



October 2021 Issue 14

CHEFF CENTER VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

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VOLUNTEER PROFILE: BETH LAKE



Harry and Beth

Beth grew up not too far from the Cheff Center, attending and graduating from Gull Lake schools. When she was young, she took riding lessons at Battle Creek Hunt Club. It was there, at age 14, that she learned about the Cheff Center and how she came to volunteer with us. She ended up buying her first horse, a Pinto gelding named T-Baby, who had been donated to Cheff but was not suited for our program. She began to volunteer in 1974 and volunteered for 3-4 years until she graduated from high school.

Beth went to college at Michigan State University and earned her bachelor's degree in Crop and Soil Science. She was employed for 32.5 years with the USDA, working in counties around Southern Michigan, and ended up coming back to this area as the Director of the Farm Service Agency in Calhoun County. It was 2017 when she then came back to volunteer with us, and we are thrilled that she did! She is also volunteering several mornings weekly at Pine Meadow Farms.

Beth has 2 mixed breed rescue dogs: an 8-year-old Yorkie-Poo named Buddy and a 3-year-old Sheltie/Border Collie named Gin Gin. She just recently bought the horse she was leasing at Pine Meadow Farms—a 22-year-old Quarter Horse gelding named Cash. She rides 3-4 times a week and has a horseback riding trip planned in Wales (United Kingdom) where she will be in the saddle for 4-6 hours a day for 6 days! She is working on her saddle stamina and hopes to take that trip in 2022 with some friends.

Her favorite thing about volunteering with us? She loves to see how happy the clients are during and after their rides. She also enjoys listening to the instructors while she is leading a horse in class and applying what she hears to her own riding skills. She's especially fond of Harry as she works with him a lot—she loves his personality, and “oh, those beautiful eyes!”.

Beth's hobbies include hiking, knitting, horses (obviously) and travel. She has been to 10 different countries around the world and hopes to continue traveling. She has visited India, Israel, Egypt, Germany, Austria, Australia, New Guinea, Mexico, Switzerland and France, and soon to be Wales!

We are so happy to have Beth as one of our treasured volunteers. If you have not met her, please introduce yourself next time you see her. She's very friendly, very helpful and is a great asset to our team. THANK YOU, BETH!!!!



FALL LEAVES AND
COOL BREEZES!!!



Beth leading a client



Welcome to Autumn!



HORSE OF THE MONTH: STAR



Star, Queen of the Paddock

Star, the smallest horse at Cheff, arrived in January of 2015, donated by Tara East, our Executive Director.

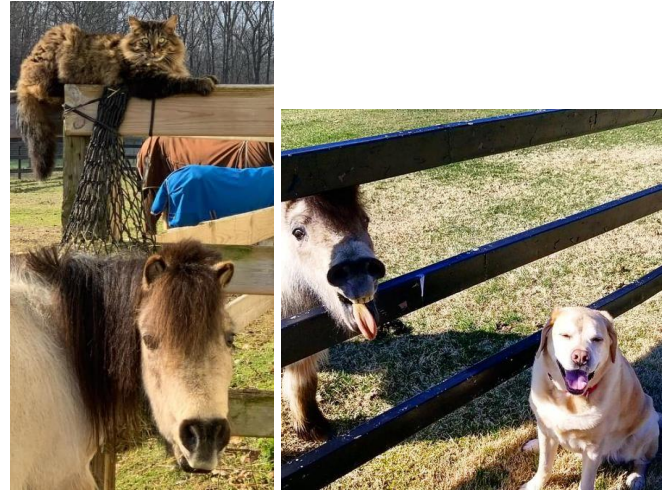
Standing only 8 hands high and weighing 400 pounds, Star is a gigantic horse personality packed into a 27-year-old miniature horse body. At her old farm, Star was the mascot and used in summer camps. She now serves as our center ambassador - and pre-pandemic, frequently traveled off the property to represent Cheff.

Star likes to be dressed up and will take special visits to nursing homes and other activities - her favorite was going to the K-Wings Game on St. Patrick's Day!



Star is wishing for a size Medium [embroidered halter](#) (with her name) and some [horse 'tennis shoes'](#)* to help her navigate slippery surfaces such as tile. She could also use SandClear supplement to keep her in good health.

Star may be small, but she can be very opinionated at times and likes to be the boss - just ask any of the creatures that share the paddock with her!



Star also loves her food, especially any treat she can get, and she likes to jump in hand. One thing Star is definitely not a fan of though, is being dewormed – she says “Nay”!

Both kids and adults gravitate to Star, and she loves the attention. She becomes especially irresistible in the winter, when her coat comes in and accentuates her cuddliness. Oh, Star! You really are aptly named!



Cheff gets a large discount on these products. If you'd like to help Star purchase some new shoes, please make a [DONATION](#) and we'll stretch your dollar!

Celebrating Star!



Senorita Star celebrating Cinco de Mayo!



