

Issue Three 2009

SPORTALOOSA

Quarterly



*2009 Breeding Guide
& Stallion Showcase*



Greetings from Sportaloosa Central

Hectic and fun are the words to describe the past 3 months at Sportaloosa Central. We've been welcoming new members, registering top quality spotted horses, negotiating cut price advertising for group Sportaloosa stallion ads, creating a breeding guide, assembling a truly wonderful line up of spotted stallions and finding time to sleep now and again!

You'll find all of these things and more in this third issue of Sportaloosa Quarterly; we hope you enjoy it. Please don't hesitate to send us your thoughts to make sure we get your magazine and your registry right.

The wonderful Karen Leoncelli and Ev Lagoon of Gippsland Regional Appaloosa Club have solved your Christmas gift dilemmas by producing a gorgeous 2010 Appaloosa foals calendar (see page 8). The calendar will be for sale in Australia and NZ and funds raised go towards establishing a prize pool to reward Sportaloosas in competition.

We're proud to present a stunning group of stallions throughout Australia and New Zealand and we'd like to encourage you to consider these stallions first when it comes to choosing a match for your good mare. They come in all shapes and sizes and many can ship semen to you, so they've never been more accessible.

While it's coming up breeding time in the southern hemisphere, we haven't forgotten our ridden horses. We have riders recording hours in the saddle and Sportaloosas have been enjoying terrific success in the show ring recently, both in open competition and in closed Appaloosa shows. You'll see them in this issue too.

Remember, we calculate points for shows where 'official' records are kept that we can verify so ensure you take a copy of your horse's Sportaloosa registration certificate with you when you compete and get a show official to sign for your results.

Finally, please keep your news and photos coming. We want to know what you're doing with your horses and we enjoy being able to update our web site news page at least once a week with your achievements.

Until next time, enjoy your spotted horses. *Petra & Samantha*

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Sportaloosa snippets

68th Sportaloosa enters the registry

New Zealand based Zippers Dynasty is the latest Sportaloosa to join our registry, 7 months after our launch.

Other recent entrants include the Scotland based, Danish born Knabstupper stallion Xhogun Middelsom (pictured right). Xhogun is the first Knabstrupper and the first northern hemisphere based stallion to join our ranks.



\$100 for the best Sportaloosa slogan

Our current web site competition offers a \$100 reward for the best Sportaloosa caption; one we can use on new car stickers.

See www.sportaloosa.com/competition.shtml for the entry form, enter as many times as you like and take away \$100 if we judge your entry the best. Easy money!

Congratulations to our May/June web site competition winner - Barbara Clouston of NZ. Barbara wins a set of Sportaloosa saddle patches. Ken Wilkinson of the UK won our March-April caption competition - clearly Ken has a particular talent for captions as it's his second win!



Sportaloosa points & awards - record your points now!

Your registered Sportaloosas qualify for annual awards and lifetime bronze, silver and gold medallions for competition points. Best of all, recording competition points is completely free to all lifetime members until 31 December 2009.

Sportaloosa awards are an extra reason to be spotted on a Sportaloosa, so don't miss out on recording your successes with us and, if you know someone competing on a spotted horse, please let them know about Sportaloosa International.

For the forms you need, visit www.sportaloosa.com/points.shtml and be sure to take them with you to your next event. Fill them out, have a show official sign them to confirm your success and send them back to us.



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Sportaloosa successes



Little Miss Leuwin (left) took out the double at the Queensland State Champs, winning both Suitability for Dressage and Led Hack.

By Royal Decree (by Cayuse A Grand Illusion) won Reserve Champion Led Hack and placed 4th in Suitability for Dressage.

Cayuse Mighty Outrageous topped it all off by taking out Reserve Champion Novice Dressage and Champion Elementary Dressage.



LV Skip N On Gold (left) (by Skip's Supreme) took out Champion Overall Mare at the recent Murray Loddon Regional Appaloosa Club Show in Bendigo. Photo courtesy Ev Lagoon.



Cayuse A Grand Illusion won the open 2.4 dressage and the combined training at Gunedah Agricultural show and managed a third and fourth (3.1) in other dressage tests.

Send us your news!

Whether it's a competition success, a new horse or just a general update, we'd love to hear about it. Email petra@sportaloosa.com with stories and pictures.



Rocking M I'ma Stormy Q (by Cayuse Mighty Windstorm) took out Champion Coloured Stallion or Colt at Halter at a recent Mt Isa show as well as Reserve Grand Champion Coloured Exhibit of the show.



Tennant Creek and District Show was a roaring success for Cayuse Mighty Windstorm (left), who won Champion Stallion or Gelding over 14hh, Grand Champion Stallion or Gelding of the Show and best Presented Horse of the show. His son Savannah Midnight Storm took 2nd place Stallion or Gelding 14hh and under.



