

Section 5. Color Guide

Some horses have several color patterns evident either visually or in their genetic makeup. Choose the color category which most accurately describes your horse. Look at the **bold** area of each color description. Your horse must fit that part of the description to be registered as that color. Should you need to further clarify subcategories of the color (when a computer code is not available) please do so in the markings details section. Because of past inaccuracies in color descriptions, prior registration papers do not necessarily reflect the correct color of parents, and the MFTHBA will try to work with members in establishing correctness from this point forward.

- BA: BAY – Red body with shades varying from light yellow tan to almost black. **Must have black points: mane, tail and legs.**
Black Bay – Body almost black, or brown.
Blood Bay – Body dark rich red color.
- BL: BLACK – Body, head, muzzle, flanks and legs composed of uniform black hairs.
- BD: BLACK DILUTE - Smoky Black – a black-appearing horse with a dilute parent (palomino, buckskin, cremello, perlino) that has the capability of producing 1) a palomino or buckskin when bred to chestnut, or 2) a cremello/perlino if bred to a palomino, buckskin or smoky black. Color can be verified through genetic testing.
- BN: BROWN – Body brown or black with light areas at muzzle, eyes, flank, inside upper legs; black mane and tail.
- BK: BUCKSKIN – **Non-linebacked** dilute color with yellow body. **Must have black or dark brown points: mane, tail and legs.**
- CP: CHAMPAGNE – A group of muted colors with underlying skin of pink or pale tan that may develop dark freckling on the genitalia and muzzle at maturity. Foals are born darker and get progressively lighter until maturity. Manes and tails vary from light flaxen to dark brown. **Must have blue, green or amber eyes and light skin, and should have a champagne parent.**
Classic Champagne – Shades varying from pale brown to light faded black with grayish/green or lavender overtones and slightly darker self-colored points.
Amber Champagne – Tan or yellow body with brown points.
Gold Champagne – Gold body with white or flax/yellow points.
Ivory Champagne – Cream/white body with cream or black points.
- CH: CHESTNUT – Dark liver color; never has totally black mane, tail or legs, but may have black hair in mane and tail; may also have flaxen mane and tail.
- PE: Perlino – Cream/white body with beige, brassy gold or rusty points, usually from palomino to buckskin or buckskin to buckskin matings (bay base). Must have blue eyes.
- CL: Cremello – Cream/white body with white mane and tail; usually from palomino to palomino, cremello to palomino, palomino to buckskin or palomino to smoky black matings (sorrel base). Must have blue eyes.
- CR: Smoky Cream – Cream/white body with rusty or red points, mane and tail; usually from smoky black to smoky black matings (black base). Must have blue eyes.
- DN: DUN – Any color body with visible **primitive markings which are darker than the body and include bars on legs, stripe down back, wither stripe, cobwebbing on head.** Darker points. Examples are bay dun, red dun, yellow dun and black/blue dun (grullo). Should have a dun parent.
- GR: GREY – Even mixture of white/silver and colored hairs overriding a darker base color. Usually born dark or solid colored (black, bay, chestnut, palomino, etc., which may be indicated in the markings section) and progressively getting lighter with age, especially on face (some may keep dark points, but most will eventually appear as almost white). Should have a grey parent.
- PA: PALOMINO – Light yellow to dark gold body, may have dapples, white mane and tail.
ROAN – Any mixture of white and colored hair on the body in which the white hairs are **individually** scattered. The **head, mane, tail and lower legs** appear as solid colored and **darker** than the body. Should have a roan parent.
- BR: Blue Roan – Black horse with roaning.

- AR: Bay Roan – Bay horse with roaning.
- HR: Chestnut/Sorrel Roan – Chestnut/sorrel horse with roaning.
- PR: Palomino Roan – Palomino horse with roaning.
- SO: SORREL – Body color reddish or copper red; mane and tail usually same color as body, but may be flaxen.
- SD: SILVER DAPPLE – Dark chocolate to pale yellow body which may be dappled. Silver, flax, or white mane and tail, usually has a mix of dark hairs on legs. This color is only apparent on horses that are black, bay or buckskin since the gene only acts upon black hair to dilute (lighten) it. It can be carried by chestnut, sorrel and palomino, but is not visible.
 Chocolate (Black) Silver Dapple – Light to dark chocolate body with flaxen, white or silver mane and tail; legs usually darker than body.
 Red (Bay) Silver Dapple – Red body with flaxen, white or silver mane and tail; legs usually darker than body.
 Yellow (Buckskin) Silver Dapple – Yellow body with flaxen, white or silver mane and tail; legs usually darker than body.
- WH: WHITE – Dominant color gene which produces a white bodied horse with pink skin and dark eyes. Dominant white horses have a white parent and produce white offspring 50% of the time when bred to dark colors and 100% of the time when bred to another dominant white. This color should not be confused with Gray. The color is rare within the breed.
- SP: SPOTTED – Colored with white spots; white with colored spots. Beginning in 1995, the Temporary Application for Registration for a spotted foal must have two (2) identical prints of a picture showing the left side view of the horse plus one (1) right side view submitted with the registration application. Picture must fit in 2-1/2” high x 3” wide space. Good sharp pictures are required, and no Polaroid’s or slides will be accepted. If horse is not spotted on the left side, send two (2) additional identical photos of the right side to show spotted pattern. **More than one spotted gene can be present on an individual – use the most evident.** Please indicate both body color and spotting pattern.
- T: Tobiano – Body any solid color with white spots and white legs. Spots are regular and rounded with even borders and usually cross over the back between the ears and the tail. **All spotted horses registered as tobiano must have one spotted parent or verify parentage through DNA.**
- S: Splashed White Overo – Large white spotting usually comes up from the belly, looking as though paint has splashed up from below, and does not cross over the back; usually lots of white on head, and may have blue eyes.
- F: Frame Overo – Solid color topline, usually with dark legs. White patches are normally on the side of the body and are “framed” by the dark areas. May have blue eyes. NOTE: Frame to frame breeding can result in lethal white foals.
SABINO – White lacey patches, especially on the barrel, face and legs; and scattered white hair throughout the coat that appears roan-like. **DOES NOT have the solid color head and legs of a true roan.** Body, mane and tail may be any color (black, bay, chestnut, palomino, etc.); usually have high white jagged-edged stockings that are higher on the front of the leg. **May be so minimal as to only have a white spot on the chin, or so maximum as to appear totally white;** parents may not exhibit any of the characteristics. Usually have dark eyes. Medicine Hats and War Bonnets usually fall in this category.
- CS: Chestnut/sorrel sabino
- SB: Black sabino
- SA: Bay sabino
- SP: Palomino sabino
- SK: Buckskin sabino
- SW: White sabino
- TVO: Tovero – Combination of tobiano and overo characteristics.