

Why Not An Ulrich Horse?



Ulrich Kitten III, Strong Shuffler Line

The Ulrich horses may not win a halter class with their longer ears, bigger heads, stronger stout legs and feet, thicker throatlatches, but they are **beautiful** to me. No doll heads here, no skinny throatlatches or toothpick thin legs on these beauties – just pure brains, brawn and good horse sense on the trail. Some riders might consider them boring and vanilla because these horses are not drama queens and don't engage in histrionics.

Most people don't know that the Ulrich horses originated in Montana with Ralph and Helen Brown's breeding program. The Timberline Ranch in Broadview, Montana was where they raised and developed the Leopard Appaloosas. These leopard horses have changed little since the early days of their development. They still retain their striking leopard coloration and calm temperaments for which they are well known. Ralph Brown's Timberline Ranch became known as the Leopard capital of the world. People from all over the United States and abroad bought these colorful and unique patterned leopard-bred Appaloosas.



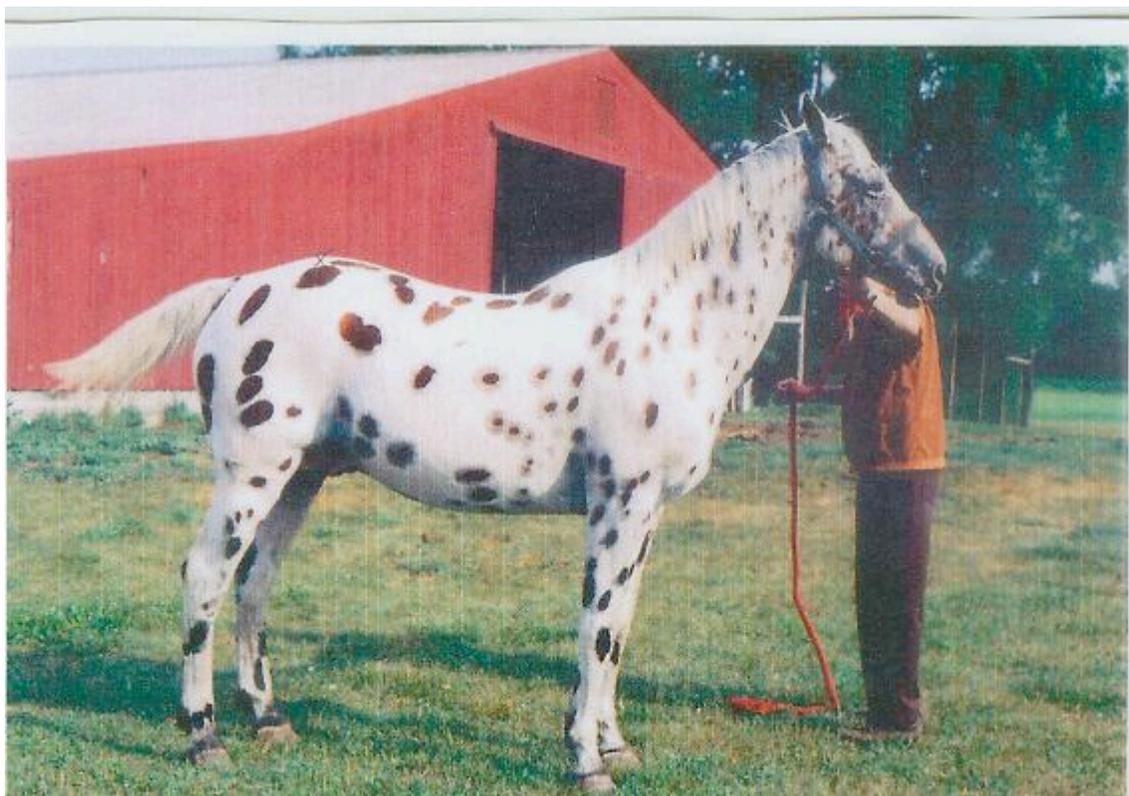
Ulrich Kavalier, Indian Shuffler, and son of Ulrich Kitten III

Don Ulrich bought most of the herd when Ralph and Helen Brown had their big dispersal sale in Montana in the 1960's. The leopard Appaloosas became even more famous with

Mr. Ulrich's outstanding advertising campaign in the Appaloosa News which has since become the Appaloosa Journal. Ulrich's horses became a household word in Appaloosa circles fueled by his slogan, "Leopard to Leopard, Appaloosa to Appaloosa, The Best to the Best." Ulrich stamped them with his name and continued the legacy of breeding these leopard bred horses. These heirloom Montana horses have not changed a bit.

When Mr. Ulrich died the Ulrich ranch had a dispersal sale in 1992. The herd once again was dispersed. Some breeders today have maintained this exquisite line of Foundation Leopard Appaloosas.

It is in the blood of these horses to be docile, quiet, sensible trail horses and a very few still have the unusual gifted Indian Shuffle 4-beat gait. They are not flighty but are well grounded and slow to react to upsets around them. They have a built in self confidence and are usually high in the pecking order. A horse I own, Ulrich Sweet Sioux, just twiddled her ears and other horses gave her a wide berth. The Ulrich horses are very self reliant and don't mind going out solo on the trail. Once on the Chief Joseph Ride, Ulrich Sweet Sioux became tired and dehydrated. She refused to continue as she needed a break and went off the trail and found a shady spot. She was unmoved that the rest of the group moved on. She was led into camp and required electrolytes and a day off before she could continue.



ULRICH KINGPIN



Ulrich Sweet Sioux with our grandson, Tyler

Many of the Ulrich horses are very nurturing and kind. Ulrich Sierra Kitten takes in all the weaned foals and is their surrogate mother. She will even share her grain with them. Our veterinarian has repeatedly asked me if Sierra could be their surrogate mother for the clinics orphan foals. She will let them nurse never discriminating. She is a smart horse and doesn't have a mean bone in her body.



Ulrich Sierra Kitten

Many people think they want spirited horses but after ending up with bumps and bruises they change their minds and decide an Ulrich horse is what they really want. I believe in form and function. Horses with broad faces, square muzzles, straight profiles, stocky body builds, lob ears and almond shaped eyes, all translate to a calm, dependable temperament. The traits above all fit the Ulrich leopard beauties to a “T.” You can have your pencil thin legged horses, with pin heads, tiny prick ears and more refined body bathing beauty conformation. I’ll take the solid, stable, quiet temperament of an Ulrich horse every time.

So why not an Ulrich horse?