FEI Fédération Equestre Internationale



Identification of Horses with the narrative and the diagram

4th edition 2000

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Introduction

- 1. This pamphlet is designed to simplify the identification of competition horses and to attempt to standardise the many technical details required for the narrative and the diagram in the horse's passport.
- 2. The description of the horse must be written in the official passport issued by the National Federation for the Fédération Equestre Internationale, or in a national passport approved by the FEI.
- 3. It is mandatory that the description is completed in accordance with the instructions contained in this pamphlet by a veterinarian recognised by the National Federation.
- 4. Owners or riders of horses to be issued with a passport are under no circumstances allowed to complete, deface or alter the diagram or narrative in any way.
- 5. The objective is an accurate identification of the horse in order to prevent substitution. It is therefore necessary to describe the special features of each individual horse, but not to give excessive detail for horses that are easily recognisable.
- 6. The horse must be presented in a bridle and examined on a hard surface in daylight. Cleanliness, especially of the extremities below the knees and hocks, is essential.
- 7. Special attention must be paid to the frequent error of confusing left and right sides when standing in front of the horse; the description refers to the "right side" and "left side" of the horse.
- 8. Be prepared with the following material:
- clipboard
- supply of standard forms
- pencil, eraser and sharpener
- red and black ballpoint pen (blue ballpoint and red crayons will not photocopy well)

- 9. The description of a horse comprises two parts viz:
- The Narrative which describes the horse and includes a written record of its distinguishing marks.
- The Diagram which demonstrates diagramatically the distinguishing marks recorded in the narritive. Both parts must be accurately and fully completed.
- 10. All entries must be in block capitals and must be clearly legible.

Section I – The Narrative

I Language

If possible the narrative should be in one of the two official FEI languages, English or French. The sex and colour of the horse must be completed in one of the official FEI languages.

II Sex

- 1. It is necessary to indicate stallion, mare or gelding and not to use abbreviations such as S, M or G.
- 2. When a horse is castrated after the passport has been issued, it is essential that the operation and the date on which it was carried out are entered in the passport by the veterinarian. Sexual anomalies must be recorded.

III Colour

- 1. The definition of colours differs according to the country. Certain countries use the colour of the skin as the criterion, others use the colour of the hair or a combination of the colours of the hair. This presents difficulties in translation.
- 2. The colours are defined as follows:
- 2.1 Black: Where black pigment is general throughout the coat, limbs, mane and tail, with no pattern factor present other than white markings.
- 2.2a **Brown**: Where there is a mixture of black and brown pigment in the coat, with black limbs, mane and tail.
- 2.2b **Bay-brown**: Where the predominating colour is brown, with muzzle bay, black limbs, mane and tail.
- 2.2c **Bay:** Bay varies considerably in shade from dull red approaching brown, to a yellowish colour approaching chestnut, but it can be distinguished from the chestnut by the fact that the bay has a black mane and tail and almost invariably has black on the limbs and tips of the ears.

- 2.3 **Chestnut:** This colour consists of yellow-coloured hair in different degrees of intensity, which may be noted if thought desirable. A 'true' chestnut has a chestnut mane and tail which may be lighter or darker than the body colour. A lighter coloured chestnut may have flaxen mane and tail.
- 2.4 **Grey:** Where the body coat is a varying mosaic of black and white hairs, with the skin black. With increasing age the coat grows lighter in colour. The flea-bitten grey may contain three colours or the two basic colours and should be so described. A pure white is exceptional.
- 2.5 **Mouse coloured:** This description is sometimes used for a grey horse with black mane and tail.
- 2.6a **Blue Roan:** Where the body colour is black or black-brown mixed with white hair, which gives a blue tinge to the coat. On the limbs from the knees and hocks down the black hairs usually predominate.
- 2.6b **Bay or Red Roan**: Where the body colour is bay or baybrown mixed with white hair, which gives a reddish tinge to the coat. On the limbs from the knees and hocks down the black hairs usually predominate.
- 2.7 **Srawberry or Chestnut Roan:** Where the body colour is chestnut mixed with white hairs.
- 2.8a **Blue Dun**: The body colour is a dilute black evenly distributed. The mane and tail are black. There may or may not be a dorsal band (list) and/or withers stripe. The skin is black.
- 2.8b **Yellow Dun:** There is diffuse yellow pigment in the hair. The mane and tail are black. There may or may not be a dorsal band (list) and/or withers stripe and bars on the legs. The striping is usually associated with black pigment on the head and limbs. The skin is black.
- 2.9a **Piebald**: The body coat consists of large irregular patches of black and white. The line of demarcation between the two colours is generally well defined.
- 2.9b **Skewbald**: the body consists of large irregular patches of white and of any definite colour except black. The line of demarcation between the colours is generally well-defined.
- 2.10 **Odd coloured:** The body coat consists of large irregular patches of more than two colours, which may merge into each other at the edges of the patches.

