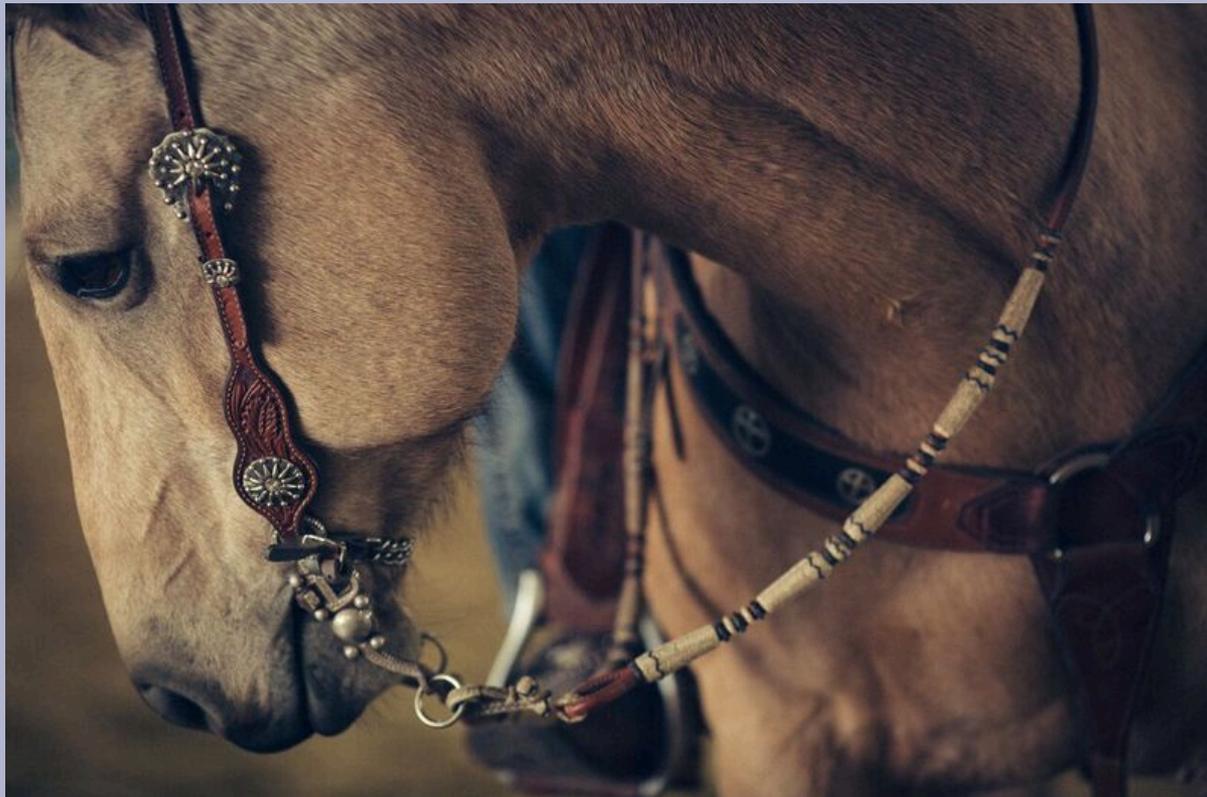


Dumb Friends League.
HARMONY EQUINE CENTER ♥



Selecting The Right Horse



Dumb Friends League.
COMPASSION ALWAYS ♥

THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE GETTING A HORSE

- Cost: Can I Afford To Own A Horse?
- Do I have time to care for a horse?
- Where will I keep the horse?
- Do I have the resources and knowledge or support to care for it?
- What will I do if it get's sick/injured
- What will I do if I can no longer keep the horse?
- Are you ready to take on such a commitment? Horses can live for a long time--more than 20 years!



DECIDE ON THE BREED

- Some horse breeds include the spunky and highly spirited Thoroughbred horse, or a gentle giant like the Belgian or Clydesdale. Whatever the breed, be sure to research the breed to make sure it's the one you truly want. You have done the study, decided on a style and discipline and now all you have to do is make a final decision.



KEEP AN OPEN MIND ABOUT THE COLOR OF THE HORSE VERSUS ITS BEHAVIOR

You may come across a horse that is both a breed and color you love, but if the horse is not well behaved, you might regret the choice.

If you take home a horse with an excellent temperament, you will likely not regret your choice even if it is not exactly your favorite color or breed.



