

How To Buy a Horse

So, you want to buy a horse?

In today's market with all of the technology you could ever need it's even harder to find a good horse. What you need to establish is the guidelines to finding a horse for you. Everyone will have different guidelines and you have to be brutally honest with yourself on this. You may want the spirited flashy equine but may need the quiet-been-there-done-that horse.

If this is your first time buying a horse it is better to make sure you have a reliable person to go with you and check the horse out. Preferably someone you pay to do this. Why you ask? Well, sometimes we do not see what someone else does when viewing a horse, and secondly, if the horse is misrepresented you will have something to fall back on in case of a return. There are some very basic things to learn about the horse when purchasing.

- Breed
- Age
- Ht.
- Training
- Exposure

These are the first things you need to know about a horse. Then you can go into detail about what type of training the horse has had. Is it currently in training, is it fit? Has it been sitting idle? Is it shod, barefoot? Who has been riding the horse? Has it any injuries, scars, blemishes. Some scaring and blemishes can be overlooked if they are older and if you're not going to be using the horse hard.

For instance a horse with some old scaring would probably suit a recreational rider who is just starting out but not suitable for someone who wants a competition horse. People will go on and on about the virtue of said horse but its best to get the basics and go from there. Make an appointment to view the animal, be on time, and don't bring a huge group to view the animal; nothing worse than having a group show up when you're trying to sell a horse.

View the horse while it is either held or tied and have a good look at it all the way around. Ask that it be led out at a walk and trot to and from you a few times. Then ask them to show you the horse under saddle. Pay attention to how much they warm the horse up or if they take a long time to tack up. Watch the horse's reaction to being cinched and bridled. Does it stand to be mounted? Does it walk off calmly? Is it spooky? Remember this will most likely be at its home turf so it will all be familiar to the horse.

After the horse has been ridden in both directions at all gaits, get on and try the horse yourself or have your agent ride the horse. If at this point the horse still appeals to you, make arrangements to view the horse again at a different location. If you're going to be buying it for a trail horse best to see how it is on the trail.

If at this point the horse is still looking good as far as your needs and budget, then ask to have the horse vetted and be honest with the vet with what you will be requiring the horse to be able to do. A pre-purchase exam can cost hundreds of dollars but best to work this out with the vet beforehand so you do not waste their time or yours.

If no red flags pop up then you may want to ride the horse a few more times to make sure this is the horse that will suit your needs. Don't be surprised if the sellers do not want to do this, and it's reasonable as it takes up their time. Also they may want a fast sale and not interested in multiply trials. I

Its best to have a sales agreement such as you agree to purchase the horse for x amount and if within a reasonable time the horse proves to be unsound from a previous ailment you have the right to return the horse for a full refund minus your costs for care and hauling of the horse.

I hope this helps outlining a few things to consider when buying a horse. Remember there are no guarantees in buying a horse so many variables come into it. But hopefully you find a horse you will be able to ride and enjoy for years to come.

Happy Trails!!

Corinne