- 2.11 Isabella: The body coat is of a cream colour, with black mane and tail.
- N.B. When the term "Isabella" is used in German it usually refers to a body coat of cream and yellow, with mane and tail of the same cream or yellow colour.
- 2.12 **Cream:** The body coat is of a cream colour, with unpigmented skin. The iris is deficient in pigment and is often devoid of it, giving the eye a pinkish or bluish appearance.
- 2.13 **Palomino:** The body coat is a newly-minted gold coin colour (lighter or darker shades are permissible) with a white mane and tail.
- 2.14 **Appaloosa**: Body colour is grey, covered with a mosaic of black or brown spots.

IV Year of birth

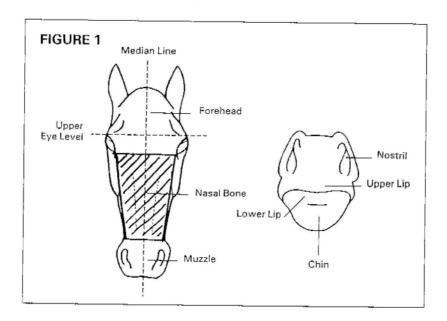
- 1. If there is no documentary evidence of the year of birth of the horse this must be determined by the veterinarian examining the teeth. It must be stated in the passport if the year of birth is **estimated**.
- 2. In the description the veterinarian is asked to give the **year** of birth and **not** the age.

V Height

The height is the distance measured in centimeters, from the ground to the top of the withers. The exact height of ponies is most important and they must be measured with great care.

Section II - Distinctive Marks

The distinctive marks are described in relation to their position on the surface anatomy (see Figures 1+2) and must also be shown on the diagram (see Section III).



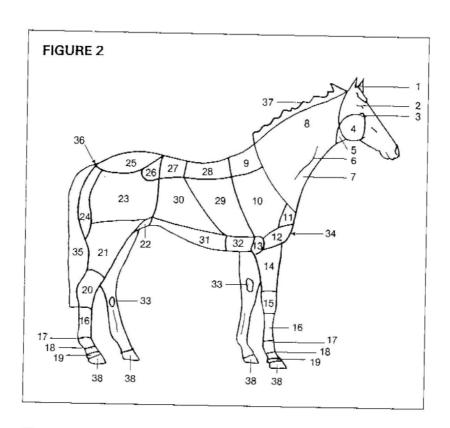


Figure 2: Surface anatomy

			•		
1	Poll	12	Arm	26	Angle of Ilium
2	Supraorbital	13	Elbow	27	Loins
	fossa	14	Forearm	28	Back
3	Eye	15	Knee-	29	Chest
4	Cheek	16	Cannon	30	Flank
5	Throat	17	Fetlock	31	Belly
6	Jugular furrow	18	Pastern	32	Girth
	(Jugular groove)	19	Coronet	33	Chestnut
7	Windpipe	20	Hock	34	Breast
	(Trachea)	21	Gaskin	35	Tail
8	Neck	22	Stifle	36	Dock
9	Withers	23	Quarters		(Root of tail)
10	Shoulder	24	Buttock	37	Mane/Crest
11	Point of shoulder	25	Croup (Rump)	38	Hoof

I Whorls (USA – Cowlicks)

- Whorls are changes in the hair pattern, and may take various forms – simple, tufted, feathered or sinuous. Their position must be clearly specified.
- 2. Whorls on the head and crest which are present in all horses, must be described in the narrative and shown on the diagram.
- 3. If there are few or no white markings the whorls on the head, throat, neck (and especially on the crest), cervical trachea, jugular furrow, forearm, the breast, belly, stifle, rump, buttocks and hindlegs down to the hocks must be shown.
- 4. If the horse has few distinctive marks then it is essential to look carefully for the whorls but if it is distinctly marked, then it is only necessary to note the whorls on the head and crest.

