

The first thirty days



Checklist for a new horse: arrange, take it slowly, and learn his normal

Horse _____ Arrival _____

Previous owner, number _____ Previous vet, number _____

The paperwork

- ☐ Passport checked (microchip matches, food-chain status read) and transferred into my name within 30 days (UK/IE); US: bill of sale, Coggins, registration papers; AU: PIC for the property
- ☐ History obtained: vaccination dates, last worm count and product, farrier cycle, feed chart, particulars
- ☐ Insurance decided (yes/no) and arranged
- ☐ Purchase agreement and pre-purchase exam report kept

Weeks 1–2: apart and quiet

- ☐ Separate paddock or stable, own buckets and tools, two to three weeks
- ☐ The same feed as with the previous owner; hay mixed in slowly
- ☐ Temperature taken daily in the first week
- ☐ Fence line, water and shelter walked together once

His normal (week 1)

Temperature evening 1 _____ evening 2 _____

evening 3 _____ Pulse at rest _____

Breathing at rest _____ Weight (tape) _____

Photos taken: side, hooves, front (date) _____

What I saw (eating, droppings, drinking, how he stands when I arrive) _____

Weeks 2–3: the professionals

- ☐ Worm egg count sent before joining the others in the field
- ☐ Farrier: met, cycle agreed: every ____ weeks
- ☐ Teeth checked if more than a year ago
- ☐ Vet: met, records handed over if anything is going on
- ☐ Feed changed step by step (only after two weeks, in quarters)

Weeks 3–4: together and out

- ☐ Met over the fence, then one quiet companion, then the group
- ☐ Grass built up (schedule)
- ☐ First ride short and on familiar ground; saddle checked
- ☐ Stable card hung up; yard owner and liveryes know what he does and doesn't get
- ☐ Care calendar filled in with the dates from the passport or records