We are all aware of the British terminology for Broken Coated Horses and Ponies, i.e. Piebald – black and white and Skewbald – any other colour and white but as we know things progress and we in the BSPA have now incorporated all the latest terminology into our Stud Book and Registration descriptions.

We have tried in this booklet to explain as simply as possible the terminology and coat pattern descriptions now associated with the worldwide enthusiasm for coloured horses and ponies.

The more you know about coloured horses and ponies the more you become aware of the minimally (not a lot of colour) marked animal, these minimally marked types must be judged exactly the same way as their more traditionally marked counterparts and not be subjected to any discrimination at all.

The nearly white must be treated exactly as the fifty-fifty marked animal. You must look through the lack of colour and judge the conformation. **How many nearly white animals have you had win a championship?**

There are also descriptions of breed types you now encounter whilst judging. In order to be a successful coloured horse and pony judge you must widen your horizons and encompass the new information available to you.

**TERMINOLOGY**

TOBIANO – refers to the coat pattern. The base coat can be any colour. Look as if a pot of paint has been poured from the top of the horse/pony downwards.

OVERO – refers to the coat pattern (there are various degrees of the coat pattern which will be explained later in this booklet) the base coat can be any colour. Look as if a pot of paint has been poured from horse/pony the belly upwards.

Please remember these are the simple explanations of colour and markings. (The genetic make up is available for those who wish to research the internet)

**Blue eye or Fried egg eye must never be penalised.**
BSPA REQUIREMENTS FOR COLOUR

❖ The ideal skewbald or piebald possesses a colour distribution of 50/50 colour and white markings, however acceptable patterns range from the predominantly white to the predominantly dark coat.

❖ The colour must be distributed on the body above the elbow and stifle, markings exclusively on the face in isolation are not acceptable.

❖ Only natural markings visible from standing position and at a distance of 10ft (3m) are acceptable. The lesser of the two colours shall meet the minimum requirements of a single patch of colour located on one side of the body covering and area of 15 x 15 cm (approximately the size of a saucer) is the minimum requirement for acceptance and must be accompanied by two or more of the listed markers:

1. The presence of colour to or above the hock and knee on two or more limbs.
2. One or two blue, or partially blue eyes. The eye may also be surrounded by white (pigeon eye).
3. Apron face (white extending to include the eyes and beyond the jaw line)
4. White on jaws.
5. Pink lower lip.
6. Two-coloured mane or tail.
7. White under the belly.
8. Pink skin under white hairs and/or blue zone between white hair and any other colour present.
9. The offspring of Homozygous Stallions or mares that have been tested by a recognised Genetic testing laboratory either in the USA or UK and who have documentation to uphold their claim.

❖ Light or dark skin will only be taken into account in the case of a grey and white skewbald whose markings have faded.

❖ Tovero – A cross between Overo and Tobiano coat patterns. Must be proven by documented breeding details of parents.

❖ Tricolour – very rare – must have patches of three colours on the body, white or black in the mane or tail or where white markings meet any other colour and create “halos” of a different colour do not constitute a tricolour.

❖ Any equine in possession of a registration certificate from the American Paint Horse Association (APHA) confirming its status as a paint horse is acceptable.

❖ A test may be carried out for the presence of the Tobiano gene – this will be done at the applicants expense.

A template is available on request with which you may measure the minimum coloured area requirement.
THE TOBIANO
The pictures on the left show variations of the Tobiano pattern. Tobiano is the genetically dominant pattern and only occurs when at least one of the parents is a tobiano. The tobiano is basically a white horse with patches of colour. It generally has white legs and white crossing the backline. The head, chest, flank, buttock and often the tail are usually the coloured areas. A variation of the tobiano pattern is the predominantly dark horse with white markings on the neck and/or shoulder and/or buttock. Different coloured eyes, e.g. one brown and one blue eye are commonly found, but this is not always present.

THE OVERO
The pictures on the right show variations of the Overo pattern. The Overo pattern is the recessive pattern and may occur from the mating of two apparently solid coloured parents which are recessive carriers of this gene. These parents usually have some sort of white markings on the legs or face such as: belly splash, chin spot, jagged white cannon markings.
HOW CAN YOU TELL THE Overo PATTERNS APART?

Of the Pinto/Paint pattern genes, Tobiano stands alone as a distinct pattern, but Sabino, Splash, Tovero and Frame are typically lumped under the catchphrase “Overo”. Often a horse may display characteristics of more than one pinto pattern. There are others whose colouring does not fall neatly into any definite category. Some genes, like Sabino, frequently occur along with other patterns.
Frame:

- Patches of white along the side of the barrel and/or neck, "framed" by the darker body color.
- Jagged, rough-sawn edge to spots, but not roany or lacey.
- White is solidly placed onto the sides of the body (if other patterns don't interfere), thus creating a "frame" of color around the white and spotted areas.
- Frame on its own will have solid-colored legs.
- Frame can have conservative or wildly marked face, and will sometimes have blue eyes.