II White Marks

- 1. The characteristics of all white marks must be described:
- A white mark can be regular or irregular.
- It can be mixed with the hair of the coat, completely or in part, or at the edge.
- It can be bordered, a band of black skin shows under the white hair at the edge of the mark (the area appears bluish).
- When pigment of the skin is absent it is called a flesh mark.
- 2. Always begin by describing the white marks on the head, and then continue with the limbs and the rest of the body.

A. The head

The description should begin at the forehead, followed by the nasal bone, the muzzle, lips and chin.

The description of the markings on the head should be clearly specified with reference to the whorls and with reference to the median line and to eye level (see Figure 1).

- 1. Star: Any white mark on the forehead. Size, shape, intensity, position and coloured markings (if any) on the white to be specified. Should the markings in the region of the centre of the forehead consist of a few white hairs only it should be so described and not referred to as a star.
- 2. **Stripe:** The narrow white marking down the face not wider than the flat anterior surface of the nasal bones. In many cases the star and stripe are continuous and should be described as star and stripe combined. Where the stripe is separate and distinct from the star it should be described as interrupted stripe. Where no star is present the point of origin of the stripe should be indicated. The termination of the stripe and any variation in breadth, direction and any markings on the white should be so stated, e.g. broad stripe, narrow stripe, inclined to left, etc.
- 3. Blaze: A white marking covering almost the whole of the forehead between the eyes and extending beyond the width of the nasal bones usually to the muzzle. Any variations in direction, termination and any markings on the white should be stated.
- 4. White Face: Where the white covers the forehead and front of the face, extending laterally towards the mouth. The extension may be unilateral or bilateral, in which case it should be described accordingly.
- 5. **Snip:** An isolated white marking, independent of those already named, and situated between or in the region of the nostrils. Its size, position and intensity should be specified.
- 6. Flesh Mark: Lack of pigmentation. A flesh mark is described as such and not as a white mark. Black spots within the flesh mark are to be indicated. All lip markings, whether flesh marks or white marks, should be accurately described.
- 7. White Muzzle: Where the white embraces both lips and extends to the region of the nostrils.

B. Limbs

- 1. The description of markings on the limbs should follow a logical sequence. Always commence with the **left fore** followed by the **right fore** and continued by the **left hind** and the **right hind**. Absence of marks must also be mentioned.
- 2. All white markings on the limbs must be accurately defined and the upper limit precisely stated with reference to points of the anatomy, e.g. white to mid-pastern, white to upper third of cannon etc. (see Figure 2). The use of such terms as "sock" or "stocking" is not acceptable.

Some examples are listed below:

- white coronet
- white pastern
- white fetlock
- white half cannon
- white to knee, to hock, to hind quarter etc.
- white patch on coronet. Its location must be specified: anterior, lateral, medial, posterior.
- white ring around limb: does not extend down to the coronet.
- 3. The presence of coloured spots in white marks should be recorded. Black spots in a white coronet are referred to as Ermine marks.
- 4. **Hooves:** Any variation in the hoof pigment should be noted, especially if the horse has no other special characteristics.

C. The Body

All white markings and any other markings must be indicated with reference to their anatomical position. For example, permanent marks such as scars, saddle marks, bridle marks, collar marks, girth marks, other harness marks, bandage marks etc...

