



November 2021 Issue 15

# CHEFF CENTER VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

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## VOLUNTEER PROFILE: DAVE MCLEAN



The Three Amigos – Gunny, Dave and Awesome!

If you are ever at Cheff on a Thursday, you have probably seen Dave McLean. A volunteer since 2014, Dave has given over 1300 hours of his time to the Cheff Center volunteering!

Dave has admired horses for as long as he can remember. Throughout his middle and high school years he spent summers in Minnesota where two close friends had horses. It was through those special experiences Dave realized that he wanted to have horses as part of his life. It wasn't until he was 50 years old that he was able to purchase two horses. One of the horses was very anxious and afraid. Dave learned how patience and trust

building over time could help the horse deal with some of his fears.

In his working years, Dave worked in the appliance repair business and for several years was a commercial/residential painter. He retired in 2007. In 2014 he became a volunteer here at the Cheff Center. He began by volunteering in the Tuesday and Friday classes. Over time Dave had opportunities to work with the horses individually. He's always felt the Cheff Center is a wonderful place where people can spend time with horses while helping clients achieve their goals. He has also enjoyed working with the talented staff and likes listening to the instructors during classes. He loves the comradery of the other volunteers and has lots of fun during his time here.

Dave and his wife, Linda, have been married for 42 years. Linda retired in 2020 from Plainwell Community Schools where she worked as a Title I Reading Specialist. They have two sons, a daughter, son-in-law, and two grandsons. Two of their children live close by in Southwest Michigan while one resides in Alaska. They enjoy spending as much time as possible with their children and two lively grandsons, ages four and six.

One place Dave and Linda look forward to going each year is Mackinac Island. They feel the

Percheron horses, the slower pace of things, and the beautiful flowers make it one of the most relaxing places to be. Dave and Linda also enjoy hiking the many Island trails.

Dave's favorite horses are Gunny and Awesome. He feels that of all the horses, they have taught him the most about leadership, respect, trust, and friendship. He says they are a constant reminder

about what an important role confidence plays in leadership.

Thank you, Dave, for your dedication to the Cheff Center! You are a wonderful volunteer and role model, and we hope you will be with us for many years to come!



## **Cheff and Veterans Day**



### **Nov 11th!**

Over the years, many veterans have been affiliated with the Cheff Center as clients and as volunteers. Many of us also have veterans among our family members. We honor and thank these individuals and all veterans for their service to our country.

Cheff provides veterans programs periodically through our *Equine Services for Heroes*. In recent years, Cheff partnered with the VA Medical Center in Battle Creek on classes combining equine-assisted speech therapy with therapeutic riding for veterans dealing with Parkinson's disease and stroke. We've also held sessions for veterans with PTSD. Here participants did both riding and groundwork with a Cheff Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor and a therapist from the VA.

In addition to learning and therapy benefits, these programs create a chance for veterans to connect with each other through the shared experience of working with horses. In many cases, clients are teamed up with Cheff volunteers who are veterans themselves, which makes for a special comradery.

We look forward to future collaboration with the VA and with veterans in our region. Like our other Cheff programs, these efforts revolve around the power of the horse to change lives.

Additional info:

- For more about Cheff's collaboration with the VA, see [Equine Therapy Successful in Helping Veterans with Chronic Aphasia Communicate Better](#) and [A Winning Therapy Approach for Veterans with Parkinson's Disease](#) (article is on p. 5).
- Our [March 2021 volunteer newsletter](#) includes an article on PTSD and how equine-assisted services can help (article is on p. 7).

# HORSE OF THE MONTH: GARTH



Big and Beautiful Garth

Big, handsome Garth is a 22-year-old bay Draft Cross Gelding. That Draft blood contributes to his size, 16 hands high and 1250 lbs., and to his best feature - his large, muscular neck.

Garth arrived at Cheff in February 2018, on lease to us from his owner. Garth was born on their farm, and in his previous life was used for trail riding and light jumping.

Garth is one of the volunteer favorites, even though most of the volunteers know that Garth is VERY slow and can be a tad pushy at times, but when he's not being one of those two things he very much likes to stand and be groomed and loved on.

Garth is definitely not picky when it comes to treats, he loves them all!

Recently, it was discovered that Garth is afraid of goats – when the neighbor goat came over for a

visit one day, big ol' Garth was not too sure what that thing was!

