



From the Arena Fence

There will be a few changes to the ICAA Newsletter. Kylee Birdwell will be taking over as Editor, starting with the Winter issue, and she will have the means to make it so much better than I ever could! With this change, we will no longer be sending out any hard copies. The Newsletter will be strictly available online, where you can read it and/or print it out at your convenience. Due to the high cost of postage, toner, and other office supplies, if you do require a hard copy, we will be charging a fee for this service.

The ICAA Annual Membership Meeting will be held via Zoom on Saturday, October 18, 2025 at 12:00 EST (11:00 CST, 10:00 MST, and 9:00 PST). We do hope everyone can attend! This is the time to offer your thoughts and suggestions where they can be heard by all attendees. We value our members and value your input! If you have any proposals, please turn those in ASAP!

Sharon January, Chairman

Moon Blindness VS Night Blindness By Sharon January

Moon Blindness (ERU)

Moon Blindness is Equine Recurrent Uveitis (ERU). What's in a name? In this case, "recurrent." This is the bad one.

This incurable disease was called moon blindness many years ago as the old timers thought it might have something to do with the cycle of the moon, because it is recurrent. It comes and goes. The horse will show signs of it and then it will go away, coming back again, repeating this cycle over and over.

ERU is an autoimmune disease in which the horse's body mistakenly attacks the eye as if it were a foreign object. Each flare-up causes more damage, and over time, more than half of affected horses will go completely blind in the affected eye. Although early diagnosis can improve outcomes, there is still no reliable treatment or cure for ERU. Recent advancements in surgical techniques and medical therapies have increased success in managing the disease, but they do not offer a guaranteed solution. ERU may affect only one eye, or it can involve both. In some cases, one eye is affected first and the other may not show signs until years later.

Episodes of redness, tearing, and squinting may be early indicators of eye issues. ERU can be painful. However, the insidious form often does not present with any outwardly painful episodes.



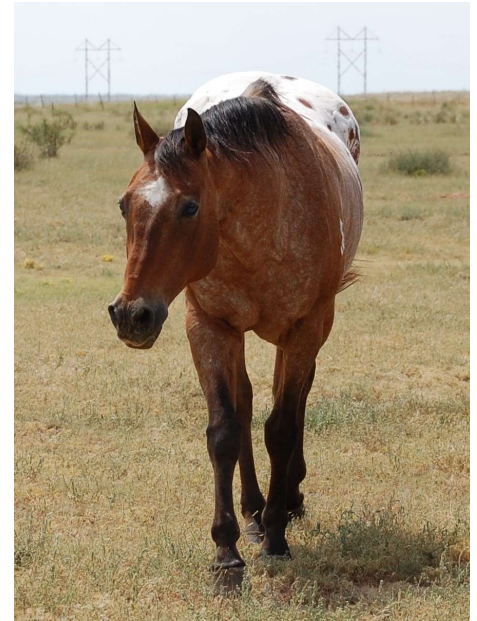
Earlier Stages of Moon Blindness

Appaloosas and other breeds carrying the LP gene are especially vulnerable—they are eight times more likely to develop ERU than other breeds. The reason for this predisposition is still unknown. Appaloosas are also four times more likely to go blind from the disease, and they account for about 25% of all diagnosed cases. It's thought that LP/LP horses may be at a higher risk than n/LP horses. More than 60% of affected horses are unable to return to previous levels of work.

This author had a horse with moon blindness. He eventually went blind in one eye after years of recurrence, but the other eye seemed fine. At 20+ years old, he got snake bit. I will always wonder if this kicked his body into overdrive to fight the toxins and it continued by attacking his good eye (this is only a guess on my part). It went much faster than the first eye. I walked out into the pasture one day and he was scared to death as he'd gone completely blind, seemingly overnight. He had no buddies that came to him when he was circling, confused, scared, and whinnying for them. I had to put him down. He was my heart horse. There isn't much more gut-wrenching than to watch your gentle, trusting, otherwise healthy horse led to his grave, knowing it was the right call because to leave one like him cooped up in a stall or small paddock would have been a horrible life. He was never cut out for that kind of life. There are countless sad stories like his.



