



New Mexico Horse Council
P.O. Box 10206, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87184
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Things to consider in choosing a horse:

(It is best to have a horse expert & veterinarian help you with these decisions)

***Breed of horse**

*** Age of horse**

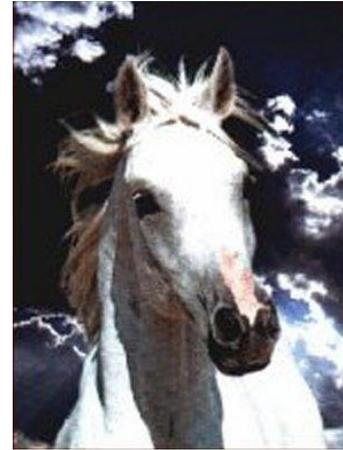
***Temperament of horse**

*** Styles of riding and horse's training**

***Horse's overall health**

*** Experience of rider**

*** Any previous injury to horse**



You may want to consider *leasing* a horse before purchasing one to make sure that owning a horse is the correct decision. You may also want to examine the option of boarding the horse.

You have purchased a horse and want to take it home. What now?

Legalities: New Mexico requires a Bill of Sale, Registration papers or a New Mexico Permanent Horse Transportation Permit as proof of ownership. Also, a Permanent Horse Transportation permit is needed if a horse is transported within New Mexico or when leaving the state. A Negative Coggins test and Health Certificate are required when entering New Mexico or traveling to other states. Contact the New Mexico Livestock Board for more information.

Equine Liability: Equine liability signs are required for commercial operators, and a good idea for any horse owner. They are available from the New Mexico Horse Council. Click [here](#) to read the law or order a sign.

Space & Shelter: Horses need a large exercise area, such as a corral or Pasture. They also need natural or man-made shelter from the elements, both summer and winter. This can vary from a protective stand of trees to a 3-sided shed or a complete stable with box stalls. A man-made shelter should be clean and well ventilated and free of drafts. Minimum space requirements for a box stall are 10 to 12 feet square, and at least 8 feet high. The preferred floor is clay dirt.

Fencing: Whether using a traditional board fence, a rail fence, or electric wire fencing (wide ribbon wire is best), the most important thing is that the fence must be **VISIBLE** to the horse. This keeps the horse from becoming tangled in the fence or from running through the fence. Electric fence should **ONLY** be used as an interior fence and never as a major exterior fence. Do not use barbed wire!

Manure: You must have a plan for manure removal and disposal, or use. You may want to start a composting project to convert manure and yard waste into organic fertilizer. You will also need a plan to control flies and other insects.

Feeding: An average saddle horse that weighs 1,000 lbs. will eat approximately 20 lbs. of feed per day (total ration). The total ration is a combination of hay, grain and pasture. Salt should always be available to the horse. See additional information on [feeding your horse](#).