Star giving love to a friend



Star joining in on birthday celebrations



Slappy, the K-Wings mascot, and Star

October Fun Fact

Generally speaking, the difference between a horse and a pony comes down to height: a horse is usually at least 14.2 hands (4' 10"), while ponies are shorter than that. Besides the height distinction, ponies tend to have a set of physical characteristics that horses don't and are generally very strong for their size. There are a number of exceptions though, both because of height variations within breeds and because of traditions about the names of certain breeds.

There are also some breeds of horses that are almost always less than 14.2 hands when they're fully grown. For example, Icelandic horses rarely get bigger than 14 hands. Despite this, they're still considered to be horses because of their physical features and because of the tradition of describing them by this name. Likewise, the American Miniature Horse is almost never larger than 8 hands but is still considered to be a true horse.



EDUCATION CORNER: HORSE COLOR PATTERNS

In [last month's newsletter](#), we started a short series on horse colors. That article looked at the **three base coat colors**: bay, chestnut and black, and how genetics can modify these base colors to create the wide range of colors found in horses worldwide, such as palomino, dun and grullo. We also looked at the basics of the coat colors gray and white.



Two other coat characteristics that are important parts of a horse's coloring and visual uniqueness are **patterns** and **markings**.

Patterns and markings are typically **white areas** in a horse's coat that, under the direction of genetics, are superimposed on the base coat color. Patterns may involve any part of a horse's coat but are primarily located on the main body area. Markings, on the other hand, are limited to the face and lower legs.

Example pattern →



← Example markings

Note that some horses have a solid coat with no patterns or markings at all. A uniform, single-color coat is, in itself, a distinguishing color characteristic.

In this article, we'll explore **color patterns**, then will look at markings in a future newsletter.

Patterns can range from a small patch of white hair to one or more large white areas that encompass most of the coat. To a casual observer, horses with extensive white pattern areas might be thought to have a white coat with colored patches or spots. But keep in mind that the colored area – chestnut, black or whatever color – is genetically the horse's base coat color, no matter how little of it shows. The pattern is an additional genetic expression that modifies parts of that coat color to be white.

The name of a horse's color when a pattern is involved will often include both the base color and the type of pattern, such as:

- Bay Roan -- bay is the base color / roan is a white pattern that modifies portions of the bay color
- Chestnut Overo – chestnut is the base color / overo is a white pattern that modifies portions of the chestnut color

As noted in the September article on horse colors, an interesting detail to remember when talking about white in a horse's coat is that white is not actually a pigment color, but rather is the absence of pigment.

With that background, let's examine some prominent horse color patterns.

White Patch Pattern, also called Pinto Pattern

This pattern group is frequently associated with the American Paint Horse breed but can be found in others breeds as well. There are several variations, as shown below:



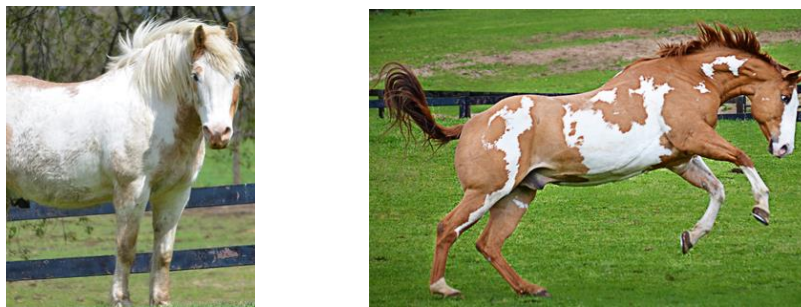
Tobiano: White pattern may appear more vertical than horizontal; white will typically cross over the top line to the other side of the horse at some point. Head is primarily the base color, with or without white face markings.

Cheff example: Monte, a **Black Tobiano** (left) / Gunny with Monte (right): compare patterns!



Overo: White pattern has a more horizontal orientation than vertical; white will typically NOT cross over the top line. The pattern is called “Frame Overo” when white patches on the sides of the horse appear to be “framed” by the base coat color. Head typically has extensive white markings.

Cheff examples: Gunny (left) / former Cheff horse Moe (right), both **Chestnut Overos**.



Sabino: Often high white stockings, slight spotting on belly; white marking on face may extend past eyes.

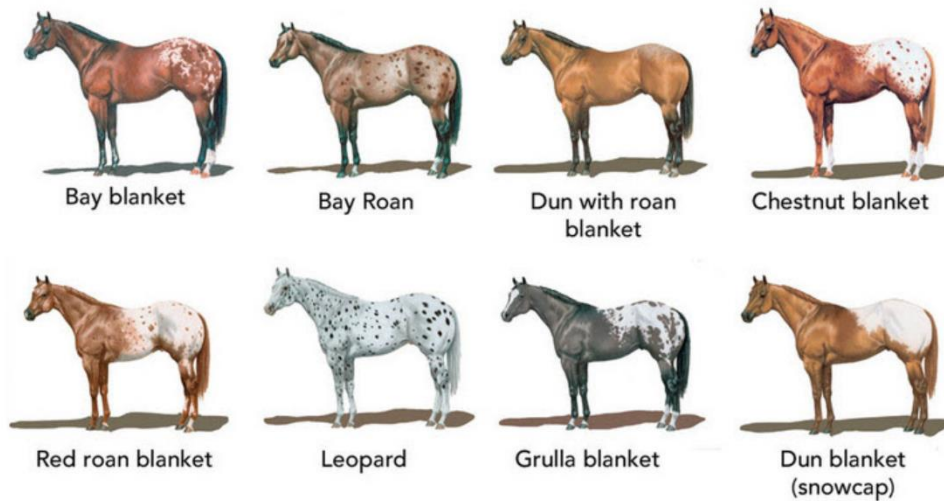
Splashed White: Horizontal-oriented patches that are limited to the legs and belly; horse appears to have been dipped in or splashed with white.

