



### 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

# The colors of the American Paint Horse

The unique coat colors of the American Paint Horse make it an eye-catching addition to anyone's barn.

Each Paint Horse has a unique combination of white and 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 chestnut, sorrel, red dun, palomino and cremello. The black family consists of black, brown, bay, buckskin, dun, grullo and perlino. The coat color of gray can fall into either family, as the inheritance of the gray allele is independent of any other color.

There are several different independent genetic factors that control a horse's outward appearance. Some of these control basic coat color, while others may work to modify, or in some cases hide, the basic 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 this variation in color.

For more information on coat colors, contact:

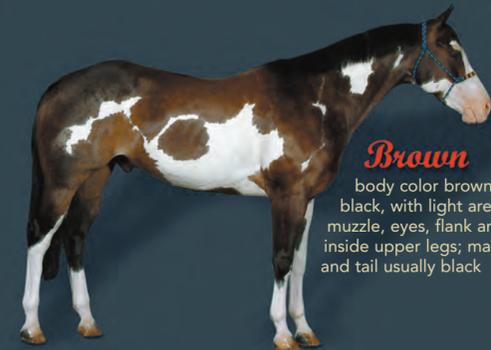
 **American Paint Horse Association**

P.O. Box 961023 • Fort Worth, Texas 76161-0023  
(817) 834-2742 • [apha.com](http://apha.com) • [askapha@apha.com](mailto:askapha@apha.com)



### Chestnut

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



### Brown

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



### Sorrel

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



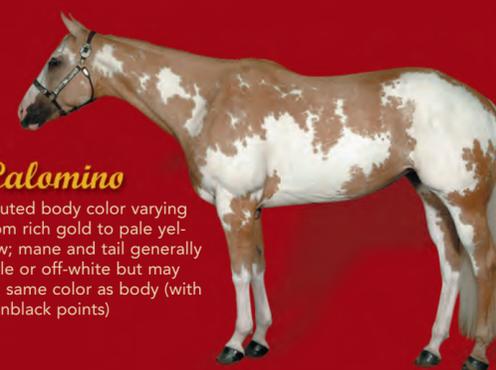
### Bay

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



### 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



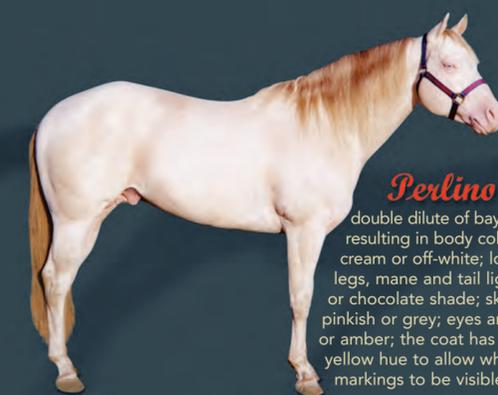
### Palomino

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 nonblack points)



### 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



### 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



### 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



### Red Roan

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



### Bay Roan

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



### Dun

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



### 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

## The Black Family

### 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/traverse stripes

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