Later Stages of Moon Blindness



Hawk A Lena, this author's horse two weeks before he was put down

Night Blindness (CSNB)

Night blindness is Congenital Stationary Night Blindness (CSNB). This is considered a genetic disorder, but when breeding Appaloosas, it's nearly impossible to steer clear of unless luck is on your side or you're only breeding LP/LP horses to horses negative for LP. CSNB occurs in ALL horses that are homozygous LP (LP/LP). Nobody knows why this is. While some say the testing wasn't done with enough specimens to prove this, the reason they didn't test more horses was that they realized quickly that they saw the same thing in horses that we see in humans with night blindness; the rod cells in the eyes are either damaged or not functioning properly. These tests were performed by The Appaloosa Project.



*Sundancing Chelsea O,
LP/LP = Night Blind*

While CSNB may sound bad, it's not hard to deal with a horse that's night blind. They are born night blind. They never get worse with age; it does not progress. They are no different than people who are night blind. They simply can't see well in low-light or dark conditions.

Many people never even know their horse is night blind. Owners either never go out with their horse at night, or the horse is so used to his surroundings that he navigates his paddock or pasture as well as his companions who can see just fine at night, so it goes unnoticed. Think of you walking around your house at night. You know where the coffee table is, so you go around it with ease even though it's dark or dimly lit.

I once had a girl tell me that she's always gone night-riding on her LP/LP horses and never had an issue. She said that if the horse is

well trained and trusts the rider to not put them in a situation to get hurt, they do just fine. This makes perfect sense. I once had one when I was much younger and had no clue about any of this, but it was probably not even known at that time. I also rode her at night and she did just fine. She was apparently very well trained before I got her, plus she was usually (not always) in the middle of the string on trails.



*MHS First Chance
LP/LP = Night Blind*



*Ghostdance Juma
LP/LP = Night Blind*



*BCA Chats Shinaku
LP/LP = Night Blind*



If you do have an LP/LP horse, what should you know for their safety? It's pretty simple. You don't want to throw them out in a pasture they're unfamiliar with close to nightfall. They should always be turned out in the morning so they have the whole day to explore and learn their new boundaries and where any obstacles are. Once they learn, they can be left out at night. As for night-riding, for your safety and theirs, be sure they're very well trained and that you're a skilled enough rider to keep them, and so you, safe.



ICAA Bi-Annual Membership Meeting

The ICAA Annual Membership Meeting will be held via Zoom on Saturday, October 18, 2025 at 12:00 EST (11:00 CST, 10:00 MST, 9:00 PST). Please join us and share your thoughts and ideas! Or just sit and listen if you prefer, and see what's going on in ICAA! If you have any proposals, please get them in a few months prior.

International Colored Appaloosa Association, Inc

Dedicated to the Development, Preservation, and Promotion of the Purebred Appaloosa

- ❖ Foundation was a place to start. The ICAA is building the finished product -- a breed for the future, one generation at a time.
- ❖ Founded in 1991, the ICAA is well established and in it for the long haul.
- ❖ The only registry offering a program to track a horse's training from birth.
- ❖ The only registry building a database of breeders who are producing five-plus generation horses.
- ❖ A "stand-alone" registry that does not require prior registration in another registry if the horse is the product of an ICAA registered sire and dam.
- ❖ The only registry using the full-generational concept of eight-generations plus, with no out-crossing, to produce a true, purebred Appaloosa, following the generally accepted genealogy method of generational identification.
- ❖ The ICAA is partnered with AGI and offers members exclusive pricing options on 6-Panel, color, and pattern testing, as well as DNA Profiling. Parentage verification is free on foals from parents who have been DNA Profiled.

2026 ICAA Stallion Service Auction

We're excited to announce that the annual ICAA Stallion Service Auction will be held again this year, with bidding opening in mid-December for the 2026 breeding season.