Yallawa Siouxperstition (by The Test of Time) placed 7th Futurity Weanling Colt and 7th 2008 Colt at the Appaloosa National Show and took Champion Colt/Stallion at Murray Loddon Regional Appaloosa Club Show.



Kerrinna Sie My Affair (by Ultimate Affair) was busy at the AAA Nationals - Nat Champion Suitability for Dressage 2 years and Under, 3rd Amateur 2007 Filly, 7th Yearling lunge, 5th Most Colourful at Halter, 4th 2007 Filly, 6th Yearling Led Trail, 6th Yearling Hunter in Hand, 3rd Led Hunter Hack 2 years & Under, 3rd Mare/ Filly Hunter in Hand

Successes continued



The Gunnedah (NSW) Show Jumping Festival this year attracted nearly 1600 entries. Visitors were treated to top class competition with famous riders like George Sanna and Vicki Roycroft showing their skill.

Two junior riders with their talented Sportaloosa geldings also attracted lots of attention and new fans.

Kayla Simmons from Bourke NSW, riding Cayuse Honest Few (pictured above left) won and placed in several big classes over the weekend. Most classes had between 30 to 60 good young riders keenly trying to win the blue ribbon!



Kirsty Carroll from Dubbo (pictured at left) was thrilled with being placed after a sharp, fast jumpoff. She rode her big gelding Sterling Hunter, that she has trained herself. He's sired by Cayuse Mighty Outrageous.

LAST CHANCE to enter the 3rd Annual All Breeds Online Foal Show run by Warrumbungle Sub Branch

Let Sportaloosa spots be seen and don't miss the closing date for entries - it's 31 July. Foal photos can have been taken at any time - no matter what age the horse is now, your photo could be eligible.

Entry is cheap so there's no excuse!

Visit www.allbreedsonlinefoalshow.com/rulesentryform.htm for the entry form.



Germany ► Australia ► new arrival



The stunning black leopard Knabstrupper colt Loris Flashpoint Af Lyn has made the huge trip from Germany to Cayuse Sportaloosas, NSW.

Loris Flashpoint Af Lyn is a yearling sired by one of the best producing stallions in the breed Figaro Af Hallundbaek (Denmark).

His dam is a top studbook mare by the gold medal winner Conetti Lynghoj. Conetti's progeny are powerful movers and tremendous jumpers. Apollon who is one of the most famous Knabstrupper sires is also close on the dam's side.





Sportaloosa stallions in the press

Spotted boys are hard to miss leading in to this southern hemisphere breeding season... get out your sunglasses for the Horse Deals ad (Australia) while the Horse Trader ad (New Zealand) is a bit more subtle!

There's our own online stallion showcase, showcases for NZ stallions on horsetalk.co.nz and equinetrader.co.nz and of course our own breeding guide and showcase.

Here's to a wonderful and spotted breeding season.



A warm welcome to new members:

Warren & Ann Lewis	Heather Lee
Sharon Lowery	Joachim Blatchly
Kirily Rimmer	Nancy Shallcrass
Helena Shanal	Swan Michel
Jon Firmin	David Adkins
Karen Fischer	Lisa Oswald
Anne Delaney	

Registered stud prefixes:

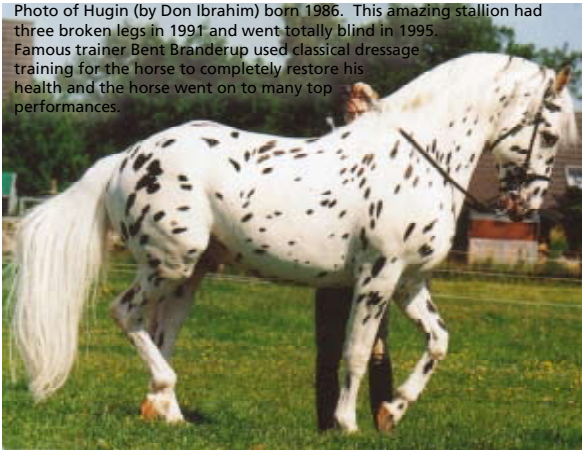
Ascot - John D Noble
 AP - AP Performance Horses
 Arawood - Arawood Appaloosas
 Avenlee - Heather Lee & Joachim Blatchly
 Blacklaw - Jon Firmin
 Blackwatch - Lisa Bell
 CA - Debra Bawden
 Cayuse - Cayuse Appaloosas
 DayDream - DayDream Stud
 Double A - David & Lynne Adkins
 Frog Rock - Kirily Rimmer
 JCJ - D & S Lindley
 Kerrinna - Karen Fischer
 LV - Lewisville Appaloosas
 Mc - Flying Horse Stud
 Mighty - Sparkling Acres Appaloosas
 OPH - Outrageous Performance Horses
 Oregon Park - Ev Lagoon
 Savannah - Valmai Jones
 Shawin - Shawin Appaloosas
 Shoshoni - Jason & Natalie Wilkinson
 Rocking M - Amanda McHugh
 Urban - Nancy Shallcrass
 Yallawa - Tammy Basham

Knabstrupper – the horse with character

For hundreds, perhaps thousands of years, the spotted horse has flourished throughout Europe. Breeds as we know them today didn't exist back then. Horses were rather selected and bred for a purpose, for example a war horse, a carriage horse or for training in high school.

