

# RABICANO



**Color: Black rabicano.** This horse has pronounced whitening in the tail and on the ribs.

**Expressed alleles:** E\* aa, Rabicano genes

**Breed:** Egyptian Arabian (The Night Mist, owned by Richard Teeters, Poets Manor Arabians, [www.poetsmanorarabians.com](http://www.poetsmanorarabians.com))

PHOTOGRAPHER: RICHARD TEETERS

**Rabicano** is an admixture of white hair at the base of the horse's tail, in the groin, on the barrel, and less often, on the belly. In some parts of the world, this pattern is sometimes called *white ticking*. Characteristics usually include horizontal stripes at the base of the tail, vertical white strips on the horse's sides (parallel with the ribs), and white spots on the stomach located closer to the hind legs than the front. Rabicanos are often called *skunk tails* or *coon tails*, as the striped tail can resemble the tail markings of these animals.

Strongly expressed rabicano is rare—the admixture of white hair extends onto the croup, hips, and the trunk, approximately two-thirds of its length. It is distinguished from roan color by the concentration of white hair at the base of the tail and/or in the groin. By careful examination it is possible to find small pink specks on the skin on some rabicano horses, especially on the genitals, which are not present in roan. These can be consistent with where white hair grows in small, unpigmented skin sites.

Rabicano is also sometimes thought to be sabino spotting. However, sabino spots involve the tail base only when there is a large amount of white hair on the horse's body, including the stomach, sides, and legs. Sabino is also always characterized by white marks on the muzzle and legs, which is not found in rabicano.

Most often rabicano is present in combination with red color; on this base, it is expressed very strongly.

Rabicano is not visible in foals; it becomes noticeable with age, typically after five to six years, or even later (although there are also exceptions). The extent of white hair does not change with age, and as the manifestations are often insignificant, this pattern is usually not noted in breeding documents describing the animal.

In general this pattern is uncommon. It has been observed in Arabians, Thoroughbreds, Akhal-Tekes, and Warmbloods.

## Inheritance of Rabicano

Perhaps the reader may ask why we discuss rabicano in this section of "other color phenomena," and not with other spotted colors and patterns. But spotted colors are patterns of white spots, which are not characteristic of rabicano.

This pattern has not been the subject of scientific studies yet. Some hold the opinion that, at least in some bloodlines, the color is controlled by a dominant allele "Ra" (the

recessive allele is designated "ra"). There is also a hypothesis that the gene responsible for rabicano is linked to the gene responsible for sabino.



**Color:** A rare combination of roan with rabicano. This mare's foals apparently weakly manifest roan color.

**Expressed alleles:** ee\*\* Rn\*

**Breed:** Russian Don-Soviet Draft cross

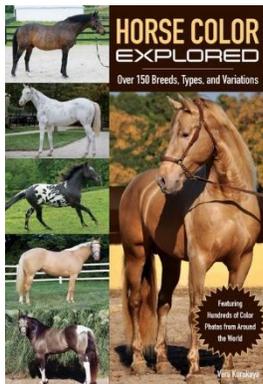
PHOTOGRAPHER: NADYEZHDA SEREBRYAKOVA



**Detail:** Rabicano markings on the side of a dark chestnut horse.

**Breed:** Arabian

PHOTOGRAPHER: VERA KURSKAYA



This is an extract for the book ***Horse Color Explored: Over 150 Breeds, Types, and Variations*** by Vera Kurskaya, published by Trafalgar Square Books. Available in print and eBook from this link:

<https://www.horseandriderbooks.com/store/horse-color-explored.html>.