

Modifiers

Color Modifiers

“ Modifiers alter the appearance of the base coat but do not dilute it.

Flaxen (F)

Flaxen is a recessive modifier that lightens the mane and tail of chestnut horses.

Inheritance

Genotype	Result
F/F	Flaxen
F/f	Carrier
f/f	Non-Flaxen

Because flaxen is recessive, a horse must inherit a flaxen allele from both parents in order to visually express it.

Expression

Flaxen only affects chestnut horses. Bay and black horses may carry flaxen but will not visually express it.



Silver (Z)

Silver is a dominant modifier that affects black pigment. It lightens the mane and tail while having no effect on red pigment.

Inheritance

Genotype	Result
Z/Z	Silver
Z/z	Silver
z/z	Non-Silver

Only one copy of silver is required for expression.

Expression

Chestnut horses may carry silver but will not visually express it because they do not produce black pigment.



Sooty (Sty)

Sooty is a dominant modifier that adds dark hairs throughout the coat. Expression can range from subtle dark shading to heavy darkening across the entire body.

Inheritance

Genotype	Result
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Sty/Sty	Sooty
Sty/sty	Sooty
sty/sty	Non-Sooty

Only one copy is required for expression.

Expression

Sooty affects bay and chestnut based horses but any color can be a carrier.

Sooty Bay



Sooty Dark Bay



Liver Chestnut



Sooty Buckskin



Chocolate Palomino



Gray (G)

Gray is a dominant modifier that causes progressive depigmentation over time.

A gray horse is born its original colour and gradually lightens as it ages.

Inheritance

Genotype	Result
G/G	Gray
G/g	Gray
g/g	Non-Gray

Only one copy is required for expression.

Expression

Gray can occur on any base colour.

Examples:

- Black → Gray
- Bay → Rose Gray
- Chestnut → Rose Gray

The horse's original color remains genetically present underneath the graying process.

Black Base Graying Process



Bay Base Graying Process



Chestnut Base Graying Process



Gray Final Forms



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