

## BREED SHOWCASE

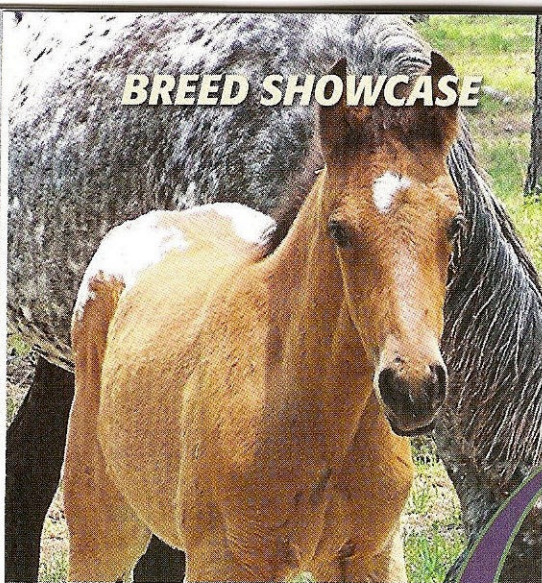


PHOTO COURTESY OF STEFANIE O'DELL

Sweet! This gaited Walkaloosa filly at Florida's O'Ranch Apps combines stunning coloration with smooth-as-silk gaits.

# 5 Gaited

rossbreeds — while not breeds in the true sense of the word, but a combination of two or more established breeds — are filling a niche for trail riders. They're usually the result of a breeder's curiosity: "What if I crossed this fine breed with that one?" The smartest, most willing, and most athletic equine results of such breedings endure, as their aficionados form registries to set standards, control breeding, and track lineages.

It's easy to see why gaited crossbreeds in particular abound, especially among those who ride on

the trail. Gaited crossbreed owners typically love the qualities of a particular breed, but also want a smooth gait to take them on their adventures.

Here, we introduce you to five smooth-gaited crossbreeds: the Gaited Curly Horse, the Gaited Mule, the Gaited Pony, the Tenuvian Horse, and the Walkaloosa. (The latter not only can be crossbreeds, but also smooth-gaited members of the foundation Appaloosa breed.)

For each crossbreed, we give you history highlights and a brief description. Then we relay what owners tell us and on-trail accounts. Finally, we provide registry and breeder resources, should you desire more information.

The late Roper Lanier of R&M Gaited Mules training his youngster on Coyote Coulee Trail in Montana's Bitterroot Mountains. The shaded trail is cool in summer, and with plenty of uphill climbs and water crossings.



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