

COLORS OF THE AMERICAN PAINT HORSE ASSOCIATION



The unique coat colors of the American Paint Horse make it an eye-catching addition to anyone's barn. Paint Horses have unique combinations of white with any other color found in the equine world. Each color falls into one of two basic coat-color families—red or black.

The red family consists of colors ranging from chestnut to cremello, and the black family includes those from black to perlino. The gray coat color can fall into either family, as the inheritance of the gray allele is independent of any other color.

Each color ranges from light to dark, including everything in between. Weather, nutrition, shedding, body condition and the horse's general health can affect variations in color.



Black

entire coat, including muzzle, flanks and legs, are black; color may fade when exposed to the sun; could have rusty tinge during certain times of the year; early foals may be an overall mousy gray, then shed to black



Blue Roan

the overall intermingling of white hairs with a black body color; head, lower legs, mane and tail are usually solid or darker; does not get progressively whiter with age



Grullo

a form of dun with body color smoky or mouse-colored (not a mixture of black and white hairs, but each hair mouse-colored); mane and tail black; has black primitive markings.



Brown

body color brown or black, with light areas at muzzle, eyes, flank and inside upper legs; mane and tail usually black



Smoky Cream

double dilute of black resulting in cream or off-white body color and lower legs, mane and tail a light rust or chocolate shade. The coat has enough yellow hue to allow white markings to be visible. Genetic testing is required to distinguish between Smoky Cream and Perlino.



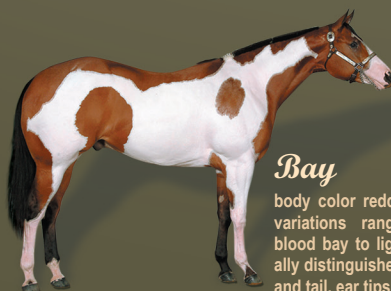
Classic Champagne

affect of champagne gene on otherwise black horse. Body and leg color lightened from black to chocolate. See 'champagne characteristics' for skin and eye characteristics.



Gray

dominant over all other color genes; born any color with white hair progressively turning the coat whiter as the horse ages; dark skin; normally grays first around eyes and behind ears



Bay

body color reddish brown, with variations ranging from dark blood bay to light bay and usually distinguished by black mane and tail, ear tips, lower legs



Bay Roan

the overall intermingling of white hairs with bay body color; head, lower leg, mane and tail are usually solid or darker; does not get progressively whiter with age



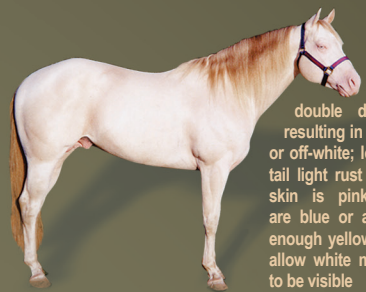
Dun

diluted body color or yellowish or gold; mane and tail are black or brown; has black or brown primitive markings



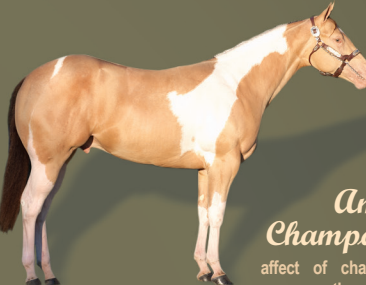
Buckskin

body color yellowish or gold, mane and tail black; black on lower legs; lacks primitive markings



Perlino

double dilute of bay/brown resulting in body color of cream or off-white; lower legs, mane and tail light rust or chocolate shade; skin is pinkish or grey; eyes are blue or amber; the coat has enough yellow hue to allow white markings to be visible



Amber Champagne

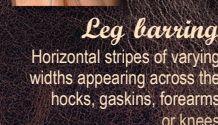
horse. Body color lightened from red to light tan or yellow with point of mediums to light chocolate brown. See 'champagne characteristics' for skin and eye characteristics.

Primitive Markings



Dorsal Stripe

Darker band of color running along the backbone from the withers to into the base of the tail



Leg barring

Horizontal stripes of varying widths appearing across the hocks, gaskins, forearms or knees



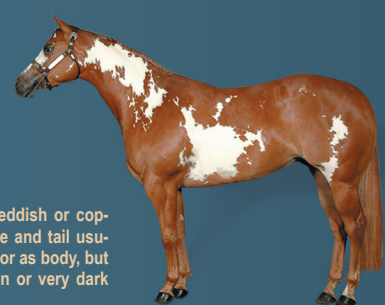
Shoulder/straverse stripes

Neck and shoulder shadowing appearing as dark areas through the neck or withers



Chestnut

dark red or brownish red body color; ranges from light to liver chestnut; liver chestnut is distinguished from black or brown by bronze or copper highlights on the legs; mane and tail usually dark red or brown, but may be flaxen



Sorrel

body color reddish or copper-red; mane and tail usually same color as body, but may be flaxen or very dark brown



Red Roan

the overall intermingling of white hair with chestnut/sorrel body color; head, lower legs, mane and tail are usually sorrel or dark red; does not get progressively whiter with age



Red Dun

a form of dun with body color yellowish or flesh-colored; mane and tail are red or reddish; has red or reddish primitive markings



Palomino

diluted body color varying from rich gold to pale yellow; mane and tail generally pale or off-white but may be same color as body (with non-black points)



Cremello

double dilute of chestnut/sorrel resulting in body color; mane and tail of cream or off-white with pale, pinkish skin; the coat has enough yellow hue to allow white markings to be visible; eyes are blue or amber

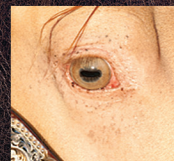


Gold Champagne

affect of champagne gene on otherwise chestnut/sorrel horse. Body and leg color lightened from red to gold. Mane and tail flaxen or gold. See 'champagne characteristics' for skin and eye characteristics.

Champagne Characteristics

The champagne gene dilutes the color of the horse's hair coat and lightens the skin color to a bright pink at birth toning down later to a more muted pale color with darker freckling most apparent around the eyes, on the muzzle, under the tail, and on the udder or sheath. It also lightens the eye color from a muddy blue at birth to amber/brown at maturity.



American Paint Horse Association

For more information on coat patterns, contact:
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