



**Dumb Friends League.**  
HARMONY EQUINE CENTER ♥



## Horse Ownership 101



Dumb Friends League.  
COMPASSION ALWAYS ♥

# 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.



# TERMINOLOGY

- ***Stallion***-in tact male horse
- ***Mare***-in tact female horse
- ***Gelding***-"neutered" male horse, also referred to as "cut" or "gelded"
- ***Foal***-Nursing male or female baby horse



***Colt***-Male horse under the age of three

***Filly***-Female horse under the age of three



# TERMINOLOGY

- *Weanling*-Foal that has been separated from it's mother



- *Yearling*-One year old horse
- *Dam*-Female horse
- *Sire*-Male horse
- *Stud*-Intact male horse



# TERMINOLOGY

- ***Hands***-term used to measure horses, each hand is 4 inches
- ***Withers***-highest point on the horses
- ***Conformation***-describes how a horse is put together skeletally with accompanying muscle structures.



# TERMINOLOGY

- **Gait**-describes the movement of the horses feet.
  - **Walk**-4 distinct and regular beats
  - **Trot**-2 beat diagonal gait
  - **Canter/Lope**-3 beat gait
  - **Gallop**-4 beat gait with a moment of full suspension when all four hooves leave the ground
  - **Specialized Gaits "Gaited"**-a horse with specialized variations of the natural gaits



# 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?**
- 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.



# 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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'. With horses, you don't ride/drive the color.

## 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.



# THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE GETTING A HORSE

- Cost: Can I Afford To Own 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 gets sick/injured
- What will I do if I can no longer keep the horse?
- What will I use the horse for? Pleasure and enjoyment...



# QUESTIONS TO ASK AS YOU SHOP FOR A HORSE

- Professional training?
- Suitable for a beginning or children?
- Does the horse load into a trailer?
- 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?
- Medical problems or a history of medical problems like colic, lameness, or allergies?
- Why are you selling the horse?



# QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

Decide whether you will keep the horse at home, the costs to prepare your property, the time required, your basis of knowledge for his well-being or to board him at the stable where you are taking lessons. If you choose the local stable, you will have a support system to help you get started. This is sometimes very useful.



# CAN I AFFORD TO OWN A HORSE?

- Average basic cost of owning a horse has been on the increase.
- Feed
- Facility
- Veterinarian
- Farrier
- Training and Exercise
- Transport
- Tack
- Time!!!
- Extra unforeseen Expenses



# FEED AND WATER

- Horses consume an average of 10 gallons of water per day
- Grass Hay. The daily hay portion is estimated at 1.5 percent of the horse's body weight. Availability of pasture would reduce hay requirement.
- Salt and Minerals. Salt and minerals can be supplied by two five-pound blocks per year. There are numerous sources of minerals, vitamins, and supplements used for horses at a wide range of costs. Many commercially prepared grain mixes contain large amounts of supplemental minerals and vitamins.



# FACILITY

- Private, Pasture, Board
- Fencing
- Neighborhood laws and covenants
- Shelter
- Water and feed (Winter vs. Summer)
- Manure





# VETERINARIAN

- Veterinarians are our best resources
- Vaccinations
- Parasites and worming
- Teeth
- Travel Papers (coggins, health papers)
- Where do I find a Veterinarian?
- Emergencies and when to call



# FARRIER

- No foot, No Horse
- Farrier costs for the hobby horse operation vary greatly. Periodic trimming is much less costly than shoeing, and the need for shoeing versus trimming will depend on owner preference and the type and location of activity.
- Frequency 6-12 weeks depending on use and ground
- Low End: Trims
- High End: Specialty Shoes



# DAILY HORSE-TENDING TASKS

- Taking care of a horse is a major responsibility. The following list describes the tasks you need to accomplish each day for your horse:
- Feed your horse two to three times
- Check your horse's water supply
- Examine your horse for any signs of health troubles
- Exercise your horse
- Clean out your horse's stall once or twice
- Groom your horse and clean her hooves



# PROPER FITTING TACK AND SUPPLIES

- Grooming
- Saddles
- Bridles
- Bits
- Boots
- Blankets
- Halters
- Brushes



# 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.



# WHY WE LOVE HORSES SO MUCH

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

- Most people own horses for hobby interests related to family and youth development, enhancement of the quality of life, or recreation. Several practices will help increase your enjoyment of horse ownership:
- Before buying a horse, research the horse market and the types of horse uses with which you may want to become involved.
- Budget the cost of housing and care before buying a horse.
- The cost of horse ownership can be regulated by understanding the needs of the horse and selecting products that most efficiently meet those needs.
- Cooperative Extension publications and programs, veterinarians, other horse owners, and local libraries are good sources for information about the proper care and use of horses.



# LAST BIT OF ADVICE

- Take lessons before you purchase a horse and make sure owning a horse is what you want to do. If you miss your lessons because you are too busy you don't need to own a horse!!!



# QUESTIONS?



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