Sabino:

- More excessive leg and face white than Frame
- A moderate-to-"loud" sabino will look as if the white has spread up as a continuation of the high stockings (think Clydesdale or Shire stockings and how they spread onto the body).
- Face markings are often lacey and sometimes look sprayed at the edges.
- Any separate body spots (whether caused by sabino itself or another pattern) will have lacey or roany edges, often with a speckled look
- Sabino is not a cause of blue eyes, but will allow them if another pattern is present.

Splash:

- Smooth edges to spots
- Minimal to moderate Splashes: legs and head will look as if they have been dipped into white paint
- Loud Splash: look as if they waded out into deep white paint, splashed it up around their sides, and then dunked their head, bottom of the neck and sometimes ears in for a drink.
- They will often have one or two blue eyes.

TOBIANO with Sabino
Frame with Sabino:

This filly has the laciness of Sabino, with the "framed" quality of the Frame Overo gene on her neck and sides. Her high, white, "knife-blade" hind stockings indicate Sabino, as do her white chin and extravagant white facial markings. The dark front legs and dark tail indicate Frame.

TOVERO (To’ - ‘Vero)
A cross of Tobiano and Overo coat patterns
If it's a pinto/paint and not clearly a tobiano, sabino, frame, or splash, likely it can be called a Tovero. Tovero horses combine the characteristics of Tobiano and any/all of the Overos. They often have a substantial amount of white throughout their body. At present, there is no known Tovero gene - it's just a description of a color pattern.

Thanks to Amy Jaeger for these descriptions and tips on how to sort out the patterns:

"Think of it like paint...
Frame - looks like white was painted with a loaded brush into the space inside the frame around the horse’s body
Sabino looks like it was sprayed on with a faulty spray gun, splattering around, usually starting from the legs and face and moving toward the body
Splash looks like the horse was dipped in white paint
Each of these patterns come in versions so minimal that some people consider them "normal markings."

Bay frame plus minimal Sabino (as shown by the sharp “knife-point” socks and milky chin).

Left Bay Frame with minimal Sabino. Right Chestnut Frame + Sabino

Bay Frame with minimal Sabino (milky chin, jagged edges to socks)
OVERO COAT PATTERNS

Overo is a pinto pattern caused by the dominant gene. Overo was formerly thought to be recessive, but statistical analysis of the offspring of overo horses has proven it to be a dominant. Like roan, homozygous overo is a lethal; foals who inherit a dominant gene from each parent usually die in utero or shortly after birth. So almost all overos are heterozygous, with horses being non-overo.

Overo is different from tobiano in that the white markings of an overo horse do not cross the topline. Instead, they appear to begin at the belly and spread upward. White legs are not as common in the overo as they are in the tobiano, and there is often a great deal of white on the face. The horse in the photo above is a dark chestnut overo. Note the lack of white crossing the topline, the one solid-colored leg, and the large amount of white on the face. These are all hallmarks of the overo.

Blue eyes are also common in overos, while tobianos usually have brown eyes.

Buckskin overo. This horse has a bit of white crossing the top of his neck, but the "topline" is only from the tip of the tail to the withers. Overos sometimes do have white crossing their neck, but not their spine or tail.

A minimally marked black overo foal, in his foal coat.
Chestnut overo.

Palomino overo.

Black overo.

Red dun overo.

Sorrel overo.

Sorrel overo. Note that even with as much white as this mare has, it still does not cross her topline.
SPLASHED WHITE OVERO
Also occurs in the Welsh Breeds

Splashed White shares a number of characteristics with the other Overo patterns, including ample facial white, white lower legs, and body white that starts on the belly and extends upward. It can sometimes resemble Tobiano as well, but is usually more of a reverse Tobiano pattern, with color over the topline and white below.

With experience, your eye will learn to recognize the differences.

Splash Traits:

• Minimal to Moderate Splash – legs and head look as if they have been dipped into white paint; Large blaze or apron on face; At least some white on legs.

• Loud Splash – look as if they waded out into deep white paint, splashed it up around their sides, and then dunked their head, bottom of the neck and sometimes ears in for a drink.

• Smooth edges to white areas

• One or two blue eyes are common but not necessary

Horses with the Splash pattern usually have white legs (exception: Minimal Splash may not). White on the body may range from extremely minimal, perhaps a spot on the belly or face, to extensive "spotting" that is like a reverse tobiano (in Tobiano the white spreads from the topline down; In Splashed White, it goes from the bottom up.)

