

The Basics

OF HORSE OWNERSHIP



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Embarking On New Horse Ownership

Embarking on the journey of new horse ownership is an exhilarating venture that promises a profound connection with one of the most majestic and loyal animals on Earth. Beyond the thrill of riding and the joy of companionship, becoming a horse owner brings forth a world of responsibilities and rewards.

This introduction sets the stage for those entering the realm of equine care, offering insights into the unique bond that forms between horse and owner. As we delve into the essentials of new horse ownership, it becomes clear that this undertaking is not merely about possession, but about fostering a relationship built on trust, understanding, and shared experiences.

Whether you're a seasoned equestrian or a first-time horse enthusiast, the journey of caring for a horse unfolds as a remarkable adventure filled with challenges, growth, and immeasurable fulfillment. Welcome to the world of new horse ownership – a journey that promises not only the joy of riding but a profound and enduring connection with these extraordinary creatures.

Preparing For Your New Horse

Before the arrival of your new horse, meticulous preparation is crucial for a seamless transition. Begin by ensuring the stable or shelter is set up with appropriate bedding, water, and feed.

Double-check that the pasture or paddock is secure and well-fenced. Purchase essential supplies such as a halter, lead rope, grooming tools, and feeding equipment.

Coordinate with a veterinarian for a pre-arrival health check, vaccinations, and deworming. Schedule a farrier appointment for hoof care.

Familiarize yourself with the horse's dietary needs, gradually introducing any necessary changes to avoid digestive issues.

Create a designated area for quarantine if required, allowing the horse to acclimate gradually to its new environment. Finally, have an emergency plan in place, including contact information for nearby veterinary services, and be ready to provide a warm welcome for your new equine companion.

List of Horse Care Essentials

Basic Tack:

- Bridle
- Saddle
- Girth
- Stirrups and stirrup leathers
- Saddle pad

Grooming Supplies:

- Curry comb
- Dandy brush
- Body brush
- Mane and tail comb
- Hoof pick

Protective Gear:

- Riding helmet
- Riding gloves
- Appropriate footwear (riding boots)

Health and First Aid Kit:

- Equine first aid kit
- Thermometer
- Hoof dressing
- Wound care supplies

List of Horse Care Essentials

Feeding and Watering:

- Water buckets or troughs
- Feed buckets
- Hay nets
- Grain or feed suitable for the horse's needs

Shelter and Bedding:

- Suitable stable or shelter
- Bedding material (straw, shavings)

Routine Care Supplies:

- Farrier tools (hoof pick, rasp)
- Fly spray and fly mask
- Deworming medications

Training and Riding Equipment:

- Lunge line
- Lunge whip
- Training aids

Stable Management Tools:

- Wheelbarrow
- Pitchfork
- Broom

What To Do When You Get Your Horse



When you get your new horse, prioritize the establishment of a secure and safe environment, ensuring the stable or paddock is hazard-free and the fencing is in good condition.

Approach the introduction with a calm demeanor, allowing the horse time to acclimate to its new surroundings, and fostering trust through gentle interaction and observation. Provide access to fresh water and quality forage, adhering to a consistent feeding and grooming routine to promote a sense of security.

Conduct a thorough health check, monitoring vital signs and scheduling visits from the farrier and veterinarian for hoof care and overall well-being.

What To Do When You Get Your Horse

Initiate groundwork and basic training to establish communication and respect, while also facilitating socialization if the horse will be in the company of others.

Also ensure all legal documentation, including ownership papers and insurance, is in order, and maintain records of vaccinations and health-related information.

Above all, approach the process with patience and understanding, recognizing that building a strong bond takes time, ultimately laying the groundwork for a positive rewarding relationship with your new equine companion.



Working Your New Horse on the Ground

Engaging in ground exercises with your new horse is a valuable way to build trust, establish communication, and lay the foundation for a positive partnership.

Begin with basic leading exercises, teaching the horse to walk, halt, and turn with responsiveness to your cues.

Introduce desensitization activities, such as gently exposing the horse to various objects, sounds, and tactile sensations, to help them become more confident and calm.

Incorporate groundwork that focuses on yielding the horse's hindquarters and forequarters, promoting flexibility and respect for your personal space. Utilize groundwork to establish ground tying, teaching the horse to stand quietly without being tied.

Lunging is an effective exercise for improving communication and building the horse's fitness. Gradually introduce obstacles and varying terrain to enhance the horse's balance and coordination. Consistency, positive reinforcement, and patience are key elements in these exercises, creating a solid groundwork that will positively influence your horse's behavior under saddle and strengthen your connection.

Before You Ride Your New Horse

Before riding your new horse, it's crucial to undertake a series of preparatory steps to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for both you and your equine companion.

Begin by meticulously checking all tack for wear and proper fitting to avoid discomfort or injury.

A thorough grooming session not only keeps your horse clean but, also allows you to inspect for any signs of sensitivity or potential health issues.

Examine the hooves for cleanliness and soundness.

Engage in a brief groundwork session to warm up your horse's muscles and establish a connection.

Confirm the secure fitting of your riding attire, including a well-fitted helmet.

Survey the riding area for potential hazards and ensure it's suitable for your intended activities.

Before You Ride Your New Horse

Practice mounting and dismounting, particularly if your horse is new or unaccustomed to the process.

Have a clear plan for your ride, and mentally prepare yourself with a focused and calm mindset.

By conscientiously addressing these pre-ride considerations, you lay the groundwork for a positive and safe riding experience with your new horse.



Keeping a Healthy Happy Horse

Ensuring the happiness and health of your new horse involves a holistic approach that encompasses both physical and mental well-being. Provide a balanced and nutritious diet tailored to your horse's specific needs, ensuring access to clean water at all times.

Regular exercise is vital, incorporating a mix of groundwork, riding, and turnout in a safe and spacious environment. Establish a consistent grooming routine to not only maintain a healthy coat, but also to check for any signs of discomfort or injury.

Prioritize regular veterinary check-ups, vaccinations, and dental care. Foster mental stimulation through positive interactions, whether it's through socialization with other horses, engaging in varied activities, or offering treats as rewards. Pay attention to your horse's behavior and preferences, adapting your care routine accordingly.

Create a comfortable living environment with proper shelter and bedding. Finally, build a strong bond through trust and positive reinforcement, as a happy and well-cared-for horse is more likely to be a willing and content companion.