

How To Find Free Or Nearly Free Horses



Marv Walker

Introduction

If you want a horse in your life and there are horses where you live there are all kinds of Free Or Nearly Free Horses that you can pick up for nothing or next to nothing.

There is nothing more difficult to sell than a horse when you have to sell it.

Lives change daily. Once horse-crazy daughters discover boys and vice versa. People get married, people get divorced, people suffer catastrophic illnesses and even death. Kids go off to college. Families lose jobs, relocate and otherwise end up in financial difficulties. There are all kinds of reasons why people must part with their horses.

Nothing goes from a blessing to a burden quicker than a horse. This book written by a lifelong horseman tells you all the insider little known information you need to know to find Free Or Nearly Free Horses and how to improve your chances of turning someone else's burden into your blessing instead of taking just taking over their burden.

© Marv Walker, 2010. All rights reserved.

Photos by: Marv Walker Marv@MarvWalker.com

Published By..

MarvWalker.com

Marv Walker MarvWalker.com

1202 Old Agateville Road

Hillsboro, GA 31038

**THIS IS..
A WARTZNALL PRODUCTION
IT'S NOT INTENDED TO BE PRETTY
JUST POWERFULLY INFORMATIVE!**

Contents

[Introduction](#)

[About Marv Walker](#)

[Welcome To FONF Horses](#)

[Some Things You Need To Keep In Mind](#)

[The Attraction Of Horses](#)

[The Cost Of Keeping A FONF Horse](#)

[The Recession And Horses](#)

[When You Simply Can't Afford To Keep Your Own Horse](#)

[Make Contacts By Joining A Horse Group](#)

[Start A Pet-Sitting \(Time Selling\) Service](#)

[When The Asking Price Is Out Of Your Price Range](#)

[People Will Give Anything Away](#)

[Training Yourself To Find Horses](#)

[Free-Leasing A Horse](#)

[How To Advertise For Your FONF Horse](#)

[Look Close To Home For Your FONF Horse](#)

[The Importance Of Education In FONF Horse Searches](#)

[Examining The FONF Horse For Physical Problems](#)

[Going To Look At FONF Horses](#)

[Finding FONF Horses Through Horse Rescues](#)

[The Government \(BLM\) Wild Horse Program](#)

[Off The Track Thoroughbreds \(OTTBs\) And Appendix-Quarter Horses](#)

[Buying Horses At Ye Olde Auction Barn](#)

[Horses Bred For A Particular Characteristic](#)

[Helpful Things To Think About by Janis Comstock-Jones](#)

[After All Is Said Is Done](#)

[FONF Horses Who Have Found Homes](#)

[Thank You!](#)

About Marv Walker



I've been around horses in one way or another since I was very young.

I was a long time president of a large saddle club, worked on the successful Conyers, Georgia bid to host the 1996 Olympic Equestrian Venue, am a [decades long clinician](#) and problem solver for horse owners around the world.

I currently serve [Brave Meadows Therapeutic Riding Center](#), 1094 Eatonton Highway in Gray, GA. as a volunteer, horse trainer and instructor for able bodied students.

I'm on Facebook dealing with [horse related stuff](#) in one group and for grins and chuckles [personal stuff](#) in another.

I can be reached by email MarvWalker.com, by phone at 706 468-6990. If you get voicemail clearly leave your name and number and I'll return your call. If you are International caller and get voicemail, I won't be calling you back so you might want to email me at Marv@MarvWalker.com to give me a heads up so we can make sure I'm here to talk to you.

[Back To Contents](#)

Welcome To FONF Horses

First of all let me thank you for purchasing this How To Find Free Or Nearly Free Horses ebook.

This ebook assumes that you know little or nothing about horses. If you are very horse-savvy a lot of this stuff may be old hat to you. Even at that it contains some things that you may simply not have heard of or simply overlooked in your horse experiences.

I personally had been involved with horses for over 40 years before I became fully aware that there were perfectly good horses all over the place available just for the asking.