The head is usually extensively and sometimes completely white with just the ears having color.

The line between the white and color is very sharp and distinct as with Tobiano.

Blue eyes are very common.

There may be a genetic connection between the Splash pattern and deafness, although by no means are all splash horses hearing-impaired.

However, since horses primarily respond to body language rather than verbal commands, deafness is not necessarily a handicap. Deaf horses can be trained very effectively, and can perform as well as hearing horses.
Splashed White is another white pattern that can look similar to Frame and Sabino, because of this it's also usually grouped in with those patterns and given the generic term, Overo. This pattern was thought to be harder to find in North American than Frame or Sabino, but as we begin to understand just how the pattern looks and how the genetics work it's becoming obvious that Splash is much more common than was previously thought we just haven't been identifying it correctly.

Facial markings on Splashed Whites are commonly bottom heavy and may involve just a snip. Larger markings tend to give the horse an "apron" marking.

Leg white tends to be crisp and may be more blunt than with other patterns. As with Sabino there really is no rule as to how many legs will be white but in general at least one will be and it's common for the hind legs to have marking while the front legs do not. The leg markings will range from small to large, a coronet to a high stocking.

Belly spots are common, even on horses that don't have very large facial markings or high leg markings. If the body has white it occurs in a very unique pattern. It's as if the horse was dipped in paint, starting with the legs and nose. The horse is white from the bottom up, arranged in a horizontal pattern. When the body is marked like this it's not uncommon for the head to be extensively and sometimes completely white with just the ears having color. The line between the white and color is very sharp and crisp. Blue eyes are very common and thought of as the rule with this pattern.

As with all pinto patterns Splash does come in a minimal form, at times it could be as minimal as a small faint snip on the nose.
**SABINO OVERO**

*This is a colour associated with Clydesdales and some of the Welsh Types. There is marked ticking on the animal*

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**Characteristics**

Usually involves extensive leg white and facial white. Body spots are usually on the belly, and can either occur as roan areas, speckled areas or rarely as white patches with clean, crisp edges. Sabino horses with clean, crisp edges are often confused with frame overo horses.

Most have flecked with white or roaned, especially when there is extensive sabino markings.

Sabinos with extensive white markings will usually have roan or speckled areas on the ears, tail base, flank and chest areas.

A minimal white sabino will have extensive white marks, on the face and sock, but no white body spots. This is often overlooked, and the horses are thought to be solid.

May have blue or partially blue eyes.
Genetics

This gene often acts like a single dominant gene. This colour pattern has also produced lethal white foals, while some other white foals are still viable and normal. The sabino colour pattern may also include several different distinct patterns which have not yet been researched.

TICKING

There are two main variations of ticking patterns and they are sometimes confused with roans, but ticking patterns are recessive, ie, they can appear unexpectedly when neither parent showed the pattern. Ticking is a pattern of white hairs which appear in the coat, usually not until the animal is several years old (unlike roan, which is usually obvious at birth or soon after).

COON-TAIL TICKING (RABICANO)

This is associated with horizontal bands on the top of the tail. The heaviest concentration of white hairs is in the flanks, fanning upwards. It is a pattern often seen in Welsh Ponies and Cobs.

BIRDCATCHER TICKING

The white hairs are spread fairly evenly throughout the coat, including on the head and lower limbs - it is often confused with roan but there is no sharp contrast between the amount of white hairs on the body and head and legs as occurs in roan.

Roan is a pattern of white hairs imposed on the body base colour but not on the head and legs which retain the colour natural to that base colour. Elargee Primrose shows this pattern well - she is roan on a dark brown base. Note she is also dappled.

Imperial Manika, a bay pony showing Rabicano ticking. Note the concentration of white hairs in the flanks, and the striping effect at the top of the tail. She is also a minimum sabino - note the spearing of the white on the hind legs, and small chin spot.
GLOSSARY
PHENOTYPE - the appearance.
GENOTYPE - the genetic composition.
DOMINANT GENE - a gene which only needs to be present once, ie inherited from one parent, to be apparent in the phenotype.
RECESSIVE GENE - must be present twice for the animal to show its effects, ie, must be inherited from both parents. Recessive genes can be carried without their effects showing in the phenotype.
HOMOZYGOUS - having a matching pair of genes for a particular colour or trait. Both parents of an animal which is homozygous for a dominant gene will show the effects of that gene, eg, a homozygous grey pony will have two grey parents. However, the offspring of two grey parents is not necessarily homozygous for grey.
HETEROZYGOUS - having only one of a pair of genes for a particular colour or trait.

