

New Horse Checklist

Veterinarians recommend keeping a horse in quarantine after he arrives at his new home to prevent disease transmission. Here are some steps to take to keep your new horse and the established herd members safe and healthy.

- Obtain as much medical history on your horse as possible and request recent vaccination records, if available.
- If you do not know your new horse's vaccination history, consult your vet and have his shots done at the beginning of his quarantine period.
- Have your vet do a fecal egg count as soon as possible to determine what parasites your horse is carrying, if any, and deworm accordingly.
- Arrange a stall for your horse at one end of the barn, ideally with no horse in the neighboring stall.
- Procure a turnout area that does not share a fenceline with another occupied area so that your horse can go outside without being in contact with other horses.
- Keep the horse in quarantine for at least 14 days.
- While in quarantine, do not share tack, brushes or buckets with other horses.
- Before introducing your horse to the herd, pair him up with an easygoing horse and let them establish a relationship over the next few days. Adding a third and fourth buddy to the small group before turning them back out with the full herd can ease the transition.
- Once he's joined the herd, check your horse at least once daily for cuts and scratches that he may have while he finds his place in the hierarchy.