Garth suffers from bad arthritis in his left knee so is on daily medication to help deal with the pain and inflammation and could really use some help with funds for his medication. Garth also has [EOTRH](#) (Equine Odontoclastic Tooth Resorption and Hypercementosis) and requires extra dental care. He is wishing for [donations](#) towards this extra cost as well as a [Back on Track all-purpose pad](#) to help keep him moving comfortably.



Sassy Garth





# EDUCATION CORNER: HORSE COAT MARKINGS

## Horse Coat Markings

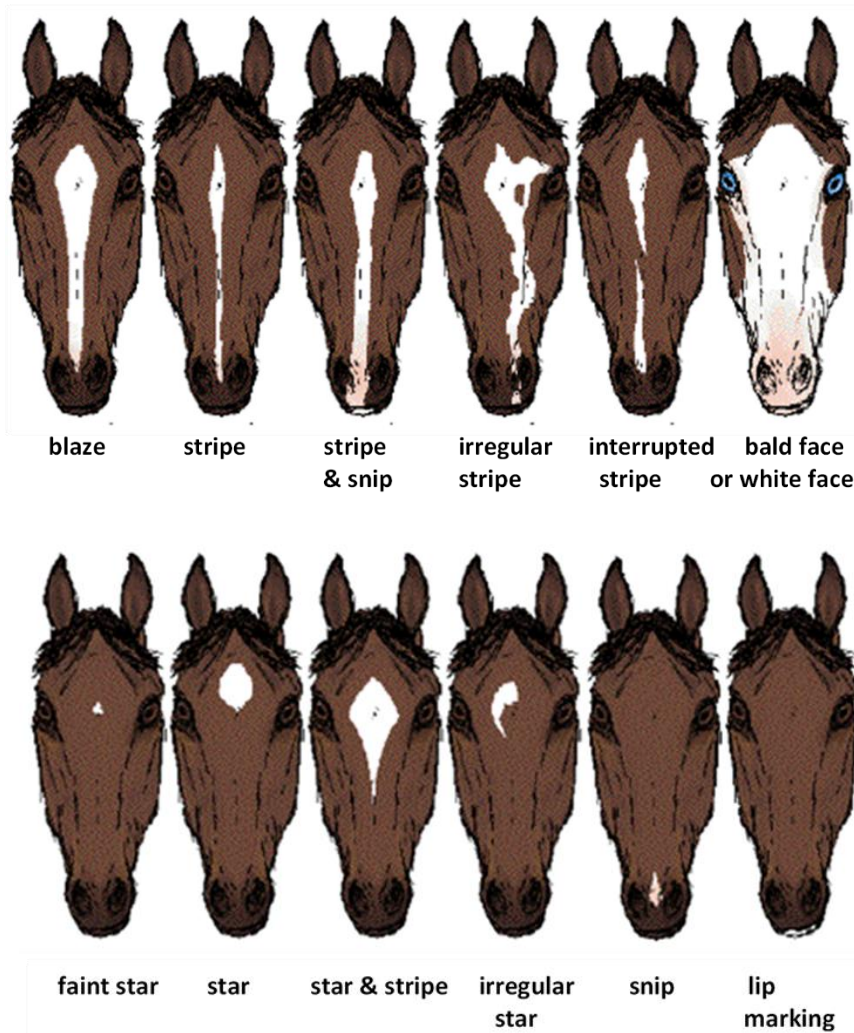
In this article, we complete our series on horse colors by examining the white and other markings found on many horses. Markings are an additional coat characteristic that adds to a horse's unique appearance and identifiability.

This article builds on the September newsletter's look at coat colors and last month's article on patterns. [Past newsletters](#) are available on Cheff's website.

