



**SUMMER 2003**  
Volume 2 Issue 2

THIS ISSUE:

## COLOUR THIS

### WHAT ARE YOU GETTING?

#### Special points of interest:

- The LLCIP  
~ a "colour changer"
- Blood Typing Project
- "Pony Tales"
- Helpful Hints
- For Sale
- The Lac La Croix Indian Pony Breed Society
- The Work Ahead

#### Special bonus

\* 2003's first foal!

### "Something you want that you haven't seen?"

Send in a request for any topic you wish to see covered (horse or LLCIP related please) and we will see what can be done.

Ideas to come: Native Tack, Herd Placement!

# The Pony Express

## Colour & the End Result

by Jane Mullen

Well, having been tracking the LLCIP now for four years, and photographing as many as I could of the youngsters, it is very interesting to note the predominance of "colour changing" that occurs in the majority of the foals from birth to 6 months (or less) of age.

Now, there are many adults that routinely have summer and winter colours but this is not the phenomenon of which I speak.

When the foals is born—just WHAT colour are you going to end up with and how do you know? This is a perplexing question and when we reach the 'registration stage' (soon) it would be nice not to have to wait six month to register the animal. A lot of the "white breeds" (grays and whites) are born bay or black and change over the years—as many as 10 or 15 years ... but like I said, we're talking about the first few months of life. To MY knowledge, I know of no other breed that does this so proficiently and so often.

Colour genetics is an area (just one of many) that I've included in my 'research' so as to understand just what can be expected and how to predict it. I am a long way from any kind of understanding or conclusion on this topic, and the help and documentation (and photographic evidence) that any of you out there can provide me with would be greatly appreciated and is extremely important and needed. Colour photocopies

(on a lazer printer) are a good way to provide photos—no need to send your originals (unless you want to of course). Please include *Date of Birth and Date Picture Taken* as well as name, sire, dam and "finished" colour etc.

I am including a series of pictures taken over the last couple of years as well as just some documentation (in the absence of appropriate photo's) to illustrate this quirk.

I first noticed this phenomenon with the little black filly (Fortune's Chance) that arrived in 1999 at age 10 days—a beautiful solid black filly. Before she was 6 months old, when she was losing her "baby hair" and coming in with her permanent coat, she was a very vibrant mahogany red. As an adult, she is once again solid black with a winter "over coat" still having a *hint* of red.



**Fortune's Chance**—10 days old - black with grey legs, out of a black mare and a black stallion.



**Fortune's Chance**— approx 6 months old—shedding her red hair—note the shedding on the foreleg as well (she was red all over).

The next occasion I had to observe this was in a foal (Idanian—photo next page) born May 13, 1999. This colt was out of a grey mare and was identical in colouration to his mother—if they stood side by side in the field you couldn't see the baby. In a few months, he was black as black can be and has finished that way.

The next year, we witnessed this once again with Wabanang, and Joniia Agawate (photo's provided).

In 2001, I missed most of the babies as they changed so am unsure of the distinctiveness of any possible changes.

In 2002 however, we once again experienced this in Gi-Pi-Izhaa (filly), Ishkwane (colt), and in Kijikabato (colt) (photo's provided).

Jill Hinden recently forwarded my some photo's (ponies in Minnesota). They seem to be experiencing the same thing (Halley — photos provided).