

WABA Inc. HISTORY

The **Western Australian Buckskin Association Inc** (WABA Inc) was formed in 1976, having a similar purpose to other Buckskin or Palomino Association of the time. These Associations have all played a huge role in the developing an understanding of the 'cream gene'.

Initially the colour wasn't understood and most believed that the Buckskin and Dun were fundamentally the same colour.

When the WABA Inc was first established, any Buckskin with known White Horse parentage was not be accepted. This was because there was a general misunderstanding of the 'double dilute' and a belief that they were somehow connected to the LWO (lethal white overo) gene seen in Paints. The 'white horse' quickly lost favour and the White Horse Associations of the time, suffered. Anyone with a white horse seemed to have them 'out of sight' in the back paddock.

There was a period of time, early on, that it was hoped that by breeding Buckskin to Dun somehow we would be able to develop a colour that bred true but this dream was soon shattered as they realised the dominance of the cream gene.

It didn't take long for the WABA to understand the affect the cream gene was having on what was being bred but alas they didn't have a test to prove it. With the understanding that the Dun was not the same colour as the Buckskin although so very similar in many cases, the effect of the cream gene became much clearer. In 1978 the WABA split there Studbook into 'Buckskin' - these horses were to carry no evidence of a true dorsal stripe and 'Dun' which must carry a clear and well defined dorsal stripe and the more primal marking the better. This worked very well and proved to be correct as time progressed.

In the mid 1990's the question was posed,. "Could a Dun, especially the Cream to Yellow Dun be carrying a cream gene the same as the Buckskin." Evidence was pointing to this being a very real possibility, but at the time everything that was being written about Dun colour made it seem impossible. It was at this time that the possibility of DNA colour tests was first being talked about and everyone in that Committee agreed it would be wonderful, when the day came, that we could test specific horses.

Well the day of course has arrived and the test results are exciting. The **Buckskin/Dun** is here. The results so far have confirmed what we have long suspected.

Testing is now available for the cream gene in any horse and the dun gene as long as the parents can also be tested. These tests are currently done at 2 different labs in the US.

The WABA are currently DNA colour testing horses which will one day help to shine an even clearer light on what is really happening with the Buckskin and Dun colouring. The results so far have confirmed what we have suspected for a long time.

The most exciting result being for a third generation WABA registered stallion called "Liberty Country Cash".

Cash has a unique breed line going back to one of WABA's founding stallions "Country Buck". Country Buck was by a Blue Dun/Grulla and out of a Palomino. He was a cream - yellow buckskin colour with black primal markings and registered as a Yellow Dun. Country Buck sired "Ellenbrook Country Dime" who was out if a bay foundation mare "Ellenbrook Purramba" she was exactly the same colour as her sire and registered as a Yellow Dun. She in turn produced "Liberty Country Cash" who was by a bay Arabian stallion "Bonnie Dale Trajan".

Cash, Pictured on the right, has tested positive for the cream gene and he was one of the horses discussed some 15 years ago thought to be carrying the cream gene. The most remarkable aspect about all this is there was no outside colour influence except for the Bay/agouti. The cream and dun genes carried parallel to one another, in one parent, through 3 generations. This is the phenomena that would have originally created the very wrong belief that Buckskin and Dun where in fact the same colour and it is this phenomena that highlights the extreme difference and yet unique compatibility that exists between these colour genes.

The WABA registry has for along time now ignored mostly everything that has been written and published about especially Dun colour. It has relied on what is there to be seen and now will rely on it Registry and DNA colour testing.

Most importantly we always try to have a clear perspective as we look at colour.



In more recent years we have begun registering the very rare 'Golden Buckskin' generally seen as a cross between Palomino and Black. Those tested so far carry are homozygous Agouti, AA.