Breeds that recognize sabino patterning
Breeds that recognize the sabino pattern include the Mustang, American Paint Horse, Miniature horse, Morgan, Hackney, Hackney Pony, Tennessee Walker and the Pinto horse colour breed. Horse breeds that are generally solid-coloured and do not allow most Pinto colouring in their breed registries, but who may have representatives with the Sabino gene pattern expressed by high white, belly spots, lacy or roaning patches and white extending past the eyes include the Clydesdale horse, Arabian horse, Thoroughbred and Shire.

The most controversial expression of the Sabino gene-complex was in the American Quarter Horse, which for years did not register horses with "cropout" colour or blue eyes, i.e. typical Sabino patterns as well as cremello and perlino horses. This exclusion of cropout foals, even from two solid-coloured parents, led in part to the formation of the American Paint Horse registry. However, since the advent of DNA testing to confirm parentage, the AQHA has repealed this "white rule," allowing light-coloured horses and those with body spots to be registered.
INDENTIFICATION GUIDE

TOBIANO

The head will usually be marked like a solid-coloured horse, either being solid or having a blaze, stripe, race or star and snip. All four legs will usually be white, at least below the hocks and knees. However, one or more legs may be dark down below the hocks or knees. Body markings will usually be regular and distinct, often being oval or round patterns that extend down over the neck and chest giving the appearance of a shield.

The Tobiano Paint will usually have the dark colour in one or both flanks. The Tobiano may either be predominantly dark or white.

OVERO

The head markings on the Overo Paint are often bald, apron or even bonnetfaced. At least one leg, and often all four legs will be dark colour. Body markings on the Overo are usually irregular, rather scattered and/or having splashy white markings, often referred to as calico patterns.

Usually the white will not cross the back between the withers and the tail. The tail will usually be one colour.

The Overo Paint may either be predominantly dark or white.
Frame Overo (Also called simply “Frame” or “Overo”) is a pattern of spotting created by the “Frame” gene

The Frame Overo pattern is so-called because the base body color seems to “frame” the white patterning. This pattern occurs almost exclusively within horses descended from the original Spanish horses.

Dr. Phil Sponenberg says this about the Frame Overo pattern: “The frame overo pattern is especially interesting, since it is almost limited to North American Colonial Spanish horses or their descendants. From that origin the color pattern has spread to other regions and breeds, but all evidence points to it being a Spanish pattern originally. Different breeders select for various of these colors and patterns, but all can be shown to have been present in the Spanish horses at the time of the conquest.”

Characteristics
Generally have dark feet.
The head is usually marked with extensive white markings, such as a blaze, apron or bonnet face.
White spots usually occur on the middle of the sides of the body and neck, these spots rarely cross the topline.
The spots are generally clean, although more ragged than tobiano spots.
The spots tend to have horizontal arrangement.
Blue eyes are very common even when the eye is surrounded by the base coat color (ie. sorrel, black etc.) rather than the white with unpigmented skin near the eye.
The horse may be predominantly dark or white.

Genetics
The frame overo pattern is a dominant allele. In some instances, the frame overo allele may appear to be passed as a recessive allele, but usually due to a minimally marked animal non having any body spots. Cropout horses may imply that there is more than one allele involved, and it may be more complex. These cropout horses do reproduce this frame overo pattern as though the gene were dominant. This suggests that cropout horses may be due to new mutations of this allele.
FRAME OVERO CHARACTERISTICS:

• Maybe predominantly either dark or white.

• White does not cross the back of the horse between its withers and its tail. (May cross over the neck)

• Generally, dark legs; Normal "socks" may occur, but the upper leg is dark (This is an important distinction when comparing a Frame to a Sabino or Splash, both of which may have white legs or tall stockings)

• One or Both blue eyes are common but not necessary (Sabino may also have one or both blue eyes)

• Bold white head markings such as a bald face or broad blaze.

• Irregular, scattered markings.

• Edges of the markings are either hard and crisp or jagged. (Lacy and/or roaned splotching/spotting indicates Sabino - another pattern within the Overo Complex)

• Tail is usually one color.

• Marked similarly on both sides

• Face markings may be asymmetrical
When you mix the Tobiano pattern with any of the three Overo patterns you get a combination called Tovero. This combo is are very common. Some Toveros will display their true genotype physically, while others do not. Determining exactly what patterns are present on the horse may require doing extensive research into the background. Many Toveros are mistakenly identified as just Tobianos or Overo.

When identifying a Tovero horse it's best to use the names of the patterns present (if known) to lessen confusion. Overo is a generic term used to lump three totally different patterns that may have similar characteristics but different genetics. So using the term Tovero just isn't specific enough.

The horse to the right is an excellent example of the Tobiano and Sabino patterns on the same horse. While the colored spots are Tobiano shaped the roaning seen on the flank as well as the white face and chinspot are Sabino characteristics.