The spotted horse was selected for function and was found in many different studbooks even up until today, although it has disappeared from others over the centuries. For example in the sixteen hundreds the Hanoverian had many spotted patterns within it. Although not striped, these spotted horses in Europe were earlier known as Tiger Horses and in our language would be the leopard spotted pattern. One of the oldest and most noted of these spotted horses was the Knabstrupper, a warmblood breed from Denmark.

Photo of Hugin (by Don Ibrahim) born 1986. This amazing stallion had three broken legs in 1991 and went totally blind in 1995. Famous trainer Bent Branderup used classical dressage training for the horse to completely restore his health and the horse went on to many top performances.



The Royal stud of Frederiksborg, Denmark has consistently bred these spotted horses since 1536. The Knabstrupper is a colour variant of the once world famous and much sort after Danish Frederiksborger Baroque horse. These horses were from the agile Spanish Jennets and were originally trained for close combat warhorses.

After the invention and use of guns the horses were used in high school by many noblemen. Like the famous Lipizza and Hanover training stables the Zuchta at

Frederiksborg was one of the principal schools then and their horses eagerly sought after. Many of the whiteborn or what we call fewspot leopards were in demand for carriage horses and used at coronations and were favourite riding mounts of the kings and emperors.

The royal stud eventually disbanded, they had a lot of problems with inbreeding and because of the ignorance of the results of the grey gene lost a lot of the colouring. In the 1800s the spotted horses made a comeback in Denmark and the name of Knabstrupper was given them because of the main stud in the district Knabstrup.

Major Villars Lunn acquired a spectacular mare of Spanish origin and she became

the foundation of a lot of the modern lines. The Flaebe mare, as she was known, had a coat of many colours, dark red, covered with white spots and brown spots in her blanket. She was famous for her endurance and stamina. Her son, Flaebehingsten, sired by the golden yellow Frederiksborg stallion produced numerous top stallions. Mikkel was another famous sire and winner of many races. The race horses at that time often had to pull the carriage loaded with people and gear to and from the racecourse as well!! In the late 1800's a severe lightning storm set the Knabstrup stud stables alight and many of the best

breeding stock were burnt to death. Like a lot of breeds that wane, renewed interest after the world wars has seen both the old Baroque type and taller sports type again grab the public's imagination and they are being bred and competed on worldwide now.

You might wonder what a Baroque horse is? Generally they are described as the type of agile, strong bodied descendents of the type of horses used in the Middle Ages. They are characterised by powerful hindquarters, muscular arched necks, straight or slightly convex face profiles and usually have a thick, full mane and tail. These horses are particularly suited to classical dressage, with the ability to collect easily. The Lipizzan is probably the best known of the Baroque type breeds today, but also include the older type of Knabstrupper, Friesian and Lusitano.

Although the Knabstrupper possess all the coat patterns similar to the Appaloosa they are different in type, being generally of a more narrow frame, built uphill with the hindlegs set under more. Because of their similar Spanish ancestry, the older foundation Appaloosas would be more of this type. The Knabstrupper was used for work around a lot of the farms in Denmark so they have a very forgiving temperament, being especially kind with children.

They are uncomplicated and possess high levels of trainability, strength and stamina. They usually enjoy good health, being kept outside with no problems, very good doers and still known for their longevity. They usually stand between 15-16 hands, some of the modern warmblood crosses can get to 17 hands. They are good movers, easy to ride and have natural jumping ability. Because of their kind outlook to life they are especially favoured by amateur, middleaged and children to compete on. All through the ages they were also used extensively in the circuses and still today are seen performing under the big top.

The main registry is the KNN in Denmark and the ZDPF in Germany. All stud book mares and stallions are inspected, graded and do ridden approval tests. The leopard pattern is by far the most popular and highly prized for breeding and performance. Outcrossing is allowed to certain warmblood breeds, the Trakener and Oldenburger, Arabian and Thoroughbred. Appaloosa crosses would need four generations before they could be studbook horses in Europe.

Sportaloosa International recognises the Knabstrupper and Appaloosa crosses for any of their studbooks.

2010 Appaloosa foals calendar



The Christmas gift you'll want to keep for yourself!

12 months of Appaloosa foals doing what they do best... being colourful and cute.

Ideal as Christmas gifts for your farrier, vet, trainer, agistment manager, grainstore owner, stud clients and more. One size fits all!!! Perfect for your office or barn - A3 size full colour.

Price - \$20 AUD plus postage in Australia
- \$20 NZD plus postage in NZ

Order from Karen Leoncelli (Australia) - kleoncelli@hotmail.com
In NZ, order from Petra Davidson - petra@sportaloosa.com

Kids only

Secret Service colouring competition



Kids - win a set of Sportaloosa saddle patches!

