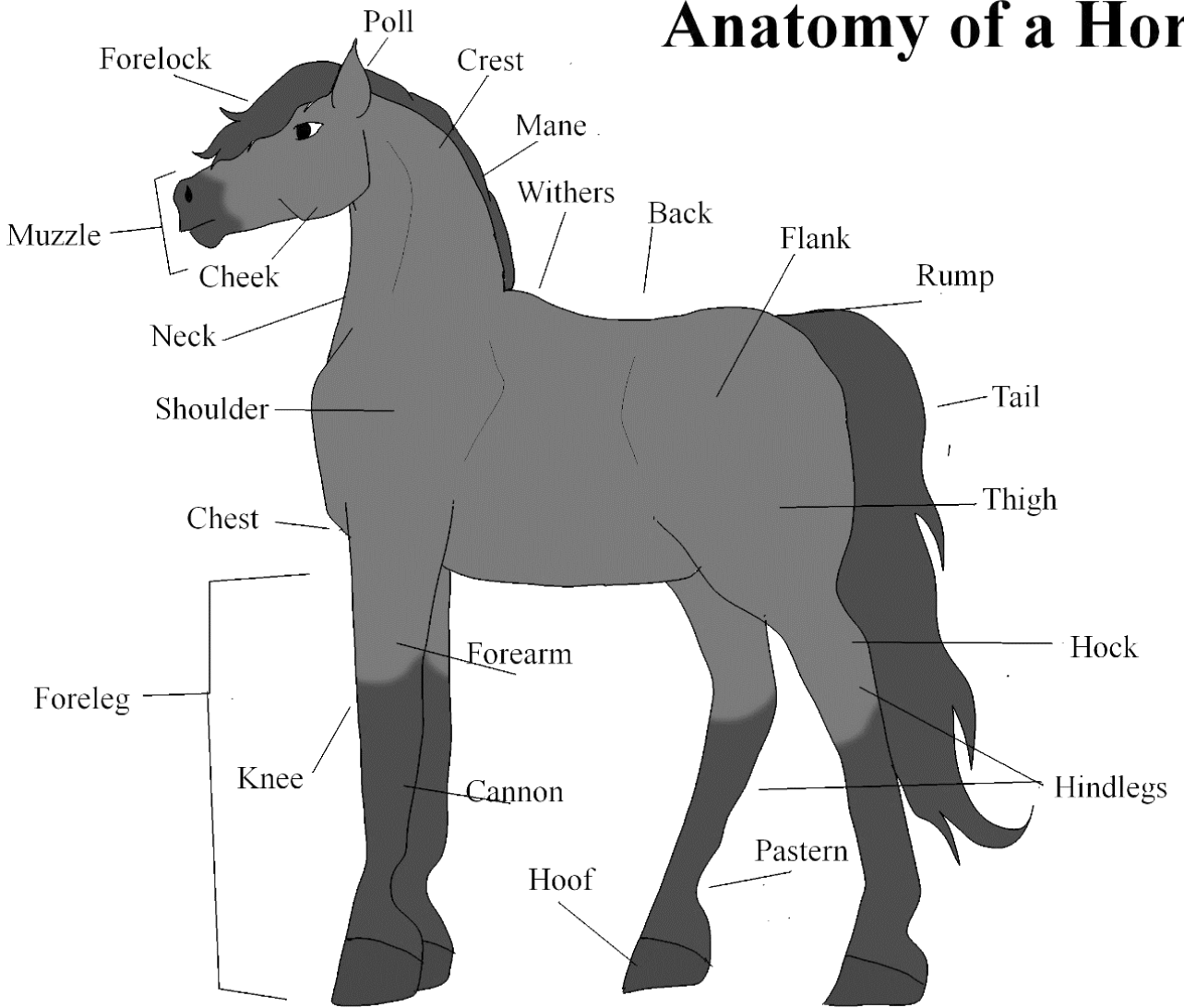


Light Horse Dark Horse series by Lavay Byrd
www.lavaybyrd.com

Horse Guide

Anatomy of a Horse



Horse Terms

Bachelor – a young stallion without a herd or mate. In the wild, these young stallions usually form “bachelor bands”.

Colt – a young male horse under the age of 4 “horse” years.

Equine – (ee-kwine) group name for horses, zebras, donkeys, and ponies

Filly – a young female horse under the age of 4 “horse” years.

Foal – A baby horse/pony.

Jack – a male donkey

Jenny – a female donkey

Mare – an adult female horse.

Stallion – an adult male horse

Weanling – a horse under one-year-old that’s been “weaned” or separated from his mother’s milk.

Yearling – a horse that has just reached the first year of age. Similar to a young teenager.

Horse Age

(From *Horses for Dummies* By Audrey Pavia, Janice Posnikoff, D.V.M.)

Foal – Newborn to about 6 months-old. Similar to an infant to toddler.

Weanling – around 4-6 months. Weanlings are when foals are separated from their mothers. Similar to a pre-teen.

Yearling – a young horse that has just reached the first year of age. Similar to a young teenager.

Young horse – 2-3 years old in “horse-years”. Similar to a teenager.

Young adult horse – Age 3-6 years old. Similar to humans between the late teens to the early 20s.