In looking back, I'm simply amazed that someone who had the horse experience I had never realized that the asking price of a horse has little bearing on the selling price. Having always wheeled and dealed and scraped money together for a horse locked me into a mindset that limited my ability to acquire horses.

All that changed 20 years or so ago when I got involved with the therapeutic riding program of a children's home. I gave away a pasture-full of perfectly good horses to the program and when the program director said they could use more, I decided to see if I could find some more people willing to give away a horse.

The success I had in finding FONF horses is the inspiration for this ebook.

This ebook is an overview of how horses are really acquired and disposed of every day. Regardless of your horse experience the material in this ebook will show you how to find more free or nearly free horses than you ever thought possible. It will also help you lessen your chances of getting a burden when you thought you were getting a blessing.

You can have almost instant support in your efforts to find free or nearly free horses. I'm on Facebook dealing with [horse related stuff](#) in one group and for grins and chuckles [personal stuff](#) in another.

I can be reached by email MarvWalker.com, by phone at 706 468-6990. If you get voicemail clearly leave your name and number and I'll return your call. If you are International caller and get voicemail, I won't be calling you back so you might want to email me at Marv@MarvWalker.com to give me a heads up so we can make sure I'm here to talk to you.

If there is anything that is unclear or you feel can be improved let me know. Feel free to ask me any questions or make any comments or suggestions.

[Back To Contents](#)

Some Things You Need To Keep In Mind

First...

Horses are very dangerous animals.

They are nothing like you see on TV, read about in all the fantasy fiction or like the animal that gallops through your dreams.

It is in your best interest that you continually learn all you can about horses no matter how much you already know about them.

Knowledge is insurance. The more you learn about horses the more enjoyable your horse experiences are going to be. Horses are living beings and as such there are no guarantees that all will turn out well. Even the most knowledgeable of horse people have setbacks and problems at times. The more knowledge you have the more options you have available to hopefully ward off possible problems or to deal with them when you find yourself in the midst of them.

Horses are a very dangerous pastime. More people are injured around horses than in any other activity.

It is not a question of whether you will be injured, but when and how often. Let me say that again... It is not a question of whether you will be injured, but when and how often.

NOTICE: If you are involved with horses, you will be injured. And the injuries will range from a chipped fingernail to death.

You will be dealing with animals that will always be capable of unpredictable reactions. These animals can weigh up to 2,000 lbs and can move with great speed.

I've personally known two people who have been killed by horses. I myself have suffered some severe injuries from them on a number of occasions. I have a distant cousin, a well known horse trainer, who lives at a race track in Chicago. He squeaks, clicks and snaps when he walks.

In the last year (at the time of this writing) I have seen nearly a dozen news reports about people who have been killed during horse activities. Not too long ago I answered an email from an Alaska police investigator describing a case where a woman was found brain dead from blunt trauma with no external wounds along a route where she regularly hand grazed two well-trained horses. He asked if I thought it was possible one of the horses caused the injury. I told him it was very possible.

You must use great caution when you are around horses. Even the most sedate well trained horses are

capable of sudden unexpected reactions. Knowledge and the development of good safety habits are extremely important.

Secondly...

When you let the universe know you are looking for a FONF horse the universe will start sending them your way. The universe will not sort them out. It will send you lame horses, horses with behavioral problems, horses with all sorts of health problems, horses so old they have no known age, young horses, big horses, small horses and horses in every other shape, size, color, and condition right along with the perfectly suitable horses.

If you are not careful, you can easily end up with a horse that will have you quickly looking for someone to take off it your hands. This is why horse knowledge is so important. The more horse knowledge you acquire the less likely this will happen to you.

You will have to fight the urge to say “Yes” too quickly. We have heard the saying, “Never look a gift horse in the mouth” so often that it is ingrained in our subconscious. You will want to look in its mouth and everywhere else as well. There will always be another horse coming along behind that one.

I cannot stress this enough....DO NOT BE TOO QUICK TO SAY YES!