Since the tobiano and overo patterns are genetically distinct and inherited on separate sets of genes, it is possible for a horse to inherit both. These horses are called toveros, and show characteristics of both patterns. This usually means tobiano-type body markings and overo-type facial markings.

A black tovero. He has the regular tobiano body pattern of white over the topline and a colored patch on the flank, but his facial markings indicate that he also possesses the overo gene.

Chestnut tovero. Little bit of red on the flank and an almost entirely white head. A horse with a colored "cap" on the top of its head is often called "medicine hat," an Indian term.
Black tovero. This foal, too, is a “medicine hat Paint.”

Bay tovero. Also a medicine hat Paint.

Palomino tovero

Dark bay tovero. This foal looks like the Phantom of the Opera. Note that his left eye is blue. “Mismatched” eyes are common in Paints.

This foal is almost entirely white, except for a lone black patch on his left ear. This is a black tovero.
Tobiano is probably the most well known and easily identifiable Paint/Pinto pattern. It's considered separate from the other three patterns and is very different in physical appearance.

Tobianos are easily identified by their white legs and solid colored head. This combination is unique because generally leg and face markings are seen on the same horse. If the head does have a white marking it is caused by Sabino, Frame or Splash.

Contrary to popular belief blue eyes are not a characteristic of Tobiano. If a Tobiano looking horse has a one or two blue eyes, it would be beneficial to have a OLWS test done on it to be sure that it does not carry Frame. Tobiano does a good job of "hiding" Frame characteristics and the horse may only have a small star and one blue eye. Splash can also be the cause for blue eyes on otherwise Tobiano looking horses. A facial marking as small as a snip or strip can be an indicator of Splash or Sabino. Horses that are only Tobiano are much more rare than some may think, most are a combination of Tobiano and one of the other patterns.

The white on the body is arranged in a vertical pattern and will usually cross the horses topline somewhere between the ears and tail. The spots of a Tobiano are a rounded shape with clean, sharp edges. The tail can be two colors but the color will be at the bottom and the white will be at the top. The foal in the photo above is too young to determine if her tail will be one or two colors, but the horse in the photo below is a good example of the two toned tail found in Tobianos.

The heads of Tobianos seem to be the last part of the body that is covered by white so you may see some Tobianos with white bodies and colored heads. Sponenberg calls this unique pattern the Moroccan pattern (see right) but says that it has nothing to do with Morocco or horses from that country and to further confuse the issue the Moroccan Spotted Horse breed includes horses exhibiting each of the different Pinto patterns. Gower also mentions Moroccan Barbs in her book, and says these are mostly "Medicine Hats" but, Gower's description of a Medicine Hat is different than the one most North American's use. She refers to Medicine Hats as "color
only on the head" and her drawing of a "Medicine Hat" shows a horse like the one in the photo above. North Americans think of Medicine Hats as the unique pattern that is associated with the Overo patterns and is different in that only the top of the head and ears have color, leaving the face from the top of the eyes down, white. Tobianos with this much body white usually have at least one other pattern in addition to Tobiano. One spotting characteristic of Tobiano is color on the flanks and chest, usually called chest or flank "shields". There must be another pattern present to remove the spots in these locations.

Small spots of color commonly called, Ink Spots, Paw Prints, Cat Tracks, etc., are another peculiarity of the Tobiano pattern. These small spots occur in the white patches anywhere on the body of the horse, they are usually small, round and occur in groups so they are easily seen as different from the larger patches of color that makes up the Tobiano pattern. These spots are the same color as the other colored parts of the body. This marking is associated with homozygosity of the Tobiano pattern but not necessarily mean that the horse is homozygous. In the case of the horse to the left, he is homozygous for the Tobiano pattern and as a bonus he is also Sabino, which can be seen from his white lower lip. These spots should not be confused with the Appaloosa pattern mixing with the Pinto pattern(s) and therefore causing a "Pintaloosa".

On some Tobiano horses the pigmented skin extends a short way beyond the patch of color into the white area. The result is a shadow or halo which causes horses to be commonly called shadow paints, ghost paints, ribbons paints or halo paints. These are very distinct when the horses is wet. This effect also occurs in other types of spotting as well.

Another characteristic associated with the Tobiano pattern are ermine spots or distal leg spots. Ermine spots are small to large spots of color in the white close to the

*Ermine Spot*
hoof. Distal leg spots are small to large spots of color that occur in the white on leg above the ankle, these could just be in spots or paw prints that are occurring on the legs rather than the body.

Ermine spots are not necessarily a true characteristic of Tobiano as they do occur on horses who do not have this pattern.

Another trait of Tobiano that occurs on the leg is spots of color around the chestnuts, on a leg that is white in this area.

