



## **SO YOU WANT TO OWN A HORSE... INFORMATION**

Owning horses can be a lifetime of pleasure and excitement. However, along with the fun it does require work and expenses, just like most things in life.

If you would like to own a horse, or even spend some time around horses, then you have many options. The National Western Stock Show is a horseman's paradise. Talk to the horse professionals or volunteers at the Stock Show or ask your friends and neighbors who have horses. Some local stables might use a little help with cleaning stalls and horse equipment or grooming. It will give you an idea of what it takes to care for these wonderful animals.

When you've decided you want to own a horse, you need to decide where it will stay. Some type of fenced corral and pasture or both are needed. A plan for feed and water, plus a simple shelter, should also be provided. Boarding a horse is another option. Boarding fees vary depending on the facility and what services are provided.

Horses may be purchased from a variety of sources. This can be a long, but rewarding process, so it's best to keep things as simple as possible. A healthy, aged horse owned by the same individual for a long period of time would be a good choice for first-time horse owners. It's always a good idea to have a veterinarian check the horse for any health problems. Horses can be found through the newspaper. Also, local horse professionals can help guide you to someone who has horses for sale. Wherever you look for a horse, you must be patient and wait for the right one to come along!

Transporting the horse is usually not much of a problem. Sometimes the seller is willing to do that for you or you can hire someone to transport it home for you.

Tack can be purchased new or used, and sometimes may be part of the sale of the horse.

A farrier takes care of the horse's hooves and feet. This person is extremely important in maintaining proper care of your new horse. Horses' hooves grow just like your fingernails and need to be trimmed. Also, horses will probably need shoes to maintain good hoof health. The farrier can advise you on this issue. Ask local horse professionals for suggestions in finding a good farrier in your area.

Although they take a lot of work, owning a horse can be extremely rewarding!