



Photo E



Photo F



Photo G



Photo H

## HERE ARE SOME INTERNET RESOURCES ON COAT COLOR GENETICS:

### The Appaloosa Project—

<http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/theappaloosaproject/>

**HorseColor.com**—[www.horsecolor.com](http://www.horsecolor.com)

**Cremello and Perlino Educational Association**—[www.doubledilute.com](http://www.doubledilute.com)

**University of California/Davis Veterinary Genetics Laboratory**—  
[www.vgl.ucdavis.edu/~lvmillon/coatclr.html](http://www.vgl.ucdavis.edu/~lvmillon/coatclr.html)

on snowcaps (See photos A, E and G)

- White blanket, extending to at least the withers, but more white areas further forward than found on a snowcap (See photos A, D, E, F and G)

- Solid-colored leg markings, often covering one or more entire legs, but usually more pronounced on the front legs (All fewcap photos)

- Dark markings or graying along the side/bottom of the belly, sometimes extending from the flank/stifle to the elbow (See photos A and F)

- Usually a solid-colored mane and tail

- More solid markings scattered over more areas of the body than a few-spot, yet more white and fewer dark markings than snowcap

## ANOMALIES

We're stymied by one Appaloosa pattern in particular. Photo H shows the famous mare Bright Delight. She appears to fit the description of a fewcap. She produced 12 foals, all colored, and 11 were from Quarter Horse or Thoroughbred stallions. Heterozygous Appaloosas don't produce such a high percentage of colored foals from multiple cross-breedings.

We're hard-pressed to call her a snowcap, yet lacking a leopard in her pedigree, can't qualify her as a few-spot or fewcap.

We believe the Appaloosas in photos F and G are fewcaps, despite the fact that both were heavily advertised as few-spot leopards. The stallion in photo F was extremely well known. His rare yearling picture shows significant dark markings, which are more indicative of fewcaps, per-

haps even snowcaps. He grayed to such a degree that he was commonly regarded as a classic few-spot.

We're also aware of other stallions with patterns quite similar to Bright Delight, who like her, lack a known leopard in their pedigrees. These Appaloosas may well represent an as-yet unidentified homozygous pattern.

## LINGERING ISSUES

Accurate identification of the fewcap is sometimes difficult because of the age at which the horse is examined. Fewcaps are best identified during their weanling or yearling years when they haven't grayed to a significant degree.

Snowcaps can gray to the point of looking like few-spots or fewcaps. Horses described as "near-few-spots" may actually be fewcaps, depending of course on the presence or absence of spotting.

We continue to research other issues:

- Is the fewcap produced from more or fewer leopards in a pedigree?

- Does the fewcap have more blanketed than leopard ancestors?

- Do patterns on the sire or dam side of the pedigree make any difference?

- Will the fewcap produce more blanket than leopard patterns?

These issues aside, we've found the fewcap to be a distinctive and homozygous Appaloosa pattern, yet one requiring further research to understand more clearly. 🐾

*Editor's note: Watch for Part V in the June issue, which will cover other homozygous coat patterns.*