, snip
Leg Markings: None

Bay



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 lightning marks, right hind half-pastern

Red Roan



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

Buckskin



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

The Appaloosa has a bold and colorful heritage, originating some 20,000 years ago. 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

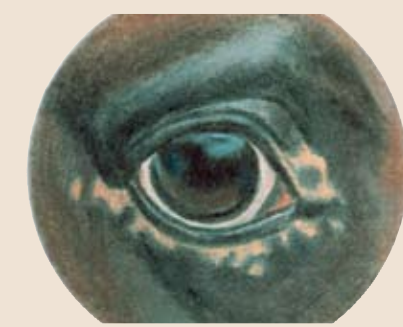
Mottled or Parti-colored Skin

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.



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 • PO Box 82519 • Oklahoma City, OK 73148
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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.

Chestnut or Sorrel



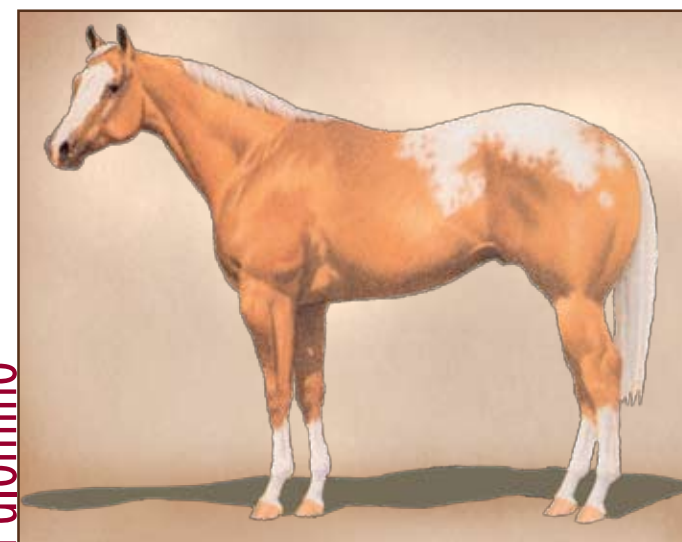
Description: White with spots over back and hips
Face Markings: Star, stripe and snip
Leg Markings: Left hind stocking, right front stocking, right hind partial half-stocking

Dun



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

Palomino



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