

How to Buy a Barrel Horse



By: Stephanie (Jackson) McVeigh owner of Reliable Barrel Horses.com

You can never be too careful when buying a barrel horse especially for a youth or beginner rider. Barrel Racing can be a dangerous and frustrating sport if you buy the wrong horse.

Things to consider:

*Make sure you deal with someone you can trust, so often people are just looking to sell you their horse and once you pull down the driveway there is little interest in what happens once the cheque has been cashed. Check referrals, deal with people that have a solid reputation and sincerely understand and care about your needs, riding abilities and budget.

*Decide what your goals are with your new horse. Where do you want to show? Club shows, rodeos, open shows? Be sure to understand your limits as a rider. Over delivering your riding capabilities is a recipe for disaster. There is no point in buying a 1d horse if you can only ride a 3d division horse. Quickly, both you and the horse will become frustrated with each other and your investment will be wasted. Be honest to yourself and to the person looking to match you with the correct level equine partner!

*Make sure the seller will stand behind what they promote and make sure you are aware of any soundness issues, past injuries and any required maintenance especially in a horse with age.

*Do not rule out older horses especially for young riders. The best combination is a young or beginner rider on a seasoned horse. A great honest, consistent open horse will teach a youth or beginner a great deal. Know your limits and when the time is right to move on to a faster athlete.

*Young or beginner riders matched with a young inexperienced horse is not always the best combination. If choosing a young horse make sure to have competent help and a horse that has a solid mind to be patient during the learning curve.

*Make sure you can control the horse easily, if you are scared the horse will pick up on this creating fear and insecurity for both the rider and the horse which can be dangerous.

*Make sure you are aware of any vices the horse may have: Cribbing, weaving, kicking, pulling, alley issues or standing bad for the farrier so you can be prepared to deal with them accordingly.

Stephanie Jackson-McVeigh is the owner of Reliable Barrel Horses.com based out of Watford, Ontario and Mother of 3 children all whom barrel race in Rodeo and Open competition. Specializing in the match of beginner and youth riders with great consistent, honest, competitive horses is what RBH is known for and trusted by families throughout North America. In just 7 years of operation RBH has successfully mounted over 400 families throughout North America with a commitment and passion to create a winning team regardless of the level of competition. Contact Stephanie for help on finding a new horse or just to get some advice. RBH has a network from Texas west to Montana and East to Quebec if they do not have the right match in their barn they will custom fit you to the right one.