

IDENTIFYING YOUR HORSE

Markings you should include a description in the narrative section and appropriate marks on the diagram including the following:

WHORLS – can be present on the head, crest & neck and the body.

Simple whorl – a focal point into which hairs seem to converge from different directions – mark on diagram with x

Tufted – as for simple but hair converges up into tuft – mark on diagram with x

Linear – two opposing sweeps meet from diametrically opposite directions along a line – mark on diagram with a line

Crested – as for linear but the hair rises up to form a crest – mark on diagram with a line

Feathered – two sweeps of hair meet along a line but the direction of flow is at an angle so as to form a feathered pattern – usually commences at a simple whorl – mark on diagram with x and a line in the direction of the feathering

Sinuuous – two opposing sweeps of hair meet along an irregular curving line – mark on diagram with line showing curve
The position of head whorls should be clearly specified with reference to midline and eye level and their placement in any white markings (e.g. blaze, star etc)

PROPHET'S THUMB – a muscular depression the approximate size of a thumb mark usually found on the neck or shoulder but can be found on the hindquarters – mark on the diagram with a triangle.

WHITE MARKS

If the boundary of the white marking is not clearly defined then the descriptions of mixed (contains varying amounts of hairs of general body colour) and bordered (where any marking is circumscribed by a mixed border, e.g. bordered star etc)

HEAD

Star – White mark on the forehead – type & size to be specified. If it is only a few white hairs then it should be so described and not referred to as a star

Stripe – Narrow white marking down the face, not wider than the flat anterior surface of the nasal bones. If there is a gap in the stripe it should be described as interrupted stripe.

The width and direction should also be described e.g. broad stripe, narrow stripe, inclined to left, terminating at upper left nostril etc.

In the majority of cases the star and stripe are continuous and should be described as star and stripe conjoined.

Blaze – White marking covering almost the whole of the forehead between the eyes and extending beyond the width of the nasal bones and usually to the muzzle. Any variations should be specified.

White face – White covers the forehead and front of the face extending laterally towards the mouth.

Snip – Isolated white marking independent of those already named and situated between or in the region of the nostrils. Size position and intensity should be specified.

Flesh marks – Patches where the pigment of the skin is absent should be described as fleshmarks and can be present between the nostrils or on the upper or lower lip. Size should be specified.

Lip markings – Should be accurately described whether embracing the whole or portion of either lip.

White muzzle – Where the white embraces both lips and extends to the region of the nostrils.

BODY

Grey-ticked - Where white hairs are sparsely distributed through the coat or any part of the body

Flecked – where small collections of white hairs occur distributed irregularly in any part of the body.

Black marks – Small areas of black hairs among white or other colour.

Spots – small more or less circular collections of hairs differing from general body colour

Patch – Describe large well-defined irregular area of hair differing from general body colour

Mane and tail – The presence of differently coloured hairs in mane and tail should be specified.

List – A dorsal band of black hairs which extends from the withers backwards.

LIMBS

Hooves – Any variation in the colour of the hooves should be noted. White hoof. Black hoof. Mixed to be described as striated hoof.

White markings – described accurately as follows: white coronet, white to (half) pastern, white to (below, full) fetlock, white to (half, quarter, full) cannon, white to knee, white to elbow (forelegs) white to hock (hind legs) with variations specified, such as higher (lower) behind, caudally etc. Please do not use the term sock or stocking when relating to leg markings.

WALL EYE – Lack of pigment, either partial or complete in the iris usually gives a pinkish-white or bluish-white appearance to the eye.

ACQUIRED MARKS

Brands – Please do not blindly copy a registration certificate – ensure that the brands are actually present and legible before describing them and marking them on the diagram.

Scars – describe and mark placement on diagram with an arrow

The above is put together with the assistance of the descriptions contained in “Veterinary Notes for Horse Owners: Captain M. Horace Hayes FRCVS Completely New Edition Edited by Peter D. Rossdale PhD, FRCVS