

## I Want A Horse or Two - What Do I Need?

Owning a horse is a huge undertaking. It takes a lot of time every day. It takes money to give "Required Care", most people think required care is optional. So let's list some things that ALL horses need.

| <u>Horse Needs:</u>  | <u>Cost:</u>        |
|--|---------------------|
| Land, grazing land to move and eat   | Lots                |
| Shelter, barn, protection from Sun, Wind, Rain And elements                                | 3,000.00            |
| Fresh Clean Water (This takes Lots of Time To Daily Maintain)                              | 300.00              |
| Access To Salt and Mineral Blocks  |                     |
| Quarterly Worming Medicine   | 40.00 each time     |
| Yearly Shots, Rabies, Rino, 3 Way, 5 way and others depending on area                      | 300 per horse       |
| Hoof Care, Every 6-8 weeks, Farrier Service (Shoes 150 each time) (Trims 40 - 60 each time |                     |
| Teeth Care, Horses need teeth Floating at least Once a year                                | 300 per horse       |
| Horses get hurt or sick, Vet Care can be expensive from hundred to thousands of dollars    |                     |
| Equipment for leading, grooming, riding... adds up fast                                    |                     |
| Horse Trailer for emergency use for vet care or evacuation for disasters                   | 4 to 10,000 dollars |
| Maintenance of Horse Trailer, tires, bearing packing, storage area, lights                 | 100 - 1,000 dollars |
| Truck To Pull Trailer and Maintenance of That truck  |                     |
| Hay To feed horses and a Place to Store hay, takes land and buildings to store             |                     |
| Hay prices get more expensive in Winter time   |                     |
| Maintenance of Run In Shelters, Out buildings and Barns                                    |                     |
| Fencing is expensive and breaks or needs repairing or replacing.. All takes money & Time   |                     |
| Supplements & Grain or Feed for sick or older horse, Money & Time                          |                     |

\*\*All of these things take an enormous amount of Time for care and upkeep. Time is also needed to spend time with horses to ensure they can be handled or trained. Time to change and clean water daily, putting out hay, time checking horses for injury, grooming horses, catching horses, cleaning hay storage areas, TIME, TIME, TIME.

Too Many people get horses because they think it is FUN. Then they neglect the horse's needs because they don't have time. Excuses range from, I have kids, I have a job, I have a spouse, I have dogs, I have other animals and so on. LOTS of excuses for NOT accepting responsibility for care and ownership of a horse.

So my advice for new horse owners, if you don't have LOTS OF FREE TIME, then don't get a horse, and for god's sake don't get two or three...

**NOTE:** Another huge mistake for NEW horse owners is they think if they get a baby horse or newborn, then they train it, bond and it will be the perfect horse. NEWS FLASH: If you can't handle a full grown horse, DON'T GET A BABY HORSE, you will ruin it, spoil it and make it dangerous.