Constantly increasing your horse knowledge will lessen the chances of you ending up with a horse that you can do nothing with other than watch. Knowledge helps you judge how a horse will fit into your circumstances and purposes.

The material in this ebook is intended for informational purposes only. The author and publisher accept no responsibility for any injuries or losses resulting from the use of the information found in this ebook.

If you use the information in this ebook, you are assuming the risk. You have been warned that horse activities are incredibly risky.

[Back To Contents](#)

The Attraction Of Horses

Wild horses galloping unrestrained, and unconcerned over rugged terrain visually define the words: freedom, grace and beauty. The horse represents freedom and the ability to go where we please. Horses are the stars of folklore, daydreams and fantasies where the successful quest for victory, romance and living happily ever after, often requires a spirited steed. In our dream worlds, the horse carries us wherever we wish, where we do whatever we choose.

To have a relationship with a horse is to live our dreams.

Women outnumber men in the world of horses. Someone will ask me where I get the figures that enable me to say that. I get the figures from years of observing numerous saddle club meetings, participating in beaucoup horse shows, membership on more horse lists than probably anyone else in the horse world and from just hanging around barns and stables as much as I do.

In the world of FONF horses you will be coming into contact with far more women than you will men. Since women are the predominant gender in the horse world, emotion will play a bigger part than logic. Before I get all kinds of flak, I didn't say there wouldn't be any logic when you deal with women, I said emotion plays a much bigger part than logic.

As a general rule, women form more intense relationships with horses than men do because women have more sensitive natures. It's the individual with the gentler personality who vibrates the most responsively to the wavelength of the horse. While men often view the horse as something to conquer and harness, women tend to look at the horse as a being to harmonize with. The spirit of the horse, in those receptive enough to feel it, causes an aching longing only a horse can soothe.

Many who experience this longing stand outside the edge of the horse world enviously looking in. They dream of the day when fortune will enable them to have horses in their lives. In the meantime, they settle for decorating their walls with horse memorabilia and images of horses to surround themselves with dream-sustaining equine focal points. They hungrily devour every piece of horse material they can find, picking through it for choice bits of information to hoard for the day their dream horse becomes real. Searching every "horse for sale" ad they see, they live in hope of miraculously locating the horse that fits their less than ideal circumstances, or bankbook.

Are you one of them? Do you dream of horses, but for whatever reason, aren't able to have your own? If you are, I have news for you. You are about to enter into the inner sanctum of horsemanship. All it really takes to have a horse in your life is the determination to have a horse in your life and to act on that determination. Every day I see and hear of people in an extremely wide band of circumstances who have horses. From inner city apartment dwellers to owners of large rural estates, from teen agers to senior citizens, from fully functional to paraplegics, from low to high income, male and female and even the unsighted have horses in their lives.

Again... all it takes is the determination to have horses in your life to have horses in your life. This ebook is intended to help you bring horses into your life by increasing your awareness of some concepts that often wind unnoticed through the world of horses.

This ebook contains the keys to never being horseless again.

[Back To Contents](#)

The Cost Of Keeping A FONF Horse

If you have little or no horse experience you are going to have to learn what is involved in having a horse. While horses are very rewarding animals, they can also be very demanding in terms of time, effort and money. I cannot give you an exact figure or even come close to how much time, effort and money a horse takes because it depends on what you want to do with the horse and where you want to keep it.

There is a very true saying in the horse world, something along the lines of, "Buying the horse is a one time thing and keeping it is a one time thing - it just goes on continually." Or said in another way, "To make a small fortune in horses, you start with a large one." "I used to be a millionaire, then I got a horse," "I don't have money, I have a horse."

The real cost of the horse is not in the buying, it's in the keeping of it.

It is not the purchase price of the horse that is the most significant factor. I can find horses that I can literally have brought here to the farm and dropped off that will not cost me one cent to buy. It is the cost of keeping one that is the most significant factor. Keeping a horse requires a lot of planning, effort and determination. When you have a horse, you have accepted the responsibility of taking care of it.

