



# PATTERNS

*of the American Paint Horse*

AMERICAN  
**P A I N T**  
**H O R S E**  
ASSOCIATION



**Tovero**

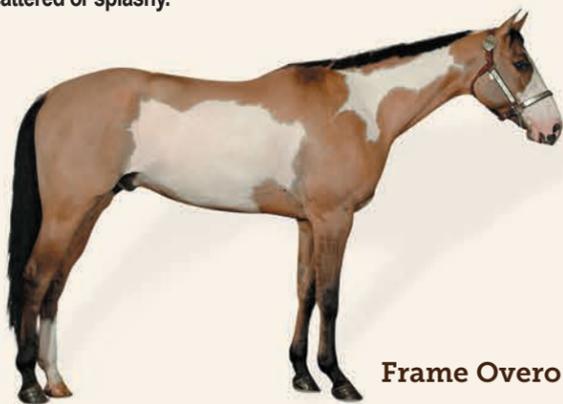
**TOVERO** (pronounced: tow vair' oh)

The combination of tobiano with any of the overo patterns is usually called tovero. Toveros may exhibit any combination of the following characteristics:

- Usually has more white than colored area, some nearly all white.
- Generally, all the contrasting markings are regular and distinct, appearing as ovals or round patterns that extend down over the neck and chest, giving the appearance of a shield.
- Usually has dark pigmentation around the ears, which may expand to cover the forehead and/or eyes.
- Generally has contrasting color covering one or both flanks.
- May have spots of varying size at the base of the tail.

**OVERO** (pronounced: oh vair' oh)

- The white usually does not cross the horse's back between its withers and tail.
- Generally, at least one leg, and often all four legs, are dark.
- Generally, the white markings are irregular, and are rather scattered or splashy.
- Head markings are distinctive. The horse is often bald-faced, apron-faced or bonnet-faced.
- An overo may be either predominantly dark or white.
- The tail is usually one color.



**Frame Overo**

- Generally have dark feet and legs.
- Heads are usually extensively marked with white.
- Blue eyes are very common.

- Many have a moustache, a pigmented upper lip, on an otherwise very white head.

- White spots usually occur horizontally on the middle of the sides of the body and neck, and only rarely cross the topline.



**Overo**



**Tobiano**



### Additional Tobiano Traits



The following traits are often found in tobianos, but do not guarantee the presence of the Tobiano gene.

#### Ink spots

Ink spots, also known as "paw prints," are small spots of color ranging from 1 to 3 inches. They are usually surrounded by a prominent "blue zone" (white hair on black-pigmented skin that give the hair a blue appearance).



#### Coronet spots

Colored spots located along the coronet band are often found on horses carrying the tobiano gene.

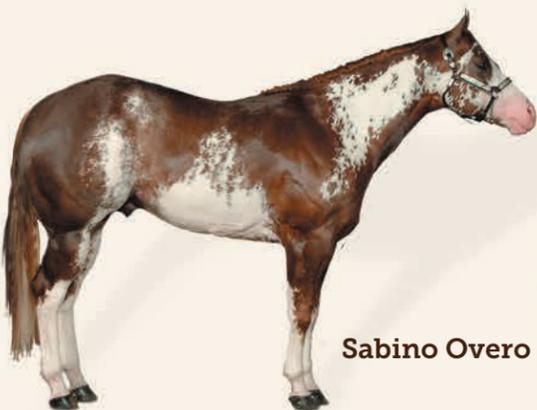
#### Dominant White

More than 20 "Dominant White" mutations are present in horses, with three—*W5*, *W10* and *W20*—found with regularity in Paint Horses. *W5* is found in descendants of the Thoroughbred Puchilingui; *W10* is found in descendants of GQ Santana; both can produce minimal white spotting to almost entirely white coats. *W20* is widespread and tends to boost the effects of other present coat patterns rather than create extensive white spotting itself.



**Splashed White Overo**

- Usually have white legs, and the body is white ventrally.
- Head is extensively, and most often, completely white.
- Blue eyes are the rule.



**Sabino Overo**

- Often features irregular spotting usually on the legs, belly and face, often with extensive roaning.
- Spotting can vary from minimal to almost entirely white.
- White markings often have narrow extensions up a leg or down the throat, and edges are often jagged.
- Partially blue eyes are common.



*marked for greatness*

**For more information on coat patterns, contact:**  
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