

# Buying a horse

Buying a horse can be both an exciting and nerve wracking exercise. Everyone has heard about the costs that can be involved when a horse has a serious problem so here are a few checkpoints you should think about before you buy:

## Buy a horse appropriate to your skill level

If for example this is your first horse then avoid a 'Project Horse'. This is all about having fun and having a horse that does what you want it to do it vital to your enjoyment. Decide what you are going to do with your new horse. There are many disciplines when competing a horse, such as dressage, show jumping or eventing which involves cross country riding. Most people though, enjoy hacking their horses on the many bridle paths and routes around Scotland.

## Buy privately or from a reputable dealer that you has been recommended to you

There are many places to look for a horse (just type 'horses for sale' into Google!), but we would suggest phoning a friend or riding school to ask if they know a good place to buy a horse. While your dream horse may not be the first horse you look at, the more you see the quicker you will get a gauge of what you want and don't want in a horse.

## Check the horses passport

It is law that every horse over 6 months of age, have a passport. This book will have the horse's name, age, breed and will list all vaccinations that horse has had in its life. It may also list all medications that have been given to the horse.



## Get your horse 'Vetted'

This is the most important piece of advice we can give you. Get your horse checked by a professional before you purchase. But always remember, the purchase of any horse involves you taking a risk. No horse is risk free and at best, your vet can aim to identify, assess and attempt to quantify that risk for you so that you can come to an informed decision as to whether or not to proceed with your intended purchase.



## Get a receipt

Always get a receipt as this is proof of ownership. A passport is NOT proof of ownership.



## Consider a trial period

Trying before you buy is vital and buying a horse from a picture can be very hit and miss. Try the horse a few times and perhaps even ask about having the horse on trial to see how it 'fits' with you and your life. But remember to find out 'who pays for what' if you need to call a vet. Always have any agreements in writing.

## Ask about the seller return policy

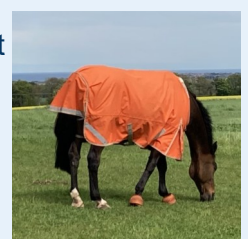
Things don't always work out so finding this out at the start can save arguments later. Will you get your money back?

## Horse are expensive!

Do not under estimate the cost of keeping a horse. Farriery alone can cost £500-750 a year and that's without the emergency problems that need to be dealt with by your vet.

## Other things to consider

Decide where you would like to keep your horse before you buy your horse. You can't keep your horse in your house so having somewhere organised is essential. It may just be a field or a livery yard with stables. It depends on your budget and the type of horse you want to get.



A horse will need a dental exam and depending on what you vaccinate for, a vaccine every year. Failing to do this will leave your horse at risk of getting a potentially fatal disease and a horse with sharp teeth will not go properly and be harder to ride because it is in pain!