RZA Nuksays Dream (F5)

Mare owners - Auction Foals: Look what you could have if you bid on these stallions in the ICAA Stallion Auction; beautiful foals!!!

We are now seeking stallion donations for the auction. Donating is a great way for stallion owners to receive free advertising and a free registration for each stallion contributed. The auction also benefits ICAA by attracting new members and registrations from successful bidders. Many donors have shared that when bidders visit their farm, mare owners often notice additional stallions they'd like to breed to—or even horses to purchase—making it a win-win opportunity for everyone.

With the weather still pleasant in most areas, now is a perfect time to capture quality photos and videos of your stallion. Videos can be as simple as lunging in a round pen or work under saddle—people love to see movement. When photographing your horse, pay close attention to details:

- Avoid distortion by photographing directly from the side, with the head facing forward.
- Make sure the stance is flattering (if not square, position the near-side front leg slightly forward and the hind leg slightly back to create a longer underline).
- Choose good lighting—slightly overcast days often work best—and avoid harsh shadows or glare.
- Use a discerning eye to ensure your horse looks balanced and true to type.

Offspring photos are also welcome. Even if we already have some on file, you may have updated or higher-quality images that better represent them as they mature. The same photo guidelines apply.

Please note: photos that do not meet quality standards will not be used. If photography isn't your strong suit, consider enlisting help—it's worth it. Even the best stallion can be misrepresented by a poor photo.

All stallions must be ICAA registered or pending registration at the time of advertising. The auction flyer is scheduled for release in November, so please plan accordingly.

Additionally, if your stallion is not yet listed in the online ICAA Stallion Showcase, we encourage you to add him. This free service is available to all current members and provides a helpful resource to reference in auction promotions. If your stallion is already listed, please review the page and let us know if updates are needed for the 2026 breeding season.



Stallion Reports

Reminder that Stallion Reports are due before December 31st to avoid late fees. When filed on time, these are free to current members! They can be emailed to ICAA at icaa@icaainc.com as long as they come from valid email address we have on file for you. Please add all mares bred, regardless of breed, even if the mares are grade mares. We never know when someone will geld a colt from one of these mares and want to hardship them, and if know, pedigrees will be added to those registration certificates.



ONLINE PAYMENTS

WHEN PAYING FOR ANY SERVICES ONLINE, PLEASE ONLY SEND PAYMENT THROUGH THE ONLINE PAYMENT PAGE OF THE ICAA WEBSITE! DO NOT SEND TO THE ICAA EMAIL ADDRESS. PAYPAL CHARGES US FEES, WHICH ARE INCLUDED IN THE ONLINE PAYMENT PAGE'S PAYPAL BUTTONS. IF MONEY IS SENT STRAIGHT TO OUR EMAIL ADDRESS, PAYPAL TAKES OUT THE SAME FEES AND WE LOSE MONEY.

New Registrations



ERB Spotted Angel Wings (F6)
2025 Black Snowcap Filly
Owned by Derrick Lopez, Papi Rae Ranch



NorthStar Midnite Eagle (F4)
2025 Black Blanketed Colt
Owned by Karisa and Larry Larsen



PAPAS Minnie Ha Ha (F7)
2025 Black Suppressed Leopard Filly
Owned by Daniel Bjergo, Primed~N~Painted Acres



PAPAS Frosty Fossil (F7)
2025 Black Blanketed Colt
Owned by Daniel Bjergo, Primed~N~Painted Acres

Other Registrations

Equuleus Jericho (F4)
2022 Black Leopard Stallion
Owned by Misty Polasik

NorthStar Eagles Dream (F4)
2024 Black Snowcap Filly
Owned by Karisa and Larry Larsen



Marlen A Bento, NJ
Christina Bradford, MI
Alex A Looysen, ND
Ashley Terebayza, SC
Shania Sather, WI
Courtnei Price, KY



