


Questions to Ask to Find Your Dream Horse

Before Going to Look at a Horse





- What's the horse's age and has it been verified by a vet or equine dentist?
- What's the horse's history and does it have any health concerns?
- Does the horse have any vices and why are you selling the horse?
- How does the horse behave with other horses?
- Is the horse suitable for a beginner, advanced beginner, or advanced rider?
- Does the horse ever leave the farm? What is it primarily used for?
- Is the horse barn or buddy sour? Will it ride off by itself?
- Does the horse load and trailer well?
- Can I have access to the vet records and do you welcome a pre-purchase exam?

When You Meet the Horse

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- How does it respond to being groomed, fly sprayed, bathed, and blanketed?
 - Does it have good posture? Is the horse parking in or out or shifting weight on its front feet?
 - How does it respond to being saddled? Is it extremely girthy?
 - Does it stand to be mounted?
 - How does it hold its head in the walk, trot, and canter?
 - Is the horse sound in all its gaits?
 - Does it know its leads?
 - How does it respond to riding off alone?



Red Flags

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- If the owner asks for a deposit to come look at the horse, dig deeper. Oftentimes, these are scams.
 - If the owner won't let you get a vet check or pre-purchase exam, this is a red flag that something is wrong with the horse.
 - If the horse has unusual posture, or has a limp or a gait that isn't quite right, discuss this with your veterinarian at the PPE.
 - If the horse has extreme girthing when saddling, it could have an ulcer or back pain.
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PRO TIP

Always let the owner lead the horse around and ride the horse first so you can see if it's safe and can evaluate it from the ground.

