

Buckskin Identification Cheat Sheet

Welcome to the ultimate guide for identifying and understanding buckskin horses! This cheat sheet summarizes key genetics, color variations, and care tips based on my experience as a lifelong horse owner and trusted research.

1. What Defines a Buckskin?

- Golden or tan body with black mane, tail, and lower legs.
- Caused by the cream gene (Cr) acting on a bay base coat.
- Not a breed, but a color found in many breeds (e.g., Quarter Horse, Mustang).

2. Genetics at a Glance

- Cream Gene (N/Cr): Dilutes red pigment to create the golden coat, sparing black points.
- Inheritance:
 - N/N: Bay (no cream gene)
 - N/Cr: Buckskin (single cream gene)
 - Cr/Cr: Perlino (double dilute, pale cream, often blue eyes)
- Breeding Two Buckskins: 25% Bay, 50% Buckskin, 25% Perlino.
- Test Accuracy: 98% via UC Davis or Animal Genetics.

3. Color Variations

- Classic Buckskin: Bright gold, black points.
- Sooty Buckskin: Darker shading on shoulders.
- Buttermilk: Pale creamy yellow.
- Burnt Buckskin: Rich bronze, deep gold.
- Smoky Black: Faded black with subtle cream tint.

4. Care Tips

- Prevent sun bleaching with shade and UV-protectant sprays.
- Groom with a soft brush for shine.
- Use fly sheets and nighttime turnout to reduce fading.
- Note: Seasonal changes may lighten or darken the coat.

5. Quick Identification

- Vs. Dun: Lacks dorsal stripe, leg barring, and shoulder shadow.
- Vs. Palomino: Has black points (palominos have lighter points).
- Confirm with genetic testing if unsure.

For more details, visit <https://horseracingsense.com/buckskin-horse-colors-genetics-care-guide/>