PAPA Nooksaks Sonny
2025 Black Blanketed Colt
Owned by Eileen Prezbindowski



Board of Trustee/Treasurer

We want to welcome Derrick Lopez of Papi Rae Ranch as a new member to the ICAA Board of Trustees and ICAA Treasurer! Derrick lives in Naples, FL, and is the owner/manager of a security guard operation with over 50 employees. He is the owner of a number of ICAA Appaloosas, including the F6/GAP 6 colt PAPA Nuksays Smoke. Read more of Derrick's bio on the ICAA website at <https://icaainc.com/bios>

We are so happy to have Derrick on the Board, and we feel he will make an excellent Treasurer!



District Representative, District VII

We want to welcome Kylee Birdwell as ICAA's new District VII Representative! She has a notable resume with horses, including experience in showing, competing in gaming events, trail riding, and breaking horses. She was the 2018 Queen of the Milton-Freewater Pioneer Posse and the 2023 Weekend of the Blues rodeo Queen. Read more of her bio on the ICAA website at <https://icaainc.com/bios>

We feel Kylee will make an excellent District Rep and Newsletter Editor!



Integrity

Choosing courage over comfort; choosing what is right over what is fun, fast, or easy; and choosing to practice our values rather than simply professing them.



AR King of Fourmile (#)
Fiddle Pass at Cadomin, Alberta
Owned and Ridden by Fiona Plunkie, Antler Ranch

First published in the Winter 2000 ICAA Report, Candace Brown's "Over the Stall Door" is just as meaningful and relevant today—25 years later—as it was then.

A fox was strolling down the road one spring day and came across a small sparrow laying on her back, her little spindly legs stretched toward the sky with all the oomph she could muster. The fox stopped for a few moments, watching the little sparrow struggle.

"What are you doing?" he finally asked.

The little sparrow, not pausing in her efforts, said, "I heard that the sky might fall. I'm holding it up."

The fox mulled this over. Finally he said, "You are but a small sparrow, and the sky is so huge. If the sky is really falling, what makes you think you, with your teensy legs, could hold it up?"

The sparrow turned her head slightly to look the fox in the eye. "I may not be able to do it all alone, and I might fail. But one does what one can!"

It's like that with the lofty goal of resurrecting the Appaloosa breed, where it depends on each one of us *doing what one can*. It is not solely the responsibility of the breeders of the Appaloosa to carry the load, nor is it solely up to the ICAA to provide a means to market our fine Appaloosas. Each of us, in our own way and using the resources we have at our disposal, do something valuable toward saving the Appaloosa.

I recently came across the statement that the breeders are the backbone of the ICAA. I believe this is true. But a backbone is static, not dynamic. It cannot move on its own from point A to point B. For movement the backbone requires the legs for motion, the arms for balance, and the head for direction. By the same token, the legs cannot work without the backbone as a support... The point is every aspect of the Appaloosa industry is equally important because no one aspect can exist alone.

One of our members has one horse, an Appaloosa gelding. She spends hours each week riding her gelding on the trails in her area, and plans to show him in open shows this season. She boards "baby" at a local stable where, as the lone Appaloosa, he has won the hearts of other boarders. This woman is not a breeder, but what she and her gelding have achieved for the Appaloosa breed is invaluable: good will, a close-up demonstration of Appaloosa disposition and abilities, and an interest and regard for the breed.

Another member who is actively doing her part for the Appaloosa breed does not own a horse, although she does have a deposit on a young Appaloosa mare with hopes to bring her home by year's end. In the meantime, this woman writes about Appaloosas, offers freely what history and photographs she has of Appaloosas; she educates anyone willing to take a moment to listen or read.

A third member is an active campaigner of her ICAA-registered Appaloosas. She attends open shows, "breed" shows (ApHC, CRHA), clinics, and is starting competitive trail riding this year. This lady also hosted a local saddle club meeting at her barn for the purpose of teaching mane and tail braiding. For several hours her Appaloosa mare, yearling filly, and older gelding stood patiently as multiple hands fiddled with their manes and tails. For a few of the saddle club members, this was the first time they'd been around an Appaloosa and were taken with the quiet acceptance of handling.

