

Spotted Draft History

Spotted drafts have been recorded as far back as the early 19th century in Britain.

In 1825, Volume 1 of the English Cart-Horse Society (now The Shire Horse Society) recorded a pinto foal, No. 770, named Everett's Horse. It is thought that he may be ancestor to the pinto Shires that were common in the Fen country at that time. Sir Walter Gilbey in his book "Horses, Breeding to Colour" (1912) wrote of a Mr. B.B. Colvin of Hertfordshire, who, in the mid 1800's, had a herd of pinto Shires on his farm.



Most Shire breeders of that time did not appreciate the so-called parti-coloured horses and so did not register them. Despite the pinto coloured horse being spurned by many breeders and equine authorities, HM Queen Elizabeth II chose pinto drafts as drum horses for some of her regiments. These horses not only look magnificent but they stand steadfast among the music, cheers, and action of pageantry, a testament to the reliable, unflappable temperament of the Spotted Draft.

Spotted Draft Horse Registry

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The International Registry for Pinto Coloured Draft Horses



Beauty . Colour . Versatility



Spotted Drafts have it all!

The SDHR Mission

The Spotted Draft Horse Registry was founded in 2015 to preserve and promote draft horses with pinto spotting patterns. SDHR is as unique as the horses it represents. We encourage owners of both pedigreed and unpedigreed spotted draft horses to register their animals, thus preserving their lineage and increasing their value.



As well as maintaining a studbook, SDHR also maintains a database of Spotted Draft horse pedigrees. We provide an online pedigree search free of charge for the public. We believe this is an important resource, not only for preserving the pedigrees of these magnificent horses, but also to aid breeders in making informed decisions.



What is a Spotted Draft?

Simply put, Spotted Drafts are horses of draft breeding that display pinto spotting patterns. The three patterns that SDHR recognizes are: tobiano, overo, and tovero. Spotted Draft horses really are in a class all their own being such colourful, gentle and versatile animals. These strikingly beautiful horses are made up of a wide variety of draft types: Percheron, Belgian, Clydesdale, Haflinger, and many more, each having their own unique characteristics. Many Spotted Drafts also carry varying amounts of light horse breeding to which some of them owe their pinto patterning. A wide variety of horses, from the heavy work draft to the lighter riding and sport type can be found among Spotted Drafts, having been bred for varying tastes and purposes. These horses do share an important common trait. Their splendid disposition, easy temperament, and willingness to work, makes the Spotted Draft a joy to own.



Uses of the Spotted Draft

The versatile Spotted Draft can be found participating in a wide number of activities, from plowing fields and logging, to heavy hitches and parades, dressage and eventing classes, fox hunts, pleasure driving, western classes and much more. These magnificent horses stand out and draw the attention of horse enthusiasts wherever they may be found.

