

Face and Leg Markings



EQUICENTER
AT THE WILLIAM & MILDRED LEVINE RANCH

How Do We Identify a Horse?

If we sent you to a pasture to grab a horse you didn't know, what would you ask to help identify the horse?



Breed, Color, Gender and Markings

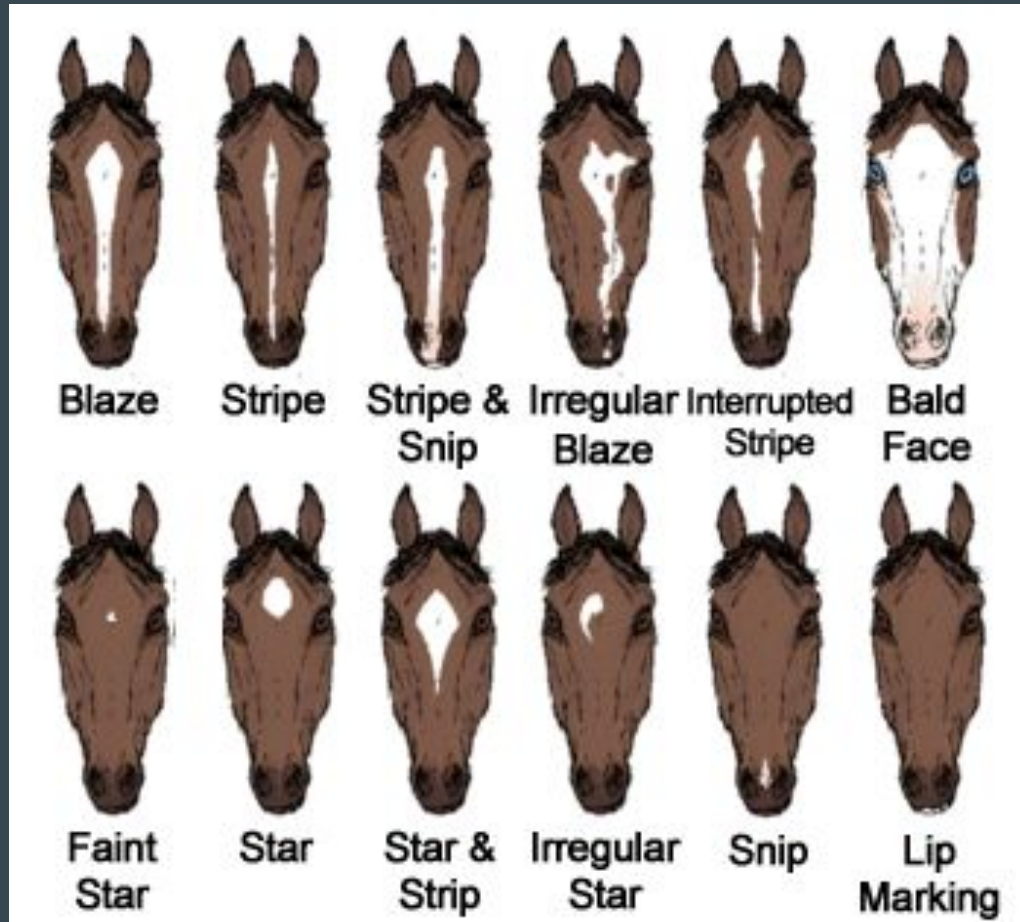
- First we may tell you the breed, which often has identifiable characteristics...
- Next, we may add the gender...
- Then we may tell you the color of the horse...
- *And* any identifiable markings.

What are Markings on a Horse?

Horses are often identified by white markings on their face or legs.



Let's take a look at some markings on a face...



Snip



A white marking on the muzzle, between the nostrils which can be any shape.



Star

A white marking between or above the eyes.

If a stripe or a blaze is present, a star must be significantly wider than the vertical marking to be designated separately.

Bald Face

Very wide blaze, extending to or past the eyes. Some but not all, bald faced horses also have blue eyes



Stripe

A narrow white stripe down the middle of the face.



Stripe and Snip

A narrow white stripe down the middle of the face with a snip.



Blaze

A wide white stripe down the middle of the face.