These few examples highlight the role of the "non-breeders" of our organization, for they are the primary introduction to our Appaloosa breed. These types of interactions frequently result in dispelling the misunderstandings so commonly encountered – the "stupid," "lazy," "jug-headed" myths painted by someone who was probably easily out-smarted by an Appaloosa at some point. There's quite a thrill when one hears not, "What a beautiful horse," but rather, "Wow! I had no idea that Appaloosas were so... so... well, NEAT!" What has been produced is a potential buyer.

And this is where the breeders come into play. Without the breeders, there would be no "supply" for the demand for one of those "neat" Appaloosas. Without the breeders we could not concentrate and perpetuate the Appaloosa genetics that make our horses so unique and special. Without the breeders we would have little interest in pedigree research. Without the breeders, and their dedication to producing the best possible foals, we would have no Appaloosa.

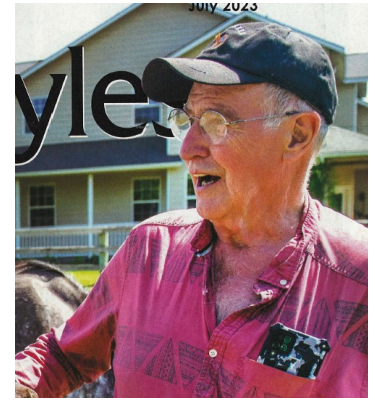
Whether we have a hundred Appaloosas dotting our skyline or just one awaiting us at a boarding facility, or no horse but an undying appreciation for the speckle-butts, each of us plays a vital role in saving our Appaloosa breed by *doing what one can*.



Marlene Salvatora owns just one ICAA horse; a mare named MSF Sunchic Fandango. Fandango has earned her 100-hour certificate in the ICAA Horsemanship Program under Marlene, she has shown Fandango at the Mt Trail Challenge Clinic, and she has ridden Fandango in trail completion who came in 2nd with best condition, among many other public events. We have to wonder just how many non-Appaloosa owners have been brought to this breed through Marlene's activities on this awesome mare.



Sharon January, due to health and age, sadly no longer owns any horses. However, she is the Chairman and Registrar of ICAA, she teaches those who want to learn about many things Appaloosa related, including color and Appaloosa pattern genetics, and she tries to answer any and all questions members and non-members alike may have.



Charles Potts, a high-generation ICAA breeder who has earned the reputation across the country of producing quality horses that are gentle, smart, and very trainable. As he is slowly retiring from horses, he is allowing his best horses to go to others who will continue his legacy.



When the body can't keep up, but the heart is still in the saddle...

She no longer gallops across open fields, no longer soars over jumps like she once did. Her knees ache, her hands have lost the strength that once held the reins like a whisper of wind. But the passion — it hasn't faded. Quite the opposite.

Every morning, she walks slowly to the stable. No rush. He's there waiting — that same gaze, soft, deep, familiar. The horse lowers his head, touching her wrinkled hand as if to say: "I remember every step. And I've been waiting."

She doesn't race anymore, doesn't fly with the wind. But every time her fingers brush through his mane — she's twenty again inside. And every wrinkle on her face holds a story of friendship, trust, and an unbreakable love for horses.

Because a true rider never ages out of who they are. They simply change pace.
And even when the saddle becomes a memory,
the stable remains home.

And the horse — a friend who never leaves.

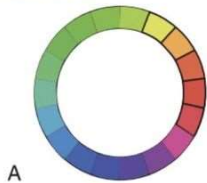


Winter Tip

Did you know that spraying PAM on the bottom of horses' feet in winter can stop/minimize the snowball effect on shod horses?

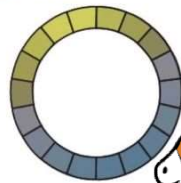
THE HORSE'S COLOR VISION...

