



Middle California Region

Horse Colors *Study Guide*



BLACK

Entirely black
coat without brown highlights.



BROWN

Dark brown or nearly black, with
brown highlights, usually around
the flanks, girth and muzzle



BAY

Brown or reddish-brown with black
“points” (mane, tail, and legs.)



CHESTNUT (also called “sorrel”)

Reddish-brown with the same color or lighter tail, mane and legs. May be dark chestnut (sometimes called liver), red chestnut or light chestnut. Mane and tail may be flaxen or blond.



GREY

White or grey coat with dark skin, eyes and muzzle. Born as a darker grey and lightens with age, until they are nearly white. May be dark grey, dappled grey, flea bitten grey or white grey. True white ponies are born white with pink skin.

FLEABITTEN GREY

Light grey coat speckled with chestnut or brown hairs.



ROAN

Black, bay, brown or chestnut with white hairs mixed through the coat. May be “blue roan” (black or brown roan), “red roan” (bay roan) or “strawberry roan” (red or light chestnut roan).



DUN

Tan or mouse colored, with dark legs, mane and tail and primitive markings, such as a dorsal stripe and leg barring. A golden dun with black or dark brown points and a dorsal stripe is called “buckskin”.



PALOMINO

Golden body with a flaxen (white) mane and tail.



APPALOOSA

A coat of any color with small round spots or speckles. May be dark with light spots (frost), white with dark spots (leopard), roan with patches of spots (marble), or ark with a white blanket and spots over hindquarters (blanket).



SKEWBALD

Large patches of white and any color other than black (such as bay or chestnut).



PIEBALD

Large patches of white and black.