

CANADIAN REGISTRY OF THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE



General Guide to Colour Registration

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April, 2001

For Your Information

1. On the Registration application, note in writing any white hairs or unusual body markings. Include colour, size, and shape.
2. **POINTS** include the mane, tail, lower half of legs, tips of ears, and nostril edges.
3. When registering a **CHAMPAGNE** foal you **must** include close-up colour pictures of the dock of the tail, udder or sheath, and head.
4. Although **PALOMINO** is a dominant gene it is possible for a black horse to produce a palomino **only** if the black parent had a Palomino, Cremello or Buckskin ancestor.
5. When registering a foal **showing a colour pattern** include base colour. (eg. Sorrel Sabino, or Black Tobiano) **AND** include 4 pictures - both sides, front and back.
6. When registering a **GRAY** foal include the original base coat colour (eg. BAY going GRAY).
7. **OVERO** and **SABINO** are considered dominant genes; however, there are horses that do not appear to be either Overo or Sabino who still produce offspring of that colour pattern.
8. **Combinations of colour patterns may occur.** For example: a bay horse with both Tobiano and Overo characteristics would be registered as a Bay Tovero; and a black horse with Roan and Sabino characteristics would be registered as a Black Roan Sabino.

SOLID or BASE COLOURS

| COLOUR | BASE COAT | MANE and TAIL | SKIN | SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| BAY | Light to dark brown, often a reddish hue | Black | Dark. Pink under white markings. | Points are black – mane, tail, the lower half of legs, tips of ears, and nostril edges. |
| BLACK | Black | Black | Dark. Pink under white markings. | Often born mousey gray and darkens with age. True black is a uniform colour with no light areas. |
| BROWN | Very dark, nearly black, no hint of red | Dark brown or black | Dark. Pink under white markings. | Black points may be defined; hair in ears, on muzzle and on flanks lighter than hair on body. |
| CHESTNUT or SORREL | Light to dark brown, often with a red hue | Red, dark brown, mixed or flaxen. | Dark. Pink under white markings. | No dark points; skin around eyes may look pink at birth but becomes dark soon after. |
| WHITE | White | White | Pink | Dark eyes; occasionally small dark spots in the skin or hair. A rare dominant gene that may occur as a spontaneous mutation then reproduce as a dominant. |

DILUTE COLOURS

| COLOUR | BASE COAT | MANE and TAIL | SKIN | SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| BUCKSKIN | Some shade of tan (from cream to dark bronze) | Black to very dark brown | Dark. Pink under white markings. | Points are black or dark brown; dorsal stripe not required; does not usually have primitive markings. |
| CHAMPAGNE | Varies from ivory to yellow to chocolate brown | Varies from ivory to yellow to dark brown | Pink, becoming dusky/mottled with age and sun exposure. | Eyes often blue at birth becoming green, gold hazel or brown later; no dorsal stripe; legs may be darker than body. One parent must be Champagne. |
| CREMELLO PERLINO SMOKYCREME | cream/white darker cream smoky cream | white/cream tan/orange smoky | Pink Pink Pink | Eyes are blue; little difference between the 3 types. Both parents must be Buckskin, Palomino or Cremello or Blacks that carry crème gene. |
| DUN | Some shade of tan, from cream to earth tone | Any colour or mixed | Dark, Pink under white markings. | Darker points; dorsal stripe, ear frame, face mask, leg barring, and cobwebbing. Very rare in Tennessee Walking Horse. |
| PALOMINO | Yellow, shades from very pale to copper gold | White or flaxen | Dark, Pink under white markings. | Usually born light and shedding out darker OR occasionally born red and shedding to gold. |

COLOUR PATTERNS

| PATTERN | BASE COAT | MANE and TAIL | SKIN | SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS |
|----------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| GRAY | Any colour at birth except white. Fades to gray/white with age. | Dark at birth, fading to gray, sometimes to white | Dark. Pink under white markings | Horse lightens to dapple gray, flea-bitten gray and sometimes white; fades around eyes and flanks first. One parent must be Gray. |
| OVERO | Any colour with irregular patches of white on belly or sides | Any colour including white or bicoloured | Dark. Pink under white markings. | Eyes may be blue; white markings do not cross the spine; large facial markings; legs are often dark or marked similar to a solid coloured horse's legs. |
| ROAN | Any colour, silvered with white hairs. Dark head and points | Any colour. | Dark. Pink under white markings | Foals are born Roan or shed to Roan after foal coat; head, mane, tail, and lower leg are usually solid coloured. One parent must be Roan. |
| SABINO | Any colour, often mixed with white hairs throughout coat including head and lower legs | Any colour including white or bicoloured | Dark. Pink under white markings | Often have lacey belly spots, high white on legs, large face markings, and chin spot; horse may be almost white. The Minimal Sabino may have only face and leg markings (often with jagged edges). The maximal Sabino is almost pure white with dark eyes. |
| TOBIANO | Any colour except white | Any colour including white or bicoloured | Dark. Pink under white markings. | Dark head with conservative markings; regular shaped white markings cross the spine. Eyes are usually dark. One parent must be Tobiano. |

WHITE FACE MARKINGS

(white hair with pink skin underneath)

| MARKING | DESCRIPTION |
|----------------------------|--|
| STAR | A white marking roughly between the eyes. |
| STRIP | A white marking on top of the nasal bone. |
| STRIPE | A narrow connected STAR, STRIP and SNIP. |
| RACE | A STRIPE that goes off to one side. |
| BLAZE | A wide white STRIPE. |
| SNIP | A white marking between nostrils and above the upper lip. |
| CHIN SPOTS | White markings on the lower lip and chin. |
| WHITE MUZZLE | A white mark that includes the upper and lower lips. |
| BALDFACE | A white marking extending beyond the nasal bone out to the eyes and beyond. |
| APRONFACE | More white than a BALDFACE extending down the bottom of the jaw to the throat generally leaving colour over the eyes and ears. |
| PAPERFACED/BONNETED | Entirely white heads, generally with coloured ears. |

LEG MARKINGS

| MARKING | DESCRIPTION |
|----------------------|--|
| WHITE HEEL | White marking only on the heel. |
| WHITE CORONET | White marking on the coronet band, (that portion just above the hoof). |
| HALF PASTERN | White marking only on the lower half of the pastern. |
| WHITE PASTERN | White marking covering the entire pastern but not the fetlock joint. |
| WHITE FETLOCK | White marking covering the entire pastern and the fetlock joint. |
| SOCK or BOOTS | White marking extending up the cannon bone. |
| STOCKING | White marking extending to the knee or hock. May be $\frac{3}{4}$ or full depending on how far it extends. |
| ERMINE SPOTS | Dark spots on white leg markings. |

These colour guide is an aid to help you register your foals with CRTWH. If you have a foal that does not fit any of these colours or colour patterns, contact a member of the Board of Directors.

REFERENCES

Sponenberg, D. Phillip DVM, PhD, *Equine Color Genetics*, 1st ed.
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Nutter, Liz. "Champagne Shades." *The Voice*, 1996
"Colors & Markings." TWHBEA.
"The Colors and Markings of the American Paint Horse." APHA
"Color & Markings Reference Chart." AQHA
Horse Industry Branch. Les Burwash, Calgary, AB.
The Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society, Calgary, AB.

Equine Coat Colors, Color in Horses.

The American Buckskin Registry Association, Inc.
The Champagne Horse Association,
The Cremello Horse
The Cremello and Perlino Educational Association,
The Palomino Horse Breeders of America,