Human trichromatic color vision



A

Horse dichromatic color vision



B

The horse's vision of colors



Monocular vision

- They can see separately with each eye

350 degree vision

- They can see all four feet at once!

Dichromatic vision

- They can see blue, yellow, and shades of green



Photo by Ellen Albiter

Winter Tip

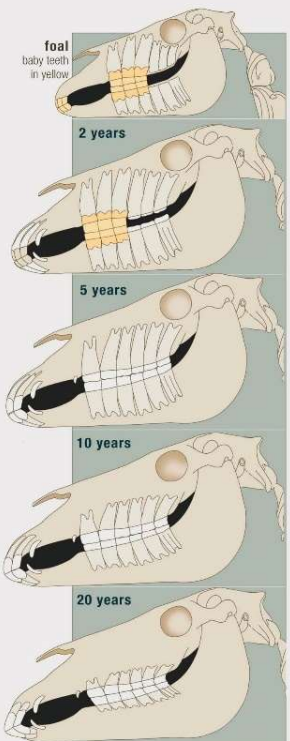
Keep a horse's tail clean by using Silicone Spray. Apply a silicone-based spray to cut down on staining by keeping dirt from penetrating the hair shaft.

Fast Facts

Equine Dentistry Edition

Equine teeth continually emerge from deep sockets within a horse's gums, replacing tooth surface that has been ground away, much like pushing lead through a mechanical pencil.

Your horse's teeth emerge from his gums at a rate of about an eighth of an inch per year. A young horse will have as much as seven pounds of teeth below the gumline—enough reserve to last him until his late teens or 20s.



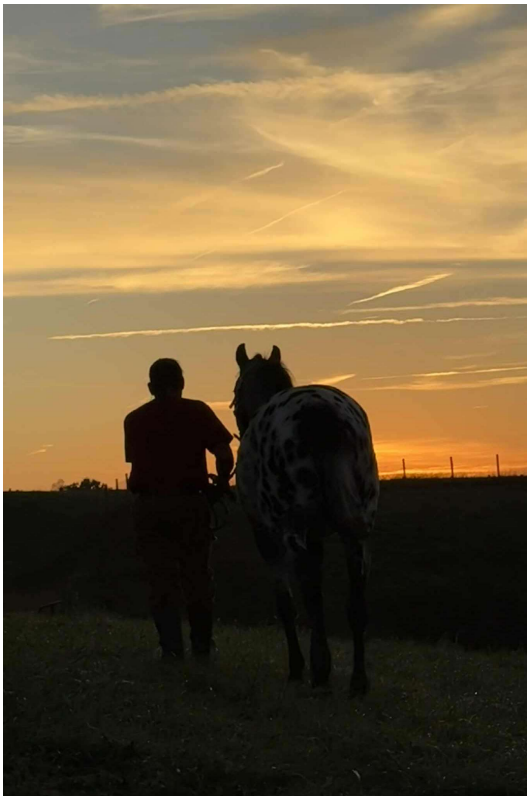
EQUUS Magazine

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ICAA Membership Perks

Current members get discounted rates on registrations, transfers, and genetic testing through AGI. Members can also enjoy the benefits of free advertising on ICAA's website and inclusion in teleconference meetings!

Advertise your ICAA stallions for free in the Stallion Showcase!
Advertise your ICAA sale horses for free in our Sale File!
Show off your ICAA horses on the ICAA Facebook Page!



*MHS Wanderlust Gypsy (F4)
and SpiritWolf Vega*



Linda Hokanson and Stars Tiger Lily (F4)

You do not need to own an Appaloosa to be a member and support ICAA.

Memberships can be paid for and submitted online.

***Registrations and other work can also be paid for and submitted online
if paperwork is quality scanned and emailed.***

As always, thank you for supporting the best breed and remaining true to the Appaloosa!

***All letters to the editor, materials submitted for publication, and advertisements should be sent to
icaa@icaainc.com.***

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