Print this great drawing by Maurice Potter, colour it in and send it back to us.

In NZ, send to Petra Davidson, 1165 Whangaripo Valley Road, RD2 Wellsford 0972.

In Australia, send to Samantha McAuliffe, PO Box 101, Manilla (near Tamworth), NSW 2346.

Competition closes 31 August 2009.

Training tip – bring more spring to your riding

To make your horse supple is one of the most important things, no matter what discipline you follow.

Many riders try to develop big paces in their horse and spend much of their time trying to school to this goal. But if they spent time in getting their horse loose and supple first the horse will naturally improve their paces and self carriage.



A dead giveaway that your horse isn't supple is that it cuts corners in the arena, it is stiff laterally and over the back, often heavy to the aids too. When a horse is supple in its sides, on the circles it can really bring its hind legs through and under more, which in turn makes it more elastic in the back with more regular and free paces. When the horse develops the right muscles it can use them without resistance and freely use its shoulders and hind end motor.

Bending the horse around the inside leg correctly is vital. This bend doesn't just

mean a neck bend, which will throw the shoulders out of alignment. This bend is from the ears to tail, a consistent bend along the whole spine, so the spinal bones all follow correctly like soldiers in a row. If some fall out of line the others can't follow and you have a problem.

As the rider's legs control the hindquarters they hold the arc of the body, the inside leg is like a pillar that stays on the girth whilst the outside leg acts behind the girth and the hands control more the shoulders. So every time the rider changes direction the inside leg must change position to hold the bend. Serpentine are a great way to practice this, changing the aids at the centre line. Each corner should be ridden as if on a circle so the horse is in a smooth bend and not stiffly cutting the corner in a way that doesn't do him any good and looks ugly.

Suppling exercises make your schooling in the arena interesting, a good way to

keep changing so the horse doesn't get bored or anticipate. Your horse should readily move off your leg to a light aid, if not insist with your whip or a touch of spur. One of the aims of schooling is to make the horse light and in self carriage. You can look down to see if your bend is correct, adjusting if necessary.

Leg yielding is one of the key exercises to encourage suppleness. Try leg yielding across the diagonal to the left, keep the right flexion and when you reach the track do a ten metre circle with energy and rhythm. Also leg yield to centre of arena, change the bend, do a circle, change bend then leg yield back to the other side.

On a twenty metre circle in a good energetic working trot try moving the quarters out for quarter of the circle, then in for another quarter circle. Do this with shoulder in and out too, making sure you change the flexion properly. Try a shoulder in down the arena, half way lead into a ten metre circle then continue with quarters in. If your horse finds this difficult and loses impulsion, go straight ahead and reestablish a good working trot. If your horse is unsure of these movements introduce them at a walk first. When he gets good you should be able to leg yield across the arena both ways at walk, trot and canter.

Often after doing leg yielding exercises, introduce the medium trot and you will find your horse moving more boldly forward with more swing through the back.

Don't do too many exercises at once especially at first. If you do a few each day you will soon realise your horse is improving and becoming more supple. When riding out you can also practise leg yielding back and forth across a pathway but watch out for holes and uneven ground.

Try changing your bend correctly around trees, keeping your horse forward and round and you'll slowly be rewarded with plenty more spring.



Choosing the broodmare

By Samantha McAuliffe

Breeding a foal involves a lot of time, money and long term commitment. Breeders have a moral responsibility to ensure the best future for the young horse brought into the world, which means breeding quality to begin with. Today there is a serious over production of ordinary horses, which usually don't have the best of futures, often ending up at sales and the meat markets. Happily though, there is always a need for high quality, spotted performance horses as they are becoming few and far between today.

The broodmare is the foundation of any good breeding programme; she can either make it or break it for you. Some people put a lot of emphasis on the stallion but the foal will have characteristics from both parents and each will provide half of the genetic makeup of the foal. The mare influences the youngster a lot just from being with it for the early formative months and foals do pick up and copy mum's bad habits!

One of the first things to consider when looking for your broodmare is your ultimate goal for the resulting foal. If you are planning a world cup showjumper, the mare that just won the NCHA cutting derby really won't be suitable but she would be great if you are planning a cowhorse. So, the mare must have the genetic background and type for the sport you choose.

After type, temperament must be the most important consideration, if not the most important. Many breeders today put too much importance on the exterior instead of the interior of the horse. What use have you of producing the most beautiful horse in the world, if lack of intelligence and bad temper makes it impossible to ride? Unfortunately some mares are never tried under saddle. That doesn't mean showing but to be broken in and tested for temperament and riding qualities. The mare should have a natural bearing under saddle and be easy to do anything with. Sometimes if you have been lucky enough to have ridden mothers, brothers, sisters etc the temperament can be realised with how they adapt to handling on the ground. A rare thing nowadays though.

