

Erray Buckthorn

What colour do you think Buckthorn is? This is a bit of a trick question! Many people refer to Buckthorn as a 'white' pony when he is in fact a 'grey'. As Dawn frequently says...there are no white ponies at the stables...and that's not just because they are muddy! A 'white' pony has pink skin whereas a 'grey' has grey skin. Look at Buckthorn's muzzle and you will see! But Buckthorn isn't just an ordinary 'grey'. If you look closely you will see he has little flecks of brown, particularly on his face. This makes him a 'flea-bitten grey'. But the description of Buckthorn's colouring doesn't stop there! He is a Highland pony and all Highland ponies are 'duns'. 'Duns' are distinguished by a black line running down their backs - from more or less the end of the mane to the start of the tail. As Highland ponies get older, this 'eel stripe' fades. You can't really see Buckthorn's stripe now but he would have had one when he was younger. In fact he would probably have been a yellower colour, with a black eel stripe when he was a foal! So, the full answer to the question of Buckthorn's colour is: 'Flea-bitten grey dun'! I'm sure you are glad I asked!

Buckthorn is a genuine Highland pony. He was actually born on the Isle of Mull in (1991) and he is named after a Scottish tree! He had several owners before arriving at the stables in (1996). Each time he was sold he came a little further south! Like all Highland ponies, Buckthorn is a good 'all round' reliable pony suitable for all members of the family. His steady, calm temperament makes him a safe but enjoyable ride for everyone. Dawn knew she had found a good pony as soon as she first rode him. It was getting late that day and beginning to get dark. The only place to try him out was on a grass verge at the side of a road. He behaved perfectly – even when she risked cantering! His best feature is probably his enormous patience. He will stand quite still for as long as it takes to open a gate, mount a disabled rider or wait for all the traffic to go past before crossing a busy road. Unfortunately, he can seem a little too patient at times, and appear not to want to move at all! He seems to have more energy on the pub rides however as well as a passion for the occasional tippie! Could the two be linked?

Buckthorn is a pony of enormous character and not one to hide his feelings! Although Buckthorn is wonderfully patient with people, he is not very tolerant of the other ponies and will kick them if they get too close. He tried a different strategy one day however. When Dawn went to catch the ponies after they had spent the night in the indoor school, she arrived just in time to witness Bobby Socks chasing Buckthorn around. In an effort to get away, Buckthorn jumped onto the haybales, making his way to the top! He then looked forlornly at Dawn as if to say "Help! How do I get down again?" So, please help keep Buckthorn happy by not allowing the other ponies to get too close to him!