



Manchado

The type of spotted color called *manchado* was discovered quite recently and is very rare. It is observed in Argentina in such breeds as Thoroughbred, Arabian, Criollo, and Hackney. The majority of manchado horses have large white spots with sharply defined edges, and

scattered colored spots of different sizes. Such spots have a remote resemblance to the appaloosa pattern. However, unlike the appaloosa pattern, the spots of manchado are located in the top part of the neck, including the mane, and this is the *minimal* manifestation of this color pattern. The colored spots do not have a round or oval form, but are polygonal and asymmetric.

In a maximally expressed manchado, the white region extends on the neck and body, usually without involving the head and legs. White leg marks are not typical. They can be present on a particular horse, but in that case they are caused by other genetic factors, which are not connected with manchado.

The genetic basis of this spotting pattern has not been investigated yet. Because of the rarity of this color, it is very difficult to study the mechanism of its inheritance. However, as equine geneticist D.P. Sponenberg notes, it is very unusual that manchado has such a limited area of distribution. He also notes that on pictures from the beginning of the nineteenth century, Hackney horses do not have an appaloosa pattern, but rather manchado. This leads to the question as to whether this color appeared for the first time then, but subsequently, for some reason, remained hidden through many generations, and again began to appear only in the last few decades. Most likely manchado has a recessive inheritance. ***An excerpt from [HORSE COLOR EXPLORED](#) by Vera Kurskaya.***

