

The statements of the Spanish officers under De Leon call the horses bays, duns, which means buckskins, blacks whites and sorrels, with generally a black mane and tail. In 1519 between Vera Cruz and Mexico City the soldiers under Cortez turned loose fifteen military chargers which of course were all stallions for castration of horses, asses and mules as we know it was unheard of three hundred years ago.

Juan Onate unloosed the largest number of Spanish or Barb yeguas on record at now Santa Fe, New Mexico, also large numbers of Andalusian cattle as a result that by 1680 large numbers of half wild horses were plentiful in the upper Rio Grande, during this period of Spanish occupation in the spring of 1714 a Canadian traveler from Mobile, Alabama, to the Adobe town crossing at now Eagle Pass found country between Trinity river and Rio Grande full of wild horses and cattle, by 1730 the Mission of San Antonio had an estimated herd of 8,000 horses and cattle, between 1754 and 1765 over 12,000 wild Spanish horses and Andalusian cattle were around San Francisco and the valleys south in California on the vast native grass meadows. When the war between the Arabs and Christians ended in Europe many pure blooded Arabian horses were left on the lush blue grass and clover meadows of France, especially in the province of Normandy, the Arab horse the original hotblooded short haired horse always with one less vertebrae in his back bone than cold blooded draft or dun hill horses on rich limestone grass soon grew larger than his progenitors. The French took him to Canada where rich peavine grazing made a distinct breed of him called the French Canadian horse, soon voyageurs were taking him west always west, also imported into Quebec and Montreal were Iceland Ponies, small and spotted which grew larger on native grass, here was your first pinto or spotted horse foundation, early American trappers after Lewis and Clark in 1804 found the Umatilla Indians in northeastern Oregon with extra large spotted well formed Indian ponies with heads, feet and conformity like an Arabian horse whose descendants they were.

The Indian pony as I have endeavored to illustrate, came from all directions on virgin grass unspoiled by vandal farmers he was large and strong and fleet of foot, wilder and faster than a deer, all colors of the rainbow, whitebay dun black blue and red roan of every shade often spotted with spots of every color a small horse of 7 or 800 pounds here in the southwest where most of them originated oftentimes when taken to northern blue stem and limestone grass country he grew 2 or 300 pounds larger and when again crossed by breeding with his more carefully selected cousins the Kentucky saddle and Quarter horse, the offspring was a western saddle horse to delight all true horseman and never excelled anywhere.

Now in order to understand why the Indians pony was the way he was found to be among the Indians west of the Mississippi river, let's see how the Indian treated his horse. In the first place the Indian was a savage; he had no feed for a horse except grass, when winters got extremely bad he was known to cut a few cotton wood trees down so his ponies could eat the twigs and gnaw the bark off of the smaller logs which they did to avoid starvation. When they moved camp in spring the horses were all poor and gentle and were loaded with buffalo hides, tipis, put between travois poles and all camp plunder. If your pony was poor and weak and fell down he was beaten until he got up or else left for dead for coyotes.