Always be wary of unsound horses, especially with any foot problems. Nothing so heartbreaking to produce a lovely horse and find it's continually lame. Unsoundness from accidents is another matter, unless caused by a temperament



quirk they are nothing to worry about.

Often performance horses that break down are used as broodmares, which just passes the problem from one generation to another.

One thing a lot of horses are never picked for is fertility and milking abilities. We have had mares that have had sixteen foals in a row, all fat and shiny no matter the season due to their tremendous milk production. Their daughters that have been bred also have these good qualities and their stallion sons have passed it on too.



Once you have chosen a mare, check her for breeding soundness and conformation. A mare that has problems breeding is not only a waste of time but will cost you a lot of money at the vet! Remember you have to wait nearly a year for the foal to be born and another two to ride, so make your choices good ones. An ideal conformation for the mare is to have the vulva straight under the anus. This will stop any urine or feces from dribbling into the vulva and causing infection. Although there are veterinary procedures to help with this, it will cause problems sooner than later, remember in nature these mares would be infertile and be culled from the breeding herd naturally.

The price you pay for a suitable mare of course will vary, often the so-called bargain will sadly reveal why she was priced so cheaply.

If the mare has a breeding history check it out and see some of her foals to judge what she can produce. Sometimes studs have some older proven mares for sale, to make room for younger daughters entering the mare band. This is usually an excellent way to purchase good proven mares not normally available. This also applies to complete dispersal sales. Usually with some TLC these mares will reward you with more great foals.

Of course another consideration when breeding a lovely Sportaloosa is to retain the necessary coat pattern and concentrate the bloodlines of the breed.

Outcrossing is allowed but sensibly one should only use homozygous mares to retain the spots. Also when outcrossing pick a top stallion that will introduce and enhance the breed with special qualities. Otherwise choose one of the many talented, good looking Sportaloosa stallions available.

Finally, remember when you get your dreamed of foal send us a photo so we can share it with all!



NOT A SPORTALOOSA MEMBER YET?

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SCHEDULE OF FEES

Membership

	NZD	AUD
One-off membership fee, includes registration of a stud prefix and online magazine	\$58	\$50
Annual classifieds subscription to web site - includes listing unlimited horses for sale for 12 months	\$24	\$20
Annual promotion subscription to web site - includes stallion/stud/mare/gelding/foal/trainer promotion and unlimited horses for sale. We welcome promotion of approved outcross stallions as well.	\$70	\$60
Annual Sportaloosa Secret Service subscription - for under 17s only - includes badge and programme just for kids	\$30	\$25

Registration

Studbook One, Two & Solid Studbook

Filly/colt up to 12 months	\$30	\$25
Gelding any age - if already entered in Appaloosa or Knabstrupper registry	\$30 \$24	\$25 \$20
Mare over 12 months - if already entered in Appaloosa or Knabstrupper registry	\$58 \$24	\$50 \$20
Colt over 12 months	\$58	\$50
Stallion classification (over 24 months)	\$168	\$150
- if already entered and classified in Appaloosa or Knabstrupper registry	\$58	\$50

Open registry

Filly up to 12 months	\$30	\$25
Mare over 12 months	\$58	\$50
Gelding any age	\$30	\$25

Stallion/mare returns

Submitted annually		FREE
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Other

Transfer of ownership	\$18	\$15
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Merchandise

	NZD	AUD
Royal blue cap	\$20	\$18
Round stickers	\$2.50	\$2
Oblong stickers	\$2.50	\$2
Saddle patches (per pair)	\$35	\$30
Postage & packaging applies	\$2	\$4





SPORTALOOSA
INTERNATIONAL



2009 Breeding Guide

Sound, sane, spotted & smooth to ride!








www.sportaloosa.com

Brighten your life...

Sportaloosas... the spotted horse for all the family to have fun on. Performance ability for competitive riders, cool heads for everyone. Sound, sane, spotted and smooth to ride!

Sportaloosa International is delighted to bring you the 2009 Sportaloosa Breeding Guide and Stallion Showcase.

Within this guide you'll find

-  information on the Sportaloosa and Sportaloosa International
-  the \$1,000 Sportaloosa Video Futurity
-  how to breed a Sportaloosa
-  how to keep the colour
-  beautiful Sportaloosa stallions available at stud

We wish you all the best for talented Sportaloosa foals in 2009 and hope you find this guide useful.

Sportaloosa International
www.sportaloosa.com

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Enjoy!

Photo courtesy Valmai Jones

\$1,000 video futurity

Make sure your video camera is in good working order and start honing your filming skills now... your 2009/10 Sportaloosa foal has FREE entry into the very first \$1,000 Sportaloosa video futurity.

It's the futurity you don't have to travel to compete at and it's your chance to show the world (and our judge) just how good your next Sportaloosa foal crop is.

