

# Guide to Buying Your First (or Next) Horse

92 Essential  
Tips to Help  
You Find  
Your Dream  
Horse

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Every effort has been made to make this book as complete and as accurate as possible; however, there may be mistakes both in content and typography. Therefore, this information should be used as a general guide and not as the ultimate source for buying a horse.

The purpose of this book is to educate and entertain. The author shall have neither liability nor responsibility to any person or entity with respect to any loss or damage caused or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly by the instructions in this book.

The resources given in this book are those that the author believes can help you to have a positive experience with horses. They are not recommendations, but resources that she has collected over several years. Please use at your own discretion.

This book contains information relating to the subject matter that is current only up to the printing date. If there is something that is inaccurate or should be added in a future release, please send the correction or addition to: [anne@confidenthorsemanship.com](mailto:anne@confidenthorsemanship.com)

## **Introduction**

Buying a horse is a lot like buying a used car. It's exciting. It's a large financial investment. It requires research, some experienced help and smart buying strategies to make a purchase you'll be happy with. But buying a horse involves an emotional investment on top of the financial one, and the commitment of caring for an animal for many years. So, while the prospect of buying a horse is exciting, it can also be overwhelming.

Unfortunately, some horse sellers – like some used car salesman – have earned a reputation as unscrupulous people who downplay (or disguise) flaws, enhance attributes and only want to get your money. There are many good and reputable people in the horse business who really do care about finding the right match for their horse.

With our emotional connection to these beautiful and sensitive animals it's easy to let our hearts rule our heads. Your buying decision requires careful thought and planning. It's very easy to get caught up in the excitement and emotions of choosing a horse.

I have written this guide with the adult pleasure rider in mind. Whether you intend to ride in an arena, on the trails or participate in schooling level shows, you want to buy a horse that will suit your temperament, riding abilities and riding goals for many years – perhaps even a lifetime. These tips and strategies can help you make smart choices and make your buying experience a good one. Buying the right horse for you is essential for ensuring a happy future for both you and your horse.

## **Before You Start Looking**

**1. Answer the question “Why do you want to buy a horse?”** Horse ownership is a major commitment of money, time and emotions. If the answer to the question is only about you, what you will get out of it, and not about the horse and what he will get out of it, you (and the horse) may be better off part-boarding or leasing a horse for now.

**2. Create a binder, notebook or file (paper or electronic)** to keep notes, photos and contact information. Take it with you when you start looking at horses. Having this information all in one place will make it easier to keep track of the horses you have seen and make comparisons between them.

*You can download a free **Contact Form** for keeping track of the horses that interest you, Use the link on page 4.*

**3. Make a budget** – There are expenses beyond the purchase price when buying a horse. Make sure to plan for retail sales tax, veterinary exam, commissions to an agent (or your coach) and trailering from the seller to the farm where you’ll be keeping your horse. Be prepared to have to buy new blankets and tack – even if this is not your first horse.

*You can download a free **Excel spreadsheet** to help calculate the costs of buying and keeping a horse . Use the link on page 4.*

**4. Be clear on your goals and riding ability.** Focus on what you want to do with your own horse rather than what someone else thinks you should be doing. Be honest about your skills and abilities with handling as well as riding a horse. This is not the time for exaggeration.

**5. Research different breeds.** Identify the temperament, size, conformation and personality that best suits you, your skills and your riding goals. A young, flashy Thoroughbred or Arabian might catch your eye, but if your schedule allows you only the occasional trail ride or you can only ride on week-ends, an older, Quarter Horse or draft cross with a calmer temperament will probably suit your needs better.

**6. Make a list of all the things you want from your ideal horse.** Keep in mind your budget, horsemanship and riding skill levels, the type of riding you will be doing and how often you will be riding.

**7. Prepare a check list of questions.** Before going to see any horses, create a check-list of questions that you want to ask the seller. It's very easy to get caught up in the excitement of shopping and forget the important issues. Having your list of questions to review at the meeting will ensure you have the answers you need before making a decision.

*You can download a free Horse Buyer's Pre-Visit Questionnaire. Use the link on page 4*

**8. If you'll be boarding your horse.** Before you buy your horse, find a facility that provides quality care, is within your budget and will have space available for your horse when you complete your purchase.



## About The Author



ANNE GAGE is a Clinician, Coach, Trainer, Writer, and certified Professional Coach with over 25 years experience working with horses and their humans. She has certifications from Chris Irwin (Certified Double Gold Trainer) and Daniel Stewart (Certified Ride Right and Pressure Proof Mentor); and, has studied the work of Linda Tellington Jones (TTouch and TTEAM). But her greatest teachers have been the hundreds of horses she has been honoured to work with.

Anne uses her unique experiences and skills to focus on the mental as well as the physical aspects of horsemanship. She helps her clients to develop good, basic fundamentals in both ground work and riding, improve their and their horse's posture when riding, and understand their horse's natural behaviour. In this way, they are able to develop a willing partnership with their horses based on mutual trust, respect and confidence.

Whether you are new to riding and horsemanship, have years of experience, ride for pleasure or competition, Anne Gage offers coaching, training, clinics, workshops and demonstrations that help you and your horse get the most you can out of whatever you do together.

Anne lives with her husband of 34 years, 2 dogs, 4 cats and 9 horses on their farm in Mono, Ontario, Canada.

Find out more at [amazon.com/author/annegage](https://amazon.com/author/annegage) or visit Anne's website at [www.ConfidentHorsemanship.com](http://www.ConfidentHorsemanship.com)

## **Other Books By Anne Gage**

### **Kindle Books**

- Bringing Your New Horse Home: 37 Essential Tips To Help You And Your Horse Start Your Partnership On The Right Foot
- Confident Horsemanship: Build Your Confidence While Improving Your Partnership with Your Horse

### **Paperback Books**

Confident Rider Confident Horse: Build Your Confidence and Develop a True Partnership with Your Horse from the Ground to the Saddle

**End of sample of this eBook**

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