


Things to consider in choosing a horse


(Best to have a horse expert and veterinarian help you with these decisions)


-  Breed of horse
-  Temperament of horse
-  Styles of riding
-  Experience of rider
-  Age of horse
-  Horse's level of training
-  Horse's overall health
-  Any previous injury to horse


Before ownership, you may want to consider leasing a horse first to make sure that purchasing 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.

 **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 hot and cold. This can vary from a protective stand of trees to a 3-sided shed to a complete stable with box stalls. A man-made shelter should be clean and well-ventilated with no drafts. Minimum space requirements are shown here.

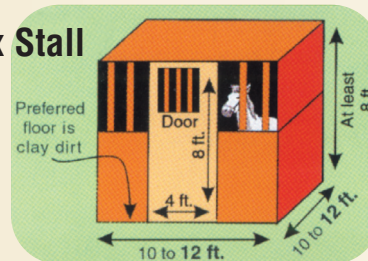
 **Fencing:** Whether using a traditional board fence, a rail fence, or electric wire fencing (wide ribbon wire is best), the most important thing is that the fence must be **VISIBLE** to the horse. This keeps the horse from becoming tangled in the fence or from running through the fence and onto the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

 **Manure:** You must have a plan for manure disposal, removal, 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 pounds will eat approximately 20 pounds 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. *Look inside for more detailed information on feeding and watering your horse.*

Contact the New Mexico University County Extension Agent in your county to get additional information on all these topics and more.

Box Stall



Important Reference Information for New Mexico Horse Owners

New Mexico Horse Council, Inc.

P.O. Box 10206 • Albuquerque, NM 87184

<http://www.nmhorsecouncil.org/>

505-345-8959

Equine Liability Signs

New Mexico Horse Council Foundation

P.O. Box 10513 • Albuquerque, NM 87184

505-345-8959

<http://www.nmhorsecouncil.org/Foundation.html>

Tax exempt; scholarships

New Mexico Veterinary Medical Association

<http://www.nmvma.org/>

505-867-6373

American Association of Equine Practitioners

859-233-0147

Locate an AAEP-member veterinarian

<http://www.aaep.org/dvmsearch/>

New Mexico Livestock Board

300 San Mateo NE, Suite 1000 • Albuquerque, NM 87108

505-841-6161

<http://www.nmlbonline.com/>

New Mexico State University

College of Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences

Knox Hall, Room 232

P.O. Box 30003 MSC 3AE • Las Cruces, NM 88003

575-646-3326

Cooperative Extension Service

<http://extension.nmsu.edu/>

4-H Youth Development

<http://aces.nmsu.edu/county>

NMSU Extension Horse Program

575-646-1242

<http://aces.nmsu.edu/ces/horseprogram>

Reference material on horses and horse management

<http://www.extension.org/horses>

This pamphlet provided by:



New Mexico Horse Council, Inc.

A special credit to Joyce Fay for the use of her photo.

Bro and Tracy Animal Welfare

<http://www.joycefay.com>

New Mexico Horse Care

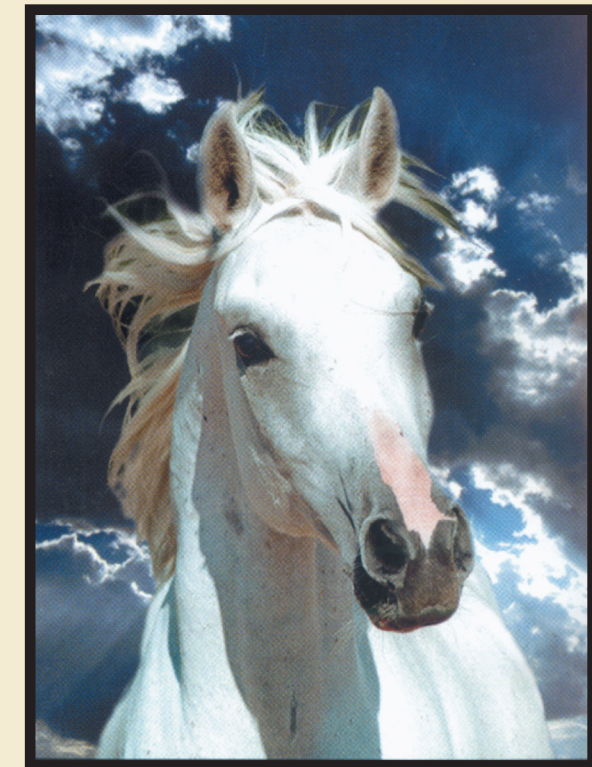


Photo by Joyce Fay

Horses are Agricultural

This pamphlet is designed to help horse owners understand the responsibilities of caring for a horse.