Prize pool \$1,000

Sportaloosa jacket for the best made video
All entrants get a Sportaloosa goody



If you're expecting a Sportaloosa foal from 1 August, make sure you're a member of Sportaloosa International and that either the mare or the stallion (or both) are registered with us. If you're the owner of a registered Sportaloosa stallion, promote the eligibility of his progeny for our futurity in your ads (it's an excellent selling point for your stallion).

Practise keeping a steady hand on the video camera and get ready to film!

Find out more at
www.sportaloosa.com/videofuturity.shtml



Breeding a Sportaloosa

Here's what you need to know about how to breed a top quality Sportaloosa you can register with Sportaloosa International. It all begins with the best quality eligible mare and stallion you can find, to tip the odds of a spectacular foal with a super nature in your favour.

Choosing a stallion

If you have a registered Sportaloosa mare, you can choose any registered and classified Sportaloosa stallion to cross her with. You'll find these stallions within this guide and the most up to date list is always available at www.sportaloosa.com.

Progeny of registered Sportaloosa stallions (or from registered Sportaloosa mares) are eligible for free entry in the \$1,000 Sportaloosa video futurity.

If your mare is solid coloured, she must be bred to a coloured Sportaloosa stallion in order for the foal to be eligible for Sportaloosa registration.

If your mare has appaloosa characteristics and a coat pattern, you can consider any classified Sportaloosa stallion to cross her with. Additionally, if she is registered in either Studbook One or Two, you can consider a stallion of eligible non-spotted blood, provided it is of suitable sporthorse type and temperament. Crosses to horses that are grey, non-Appaloosa roan, pinto or paint are not eligible non-spotted blood.

Mares entered in the open registry must be bred to a classified Sportaloosa stallion.

Please don't hesitate to contact us to check the eligibility of any cross; we are always happy to help.

Once your mare has been bred, ensure the stallion owner provides you with a copy of her service certificate and keep it in a safe place. You'll need to send that to Sportaloosa International when you apply to register your foal.

Understanding the Sportaloosa registry

Studbook One

Sportaloosas eligible for Studbook One have 75% or more provable (documented) spotted blood in the first 4 generations of their pedigree. That is, no more than 2 horses in the fourth generation (shown below) is of eligible non-spotted (Sportaloosa, Appaloosa or Knabstrupper) blood.

Generation 1	Generation 2	Generation 3	Generation 4
Sportaloosa	Sire	Grand sire	Great-grandsire
			Great-granddam
		Grand dam	Great-grandsire
			Great-granddam
	Dam	Grand sire	Great-grandsire
			Great-granddam
		Grand dam	Great-grandsire
			Great-granddam

Studbook Two

Sportaloosas eligible for Studbook Two have anything less than 75% provable (documented) spotted blood in the first 4 generations of their pedigree and have recognisable spotted patterns.

Solid Studbook

This studbook is for non-patterned horses that would otherwise be eligible for Studbook Two.

Open Registry

The Sportaloosa Open Registry is for mares and geldings with recognisable spotted patterns but unprovable/undocumented bloodlines. Stallions are only accepted in to this registry if they exhibit outstanding performance and type, for example attain Grade A showjumper or Grand Prix dressage level. Any horse entered in to the Open Registry must be bred to a Sportaloosa in Studbook One or Two in order that the foal can be registered in Sportaloosa Studbook Two.

Keeping the colour

You'll never find us encouraging you to breed for colour alone but with just a little effort and attention, you'll find you can produce a superb type of horse that also has a coat pattern.

*"That's Appaloosas...
It's always a gamble...
You never know what
you're going to get...
You just can't tell...
There's no way of
knowing...
You just might get lucky...
It really doesn't matter..."*

Listen closely and you'll hear words like these from the mouths of experienced Appaloosa breeders. Is it true though?

We'd like to let you in on a secret... luck has nothing to do with it. With a little effort and attention, you'll find you can consistently produce a well marked Sportaloosa. The trick is to know the chances of producing colour from every match you make.

Why does the coat pattern matter?

Before you read on, we have four quick questions for you to answer.

Question One
Is this a Hereford?



Question Two
Is this a Belted Galloway?



Question Three
Is this a taxi?



Question Four
What drink is in this can?





We're willing to bet you got every one of these answers right. What's more, we'll bet you knew the answers without really having to think about them.

That's because you know what Herefords and Belted Galloways look like and how their appearance sets them apart from other breeds of cattle. You know that a TAXI sign is the difference between a taxi and a private car and you know what kind of drink is in a can with the Coca Cola logo on it.

If Herefords and Belted Galloways looked the same, taxis didn't have a sign and if Coke and other drinks came in cans that looked the same, you couldn't tell them apart. If some cans that didn't have the Coca Cola logo also contained Coke, you'd really become confused.

Coke isn't popular because of its logo but because of the way it tastes. Once you know you like it, its logo and appearance makes it easy for you to identify it, so you can buy it again.

