**Triple H Performance Horses**

First time horse owner/lessee info

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1. **Selecting your unicorn**

* **Breed**: Selecting the right breed of horse can be a key part of finding your unicorn. Looking for something with high intelligence and endurance? A Thoroughbred or Arabian should fit the bill. Looking for something sturdy and brave? A quarter horse, draft horse, and many pony breeds would be perfect! Different breeds express specific characteristics- not all horses within that breed will, but it's a good place to start!
* **Age:** While the age of the horse is not always a perfect indicator of its training or maintenance level, most of the time we can assume that a younger horse will have less experience and therefore need more training, whereas an older horse may not need as much training but may require some maintenance.
* **Sex:** The gender of your horse is fairly low on the priority list for selecting the perfect horse for you, but there are a few facts to take into consideration. Many facilities do not allow intact Stallions on the premises (Highlander Ranch included), and if they are, they have LOTS of precautions necessary to keep horses and handlers safe. Stallions can be aggressive and difficult to train, but they offer a huge investment opportunity, and if managed properly can be incredible. Geldings, not intact male horses, are generally personable and friendly. Mares are not always as friendly and occasionally require hormonal therapy during their cycle, but they can almost always reproduce and can have amazing work ethics.
* **Temperament:** A horse's temperament can be extremely important. Some horses have naturally calm and willing demeanors and may be safe for you to handle yourself with the help of a professional. Some horses require experienced handlers and are naturally more animated or easily startled.
* **Training level**: The various training levels of a horse can be difficult to understand, but paramount in selecting the right horse. It is important to consider your goals in relation to the current amount of training that your potential purchase already has. **Not all horses are suitable for all riders.** When selecting a horse for lease or purchase, **consulting an equine professional is the number one way to avoid purchasing something that will not be a good fit.** Most horses require some sort of training most of their lives, as they learn through correct repetition. Make sure to discuss this with the seller and your trainer prior to lease/ purchase.
* **Maintenance level:** At different stages in life horses require different types of maintenance to stay sound, happy, and healthy. Maintenance can entail supplements, training, shoeing, injections, medications, chiropractors, just like people do. Maintenance is an important factor in creating a budget for your equine expenses and deciding if that horse is appropriate for you.
* **Goals:** This is the **most** important factor of picking the right horse for you and your family. What do you hope to do with your horse? National level competitions? Trail riding? Recreational riding and maybe an occasional lesson or clinic? It is extremely important to select a horse that will be able to meet your goals. Some horses may not be the perfect training level or age, but could become the right horse with hard work. Some goals require more specific breeds or types of horses.
* **Location:** How far are you willing to go to find your horse? How will you get it from where it is now to where it will live? How expensive will this be?
* **Budget:** This is probably the **second most** important factor in choosing the right horse for you. Horses can range from hundreds to millions of dollars. Price varies depending on the market, and all of the factors listed above. It is important to consider that the price you pay to lease or purchase a horse is often the least expensive part of horse ownership, and like a house, horses are not always easy to sell immediately. **See estimated yearly equine budget below.**

1. **Yearly Equine Budget Estimation**

| **Item:** | **Cost:** | **Frequency:** | **ANNUAL total:** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Horse lease or purchase price | $100-  $100,000,000 | Once, or monthly | $100-$100,000,000 |
| Horse Boarding | $450-$650 | Monthly | $5,400- $7,800 |
| Horse Training | $25-$500 | Weekly or Monthly | $1,200- $6,000 |
| Farrier | $75-$300 | Every 6 weeks | $900- $3,600 |
| Vet- vaccinations and teeth cleaning | $300+ | Biannually | $600 |
|  |  |  | **$8,200+** |

* Potential additional expenses:
* Medications/ supplements
* Competitions
* Tack & equipment
* Hauling
* Insurance
* Routine vet maintenance (injections)

**3. Lease or purchase agreement:**

* A lease or purchase agreement is a legally binding document which expressly states the lease or sale price, when it is to be paid and to whom, the effective dates of the lease/ purchase agreement, and the parties responsible for the horse- seller/lessor and buyer/ lessee and their respective responsibilities, and witnessed signatures of all the above parties. Please carefully review the terms of your lease or purchase agreement with an equine professional before signing.

**4. Responsibilities of lesse/ buyer:**

* Purchase/ lease cost
* Boarding costs
* Any maintenance costs
* Training costs
* General routine medical costs
* Equipement/ tack costs

A **buyer** is additionally responsible for ANY other cost associated with the horse, including major medical.