

Spotted Horses

Morocco Spotted Horse and the Appaloosa

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OF LATE much has been said about the great increase in light horse interest. More fairs have had classes for light horses than ever before, and much more material has been written about them. With this interest and publicity two breeds of spotted horses, the Morocco Spotted Horse and the Appaloosa, or Leopard Spotted horse, remain rather obscure. It is not that these horses are of recent development nor that they are not good horses. They have been going through a period of fixation of breed characters and now are coming to the forefront as animals which can uniformly transmit their desired characters.

In a way these spotted horses have a common ancestry for the Morocco Barb is mentioned in both histories. These horses resulted from crosses of the Arabian horses of the Moslems on the native horses of Morocco and the Barbary Islands. While not a breed, Morocco Barb is the name given to the earliest spotted horses. From here on, however, the breed histories vary considerably.

Origin

The Morocco Spotted Horse results from various crosses of Arabian Morocco Barb and the English Hackney. Many piebald and skewbald horses which were recorded in the English Hackney Stud Book were imported to this country and used as the foundation stock.

The Appaloosa or Leopard Spotted horse has two histories. Both begin with the Morocco Barb horses which were taken to the Andalucia plains of Spain by the Moors in their invasion of that country.

From here, these horses were shipped in great numbers to the new world. The Nez Perce tribe of Indians used these horses and from the improvement of these comes the Appaloosa of today.

Foundation Sire

The other history traces from two stallions presented to General Grant by the Sultan of Turkey. The mare progeny of these stallions were bred to a Barb stallion and this progeny in turn was bred to another Barb leopard stallion owned by Governor Shupe of Colorado. Breeding here resulted in a stallion named "Mar." He is the foundation sire of what is known today as the Colorado Ranger horse.

These horses have essentially the same ancestry, the difference being a matter of a few hundred years in the time of arrival in this country. While the horses look alike, two registries are maintained, one in Oregon and one in Colorado.

The Morocco Spotted Horse is of general utility type, and, therefore, must be suitable for either harness or saddle. The preferred weight is about 1,300 pounds, and the height 15.2 hands. Individuals vary on either side of these figures, ranging from light to heavy utility types.

The horses must be clean and neat with ample legs to be suitable for saddle or harness. The hoofs must be neat and trim and the fetlocks clean with a minimum of hair. The action must be active and suitable for a light wagon horse. It has been found that the light utility type is quite often easy to gait.

The color, which is an important part of this breed, must be white with a defi-

nite dark secondary color. This secondary color cannot be less than ten per cent of the body surface not counting the star in the face nor the white feet. The ideal type runs about half white and dark, and it has been found that individuals which are white to the knees and hock usually carry this marking percentage. The markings usually run up the breast around the lower part of the neck and head and under the belly with large spots in the flanks.



This picture shows ideal color and markings of a Morrocco Spotted Horse.

The colors usually break without a border streak.

When considering type in the Appaloosa or Leopard Spotted horses one thinks of a fine horse of about 1,000 pounds and standing fifteen hands. Along with correct bony conformation they are covered with heavy, flexible muscles which not only make them beautiful but also real performers. Carrying a man they can walk a mile in less than 10 minutes.

Color again is an important trait in this breed. All of these horses have in common a white rump interspersed with dark spots. These spots may cover the horse and may vary in color and shade. The horses may be of any color from white on

down through the varying shades of brown. The only thing that the horse must have as far as color is concerned is a spotted white rump.

We will be seeing these spotted horses more often and it is hoped that this information will be of some value in enabling us to talk more intelligently about them.

Trichinae

As an indication of the prevalence of trichinae it may be noted that microscopists of the United States Department of Agriculture found living trichinae in 115,812 hogs out of 8,257,928 examined during the period 1898-1906, or 1.41 per cent, from which it would appear that at least from 1 to 2 per cent of the hogs in this country are trichinous. The disease in man is more prevalent than the figures of the clinicians indicate. Trichina larvae die in less than 20 days at a temperature not higher than 5 degrees F. It is recommended that meat should be refrigerated at a temperature not higher than 5 degrees F. for not less than twenty days, a period which allows a probable margin of safety of 10 days. Raw pork, in commercial quantities, may be rendered safe as far as trichinae is concerned by either rapidly lowering its temperature to minus 35 degrees C., or by rapidly lowering its temperature to minus 18 degrees C. and holding it for at least 24 hours at that temperature. The Bureau of Animal Industry recognizes 130 degrees F. (58.33 degrees C.) as the minimum temperature to which pork and products containing pork are required to be heated when cooked in establishments operating under federal meat inspection.

In 4,753 cow breeding years at the U. S. Range Livestock Experiment Station from 1925 to 1942, there were 85.6 per cent pregnancies and 81 per cent of a calf crop at weaning. The high calf crop was 90.5 and the low 64.4 with some relation to the drought years. Four years of age showed the lowest fertility and nine years showed the highest fertility.