As riders, handlers and breeders, people favour Sportaloosas because of their ability, versatility and calm temperament as well as their appearance. When they're in the market for another horse, the Sportaloosa's coat pattern makes them easy to identify. Take that coat pattern away and the likelihood of people ending up with another breed of horse is significantly increased.

The coat pattern is so random though...

Here's the thing. The coat pattern doesn't have to be random.

Herefords consistently look like Herefords because cattle that look like Herefords have been bred to other cattle that look like Herefords for generations.

As a result of this strict selection, Herefords have become homozygous for the genes that control their body colour and white patterning. That is, they have two identical copies of those genes. Every cow inherits one copy of each gene from their father and one from their mother. If either the father or mother, or both have two identical copies of the genes that control the red body colour and white face then no matter which copy of the gene they pass on

to their offspring, it will be a copy that dictates the offspring will have a red body and white face.

Cross a Hereford with a different breed and then cross that offspring with a different breed again and you'll see just how quickly the trademark colour and coat pattern is lost.

To produce what you want, take one animal that looks like what you want and cross it with another that looks like what you want.

When it comes to producing appaloosa patterning, breeding practice since the 1960s has made producing a predictable coat pattern difficult. Breeders have crossed horses with varying patterns, or no pattern as well as including crosses to breeds that do not have a coat pattern. Because they haven't rigidly selected for a particular pattern (or even a particular type of horse) the majority of horses within the current day Appaloosa gene pool have a 25% chance at best of reproducing their own coat pattern.

In practical terms, that means that the odds are you could make the same cross 4 times and get what you hope for just once. That's caused the lucky dip belief that many of us have... we make a cross, hope for a coat pattern and say "that's Appaloosas" when we don't get it. Select the right horses to cross over several generations and it's a very different story.

Here's how it works

Two things govern the coat pattern of the Sportaloosa. The first is a pattern gene and there are likely to be several of these. Pattern genes produce a blanket or a leopard coat pattern. The second is the 'appaloosa' gene (known as the Lp or Leopard Complex gene) which controls Appaloosa characteristics: sclera around the eyes, mottled skin, striped hooves and some white in the coat to show off any coat pattern that exists.

To have a coat pattern, a Sportaloosa must have at least 1 copy of the Lp gene and one pattern gene.

A visual guide to an Appaloosa's genetic makeup

Homozygous



2 copies of Lp + blanket pattern
= snowcap blanket



2 copies of Lp + leopard pattern
= fewspot leopard

Heterozygous



1 copy of Lp + blanket pattern
= spotted blanket



1 copy of Lp + leopard pattern
= leopard

Heterozygous and no pattern gene



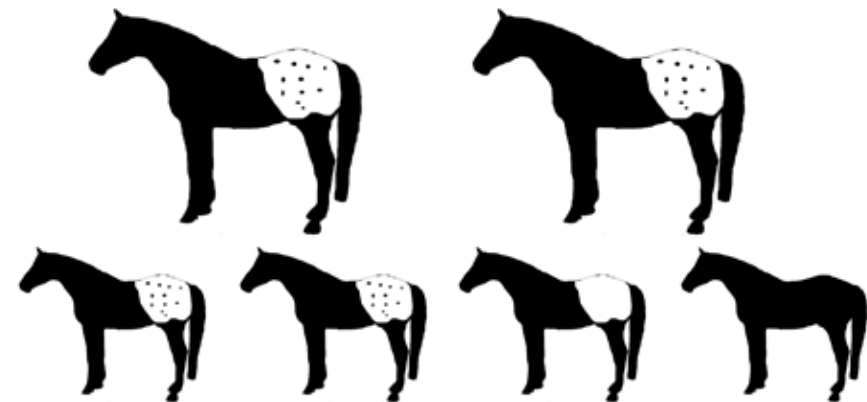
1 copy of Lp + no pattern
= varnish roan

Determining whether a roan only horse has one or two copies of Lp can be a challenge. The horse shown here has one Quarter Horse parent so can only be heterozygous for Lp.

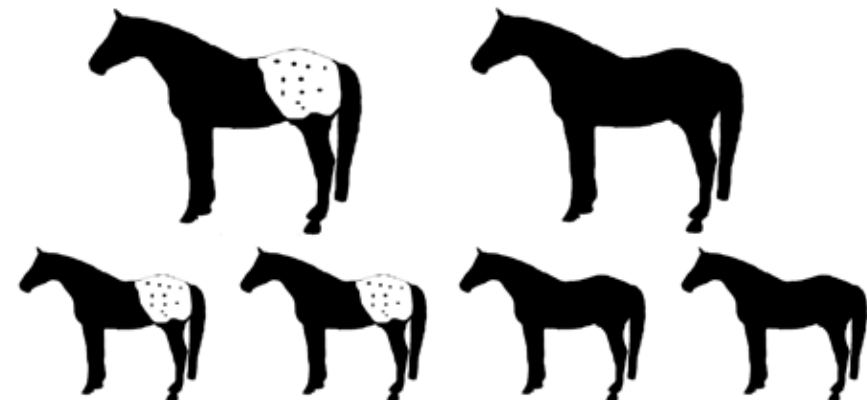
Assessing your chances

The following diagrams illustrate the chances of Lp being inherited. We've included a coat pattern on these diagrams so you can easily see whether the resulting offspring have one copy, two copies or no copies of Lp. Pattern genes are inherited separately though and these diagrams DON'T illustrate the inheritance of pattern genes.

