

How do I determine my horse's coat pattern?

If you are registering a horse, you need to determine the horse's color pattern. Although there are many words (piebald, skewbald, Medicine Hat and others) used to describe the contrasting patterns of American Paint Horses, APHA uses one of three terms to describe the various patterns: tobiano (pronounced: tow be yah' no), overo (pronounced: oh vair' oh), or tovero (pronounced: tow vair' oh). These patterns are distinguished by the location of white on the horse, not by the color of the coat. There are many exceptions and variations to these patterns, but as a rule the following guidelines define the color patterns of American Paints.

Tobiano

- The dark color usually covers one or both flanks, and white will cross the back between the withers and the tail.
- Generally, all four legs are white, at least below the hocks and knees.
- Generally, the spots are regular and distinct as ovals or round patterns that extend down over the neck and chest, giving the appearance of a shield.
- Head markings are like those of a solid-colored horse—solid or with a blaze, strip, star or snip.
- A tobiano may be either predominantly dark or white.
- The tail is often two colors.

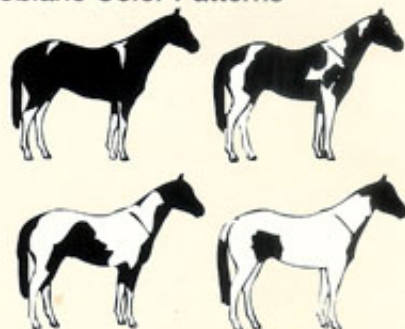
Overo

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

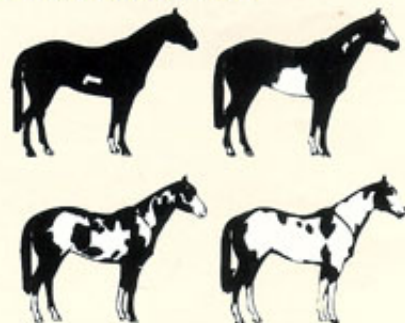
Tovero

- These horses combine the characteristics of both tobianos and overos.

Tobiano Color Patterns



Overo Color Patterns



Tovero Color Patterns

