

## **Equine Coat Colour Patterns**

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The colours of the horses have long been a subject of interest to owners and breeders of horses as well as to scientists. Though, the colour of horses has little to do with its performance, it is a **primary means of identification** and also the first indicator of questionable parentage. Horses and ponies come in a variety of coat colours and patterns. Black, bay and chestnut are the basic colours of horses and from which all other horse colours are built by various modifications.



**Black horses have a black coat with black mane & tail**



**Bay horses are brown with black mane, tail & legs**



**Chestnut horses are brown-yellow or reddish colour ,mane & tail in the same shade or lighter (never black), limbs without black-and-tan**



**Brown horse has dark brown body with black mane & tail**

**Dun horses are a creamy golden colour with black mane and tail and have a distinctive dark dorsal stripe & zebra-like stripes on legs**



**Grey** horse is a mixture of black & white hair with black skin



**Roan** horse is a mixture of white & coloured hair



**White horse has a white coat,  
white mane & tail with pink skin  
& blue eyes**

**Appaloosa is a spotting pattern  
scattered on white coat**



**Piebald is a non-regular black&  
white patched horse**



**Skewbald is a white non-regular  
patched horse with any colour  
Other than black**