III Other Peculiarities

1. Peculiarities of the head

Some examples are listed below:

- Wall-eye: Lack of pigmentation of the eye
- Loss of an eye
- Dental irregularities; e.g. the absence of an incisor tooth either from accident or defective dental development.
- Parrot mouth: projection of upper jaw
- Nicked ears
- Fractured nasal bone
- unusual muzzle colour (e.g. darker or lighter than normal body colour).
- Lop ears

2. Peculiarities of the coat

- Grey-ticked: Where white hairs are sparsely distributed through the coat or any part of the body.
- Flecked: Where small collections of white hairs occur distributed irregularly in any part of the body.
 - The degrees of flecking may be described by the terms "heavily flecked" or "lightly flecked".
- Black or dark marks: this term should be used to describe small areas of black or dark hairs among the basic (lighter) body colour.
- Spots: Where small, more or less circular, collections of hairs differing from the general body colour occur, distributed in various parts of the body. The position and colour of the spots must be stated.

- Leopard: A horse can be called leopard if it has many more or less circular collections of hairs differing from the general body colour.
- Patch: This term should be used to describe any larger well-defined irregular area (not covered by previous definitions) of hairs differing from the general body colour. The colour, shape, position and extent should be described.
- Zebra Marks: where there is dark or black striping on the limbs, neck or quarters.
- Withers stripe: zebra band across the withers.
- List: a dorsal band of black hairs which extends from the withers backwards to the base of the tail.
- 3. The following should also be mentioned:
- The Prophet's Thumb Mark: This is a muscular depression commonly seen on the neck, on the breast or on the point of the shoulder.
- Branding marks, freeze markings, tattoos or scars.
- The presence of hairs of different colours in mane and tail should be specified, especially in piebalds and skewbalds.
- 4. It is important that information detrimental to the horse is not included in the narrative or on the diagram unless it is essential for the identification of the horse.

Section III - The Diagram

I General

- 1. The diagram must be filled in using both a red ball-point pen and a black ball-point pen.
- 2. Blue ink must never be used because it is difficult to photocopy.

- 3. Inks which run must be avoided (e.g. felt pens, ink pens) because the diagram can be spoilt if it gets wet.
- 4. Coloured pencils which can be erased must not be used.
- 5. The ball-point pen used must have a broad-point

II Procedure

- 1. The narrative should be completed first using a black ballpoint pen, followed by the diagram indicating all the distinctive marks.
- Starting with the head, continue with the limbs and then the body. Ensure that the diagram and the narrative agree.
 A careful check must be made to ensure that all reference to left and right in the passport agree and no ambiguity exists.

III Red ball-point pen

Everything which appears in white on the horse must be shown in red on the diagram.

1. White marks

White marks must be clearly outlined, with irregularities indicated, without shading but lightly hatched-in if desired.

2. Bordered marks

A white bordered mark has a definite outline, which is bluish and corresponds to the black skin under the white hairs. Bordered markings are indicated by a **double line**.

3. Mixed marks

Mixed hairs are indicated by hatching.

4. Few white hairs

Few white hairs or grey-ticked areas are indicated by single short lines.

5. Unpigmented areas

Unpigmented areas such as flesh marks, wall-eyes, or stripes on the hoofs are entirely coloured in red.

6. White patches

Large white patches on piebald or skewbald horses should be hatched-in or line-shaded to differentiate them from other patches.

7. Various

- The presence of white hairs in the mane and tail should be indicated with red lines.
- Permanent white marks, in the coat acquired through trauma, freeze branding, surgery, etc. should be indicated in the diagram as for other white marks and by an arrow pointing at their location.

IV Black-ball-point pen

Everything which is not white on the horse must be shown in black on the diagram.

1. Whorls

Whorls are indicated by an "x", if the whorl is elongated, it is shown by a continuous line from the "x". The exact location of the whorls is very important.

2. Black spots and marks

Black spots or marks on the coat, or within a white mark or flesh mark, must be **outlined in black** and left unshaded.

3. Scars

Scars due to surgery, treatment or accidents are indicated by arrows pointing at their location.

4. Brand marks

Brand marks should be **drawn** in black, if the shape is not visible the brand is to be considered as a scar and indicated by an arrow.

5. The "Prophet's Thumb Mark"

The "Prophet's Thumb Mark" is indicated by a small triangle.

6. Zebra Marks

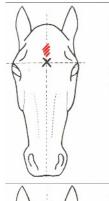
Zebra Marks, withers stripes and lists are indicated by **thick** black lines following the mark(s).