COMMON HORSE MARKINGS

FACIAL MARKINGS



snip



star



stripe



blaze



bald face

LEG MARKINGS



coronet



pastern



sock



stocking

We learned about face markings...

Now, lets learn about leg markings!

Leg Markings

- Leg markings are usually described by the highest point of the horse's leg that is covered by white.
- As a general rule, the horse's hoof beneath a white marking at the coronary line will also be light-colored ("white").
- If a horse has a partial marking or ermine spots at the coronary band, the hoof may be both dark and light, corresponding with the hair coat immediately above.
- Where the leopard gene is present, the hoof may be striped even if markings are not visible at the coronary band.



Coronet



Half Pastern



Pastern



Sock



Stocking

Heel or Partial Pastern



An irregular marking that only extends up part of the leg to the height no higher than the fetlock.

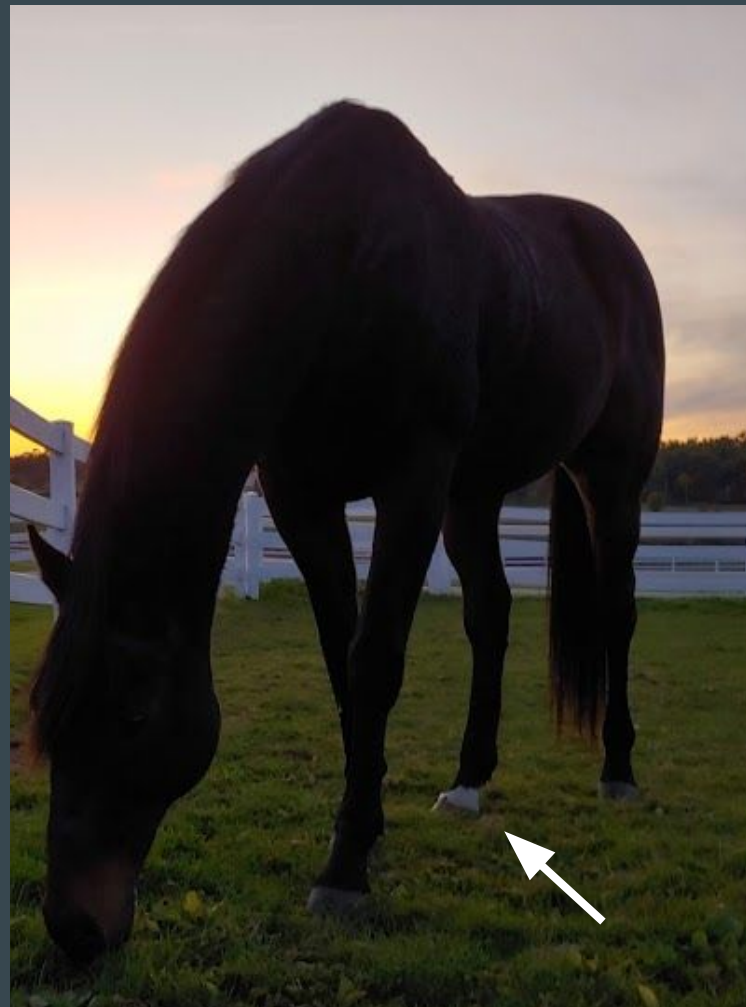
Coronet

White just above the hoof, around the coronary band, usually no more than 1 inch above the hoof.



Half Pastern

White marking that extends above the top of the hoof, but stops below the fetlock.