Adult horse – Any horse ranging from ages 6 to around 14 years, reaching full maturity. Similar to adults between late 20s to late 40s.

Senior/Elder horse – An old horse aged 15 years and older. Similar to humans from around 60s to 80s. Most horses die at the age of 20, but it’s rare to live beyond 30.

Coat Colors

Albino - An albino horse has a white coat with pinkish markings around the eyes, muzzle and legs.

Appaloosa – A horse with spotted/ speckled coat. **Leopard Appaloosa** is when a white horse has black or brown spots all over its body (Like a Dalmatian dog). A **blanket appaloosa** horse has a white rump with spots in the same color of its coat. There is also a horse breed called the Appaloosa, or the “Appy” for short.

Bay - A brown horse with black mane, tail, muzzle and lower legs. A **blood bay** horse has a red-ish brown or mahogany color.

Black - A black horse has a black colored coat with dark brown markings. Jet-black horses are very rare.

Brown - A brown horse has a coat mixed in colors of brown, dark brown and light brown; and black mane and tail. They almost look like bay horses, except a bay horse has black lower legs.

Buckskin - A buckskin horse has a light yellow, tan, or sandy coat with black mane, tail, legs, and/or muzzle.

Chestnut – The most common colors among all horses. They range from golden red to dark red. **Red chestnut** is a bright red-orange color. A **flaxen chestnut** horse has a chestnut coat with a cream or “blonde” mane and tail. A **liver chestnut** horse has a blackish coat with dark red-ish mane and tail.

Dun: There are three types of dun horses, and all have one of two special markings: a dorsal stripe, a long dark stripe running down the back; and small “zebra” stripes on their upper legs. **Dun** or **bay dun**, which is a golden horse with

black mane, tail, muzzle, and legs. (Remember the movie *Spirit*?) A **Red dun** is a reddish chestnut horse with dark mane. **Grullo** (Another word for **black dun**) horse is grayish brown horse with a dark head.

Gray A horse with black skin with white or gray hair. The **light gray horse** is almost white, but it has a dark gray or black mane, tail, and muzzle. The **Steel gray** is an all dark gray coat color. **Dapple gray** is a gray horse with black mane, tail, and muzzle. Its coat is covered in white-ish spots called “dapples”. The **silver dapple** horse has a dark gray or black coat with white or “silver” mane and tail.

Palomino - A golden colored coat, with white mane and tail. Sometimes they have white lower legs and muzzles.

Pinto - A horse with white or solid patches or splashes over its body. They can be brown and white, black and white, golden and white, and gray and white.

Roan: Roan can be any color but combined in white hairs on the body, except for the head and legs. The three most common roans are: **Bay roan**, a bay horse with whitish body; **Blue roan**, a black horse with a bluish body, and **Red roan** or **Strawberry Roan**, a chestnut horse with pinkish body.

White A white horse has a white coat, mane, and tail without any colors on its body. Some white horses may have pink or black muzzles. This is the rarest color in horses.

Horse Breeds and Other Equines

**These are mentioned in the Light Horse Dark Horse series*

Andalusian – The Andalusian, also known as the Pure Spanish Horse, is one of the oldest breeds originating from Europe. They are strongly-built and elegant, having an arched thick neck, long, wavy mane and tail. Most Andalusians are white and gray, but they can also be black and bay.

Arabian – The Arabian is the oldest purebred horse in the world. Unlike most horses, their skeletons have 17 ribs and five vertebrae (while other horses have 18 and six). Arabians can be easily recognized by their small, “dished” head, small muzzle with large nostrils. And their main colors are black, gray, bay, and chestnut. They also have black skin under their coats to protect them from the sun. They are thought to be the most beautiful all horses.

Donkey – The donkey is a relative to the horse. They are short, and have long ears, and short upright mane. They are mainly brown, gray, bay and black, white grayish rings around their eyes. Male donkeys are called jacks and female donkeys are called jennies.

Mustang – The mustang is very well known as the symbol of the American West, descendants of the horses brought to America by the Spanish Conquistadors. Its name comes from the Spanish word *mestengo*, meaning “wild” or “stray,” and many are still roaming freely today. They’re usually stocky build with strong bones and hooves, and they come in all colors.

Paint – A Spanish horse descendant and very well known as the mount for the Native American tribes. Its color coat is “pinto”, though both are not the same. “Pinto” can be any breed of horses, while Paints have a distinctive, stocky build.

Pony – A breed of small, short horses. They come in all colors, and have rather large heads, short necks, and short legs; and their mane and tail are long and thick.

Shire – The Shire is the largest and the most powerful horse in the world. These “gentle giants” are powerfully muscular, and have thick, silky hair covering their hooves. Their colors are mainly bay, brown, black, and gray.

Thoroughbred – Known as the world’s fastest horse, famous for racing. They are taller than most horses, though not taller than Shires. They also have a long, arched neck, long legs, and a strong body build. They are mainly chestnut, black, bay, gray, and brown.

Zebra – The zebra is a close relative of the horse and the donkey. Unlike horses and donkeys, zebras are mainly wild, though can be found in zoos. They have black and white stripes, black muzzle, “horse-ears”, and short upright mane.