Tovero: A mix of Tobiano and Overo characteristics; usually a large amount of white; horse may have one or both blue eyes.

Rabicano: Similar to roaning (more on roaning below) with white hairs spread through coat (as opposed to discreet patches), but unlike true roan, the white is limited to flank and belly area.

Leopard Complex, also called Appaloosa Pattern

This pattern is associated with the Appaloosa breed but can be found in other breeds as well. It typically involves spots, as opposed to the larger patches of the Pinto pattern. The Leopard Complex includes several variations – some are shown below:



Illustrations courtesy Appaloosa Horse Club



Another trait of horses with Leopard Complex patterns is having striped hooves.

We don't have anyone sporting the Leopard Complex pattern in the Cheff herd right now. However, some volunteers may remember Stinker (right), the adorable Mini Horse and companion to Star, whose coloring was **Grey with Spotted Blanket**.



Roaning Pattern

Roaning is a bit simpler than the patterns listed above. It consists of white hairs that are evenly intermixed with the horse's base coat color. The white is found on the horse's body, but usually not on its head or lower legs.



Roans are differentiated from gray horses because a roan's white hair does not change much over time, whereas gray horses have more and more white hair as they age.

Cheff example: Tess, a **Bay Roan**.

For those of you not familiar with all the ins and outs of horse colors, we hope this and last month's article have given you enough basics to be able to identify some of the colors and patterns you see on horses you meet and to build on in the future. Watch for an upcoming newsletter article on markings, which will round out our look at horse colors.

Sources / More Info

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

[Appaloosa Horse Club](#)

[Beyond 50 Shades: The Genetics of Horse Colors](#) (chapter in the book: *Trends and Advances in Veterinary Genetics*, 2017)

[Breeding for Horse Colors](#) (Equisearch)

[Equine Coat Colors](#), [Equine Coat Color Genetics](#), [Pinto Horse](#) (Wikipedia)

[Leopard Complex Pattern / Appaloosas](#) (Appaloosa Museum)

[Pinto Patterns](#) (Pinto Assn of South Australia)

[Roan Patterns](#) (horseandus.com)

[Striped hoof photo](#) / [Ex. pattern photo](#) / [Ex. markings photo](#) (Wikimedia – all cropped)

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Ellen B

Dawn B

Cassie B

Danielle B

Ashleigh D

Maddie H

Vickie K

Ellie L

Linda M

Isabel N

Sydney P

Nina P

Erin R

Kallie R

Patricia S

Grace W



Happy Birthday

UPCOMING CHEFF EVENTS!

The Cheff Center Ride-a-Thon is coming Saturday, October 2!

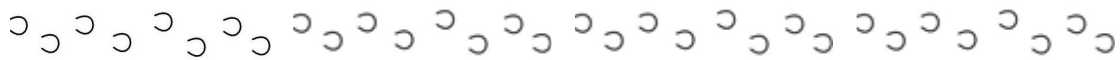
Bring your own horse to ride miles of cleared and marked trails!

There will be door prizes, prizes for top pledge earners, a silent auction, and lunch for all participants.

Registration opens 8 am, rain or shine! Riders must start their ride by Noon.

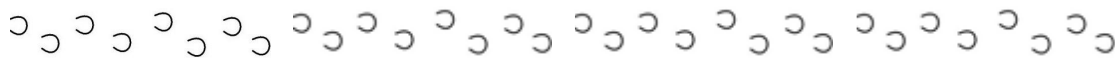
Find more information at: [Cheff Center Ride-a-Thon](#)

Registration Form Link: [Ride-a-Thon Pledge Form](#)



Volunteers needed October 9 for the Mac and Cheese Fest at the Growlers ball field! For every volunteer we send, Cheff gets \$25! Bring your friends and have them sign up on our behalf as well-they don't have to be an official Cheff volunteer, just volunteering their time on our behalf! For more information, contact Sara Putney-Smith at sara@cheffcenter.org or call (269) 731-4471 x119. Click on the link to sign up: [Mac and Cheese Event - Growlers Ball Park](#)

Let Sara Putney-Smith know if you're attending so she can keep an eye out for you and coordinate activities!




UPCOMING VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS:

November 6, 2021, 10am-1pm

Spread the word! With the increase in clients as we ramp back up, volunteers are needed more now than ever. If you know someone that is interested, please encourage them to apply on the [Volunteer Portal](#).

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 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?

Or, if you would like to write an article, please contact Sara Putney-Smith, Volunteer Administrator, at sara@cheffcenter.org

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