DON'T BUY IF YOU ARE UNCERTAIN

Even though you shouldn't buy a horse because it looks right, you shouldn't buy a horse if you honestly dislike the way it looks.



If you are buying a horse, you should take the time to find the perfect horse, instead of settling for one you don't like.



PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

- Ask yourself, "If I choose this horse and take it home, will I be truly happy and be able to love the horse? In years to come, can I look back on this moment and know I made the best decision?" If the answer is no, don't buy the horse.



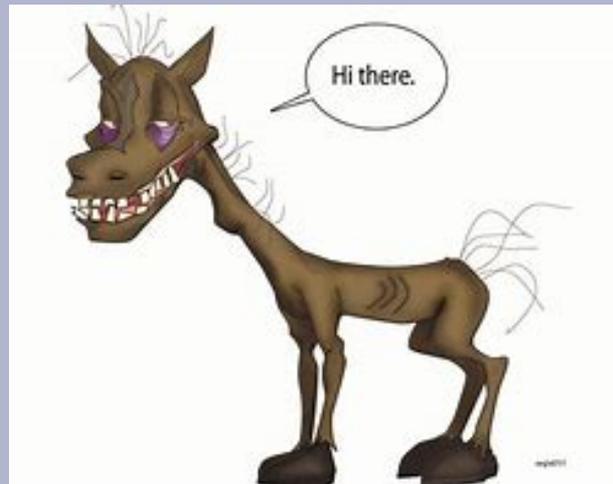
MEET THE HORSE

- Meet the horse you're considering buying and spend time with him at his current home. See him in as many environments as possible, like his stall, the arena, and outside, and do everything with him you'd normally do at home, like tacking him up, bathing him, and, of course, riding him.



HEALTHY

- Look at his physical appearance. Make sure he is healthy and in good shape. Pay special attention to his legs and his face, especially his eyes, nose, ears, and mouth. If something looks wrong, ask the owner about it. If he doesn't know, ask someone else to look at it. If he's nervous at home, where everything is familiar, consider if the extra fear he'll likely experience in a strange environment will be too much for you to handle.



PERSONALITY

- Get to know his personality. Having a smart, kind horse will be much more fun than having a beautiful but spooky or mean horse.
- Watch out for vices. Is he girthy? Does he crib? Does he kick at other horses? Carefully consider if you can handle every single one of his bad habits before you put your money - and your safety - on the line.



DON'T BE THE FIRST ONE ON



Ask the present owner to ride him for you. This way, you can see the horse under saddle, and if it has any issues, (For example: Bucking and/Rearing.) you could decide if these are issues you can handle! (if you have enough experience for this particular horse's Spirit!) If the owner won't get on, walk away as fast as you can.



ENLIST PROFESSIONAL HELP IN MAKING THIS DECISION

- No matter how experienced you are, you can always fall for the wrong horse and be left penniless and heartbroken.
- Ask an experienced trainer to look at the horse and possibly even ride him. If you know the trainer well, ask him if he thinks the horse is a good match for you.



VETERINARIAN CHECK

- Get a thorough vet check. No matter how expensive, a vet check is always worth it. Even you don't want to spend \$500 on a horse you don't even own, consider what it would be like to spend \$10,000 on a horse you do own - and can't sell. Many owners will pay for this themselves to get a horse sold.



CHOOSING THE RIGHT HORSE FOR YOUR LIFESTYLE



- Owning a horse can be expensive. There has long been a saying among horse owners that it's easy to get a horse—keeping it is the tough part! After all, the purchase is a single expenditure of money that sets the stage for many future outlays for feed, farrier, veterinarian, board...the list goes on. Horse ownership means a change in lifestyle.



3 TYPES OF HORSES

- **Un-broke-** untrained, need experienced handler
- **Green-** inexperienced; may be applied to a horse of any age having limited training, or a rider. “Green plus green makes black and blue.”
- **Broke-** a horse is a well-trained and obedient one.



QUESTIONS TO ASK AS YOU SHOP FOR A HORSE

- Buying a horse is a big deal. Arm yourself with the following questions for the seller:
- How much are they asking for the horse?
- How old is the horse?
- How big is the horse? (How many hands?)
- What is the horse's gender and size?
- In which discipline is the horse ridden?



