

# POAC INSPECTORS GUIDE

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An informative guide to recognizing appaloosa and POA type color patterns and characteristics.

# Snowflake Pattern



- A pattern of small spots scattered throughout the base color hair coat.
- One or two small spots do not make up a snowflake.
- Snowflakes must be visible at 40 feet.
- Mottling must be present and also must have either sclera and/or striped hooves



# Frost Pattern



- A pattern giving the appearance of being lightly frosted over the back, loin, and croup.
- It is definite white hairs mixed into the base coat. Frost must be visible at 40 feet.
- Mottling must be present and also must have either sclera and/or striped hooves.

\*This mare shows both frost and snowflake.

# Blanket with spots



- Basic dark body color with white “blanket” over croup, hindquarters, back (or part of these).
- Characterized by white over the loin and hips with dark, round spots
- Blanket may have dark spots.
- These spots may vary in size from tiny specks to spots four or more inches in diameter.

# Blanket without spots



- Similar to a blanket displaying white over the loin and hips, but without any spots.



# Leopard Pattern



- Spots appear over the entire body, spots may vary in size from specks to four inches in diameter
- Basic white body color with dark spots over entire body and neck.
- A leopard is born a leopard and does not change with age unless a graying gene is present.

# White with Black Spots on Hindquarters



- Basic white body color with dark spots over hindquarters, loin, croup, back (or part of these).



# Marbleized/Varnished Roan Pattern



- Basic roan body color (including neck).
- POAs with this pattern also show varnish marks which are darker areas appearing most often on the upper legs, point of the hip, bridge of the nose, and on the cheek bones.
- These dark patches have smooth edges that gradually blend into the hair in the surrounding area.
- Many POAs will show increased roaning as they age.
- Mottling must be present and also must have either sclera and/or striped hooves

# Few Spot Leopard Pattern



- Basic body color white with no or few spots on the body.
- The few spot has only a few spots usually the head, ears, elbows, neck, flanks and lower leg while the majority of the body is white.
- Mottling and sclera required

# Solid with Dark Spots



- A pattern that shows dark spots on a solid background.
- This pattern must also have mottling and either sclera and/or striped hooves.
- Not to be confused with Bend or Spots





Unique Characteristics of POA's

# Mottling (Parti-Colored Skin)



- Mottled skin is different from pink (flesh-colored or non-pigmented skin), in that it will normally contain small, round, dark spots (pigmented skin) within its area.
- If a horse has mottled skin it's most likely to be found on the anus, vulva, udder or sheath. (It isn't found on the penis.) Many breeds of horses have specks of flesh colored skin in these regions, and this shouldn't be confused with mottled skin.
- POAs have varying amounts of mottled skin on their muzzle, extending over one or both nostrils and around the upper and lower lips.
- All horses have a line on the lips caused by the contrast of pigmented and non-pigmented skin. Therefore, **you shouldn't separate the lips for signs of mottled skin.**

# White Sclera



- A white area encircling the dark or pigmented iris of the eye. The same color as the white of a person's eye, true white like a sheet of paper.
- It should be easily seen when the horse is in a relaxed state.
- White sclera may be considered a POA characteristic when it's not in combination with a bald face. If your horse has a bald face, the registrar may discount the white sclera.



# Striped Hooves



- Some POAs have bold and clearly defined vertical light and dark stripes on the hooves.
- But because many breeds of horses have striped hooves on legs with white leg markings, the stripes aren't considered a POA breed characteristic unless visible in the absence of white leg markings.
- Also, unpigmented hooves on non-white marked legs.

# Cluster of Spots



- Clusters – also called mismarks or blood marks
- Large concentrated pigmented area

# Lightening/Feather Marks



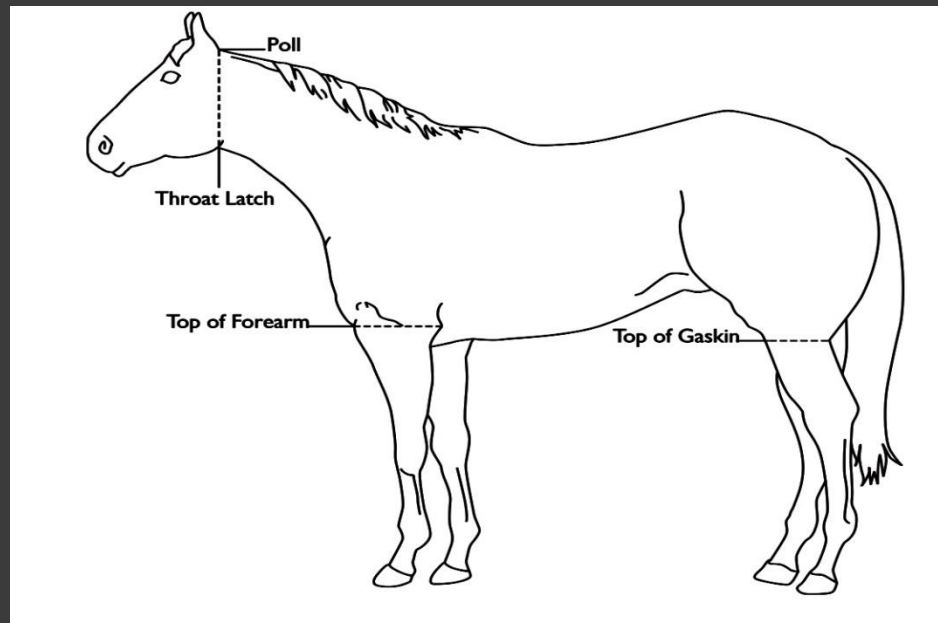
- Irregular white markings on the legs that do not contact the hoof.