7. Chestnuts

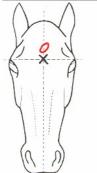
The outline of chestnuts should be drawn for all horses without markings or with only three or less whorls. The shape of a chestnut should be drawn in outline and related to the vertical.

Examples for Completing the Diagram

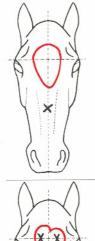
Section IV



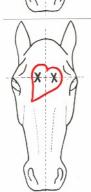
Few white hairs, above a median whorl at upper eye level.



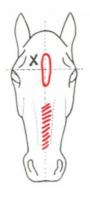
Median whorl at upper eye level. Small oval star above.



Median whorl on bridge of nose. Large ovoid star above.



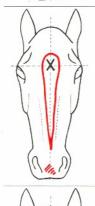
Heart-shaped star, with point to right containing two whorls side by side (one either-side of midline) at upper eye level.



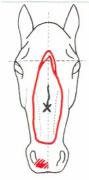
Whorl on right side of midline above upper eye level. Central elongated star to left of whorl and extending to lower eye level. Mixed hairs done bridge of nose.



Whorl to left of midline above eye level. Central irregular (dentated) star below. Large patch of mixed hairs on right side of bridge of nose extending on to wing of right nostril.



Star, containing median whorl at upper eye level, stripe to nasal peak. Small mixed snip between nostrils.



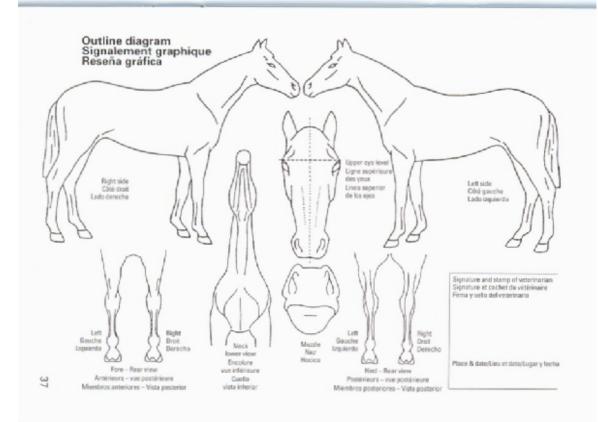
Elongated bordered star, blaze to nasal peak containing median whorl on bridge of nose with upward feathering to just below eye level. Snip between nostrils continued as flesh mark into right nostril.

FEI Description and diagram page of FEI passport

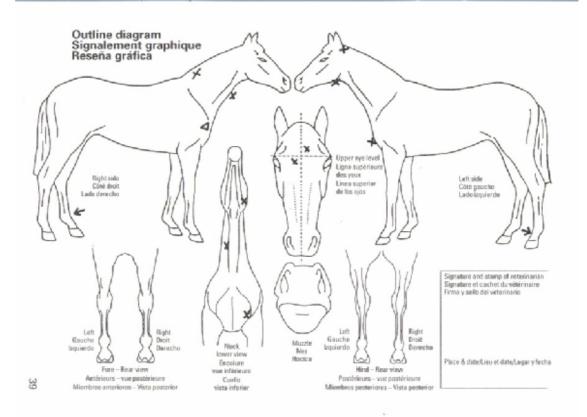
Page des signalements descriptif et graphique du passeport FEI Description and diagram page of FEI passport FEI Passport no. / Numéro du passeport FEI / Número del pasaporte FEI Signature of Socretary Firm del Secretary