**GENETIC INFORMATION**

The Tobiano pattern is caused by a dominant gene. Homozygous Tobianos do occur and are gaining population as breeders gain knowledge and insight into the requirements and genetics of this color pattern. To get a homozygous Tobiano both parents must be Tobiano. The amount of white in the coat pattern is not a reliable way of determining whether a horse is homozygous or not as very minimal Tobianos do occur alot more often than people think.

Occasionally horses with the tobiano gene do not have any body spots. These minimally marked horses will have white leg markings of varying size, the head will be dark, unless another pattern is also present. Sometimes this is referred to as a "slipped Tobiano". There are even horses who have only a couple short socks that test homozygous for Tobiano.

This combination is usually thought to be just your basic solid horses with basic white leg markings. The specific combination of extensive leg white and no facial white is consistent with the Tobiano gene and is not consistent with the combination leg and face markings otherwise common in horses. Though these horses are genetically Tobiano they do not look so physically because they are missing the body spots. These are the minimally marked Tobianos and these horses can and do go on to produce Tobiano offspring as reliably as any other horse with the Tobiano gene.
PINTALOOSA OR APPIANO

A cross between the Appaloosa and the Tobiano/Overo gene

Mixing Pinto and Appaloosa Patterns (Pintaloosa)

Pintaloosas are created by combining the Tobiano, Frame, Sabino or Splashed White (or a combination of any of the four) and any of the Leopard Complex patterns. This will always include at least one of each type of pattern. Pintaloosas can be very confusing when trying to determine their true genotype, it may be necessary to research the horses background. This can make for some interesting patterns when foals are produced.

Pintaloosas can occur in any breed in which both any of the Pinto and Appaloosa patterns occur. It's very common to see Pintaloosas in the American Miniature Horse breed and also many Appaloosas and POA’s are also Pintaloosas, although they are not recognized as such because of the rules enforced by APHA/PtHA but genetically they are also Pinto.
LOVELY BLUE EYES!

Horses and Ponies with one or two blue eyes should not be treated any different to those with brown eyes.
**BREED TYPES**

**AMERICAN PAINT HORSE**

**Breed Description:**
The American Paint Horse Association (APHA) is the second largest breed registry in the United States. To be eligible for the registry, a Paint's sire and dam must be registered with either the APHA, The American Quarter Horse Association, or the Jockey Club (the American Thoroughbred registry). Paint Horses must also have a minimum amount of white hair over unpigmented skin.

**Average Height:**
14.2 - 16 hands

**Colors:**
Pinto markings in overo, tobiano, or tovero coat patterns. Specific colors include bay, black, brown, dun, chestnut, buckskin, palomino, grullo, sorrel, grey or roan.

**Conformation:**
The American Paint Horse should have stock type conformation, with a broad chest and well muscled hindquarters. Paint Horses should be strong-boned, but should also possess refinement in the head and neck.

*WhataSmoke, Overo, BSPA Graded Stallion*
**Temperament:**
The Paint Horse is a level-headed, intelligent breed.

**Members of this breed often excel in the following disciplines:**
- Rodeo / Ranch
- Gymkhana
- Versatility

**Breed History:**
The evolution of the American Paint Horse can be traced back to the Spanish Conquistador Hernando Cortes. Cortes brought 16 war horses to the new world, one of which was a sorrel and white pinto. It was that horse historians believe founded the American Paint Horse breed.

Descendants of this unusual stallion soon spread across the western plains, and attracted the attention of the American Indian. The flashy looks and hardy conformation of these horses made them the preferred mount for many of the Plains tribes. It is largely due to this favoritism that the Paint Horse prospered, since pinto coloring was considered undesirable by European Americans until well into the 20th Century.

In the late 1950s, an association called the Pinto Horse Association was established to help preserve the spotted horse. A decade later, the American Paint Stock Horse Association was founded, this time with the aim of preserving both color and stock horse type. In 1965 this latter group merged with the American Paint Quarter Horse Association to form the American Paint Horse Association.

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**AMERICAN SADDLEBRED - (American Saddlehorse)**

Developed in the nineteenth century in the Southern States of the USA, in particular Kentucky (originally known as the Kentucky Saddle Horse), as an extremely comfortable, well-mannered mount for the estate owners to ride around their huge plantations, though it was equally well suited to pulling a carriage.

Selective cross breeding of Canadian and Narraganset pacer - a speedy little horse known for its gaits, toughness, even temperament and sure-footedness (taking its name from the Narraganset Bay of Rhode Island the aristocratic centre of colonial horse breeding) along with Morgans, Arabs and Thoroughbreds to produce more size and quality, has resulted in an exceptionally talented horse. The Canadian pacer Tom Hall was a famous sire, though the English thoroughbred, Denmark, imported in 1839, was selected as the official breed sire. A group of leading breeders formed the National Saddle Horse Breeders Association on April 7, 1891 (In 1899 the name was changed to the American Saddle-Horse Breeders Association and to the American Saddlebred Horse Association in 1980.)

