



Buying A Horse Checklist

Take this with you when visiting potential horses

Breed:..... Height: Age: Price:
Name of owner
Name of seller
Is there a selling agent?
Reason for sale

Handling (it is better if you can watch the below done by the owner and then do them yourself) – is the horse happy to be:

- Caught in the field
- Happy to be turned out – ok with fencing/electric/jumps out?
- Being led
- Groomed
- Touched all over
- Having feet picked out
- Led away from companions
- Good with dogs/other animals
- Good with children
- Comments or concerns:

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Ridden (always watch a horse ridden first to ensure you are happy to get on) – is the horse happy to be

- Tacked up
- Ridden in school walk, trot and canter
- Led in tack
- Ridden in field walk trot and canter
- Mounted
- Ridden in traffic
- Jump if appropriate
- Lunged (this is helpful so you can see the horse doing some groundwork, check for behavioural concerns)

Questions:

Vices?
Behavioural issues? (Nap, buck, spin, rear)
Good in traffic (hack alone and in company)

Safe? (not novice ride)
Good to clip/shoe/load?

Health conditions Notes (e.g current medication/supplements)

1.
2.
3.

Questions:

Will the owner disclose the clinical history and vetting from purchase?
Previous lameness?
Previous surgery?
Previous medications?
Previous laminitis/illnesses?
Vaccinations up to date?
Is the horse open to vet/x-rays/scope?
Has the horse been vetted previously?

Comments or concerns:

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How did he look? You could ask someone to take a picture/video
What equipment did they have? (e.g. What type of bit or noseband did they wear?
Any extras e.g. Martingale)

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Current routine (e.g. companions, stable or field kept)

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