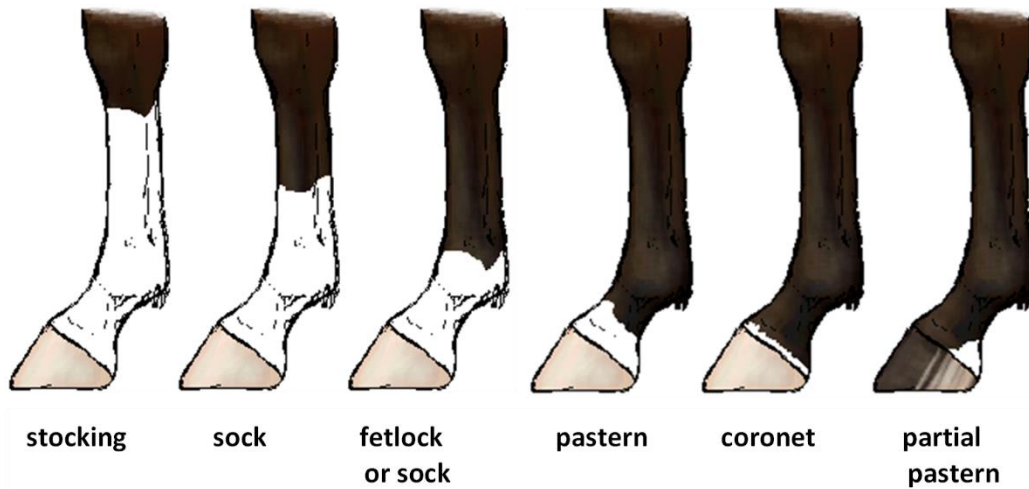


## White Markings

The term **markings** most often refers to **white hair patterns** located on a horse's face and legs. These marks are present from birth and, in general, remain constant through a horse's life, though their look may vary over the course of each year with seasonal coat growth and shedding. Below are several common types of **face markings**:

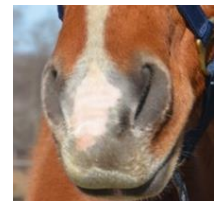


Next are common types of **leg markings**. Note that leg markings are sometimes referred to by the part of the leg that the white color reaches:



Here are a few other notable facts about white markings:

- Leg markings that go above the knee or hock are called “high white” stockings or markings.
- The skin under white markings is often pink, indicating the absence of pigment, just as the white hair that makes up the marking itself is unpigmented hair. The white hair may extend into the surrounding darker skin area, which gives the marking a grayish outline or “halo” (see photo at right – that’s Sky’s nose).
- On gray horses, white markings will become less noticeable as the horse ages. This is because gray coats have increasing amounts of white hair over time, so white markings begin to blend in. The markings are usually findable, though, because of their underlying pink skin which contrasts with the typically darker skin of the rest of the horse.
- There is a connection between some color patterns and particular types of markings. For example, the Overo pattern tends to be accompanied by extensive white face markings (see Gunny below on left). The Tobiano pattern tends to have white leg markings and few to moderate face markings (see Monte on right).



- White leg markings adjacent to the hoof area usually give a light-colored hoof.

## Other Types of Markings

**Primitive Markings** are found on horses with dun-colored coats, as well as in some other equine species. The dun dilution gene changes the three base coat colors to “dun” tones and also enables some interesting markings that are quite distinct from the white markings discussed above.

Primitive markings can take many forms. Some examples are:

- Dorsal stripe – a visible stripe running along the horse’s spine from withers to dock of the tail.
- Leg bars/zebra stripes – dark lines or bars on the horse’s legs.
- Dark ear rims – a dark outline running along the edges of the ears.



Cheff Mini horse Star is dun colored. You can see her faint dorsal stripe (left) and dark ear rim (right).



**Hair Whorls** – or cowlicks -- are just what you’d think: places in a horse’s coat where the hair growth changes directions. Since these spots are permanent and vary between horses, they can be useful for identification. A common place for hair whorls is on the forehead.

**Birdcatcher Spots** are small spots of white hair that appear, and sometimes disappear, at various times in a horse’s life. See more in the [August 2021 newsletter](#) (article is on p. 4).

**Acquired Markings** appear due to an outside cause, rather than naturally. This category includes things like brands, tattoos, and areas where hair has turned white due to tack rubbing over time or where injury or surgery have left scars.

## Using Markings for Identification

Markings are useful aids in identifying horses. Since face and leg markings are so varied, they can help you know who’s who in a group of same-color horses at a glance.

Markings, along with coat color and patterns, are also used for more formal identification. For example, competitions may require marking and color documentation to ensure that the horse that performs has not been substituted for another.