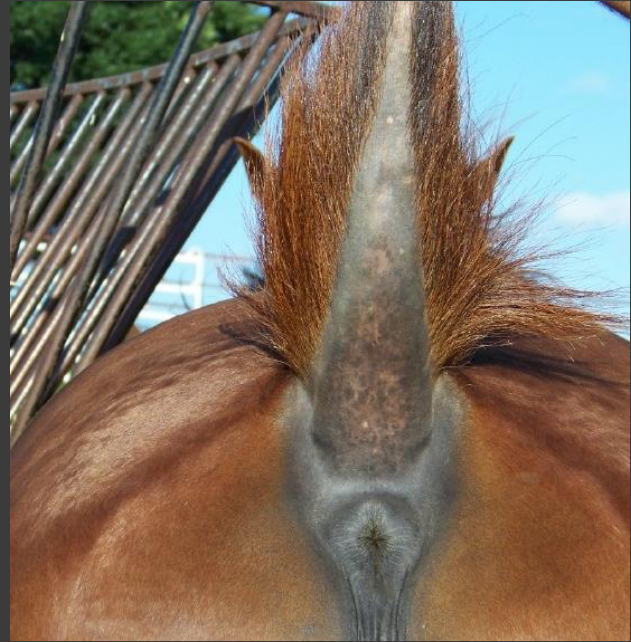


# Allowable White Leg & Face Markings

- White markings on the head with underlying pink skin may not extend behind a line around the throatlatch and behind ear(s)
- Continuous white leg marking(s) with underlying pink skin may not extend above the top of the forearm(s) or the top of the gaskin(s)



# Characteristics Common to Other Breeds



- Many breeds have characteristics similar to the POA.
- Such as flecks of flesh colored skin near the lips or nostrils. A black spot in a blaze or snip or 'pumpkin' skin under the tail should also not be confused with mottling.

# Characteristics Common to Other Breeds

Photos courtesy 'The Appaloosa Project,  
[www.appaloosaproject.info](http://www.appaloosaproject.info)



- Bend Or Spots. Dark spots not caused by LP



- Many horses also have some variation of pigment in their hooves which shouldn't be mistaken for stripes



# Characteristics Common to Other Breeds



**Rabicano-** Also referred to as white ticking and skunk tail, white hairs are present above the tail and white hairs extend from the flank and in some cases vertical roan stripes occur over the ribs . This pattern does not change over time.

**Sabino-** One of the three types of overo spotting. Usually these horses have extensive white facial and leg markings. Body spots may be roan or speckled and usually occur on the belly. In the most extensively marked horses they may be nearly white with roan colored patches at the ears, chest, flanks, and base of the tail. This example is also rabicano.



# Characteristics Common to Other Breeds



Birdcatcher Spots. Small white dots that may appear and disappear during a horse's life, NOT Lp related.

Sun spots. Lightened areas with dark pigmented underlying skin, unrelated to Lp.



# Ineligible Ponies

- Ponies with pinto or paint color
- Ponies that exhibit any natural markings that have been altered by surgery, dye or other manner.
- Crypt-orchid, mono-orchid or high flanker
- Parrot mouth or monkey mouth
- Positive for HYPP (H/H)– See Current POAC Handbook for complete details.



# Types of Registration

- **Tentative-** for those ponies 56" and under and 5 years and younger.
  - Have one registered POA parent and one parent identified in the CPP program or registered with an approved crossbreeding registry.
  - Have approved POA coat pattern and POA characteristics.
  - Have been tested for LP Certification.
- **Permanent-** must have Tentative Registration Certificate, LP Registration Certificate , or have one registered POA parent.
  - Eligible for transfer consideration to Permanent registration at the beginning of its 6<sup>th</sup> year.
  - Must have matured in the 46" to 56" height limits with acceptable POA coat pattern and POA characteristics.
  - Must be done before January 1 of 7<sup>th</sup> year or papers will be voided.

# Types of Registration

## ID Registration-

- **Pink Papers**, ponies over height or under height when advanced from Tentative to Permanent are issued pink certificates.
  - are only to be used as breeding stock, are ineligible to show.
- **Blue Papers**, ponies lacking sufficient color for Tentative or Permanent registration are issued blue certificates.
  - Issued to foals born solid or ponies who have matured without sufficient coat or characteristics.
  - If visible approved POA coat pattern and characteristics develop can be considered for transfer to regular POAC registry.