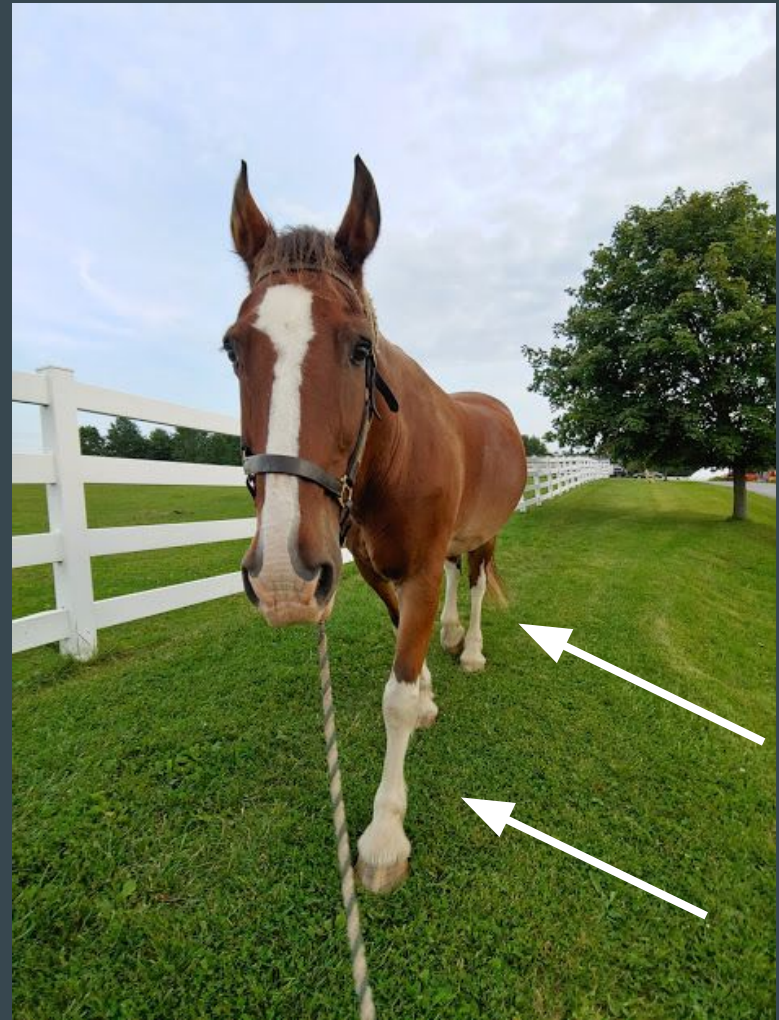
Sock

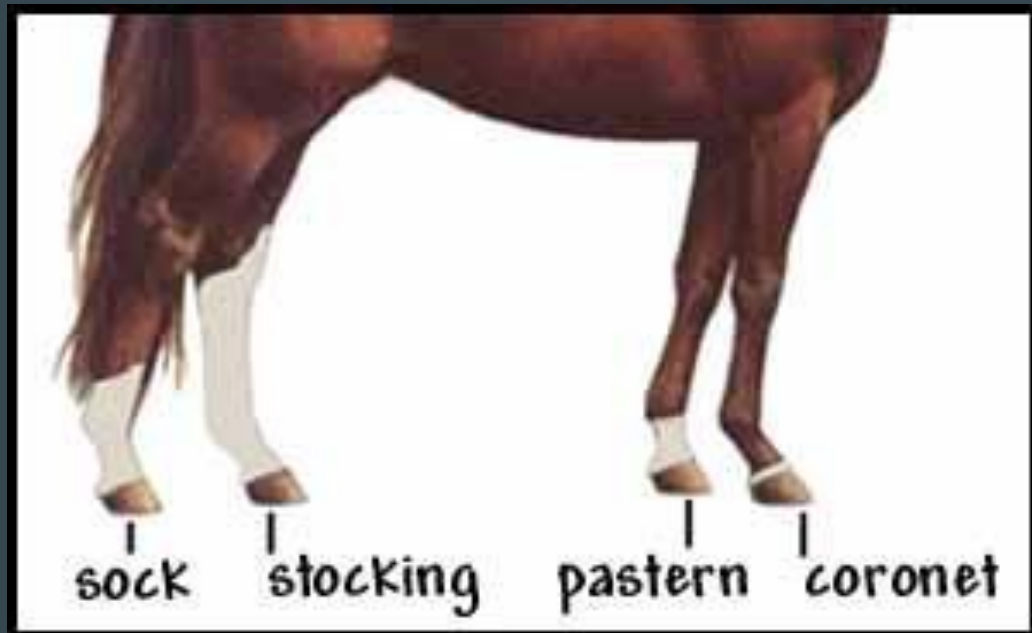
White marking that extends over the fetlock, occasionally called a “boot”.



Stocking

White marking that extends at least to the bottom of the knee or hock, sometimes higher.





sock

stocking

pastern

coronet