



# PONY CLUB



## COLOURS AND MARKINGS

### Advanced Achievement Badge

#### Learning Objectives

To recognise some less well-known colours. Know that colours and marking are used as a method to identify horses on their passports.

#### Syllabus

- 1 To know the difference between a brown and black horse.  
To be able to describe mouse-grey?
- 2 Know how to tell the difference between white and cream horses.
- 3 Duns, yellow, or dark/golden
- 4 Appreciate that the law states that all horses must have a passport, which must accompany them for life. Know that the colour and markings of a horse go onto that horse's passport to identify it for life
- 5 Flaxen mane and tail. The presence of hairs of different colours in mane and tail should be specified on the passport.
- 6 Understand that the colour of feet can be used to help identify horses.
- 7 Acquired marks, scars and saddle marks Understand that branding is also a marking used in identification
- 8 Is your horse microchipped?

#### Teaching Ideas and Resources

- 1 A black horse has a black skin and black hairs with no permanent reddish black colour. Brown horse may appear black but will have reddish brown hairs on its body, perhaps around the eyes on the legs.  
Mouse grey has a black skin, is darker around the neck, head and legs, often has a black dorsal stripe and a two-coloured tail, which is mostly black.

- 2** What seems to be a white horse will usually have a black skin and will have black skin around its eyes. It will have been born dark and has become paler with age.  
Cream horses appear cream, not white, and have pink skin which is easily seen around the eyes and nose. Their eyes are often pale blue.
- 3** Duns come in many shades from pale yellow to dark golden dun. True duns have a black dorsal stripe and may have dark barring on their legs and frosting (pale hairs) within the mane and tail. Identify the dun colour of any horse in the yard or ride. In pairs ask one member to find pale duns and the other half of the pair to find dark/golden duns on their telephones, compare.
- 4** Print off a horse identification chart, ask members to fill in the chart whilst looking at a horse.
- 5** Describe a flaxen mane and tail. Ask if members have known a horse with this colour, find one if on the yard.  
Fill in an identification form for a dun with different colours in the mane, or for a palomino with flaxen mane and tail
- 6** Walk around the yard or ride. Count the number of horse's who have four black feet, those who have one or two white feet, or a striped foot etc. this rapidly raises awareness of how feet can help in identification.
- 7** What scars or saddle marks have members seen. Is there a horse in the yard with these marks? What horses or ponies are likely to be branded? (Pure bred Spanish horses, many of the warm blood horses). Search for some warm blood brands and the PRE brand and draw them.
- 8** Micro chipping was made law in Oct 2020, discuss the advantages of microchipping horses, (or dogs). Look at a Passport and show members where to find the microchip number.

## Recommended Reading

- ▶ 14th Edition The Pony Club Manual P12, 13, 14 and 20
- ▶ <https://www.weatherbys.co.uk/Weatherbys/media/PDFs/Identification-of-Horses-Booklet.pdf>
- ▶ <https://www.bluecross.org.uk/horse/passports>

## Questions

- 1** Describe the difference between a brown and a black horse, describe a mouse grey.
- 2** How do you tell the difference between a white and cream horse?

- 3** What marking do all dun horses have?
- 4** Why do horses have to have a passport?
- 5** What colour are horses' feet?
- 6** Is branding common in England. When might it be seen?
- 7** Where on the body is a microchip usually found? Where is the number recorded?

## Answers

- 1** A black horse has a black skin and black hairs with no permanent reddish black colour. Brown horse may appear black but will have reddish brown hairs on its body, perhaps around the eyes and on the legs.  
  
Mouse grey has a black skin, is darker around the neck, head and legs, often has a black dorsal stripe and a two-coloured tail, which is mostly black.
- 2** Apart from the obvious colour the white horse usually has a black skin and the cream will have a pink skin.
- 3** A black dorsal stripe.
- 4** So they can be correctly identified throughout their lives and not substituted for another horse.
- 5** Black or white, less commonly striped.
- 6** Branding is not common. Foreign warm bloods or PRE horses often carry brands.
- 7** Usually on the neck. Recorded in the passport.