

# A Horse Buyer's Checklist

## Part 1 (information gathered via phone call, text, or email)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: M G S

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Height \_\_\_\_\_

Breed \_\_\_\_\_

Color and markings

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Registered? If so, registered name \_\_\_\_\_

Registered with \_\_\_\_\_

Does the seller have the horse's papers? \_\_\_\_\_

Is s/he registered in seller's name? \_\_\_\_\_

If the horse is a mare, is she bred? If so, to what sort of stallion and when is she due? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Does the seller have a breeder's certificate to register the foal? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was horse advertised? \_\_\_\_\_

Why is s/he for sale?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is the asking price \_\_\_\_\_ Is the price negotiable? \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any guarantees?

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Seller's name and contact information: \_\_\_\_\_

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Does horse have any health issues?

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Is s/he up to date on vaccinations? If so, which ones?

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Is s/he on a de-worming schedule? \_\_\_\_\_

When was s/he last de-wormed? \_\_\_\_\_

Is s/he currently sound? \_\_\_\_\_

Has s/he been lame in the past? If so, describe \_\_\_\_\_

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Is s/he kept on pasture? \_\_\_\_\_ In a stall? \_\_\_\_\_

A combination of the two? \_\_\_\_\_

How does the owner describe the horse's disposition?

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Does s/he load easily into a trailer? \_\_\_\_\_

Once in, how does s/he ride? \_\_\_\_\_

Does s/he stand quietly for: The farrier? \_\_\_\_\_ The vet? \_\_\_\_\_

Grooming? \_\_\_\_\_ Saddling? \_\_\_\_\_ Blanketing? \_\_\_\_\_

Deworming? \_\_\_\_\_ Clipping? \_\_\_\_\_ Bathing? \_\_\_\_\_

Does s/he kick, strike at, or bite humans? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, under what circumstances?

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Does s/he have stall vices like wall kicking, cribbing, weaving, or stall walking?

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Does s/he get along with other horses at pasture? \_\_\_\_\_

When riding? \_\_\_\_\_

How well is this horse trained to ride or drive? If s/he has been shown, in which classes?

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Has s/he had any professional training? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, for what, when, and by whom?

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Does she readily leave the company of other horses? \_\_\_\_\_

Has s/he ever bolted (run away with a rider) and if so, under what circumstances? \_\_\_\_\_

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General impressions based on initial contact with seller:

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Appointment made to see and ride horse? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, when? \_\_\_\_\_

Directions to seller's home or boarding stable:

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**Part 2 (information gathered during personal inspection)**

Inspected horse on \_\_\_\_\_

Weather conditions? \_\_\_\_\_

Who accompanied me? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Impressions of farm?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Impressions of seller?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Initial impressions of horse?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Photos or video taken: Front \_\_\_\_\_ Rear \_\_\_\_\_ Close-ups of legs \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Examined paperwork such as registration papers, Coggins test, and other health

records? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are registration papers in order and a transfer slip available?

\_\_\_\_\_

Does the horse appear to be healthy and of an acceptable weight?

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Does s/he appear to be as the owner described? (List any discrepancies)

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Are there distinguishing characteristics such as scars, brands, or tattoos?

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Condition of hooves?

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If the horse is shod, is s/he wearing standard shoes?

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Apparent disposition? (Friendly, wary, hostile, etc.)

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Easily caught in a pasture, arena, or large pen? \_\_\_\_\_

Appears sound when trotted away, back toward and past us in halter or bridle?

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Readily picks up feet and allows each foot to be held for at least one minute?

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Stands quietly while being groomed, saddled, and bridled? \_\_\_\_\_

Any specialized tack used? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, owner's explanation:

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Horse's general attitude toward being tacked up?

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Does the horse stand still when mounted by owner? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, how does s/he resist? \_\_\_\_\_

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Horse's general demeanor under saddle?

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Does the horse satisfactorily perform according to owner's original description over phone or by email?

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Does owner appear nervous when you (or your advisor) are ready to ride?

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Does the horse stand still when you (or your advisor) mount? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, how does s/he resist? \_\_\_\_\_

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Does the horse perform satisfactorily for you (or your advisor)? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, what's the problem? \_\_\_\_\_

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Do you feel comfortable handling and riding this horse? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If originally ridden in an enclosed area, is the owner amenable to also riding the horse outside? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, does the horse perform equally well in unenclosed spaces? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Final impressions:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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