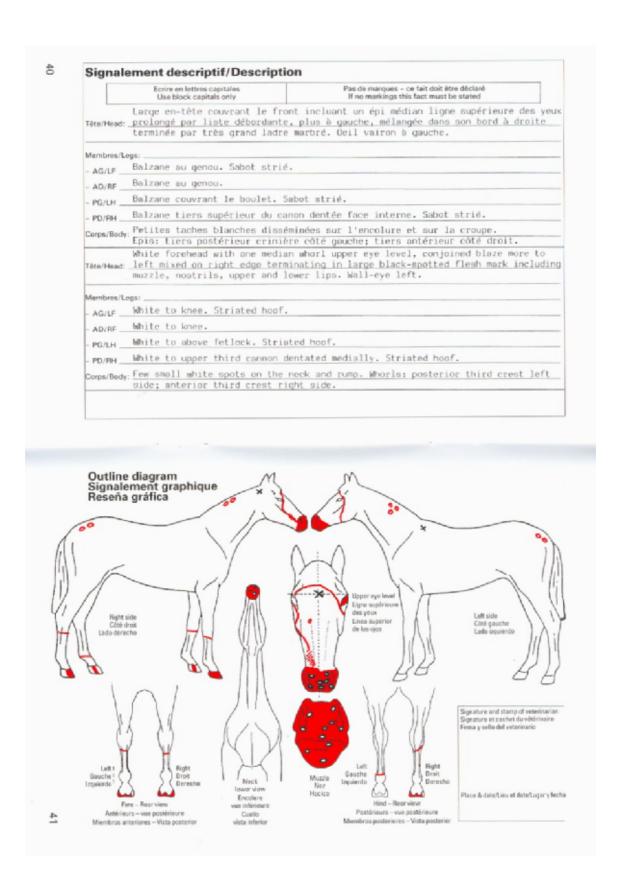
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		úmero del pasaporte FEI	Signature of Secretary General and stamp of National Federation Signature du Secrétaire Général et cachet de la Fédération Nationale Firma del Secretario General y sollo de la Federación Nacional		
Name of horse / Nom-	du cheval / Nombre del ca	bello	The same section of the same section is a section of the same section in the same section is a section in the same section in the same section is a section in the same section in the same section is a section in the same section in the same section is a section in the same section in t		
Changes of name & da	ites / Changements de nor	m et dates / Cambio de nombre y fecha			
Year of birth Année de naissance Fecha de nacimiento	Country of birth Pays de naissance Pais de naoimiento	Height (of pany) see accompanying certificate: Taille au garret (du poney) mentionné sur le certificat di-joint:	Breed and registration no. / Race at numéro de stud-book Raza y número del registro genealógico		
			Sire / Père / Padre		
Sex/Sexe/Sexo	Colour / Robe / Gapa	- Altura al cruz (del pony) indicada en el certificado adjunto:	Dam / Mère / Madre		
			Sire of Dam / Pèro de la mère / Padre de la madro		
	7	Ecrire en majuscule	s Escribir en majúsculas		
Head / Tôte / Cabeza	r	Ecrire en majusoule	s Escribir en majúsculas		
		Ecrire en majuscule	s Escribir en majúsculas		
LF/AG/AI		Ecrire en majuscule	s Escribir en majúsculas		
LF/AG/AI RF/AD/AD		Ecrire en majusoule	s Escribir en majúsculas		
LF/AG/AI RF/AD/AD LH/PG/PI		Ectire en majuscule	s Escribir en majúsculas		
Head / Téte / Cabeza LF / AG / Al RF / AD / AD LH / PG / Pl RH / PD / PD Body / Corps / Cuespo		Ectire en majusoule	s Escribir en majúsculas		
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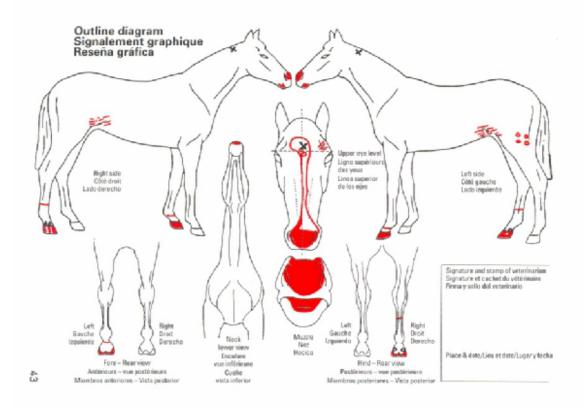
Signalement descriptif/Description Pas de marques – ce fait doit être déclaré If no markings this faut must be stated Ecrire en lettres capitales Use block capitals only Deux épis diagonaux, un plus haut à gauche au-dessus de la ligne supérieure des Teme/Head: yeux, l'autre plus bas, à droite de la ligne médiane au niveau des yeux. Nez de renard. Membres/Legs: Néant - AG/LE Néant AD/RF Cicatrice sur le canon antérieur tiers inférieur. PG/LH Néant PD/BH Epis: derrière la nuque côté gauche, tiers postérieur crinière côté droit, gorge Corpe/Body: à gauche, mi-trachée à droite et poitrail à gauche. Coup de lance pointe de l'épaule droite. Tête/Head: Whorl to left of midline above upper eye level. Second whorl diagonally below to right of midline at eye-level. Light muzzle. Membres/Legs: Ni.1 AG/LE Nil - AD/RF Scar on anterior cannon lower third. PG/LH - PD/RH Mhorls: behind poll left side, posterior third crest right side, left throat, Corps/Body: right mid-cervical trachea and left pectoral area. Prophet's Thumb mark point of right shoulder.





