

FIVE EASY TIPS ON HOW TO BUY THE RIGHT HORSE.

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By Dean Erickson

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If you are looking for a horse or pony for sale, a horse trailer or even an entire horse farm for sale, here are some tips to get you started.

Buying a horse is a big event. There are so many important things to consider that an impulsive buy is out of the question. Any would-be equine owner must think about things like finding an appropriate boarding stable and purchasing all the correct equipment you may need. You should seek out other horse owners and speak to them.

As a start, the Internet offers a wealth of information. Your best bet is to start a search for "How to buy a horse". This will bring up many dedicated sites with in-depth guides, tips and FAQs on the process of buying your own horse.

In brief:

1. Be responsible for your purchase. Investigate what you are buying and who you are buying from. It's better to buy from people who are in the business and have lots of horses to choose from. If you aren't an experience buyer it's too risky to buy from a private individual. Get to know the horse's current owners. Ask for references. Speak to others who've bought horses from the same sellers. Talk to those who run boarding farms. What do they know? Do a lot of preparatory research.
2. It's up to you to ask questions, detailed questions, of the person who has the horse for sale. Ask about the horse's health, training history, personality and behaviour and anything else that could be of interest. Reading up on horse-buying on the Internet or talking to a horse-trainer or other knowledgeable contact can help you come up with relevant questions.
3. Communicate your intended use of the horse. Make sure the current owner knows what you want from a horse, otherwise you'll end up with the horse they want to sell and not necessarily the one you want to buy. You need to explain your intended use of the horse so that you can discuss suitability with its previous owner. If your interest is in breeding, then check the horse's pedigree papers and

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competition history. If your interest is in dressage, then try the horse out.

4. You should also look into getting a pre-purchase exam done. Make sure there's a contract written and looked over by a lawyer. Normally this is the seller's job, but have your own if required.

5. Invest in your own training as well as your horse's training. Research, read. Find a trainer who works with horses and people.

There are many horse classifieds online. You can search online directories for horses for sale. You can browse horses for sale by breed, for example, Arabian horse for sale or by area in which the seller is located, for example, horse for sale in Texas.

Dean Erickson. Journalist, and web site builder Dean Erickson lives in Texas. He is the owner and co-editor of horses-for-sale-directory.info on which you will find a longer, more detailed version of this article.

Horse Training Secrets For Busy Horse Owners Short On Time

By Andy Curry

Picture this. You're late for work one day. You look at your watch and notice you have about three minutes to feed your horse before you have to leave. Plus, it seems to worsen every day. You notice your life getting busier and you have little time, if any, to spend with your horse.

Should you sell him? Should you keep him? What do you do.

It depends. If you only want a pet that eats a lot of hay, then you can keep him if it is affordable. If you want to ride him but you know you won't have time then consider selling him. (Ouch!)

However, if you know you will eventually have time to ride then you can keep your horse "tuned up" by doing some "quick and easy to do" horse training maneuvers on him.

For instance, you have about two minutes to feed your horse before you go to work. So you rush outside and get some hay for him. Just before you feed him you get beside him and practice his backing up.

Backing him up is a great way to keep him "tuned up". Why? You get your horse to move. When you get your horse to move you earn more and more of his respect. Getting a horse to move is using the horse's psychology to get it in his brain that you are the boss. The chief. The head-honcho.

There are more exercises to do than just backing.

Say you have a horse that won't come to you. The reason he won't is likely because of fear or doesn't trust you.

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But for the next few weeks go feed your horses with a halter and brush in hand. Horses love to be brushed. Once you get it in his head that seeing the halter means pleasure you will almost never have trouble getting him to come to you.

Here's a good one many people don't know. When you go to feed your horses whistle loudly if you can. If you whistle a certain way and if you're consistent in the way you do it...then you can usually call horses in from an open field and they'll come a runnin'.

Want another tip? Try this.

Before you feed your horse, approach him and pet on his withers. Assuming you are standing on his left side poke your finger into his flank (around the rib/hip area). Hold it there. If he doesn't move, increase the pressure and hold it. If he doesn't move, increase the pressure even more and hold it. Repeat this process until he moves away from the pressure.

When he moves reward him with a petting on the forehead. Do it a couple more times then repeat on his right side.

Doing this teaches the horse a couple things. First, it teaches him to move away from pressure. Since pressure is a tool we use to communicate with the horse, we want him to know how to move away from it.

Secondly, you are doing ground work of teaching your horse to move his hindquarters away from you. Thus, when you sit on the saddle and apply pressure with your boot in that same area, you have primed him to move away from that pressure – he moves his rear end away from your foot.

This is a tremendous tool to not only disengage a horse's hindquarters, it is also part of how to teach a horse to sidepass.

There are more "quick to do" horse training tips you can do. These are but a few examples of what you can accomplish even if you have just minutes a day.

Andy Curry is a nationally known horse trainer and author of several best selling horse training and horse care books. For information visit his website at

. He is also the

leading expert on Jesse Beery's horse training methods which can be seen at

.

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The TOP 7 Mistakes Horse Owners Make

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