Breed registries document color and markings. Some breeds have color and/or marking preferences. The Rocky Mountain Horse Association, for example, states, “There shall be no white above the knee or hock except on the face where modest amounts of white markings are acceptable.”



This newsletter series on colors, patterns and markings has been aimed at those of us volunteers who may not have a background in the world of horse color. We hope it has given you some additional insight into our Cheff equines and, perhaps, some info to share with clients who are often curious about their horse.

### Sources / More Info

*Horse Colors Explored* by Vera Kurskaya, 2017 (book – Trafalgar Square Books)

*Horses* by Elwyn Hartley Edwards, 2002 (book -- Smithsonian Handbooks)

[APHA's Guide to Coat Color Genetics](#) (American Paint Horse Assn)

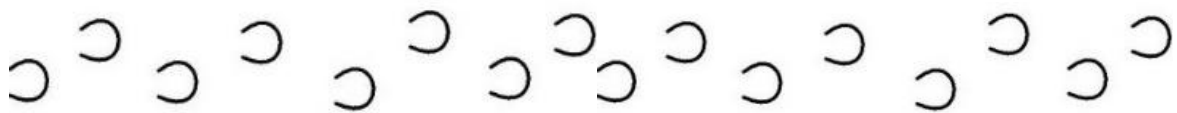
[Equine Identification](#) (US Dept. of Agriculture)

[Horse Markings](#) (Wikipedia)

[Face Markings diagram](#) and [Leg Markings diagram](#) (Wikimedia)

[Primitive Markings](#) (Wikipedia)

[Rocky Mountain Horse Assn](#)



“No matter how big or small you are, your horse is always there for you when you need your spirit lifted.” – unknown

Remember, there are no sessions during the week of Thanksgiving (November 21-27)! 🦃🦃🦃🦃🦃🦃🦃🦃

## November Fun Fact - Horse Teeth

- For centuries, people have aged horses by their teeth, however, this isn't an entirely reliable method of determining a horse's age.
- Horses have unique dental structures called dental arcades (4 rows of cheek teeth and four rows of incisors).
- A horse's teeth continue to grow throughout its life and wear out at approximately the same rate as their growth rate. The wearing may not be uniform and could lead to sharp or uneven edges, which can be painful for your horse while chewing. A vet examines the horse's teeth and uses a procedure called 'floating' (filing down the sharp teeth that may be bothering the horse), to make the teeth smoother. In old age, the teeth eventually stop growing.
- Male horses usually have more teeth (40 to 44 permanent teeth) than mares (36 to 40 teeth).
- Horse's teeth take up more space in their head than their brains!
- Wolf teeth are small vestigial premolar teeth found in about 70 percent of horses; they are comparable to wisdom teeth in humans.





# NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Joanne C

Lauren G

Ann L

Claire P

Rachael T

Dale W

Jackie D

Laura H

Florina M

Lauren R

LeslieAnne W

Corbin F

Michaela K


Jessica McN

Deanri R

Jayden W



## Did you know that Cheff gets a large discount on horse-related products?

If you want to  your dollar, please make a [DONATION](#) and we can use it where most needed!

## Amazon Smile

Please remember that when you order online from **Amazon.com**, the Cheff Center can receive benefits when you do. Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and register—we are one of the 1000s of charities that you can choose from, and we will get 0.5% of your qualified purchases! To find out more, visit: <https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about>

And if you really want to help, ask your friends and family to do the same. We thank you in advance, as every penny counts for us, especially at this time.

## Harding's

For those of you who shop at Harding's, if you join their Community Rewards program and select the Cheff Center as your organization of choice, we will receive a rebate based on your purchase amounts. Please let your friends and family know—every little bit helps!!!

For more information, click on the link below.

<https://www.hardings.com/savings-and-rewards/community-rewards/>

## Have any horse-related equipment hanging around?

Cheff relies HEAVILY on donations - if you have any gently used horse equipment- saddles, pads, blankets, sheets, (even half bottles of fly spray), we'd love to take them off your hands!

## Do you have any Questions/Comments/Suggestions?

If so, you can contact Sara Putney-Smith, Volunteer Administrator, at [sara@cheffcenter.org](mailto:sara@cheffcenter.org)  
Contributions by: Emily Kalin, Ann Lindsay, Ashton Maguire, Morgan Meulman, Sara Putney-Smith, Marianne Stier

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