! In the drawing of the left side of the horse, the white markings have been omitted, which is a printing error!

Signalement descriptif/Description Ecrire en lettres capitales Use block capitals only Pas de marques – ce fait doit être déclaré If no markings this fact must be stated Quelques poils salière gauche. Pelote tachée de la robe, incluant épi médian ligne supérieure des yeux, prolongée par fine liste déviée vers la gauche s'élargissant au tiers inférieur du chanfrein et terminée par grand ladre entre et dans les maseaux. Grand ladre lèvre inférieur et menton. Membres/Legs: Balzane à mi-paturon. - AG/LF Néant AD/RE PG/LH _ Balzane à mi-canon. Herminures en couronne. Sabot strié. - PD/RH _ Corps/Body: Rubican aux flancs. Taches blanches sur la cuisse gauche. Epis chevillés sous crinière tiers supérieur de l'encolure à droite et à gauche. Few white hairs above left eye. Median whorl at upper eye level in large round Tête/Head: Star, conjoined narrow stripe to left broadening at masal peak and terminating as a large fleshmark between and into both mostrils. Big fleshmark lower lip and chin. Two chestnut spots in star near lower border to right and centre of midline. Membres/Legs: White to mid pastern. AGILE AD/RF Ni1 - PG/LH .. White to mid cannon. Ermine marks coronet. Striated hoof. - PD/RH Corps/Body: Grey ticked on flanks. White spots left hind quarter. Whorl anterior third crest



Corps/Body:

Signalement descriptif/Description

Pas de marques – ce fait doit être déclaré If no markings this fact must be stated

En-tête allongé au-dessus de la salière gauche tangent à un épi médian ligne su-périeure des yeux, prolongé par très large liste débordante régulière pointe à droite sous l'oeil droit pointe à gauche sous l'oeil gauche terminée en pointe en bas du chanfrein.

Membres/Legs: Néant Néant AD/RF Balzane jusqu'à la cuisse. PG/LH PD/RH ___

Néant Tache blanche sur la croupe prolongée par touffe de crins blancs dans la queue; ventre et Corps/Body: poitrail blancs; grande tache blanche à l'emplacement de la selle; touffe de crins blancs au dessus du garrot; épis chevillés sous crinière à gauche et à droite du garrot.

Tête/Head: Median whorl at upper eye level outside an elongated star extending to left supraorbital fossa, conjoined white face terminating in a point at masal peak.

Membres/Legs: Ni1 AG/LF _ Nil AD/RF .. White to hind quarter. PG/LH Nil. PD/RH White patch on croup conjoined with white hairs in tail; white belly and breast; white saddle patch; white mane posterior quarter; one whorl each side of withers.

Outline diagram Signalement graphique Reseña gráfica Ligne supé des yeux Left side Căté gaucho Lado izquierdo Linea superior Côté diroit Muzzle Place & date/Lieu et date/Lugar y fecha Hind - Rear ri Postérieurs - vue postérieure 5 Miembros anteriores - Vista posterior vista inferior Miembros pesteriores - Vista pesterior

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- Colours and Markings of Horses (Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, London/GB)
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- Signalement des chevaux et poneys (Service des Haras Paris, Ministère de l'Agriculture, France)
- Les particularités du cheval (Cereopa, Paris, France)
- Farbe und Abzeichen bei Pferden (Schaper, Hannover, Deutschland)
- Proceedings 2nd International Horse Identification Seminar (University of Arizona, USA)