The popularity of the breed has spread across the colonies through America and has been exported into Australia, firstly by Mr & Mrs Besaw of Sutton Farm, new South Wales. The Australian Saddlebred Association was formed in 1977 and classes for the breed are held at many of the major shows in Australia.
Today's American Saddlebred retains the classic good looks, substance, strength, versatility and gait; it has the most amiable disposition, intelligence, speed and natural balance. It stands at between 15.2 and 16 h.h. the average height being about 15.3h.h. It has a well-shaped quality head with large eyes set fairly wide apart, small alert ears and wide nostrils; an elegantly high head carriage; a high-set, arched neck (accentuated by a long flowing mane on Five-Gaited horses, three gaited horses are often shown with a hogged mane); a good sloping shoulder with high withers; a short strong fairly level back and croup with a high-set, long, flowing tail (the set of the tail is not natural and is achieved through an operation and maintained by keeping the tail in a device when the horse is rested, this practice is illegal in Great Britain); Well muscled hindquarters; straight strong limbs with long, sloping, pasterns; good, sound hooves open at the heal. (Unfortunately the practice of growing the feet unnaturally long and using heavy shoes is sometimes adopted for showing purposes to accentuate the action)

Chestnuts are common, but Saddlebreds come in all colours and patterns, except Appaloosa. Palominos and pintos are popular. In the show ring, ridden Saddlebreds are classified as either three gaited or five gaited. The three gaited are shown at walk trot and canter. The five gaited show these three paces plus two others; the slow gait and the rack. Smooth, four-beat saddle gaits were critical in the development of the breed and early horses had to gait for registration. There are now two saddle gaits, both of which are evenly timed, four-beat gaits. The slow gait is restrained and while collected, can hit speeds of 16 m.p.h., whereas the rack, essentially the same gait, is fast and flashy, often topping 25 m.p.h. though correct form and execution are not to be sacrificed for speed, each foot strikes the ground at equal intervals and is free from lateral movement.

Outside the show ring the Saddlebred makes a good all round horse, it is easy to train, is quick with plenty of stamina and jumps well. It will work equally as well under saddle or in harness. A very versatile horse that can be used for many different purposes including working with cattle.
**FALABELLA**

The Falabella miniature horse is one of the smallest breeds of horse in the world, seldom taller than eight hands (78 cm/32 inches) in height at the withers. The Falabella is a rare breed, with only a few thousand individuals existing worldwide. The Falabella, despite its size, is not considered a pony, but rather is a miniature horse.

**Characteristics**

Average breed heights for a fully-grown Falabella today are between 28 and 34 inches. The breed is proportioned similarly to horses, other than in size. They are similar to Thoroughbreds or Arabs in their conformation, with a sleek coat and a slim frame. The Falabella’s body is small and compact. The breed also inherited some cob-like features from pony bloodlines, including sturdy bone, and a thicker hair coat, particularly the mane, tail and around the fetlocks. The head may be slightly larger and the neck is often stouter by comparison with a normal-sized horse, but overall, the animal is not unusually or abnormally proportioned.

Bay (or a variant of bay, called "brown") and black are the most common colors, but there are also pintos, palominos and other spotting patterns found. Black or red leopard-spotted Falabellas (resembling, but not the same as the Appaloosa horse breed) also exist, but are not common.

Falabella foals are very small, standing eight inches tall at birth, and mature to their adult height by the age of two. They are considered very hardy, able to handle severe weather conditions, foal easily, and consistently pass on size, conformation and temperament.

**Uses**

Most Falabellas are considered intelligent, easily trainable and dog-like in loyalty. Due to their size, Falabella horses can only be ridden by very small children, and thus are generally shown in-hand at horse shows. They can be taught to drive, and cart driving is a favorite pastime of Falabella owners. They also are able to jump obstacles up to three feet, though only in-hand, without a rider.

As they are a show and companion breed, their "useful" lifespan is not limited. While young horses may fetch steep prices and are even sold as a long-term investment, old horses are more readily available. The breed is reputed to stay fertile until an advanced age.
Is a Good Horse ever a bad colour?

Well, I think we would all agree that a good horse is a good horse regardless of its colour or how its marked....but, then how often have you seen a predominantly white animal stand as champion or equally, a minimal white? Does colour make a difference in the show ring?

In addition to the amount of white a horse shows, it also has a background colour, is there a preference in that too?

