

Appaloosa

HORSES

ARE SPOT ON



The Appaloosa Horse is known for its striking spotted coat. Beneath the “pretty polka dots” the Appy has a heart of gold and a warm and wonderful personality.

The Appaloosa Horse was the horse of choice for aristocrats and nobles in Europe in the 1600s and 1700s. Chinese Emperors described them as “Heavenly Horses”.

Sound It Out

Appaloosa is pronounced “ap-uh-loose-uh.”

Polka Dot Craze

Trends come and go. Remember Furby, Hatchimals and Pokemon? Toys that you “had to have.” When polka dots were in fashion in the horse world, Appaloosa horses were a must-have too. But by the 1800s, spots fell out of fashion and hundreds of Appaloosas were shipped to the New World.

Spotty History

Many believe that the spotted horses were brought to North America by the Spanish – first to Mexico in the 1500s. But the Nez Perce, a Native American Indigenous tribe, have passed along a story that says that their first Appaloosa horses came from a Russian ship off the Oregon coast. Three spotted stallions swam from the ship to the tribe waiting on shore.

The Nez Perce tribe inhabited the Palouse River country of central Idaho and eastern Washington. They called the horses “the Palouse” which turned into “Appaloosa” over time.

