

Buy A Horse Questionnaire / Checklist

A list of questions to ask the seller when you are considering leasing or buying a horse.

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Basics

Mare, Stallion, or Gelding?

Height? If young, how big may it get? How large were its dam and sire?

Weight? Has this fluctuated any?

Registered birth date? If not registered, what is the foal date? If unknown, what is its estimated age range and who estimated it?

Breed?

Are you willing to transport it for an interview, or after purchase? Will this cost extra?

Asking price?

Where is the horse located?

Owners name?

Any tattoos or branding?

Color and appearance? Markings? Any obvious healed injuries/scars?

Do you have any tack for sale for this horse?

Will any other items be included with sale (such as blankets, brushes, etc)?

Has a coggins test been done? If no, will you be paying for one before the sale?

Owner

How long have you owned?

Why are you selling?

Horse's background? How old was it when it was broke?

Is it registered? Is registration up to date and in your name?

How long has the horse been for sale?

Have any potential purchasers paid to had a prepurchase exam done?

Will you consider a 10-30 day health guarantee?
Would you agree to take the horse back in a limited time period if there are problems not caused by negligence of the new owner?
Maintenance
Kept alone, stalled, or pasture with others?
Status in herd?
Feed? Any limitations (such as no grain, pasture, lush spring turnout, allergens, etc)
Has it been underweight or overweight?
Is it fed with others or separated?
Allowed to graze (if no, may be bored or not do as well on grass)
Worming program?
Does it respect and/or periodically damage fences, buildings, stall, etc? What type of fences are used?
Vet / Health
What are the horses current health needs or issues?
Any history of colic?
Ever been lame or foundered?
Any skin or ear conditions? Are they permanent, recurring, or healing?
Any eye conditions?
What past injuries or illnesses or health concerns or non-routine vet visits of any type has the horse had? Are they permanent, recurring, or healing?
Any allergies?
Any X rays taken?
Is it up to date on shots, and which ones? Did vet do?
Would you pay for a prepurchase exam if one has not already been done?
How often does it need teeth floated? Does the vet do it? Does it require tranquilizer?
Can I have permission to call your past:

Vet(s)?
farrier(s)?
Trainer(?)
Previous Owner?
Would you like to recommend anyone else as a reference for this horse, or you as a seller?
<i>For above, please also include phone number/email address and city. Please also call the service to give them permission to share information with us.</i>
Feet
Hooves - does it wear shoes? How often does it need trimming?
Does it tolerate Hoof Trimming/Shoeing? How does it behave?
Any general comments on the health of the feet from you or the farrier?
Habits & Vices
Describe it as stubborn, sensitive, mellow, energetic, calm, open to instruction, fast or repetitive learner, affectionate, pushy, respectful or not, hesitant, fearful, untrusting until it gets to know you? Anything else?
Has anyone ever been hurt by it?
Vices? Cribbing, tail rubbing, weaving, pawing, wood chewing, pulling when tied, trailering poorly, box walking, tail rubbing, etc?
Tolerate bath?

Stand Tied?

Has he ever bit, kicked, bolted, reared, charged, or broken something? What are the circumstances, and frequency?
Any other dangerous behavior?

Is it head shy? Is it uncomfortable with ears being touched, bridle, or halter? Is it sensitive about any other areas?

How does it behave during ground work?

How does it behave during saddling? Is it cinchy? Does it prefer a certain saddle or other tack?

Trail Riding

Does he Trailer, Load, stand in trailer?

Trail ride with or without other horses? Lead or follow?

How often been ridden trails/out?

What things spook at?

Response to spooking (bolt, buck, rear, freeze)

Does it neck reign?

How sensitive it is to plow reigning (soft, sensitive, hard)?

Road safe? Better on open fields, or wooded trails?

How much mental warm up needed? If left unriden for winter?

How smooth is the ride of walk, trot, canter, gallop?

Is the horse gaited? What gaits does it do? Are it's gaits easy to get into, or is this still being worked on?

Other Work

Does it drive?

What disciplines are appropriate for this horse?

Any past professional training? How long? Type? Name of trainer? When? How old was the horse when it was broke?

What has the horse been doing (riding alone, riding with others, ground work, pasture pet)? How often?

Who can ride? Who should not ride? Any kids? Green riders? Does a trainer need to be supervising? Suggest Experienced only?

How much work does the horse need at the beginning of the season to get back in mental and/or physical shape (if not worked all year)? Should it be worked all year?

What type of tack used has been used? Does it prefer certain tack over others?

Does it have any bad habits under saddle, such as chewing the bit, throwing head, pulling, laying down, tripping, falling asleep, fighting to eat grass, etc?

Anything else we should know?