

Horse Viewing Checklist

Purpose Objectives

What do you need/want the horse to be able to do?

- Show Jumping
- Flatwork Schooling
- Hacking
- XC Jumping
- Competitions
- Sponsored rides
- Hunting
- Other

Before First Viewing

- Get videos of the horse doing everything the owner claims it can do. Including upward and downward transitions – not cropped videos
- Have a telephone conversation with the owner be open and honest with what you want/need
- Take an experienced friend/trainer with you
- Ask the owner to leave the horse in the field for you to catch etc... at the viewing
- Tell the owner what you want to see – caught from field – ridden by another rider

First Viewing

- Arrive 10-15 minutes early to your appointment
 - Can you see the horse being pre-lunged?
- Catch the horse from the field
- Pick horse's feet out
- Groom the horse
- Touch all over body & legs (ears)
- Horse tied up
- Horse cross tied?
- Rugs on and off
- Horse in stable
- Tacking up process
- Ridden by owner/rider
- A demonstration of everything that is claimed the horse can do
- Open gates?
- Do you want to ride the horse? Be honest!
- Ride the horse yourself (if you feel comfortable to)
- Did you mount on your own?
- Did the horse stand nicely to be mounted?
- Did you mount with help from someone?
- Could you apply leg and rein aids?
- A short hack?
- Untacking
- Washing off (go through the process even if the horse is not sweaty)
- Turn the horse out
- Is the horse shod? Images of hooves for farrier
- Is the horse fed hay/haylage?
- Any dust or any other allergies?

Real Life Objectives

- Is the horse a suitable age for your skillset?
- Is the horse a suitable height/build for you?
- Is the horse in an appropriate level of work?
 - If the horse is in work 6 days a week and realistically you can only ride 3-4 days a week, you may run into problems
- Will you need professional help with this horse?
- Do you like the horse's demeanour/behaviour?
- Does the horse have the right level of experience?
- Can you afford to maintain the level of care?
- Can you afford the amount of professional help?
- Will you be the only person riding this horse?

Second Viewing

- Hacking out
- Cantering in open space
- Loading onto a trailer/lorry
- Take the horse to another venue to ride
- Get a coach/experienced friend to ride
- Go through the first viewing process
- Look at the horse's passport
- Request the horse's vet history
- Did the horse feel safe both times?
- Lead the horse around the yard/tracks – see how it behaves with handling. Is it obedient?
- Can you ride it in an arena with another horse?

Do you want to buy the horse?

- Do you have the support network for this horse?
 - Farrier/Trimmer
 - Bodyworker/Physiotherapist etc...
 - Coach/Trainer?
 - Livery Yard / set up at home
- How frequently they are they shod/trimmed
- How frequently do they have bodywork? Type?
- What is the horse's routine?
- Is the horse turned out in a herd or individually?
- How much is the horse stabled/turned out?
- Will you need to change the horse's routine?
- How much grazing is the horse on?
- Look at the horse's field and stable
- Do you feel this horse suits your yard / routine / time restraints / objectives?
- Pre-Purchase Veterinary Examination

Don't be pressured by the owner telling you the horse has other viewings, if it's meant to be, it's meant to be. Don't rush into buying a horse, make sure you do all the checks and be absolutely sure it's the right horse for you.

If you need any help, **West Barn Equine** offer an **Equine Pre-Purchase Consultancy Service.**
www.westbarnequine.co.uk
 07920 578088