QUESTIONS TO ASK AS YOU SHOP FOR A HORSE

- Has the horse ever had professional training?
- Is the horse suitable for a beginning or children?
- Does the horse load into a trailer?
- Does the horse have any bad habits such as cribbing (biting a fence while sucking in air), weaving (shifting back and forth repeatedly from front leg to front leg), or pulling back when tied?
- Does the horse have any medical problems or a history of medical problems like colic, lameness, or allergies?
- Why are you selling the horse?



QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

What is your riding Goal?

- Choose one of the following: Learning to ride, trail riding, or show?

What is your riding skill evaluation at the time you plan to purchase your horse?

- Be honest!!! Ideally it is great to find a horse who is experienced a few levels above your level. **YOUR HORSE IS YOUR GREATEST TEACHER.** Too little education will not be safe for you and can put you in an unsafe situation. Too much education can also put you at a disadvantage. The more educated the horse is, the more finely tuned his control panel will be.



QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

- **What temperament horse is best for you?**
 - You and your horse have individual personalities and temperaments. Each influences the other. Match is one of the most important and takes experience to determine.



MISTAKES PEOPLE MAKE WHEN CHOOSING A HORSE

1. Buying an Untrained Horse

Many experienced horsemen and women will tell you they see this too often. Because untrained horses are often cheaper, or for whatever other whim, beginner riders will choose untrained horses. Young or inexperienced mature horses are not reliable. Beginners will be safer and happier with a horse they can enjoy the moment it gets off the trailer.



MISTAKES PEOPLE MAKE WHEN CHOOSING A HORSE



2. Turning Down Older Horses

An older horse, who has seen the world, makes a great beginner horse. Beginners might shy away from a horse into their late teens and twenties. However, many healthy, sound horses can be ridden well into their senior years.



MISTAKES PEOPLE MAKE WHEN CHOOSING A HORSE

3. Buying a Young Horse for Their Children to Grow Up With

This is a romantic notion, but the reality is that young horses and young beginner riders are not a safe mix. Buy your kids a mature, well trained horse they can saddle up the same day you bring it home.



MISTAKES PEOPLE MAKE WHEN CHOOSING A HORSE

4. Buying at Auction

It takes a keen eye to pull a good horse out of an auction. Horses can be drugged to make them look calm or healthy. Things like lameness can be hidden easily with drugs.



MISTAKES PEOPLE MAKE WHEN CHOOSING A HORSE

5. Impulse Buying



Don't buy a horse on first sight. Try the horse out, try it again, ask lots of questions. Go home and think about it for a few days. Look at other horses besides the one you're smitten with and make comparisons. Be absolutely sure you've chosen the horse most suitable for you.



MISTAKES PEOPLE MAKE WHEN CHOOSING A HORSE

6. Buying a Horse to Breed

Do you want to buy a horse so you can breed it and have a foal? Horses should be bred because they have outstanding qualities to pass on. The fact that you love it or think it would have a really cute foal is not an outstanding quality.



MISTAKES PEOPLE MAKE WHEN CHOOSING A HORSE

7. Buying a Horse of a Particular Color

While it is perfectly reasonable to want to own a special coat pattern horse like a Paint, palomino or Appaloosa. Don't base your decision on the color but the mind and training. When buying a car the adage is 'you don't drive the paint'.



MISTAKES PEOPLE MAKE WHEN CHOOSING A HORSE

8. Not Considering the Time and Expense of Horse Care

Horse ownership is a big responsibility. Horses don't stop eating and drinking on the weekend when you want to go away. The expenses don't stop because you want to spend the money elsewhere, or you've been unable to work. Be honest about the time and money you are able to spend on a horse.



CAN I AFFORD TO OWN A HORSE? THEY AIN'T CHEAP

- **Purchase Price \$1,500.00 - \$15,000.00**
- **Tack & Equipment (Annual) \$1,000.00 - \$5,000.00**
- **Health Care (Annual) \$120.00 - \$600.00**
- **Farrier (Annual) \$200.00 - \$1,200.00**
- **Feed & Bedding (Annual) \$1,000.00 - \$2,400.00**
- **Supplies (Annual) \$200.00 - \$1,200.00**
- **Total Full Care Boarding (Annual) \$2,400.00 - \$7,200.00**
- **Lessons (Annual) \$1,290.00 - \$7,200.00**
- **Training (Annual) \$3,600.00 - \$10,000.00**
- **Transportation (At purchase and annual) Depends on the number of miles you need to trailer.**



QUESTIONS?

*Expensive and time
consuming? Yes, but
it's worth it!*



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