Well, that is a topic of much debate, and we can only hope that when we present our animals for judging that they ARE judged for their type and not their markings. You should ask yourself... “if this animal were a solid colour would I still place it where I have?” And the same question, “if this animal had a less symmetrical patterning, would I still place it where I have”?

EYES
The colour of the eyes and the surrounding skin may enhance or detract from the visual appeal of the animal.

NECK THICKNESS
Long, thin, lacy lines of white distort the thickness of a neck by creating the illusion of a trim neck. A large block of white creates the illusion of a thick, large neck.

We should only expect to be judged on colour in a “Colour and Markings” class OR where it states in the rules that a percentage of colour is taken into account, e.g. best piebald and skewbald classes.

In fact, if we are judging coloured horses, we should also take into consideration that colour patterning can create an optical illusion and can detract from what we should be seeing.

I think the true challenge of judging is to see beyond the colour and the distortions it can give you, you must be able to concentrate on the muscle formation and the bone structure and ignore the pattern. The following drawings illustrate some of the illusions you may see when judging patterned horses....
SHOULDER ANGLE
Colour patterns on the shoulder area distort the perception of slope – making the shoulder appear to have a correct slope when it is straight, or appear straight when the slope is correct.

WITHERS AND CROUP
Too much white or dark in the wrong place may distort the appearance of the withers, or the length of the croup may appear shorter or longer than it actually is.
LEGS
Horses that have white legs commonly appear to have crooked legs, even when they are structurally correct. These illusions are created when dark and white come together at odd angles on the leg.
If a Paint Horse has white and dark meeting on its leg and appears to be cow-hocked, look beyond the colour to see the correct conformation.

HIP, STIFLE AND GASKIN
Illusions created by dark and white also may flatten the croup, shrink the stifles, and make the gaskin appear larger.
**BARREL**
Illusions created by the relationship between dark and white may distort the length of the horse’s back. Contrasting colours on the barrel may distort the appearance of the heart girth as well as the barrel.

**HEIGHT**
The contrast of dark and white can cause a horse to look taller or shorter than it actually is. Dark horses with high leg markings usually look shorter than a horse of the same size with a vertical pattern.
HEAD AND THROAT
The contrast between white and dark on the head may make the forehead appear broader, bend the nose, lengthen the ears, thicken the throat latch, or flare the nostrils. Facial markings can make the sweetest-tempered of horses appear ill-tempered or vice versa.

If you were judging any of the above how objective would you be?
Sue Painter, President UK Paint Horse Association

RULE CHANGE
Paint horse owners should be aware that BSPA rules have now been amended to allow minimally marked paints to compete in their own section and to go forward from that section championship where appropriate to compete with all other championship winners in the evening gala performance for best ridden/in hand/best in show.
This rule change will allow paints that have a minimal amount of white within the prescribed zone, as described in the APHA rule book to compete, the fact that they are accepted and registered BSPA/APHA will be enough. To be eligible for paint classes, horses must be APHA registered or for part-bred status you must have verified parentage with one parent an APHA registered paint.
THE FADING GREY GENE

How many of us have owned or heard of mares that are apparently white or very light grey, giving birth to coloured foals from solid coloured stallions. We all are now much more aware of this phenomena, which is the fading grey gene.

Now we know that should that mare be wet, the dark pigment in her skin would be visible.

The other discovery is even though the Tobiano or Overo coat pattern fades, the animal genetically remains coloured and has the same chance of producing colour as animals whose coat colour remains visible.

The B.S.P.A. stance on this is that once a horse or pony has been registered (phenotype colour must be present at the time of application) it remains able to compete in B.S.P.A. classes even if the colour disappears. (This rule of course may not apply to other organisations.)

But why do they fade, and where does the colour go?

FACT: In order to be grey there MUST BE one grey parent.

Q How will I know if my foal is a grey Tobiano/Overo Skewbald?
A At birth look at the area around the eye lids, there should be white hairs; some foals look like they have white goggles on. Also parting the foal’s coat near the flank will reveal the presence of white hairs in the undercoat.

Q What is the loss of colour called?
A De-pigmentation. Over the years pigment is removed from the hair and re-deposited in the gut or skin.

Q How long will it take for my horse to loose its colour?
A There seems to be a link between how dark the foal is at birth and the time taken for de-pigmentation to occur, but this is of course not infallible.

Q Should I register my foal as grey?
A On our application form you could put ‘grey foaled bay’ - but do not put ‘roan’ as this is inevitably a grey.

Q Will my grey Tobiano get melanomas?
A The lumps called melanomas are made up of deposits of pigment. A large number of greys exhibit melanomas around the muzzle and genitals, but this may never cause problems and need not be malignant Some Greys have no melanomas.

I hope this helps you understand this amazing process a little more.
British Skewbald and Piebald Association 2008

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