

WESTERN RIDING: COMMON HORSE BREEDS

There are many different types of disciplines in western riding, and any breed of horse can be ridden western. However, some breeds have characteristics that make them excel in certain sports.

MUSTANG

Mustangs are horses that descended from Spanish explorers that live wild in North America. There are so many living free, that sometimes they have to be rounded up or there will not be enough grass for them all to eat. They are known to have strong bodies that can survive extreme temperatures, big and healthy hooves, and endurance to cover many miles in search of food and water. Mustangs make wonderful trail and pack horses because they are so tough!



PAINT HORSE

Paint horses are closely related to quarter horses and have similar qualities. What sets the paint horse apart are their beautiful spotted horse patterns. Paint horses are good ranch horses and have pinto (large spot) coloring. They are known for having a calm, easy going personality. Charlie Brown from JHTR is a paint horse.



QUARTER HORSE

Quarter horses are one of America's oldest breeds. They originated in the 1600s as a cross between the mustang and imported thoroughbreds from English colonists. They have very strong hindquarters that make them very fast sprinters. They got the name "quarter horse"

because they are the fastest

horses in a "quarter mile". Some of them have clocked at speeds of 55 MPH!

Many quarter horses have what is known as "cow sense," meaning they really enjoy herding cattle. This with their short bursts of speed make them ideal ranch and rodeo horses. Buckwheat from JHTR is a quarter horse



APPALOOSA

Did you know the Appaloosa is the state horse of Idaho? They were bred by the Nez Perce Native Americans in the 1700s by carefully selecting and cross breeding spotted wild horses.

Their agility and bravery made them good bison hunting horses! Appaloosa's are most known for their colorful dalmatian spots.

They are very popular in western books and movies.