# Types of Inspectors

- **National** – Requires 2 years experience as a State Inspector and must pass National Inspector's test.
  - Be current on inspection procedures and have attended a required clinic or seminar at least every 3 years
- **State** – required to attend a National Inspector's hands-on clinic before inspecting as an apprentice.
  - Be current on inspection procedures and have attended a required clinic or seminar at least every 3 years
  - Apprentice under a State or National Inspector at 5 or more on different show dates before inspecting alone at the state level.

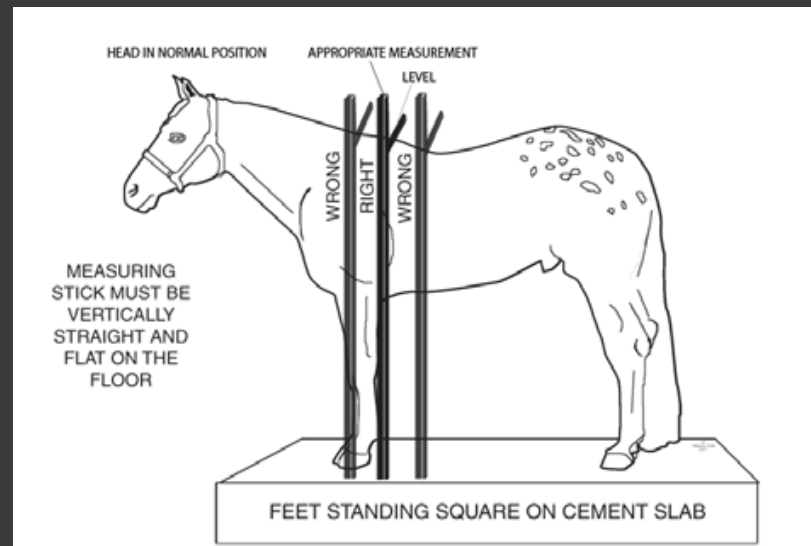


# Inspections

- Required when transferring a Tentative pony to Permanent, or if the initial registration is to be Permanent
- Inspections are required for Hardship Registration using 1 to 3 National Inspectors.
- **Individuals cannot inspect their own ponies.**
- Inspectors should immediately report every pony they turn down for registration to the POAC.

# Measuring

- A hard level surface must be selected. Concrete or asphalt measuring surfaces are preferred. The specific measuring area must be designated.
- **Lower the pony's head to determine the high point of the withers. Mark it.**
- Stand the pony squarely on all four feet in such position that the front legs are vertical to the ground and the back of the hocks are in a vertical line with the point of the animal's quarters.
- The neck should be natural and cannot be lower than horizontal at the time of measuring.
- The pony should be standing natural, free of appliances, (no twitching), drugs, or artificial means should be employed to make the pony stand.
- Measure the shoe. Deduct actual height of shoe from measurement.
- A proper measurement stick will be used by all inspectors. The stick must be rigid and have a measurement scale with a level.
- Only two people in the measuring area will present the pony for measurement.
- No feeding the pony while being measured.
- Pony will be given a 15-minute time limit to measure at the required height and a maximum of three (3) time periods.
- On the third measurement, there must be two additional witnesses to the measurement. All three will sign the inspection form.



# Measuring

- Any pony found to be over 56" shall be reported immediately to the POAC.
- All ponies shall be measured as described in the rules of that type of show.
- All ponies shall measure within the height limits of their age or be disqualified from showing.
- The inspector(s) may refuse measuring any pony if he has cause to believe the pony's condition is such that it could affect its measurement. He can also refuse measurement if he feels the pony is unsound, has been conditioned, exhausted, or prepared for measurement in such a way that this action could affect the measurements accuracy. If any of these incidents occur, they shall be reported to the POAC office for disciplinary action.



# Inspection for Color

- All POAs shall be inspected for color except those with a Permanent Card. All Ponies must have a POA coat pattern visible at 40 feet (with exception of LP Certification) to show in POAC approved shows.
  - Choose an area with natural light/shade
  - Mark off two lines 40 feet apart
  - Place POA to be inspected on one line, Inspectors shall be on the other line, 40 feet away
  - Pony should be viewed from all sides
  - Pony should also be inspected for POA characteristics. If necessary, reference should be made to the Inspector's Guide.
  - **Majority decision of the Inspector's Committee is final.**

# OFFICIAL HEIGHT CHART

- Weanling - not over 47"
- Yearling - **not over 52 1/2" starting in 2023 \*\*NOW\*\***
- Two Year Old - not over 55"
- Three Year Old - not over 55 1/2"
- Four and Five Years and Older - at least 46", not over 56"

# Permanent Card

- Permanently registered POAs 46" to 56" are eligible to be measured for a PC.
- The final color inspection will be conducted by the 3 inspectors doing the measurement for the PC.
- All ponies presented for PC must have all paperwork and fees at the time of presenting the pony for measurement.
- The PC application form will expire 60 days after the date of being issued.
- **A PC cannot be done on a pony that is still Tentatively registered. Inspectors MUST be presented with Permanent Registration papers before they can do an inspection for a PC.**