

Black

Black is a hair coat colour of horses in which the entire hair coat is black. Black is a relatively uncommon coat colour, and novices frequently mistake dark chestnuts or bays for black. However, some breeds of horses, such as the Friesian horse are almost exclusively black. Black is also common in the Fell pony, Dales Pony.

True black horses have dark brown eyes, black skin, and wholly black hair coats without any areas of permanently reddish or brownish hair. They may have pink skin beneath any white markings under the areas of white hair, and if such white markings include one or both eyes, the eyes may be blue



Piebald

A **piebald** or **pied** animal is one that has a spotting pattern of large unpigmented, usually white, areas of hair, feathers, or scales and normally pigmented patches, generally black. The colour of the animal's skin underneath its coat is also pigmented under the dark patches and unpigmented under the white patches. This alternating colour pattern is irregular and asymmetrical. Some animals also exhibit colouration of the irises of the eye that match the surrounding skin (blue eyes for pink skin, brown for dark)



Chestnut

Chestnut is a hair coat colour of horses consisting of a reddish-to-brown coat with a mane and tail the same or lighter in colour than the coat. Genetically and visually, chestnut is characterized by the absolute absence of true black hairs. It is one of the most common horse coat colours, seen in almost every breed of horse.

Chestnut is a very common coat colour but the wide range of shades can cause confusion. The lightest chestnuts may be mistaken for palominos, while the darkest shades can be so dark as to resemble a black coat. Chestnuts have dark brown eyes, black skin, and a coat that is entirely devoid of true black hairs. Typical chestnuts are some shade of red or reddish brown. The mane, tail, and legs may be lighter or darker than the body coat, but are never truly black. They may have pink skin beneath any white markings under the areas of white hair, and if such white markings include one or both eyes, the eyes may be blue.



Liver Chestnut

Liver chestnut or **dark chestnut** are not a separate genetic colour, but a descriptive term. The genetic controls for the depth of shade are not presently understood. Liver chestnuts are a very dark-reddish brown. Liver chestnuts are included in the term "dark chestnut." The darkest chestnuts, particularly common in the Morgan horse, may be indistinguishable from true black without very careful inspection. Often confusingly called "black chestnuts," they may be identified by small amounts of reddish hair on the lower legs, mane and tail, or by DNA or pedigree testing.



Bay

Bay is a hair coat colour of horses, characterized by a reddish brown body colour with a black mane, tail, ear edges, and lower legs. Bay is one of the most common coat colours in many horse breeds.

The black areas of a bay horse's hair coat are called "black points", and without them, a horse cannot be a bay. Black points may sometimes be covered by white markings, however such markings do not alter a horse's classification as "bay". Bay horses have dark skin, except under white markings, where the skin is pink



Brown

Though it looks similar to Dark Bay, Brown is genetically distinct. Brown horses are characterised by having a black coat with brown hairs on their muzzles, flanks, mane & tail.



Skewbald

Skewbald is a colour pattern of horses. A skewbald horse has a coat made up of white patches on a non-black base coat, such as chestnut, bay, or any colour besides black coat. Skewbald horses which are bay and white (bay is a reddish-brown colour with black mane and tail) are sometimes called tricoloured. These horses usually have pink skin under white markings and dark skin under non-white areas. Other than colour, it is similar in appearance to the piebald pattern. Some animals also exhibit colouration of the irises of the eye that match the surrounding skin (blue eyes for white skin, brown for dark)



Grey

Grey is a coat colour of horses characterised by progressive silvering of the coloured hairs of the coat. Most grey horses have black skin and dark eyes. Their adult hair coat is white, dappled, or white intermingled with hairs of other colours. Gray horses may be born any base colour, depending on other colour genes present. White hairs begin to appear at or shortly after birth and become progressively lighter as the horse ages. Greying can occur at different rates—very quickly on one horse and very slowly on another.

The most famous of all gray horse breeds, the Lipizzaner.



Palomino

Palominos have a chestnut base coat colour that is genetically modified to a golden shade by a single copy of the incomplete dominant cream gene. Palominos can be distinguished from chestnuts by the lack of true red tones in the coat; even the palest chestnuts have slight red tints to their hair rather than gold. The eyes of chestnuts are usually dark brown, while those of a palomino are sometimes a slightly lighter amber.



Dun

The dun gene is a dilution gene that affects both red and black pigments in the coat colour of a horse. The dun gene has the ability to affect the appearance of all black, bay, or chestnut-based horses to some degree by lightening the base body coat and suppressing the underlying base colour to the mane, tail, legs, and "primitive markings".

The classic dun is a gray-gold or tan, characterized by a body colour ranging from sandy yellow to reddish-brown. A dun horse always has a dark stripe down the middle of its back, a tail and mane darker than the body coat, and usually darker face and legs. Other duns may appear a light yellowish shade, or a steel gray, depending on the underlying coat colour genetics. Manes, tails, primitive markings, and other dark areas are usually the shade of the undiluted base coat colour.