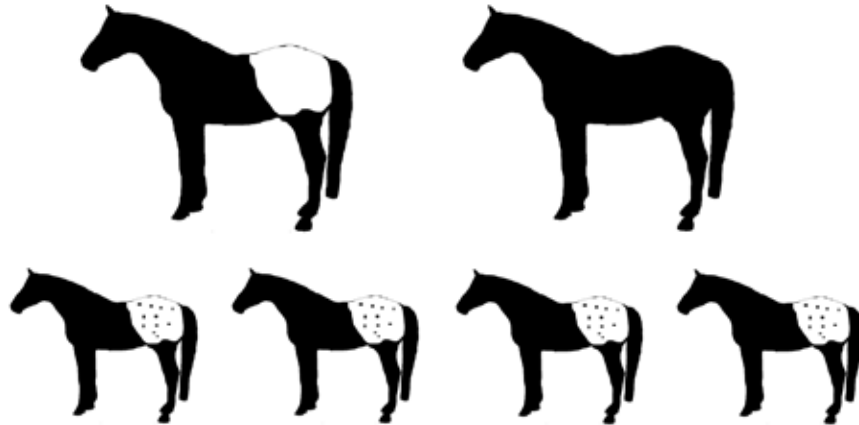
One copy of Lp X one copy of Lp



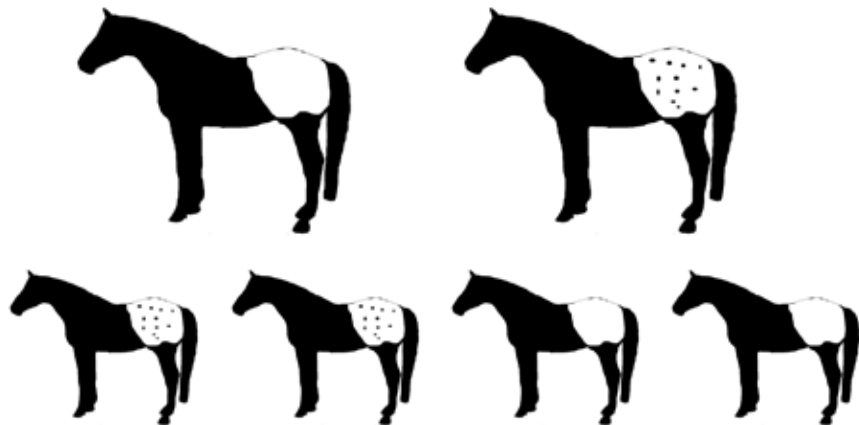
One copy of Lp X no copies of Lp



Two copies of Lp X no copies of Lp



Two copies of Lp X one copy of Lp



You can see from these diagrams that when one of your breeding pair has 2 copies of Lp, you're guaranteed some form of appaloosa colour. That's because,

no matter which copy of the Lp gene is passed to the offspring, it's a copy that will produce characteristics and white in the coat, to show off any pattern that is present.

Your riskiest choice is breeding a horse with spots (one copy of Lp) to a horse that has no copies of Lp. This cross gives you only a 50% chance that the offspring will inherit Lp.

The second part of the equation - the pattern

In order for the offspring to have a visible coat pattern rather than just characteristics and some roaning, it must also have inherited a pattern gene. Without a pattern gene, the horse that inherits Lp will have white sclera, striped hooves, mottled skin and some degree of roaning at most. At worst, there may be only the most subtle indications that Lp is present.

The majority of patterned horses within the appaloosa gene pool are only heterozygous (have just 1 copy) of the gene that produced their coat pattern. That's because horses of the same coat pattern haven't been consistently bred together and it means that they can pass on a pattern gene only 50% of the time.

How to maximise your chances of producing colour

Breeding a horse that looks like what you want to another horse that looks like what you want delivers your best chance of success now and helps to preserve the unique appearance of the Sportaloosa for the future.

Use horses that have patterned ancestors for at least 4-5 generations in your breeding programme. The more consistently bred they have been, the greater your chances that they have developed homozygosity for pattern genes in addition to the Lp gene.

If outcrossing or breeding to a solid coloured Sportaloosa, make sure one of your breeding pair carries 2 copies of Lp so that the foal will inherit one. Most of all, remember how important the coat pattern is to the Sportaloosa and work hard to keep the colour!

Written for Sportaloosa International
by Petra Davidson

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			Saguaro Quick Step	
		Deck O Lisa	Deck Bar	
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