Keeping a horse is simply a matter of choices. You simply decide to spend your money on horses rather than golf, specialty automobiles, hunting and fishing, travel or other hobbies or entertainment.

If you just want to look out your window at your horse grazing, (a lot of people are satisfied with just that) it costs less than if you want to do endurance racing, showing or any of a number of activities you can do with a horse.

The first thing to consider when you think about getting a horse is where you would keep it. Horses usually do not do well in backyards. Besides, many local authorities get kind of tense when you do that. Unless you have access to a piece of fenced land of at least two acres to keep your horse in, you are going to have to find a place to keep it. Keeping a horse at someone else's place is called boarding. Almost always the owners of boarding places charge to keep a horse there.

Many places will board a horse for you in exchange for your labor. You do certain chores at the facility and they let you keep your horse there. If you work out such an agreement make sure you have what is expected of both parties in writing, verbal agreements seldom work out. In one way or another you will have to pay board for your horse whether in actual cash or labor.

The cost of boarding a horses varies widely within a given area. The board amount depends on a lot of factors such as the size of the facility and what it provides. If the facility offers a stall for your horse

and has someone who feeds for you and performs a number of services (full board) then that facility's board will cost more than one where your horse is turned out and left out (pasture board) in a fenced area with other horses.

If you live in a heavily populated area it will cost you more to keep a horse than it will in a more rural, country setting.

You will have to provide food in the form of hay, horse feed and water. A rule of thumb I use is that a horse will eat about a 1/2 of a bale of hay a day. Depending on the horse you will almost certainly provide horse feed for it as well. The horses on our farm go through an average of a 50 pound bag of feed a week each in addition to the hay they eat.

There are a lot of factors that go into feeding a horse and determining what is right for any individual horse. A general rule of thumb, and it is a general rule of thumb, is that a horse needs around 2.5 % of its body weight in hay or grass per day. If you have a 1000 pound horse, we're talking 25 pounds of hay. If your horse is working, or the weather is cold, or it's pregnant or nursing, it may require more.

Hay prices vary depending on where you are in the country. In polling people from around the country I got prices from \$4 a bale all the way up to \$8 for a two string bale. Hay is like stock in a company, the price can rise and fall daily. You can get an idea of hay price fluctuations by watching the price per gallon signs at gas stations.

Then there is the care of the hooves. Horses require regular care of their hooves. In the wild the hooves are continually worn down by constant travel over a wide variety of surfaces. Domestic horses stay on pretty much the same surface which, more often than not, because of their confinement does little to maintain their hooves. If horses' hooves are not maintained they can grow to point where they will cause the horse extremely painful problems and can ultimately cause the death of the horse.

Sometimes for various reasons horse's hooves need to be shod. Shoeing protects the hoof from excess wear and at times shoeing is required to correct hoof problems.

The person who maintains horse's hooves is called a farrier. Generally you will need a farrier about once every six weeks. The farrier charges less for trimming than for shoeing. Trimming will usually be all that's needed. Horses do not always need shoes and when they do you can often get by with front shoes. Our farrier here in Atlanta, GA charges \$35 a horse to trim, \$75 a horse to shoe. The farrier who took care of our New York horses when we had horses in New York charged half again as much to shoe.

Your farrier is the best source of help in determining what hoof care is best for your horse.

Like humans, horses require medical attention for optimal health. Veterinarians perform the more

demanding medical care and the cost of a veterinarian, like everything else in the horse world, varies depending on the procedure the horse needs and where you are. Many veterinarians will not work on large animals such as horses so you'll need to find one who does.

Most states have laws requiring horses to be Coggins tested periodically. The Coggins test is a blood test used to diagnose the disease Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) sometimes called swamp fever. EIA is a viral disease of horses and other Equids such as ponies, mules, and donkeys. The test will only tell whether or not the horse has been exposed as of the moment the test is taken. A mosquito can follow along behind the vet and infect the horse. This is why the Coggins test is only good for as long as the authorities in your area say it is. The test is not to protect your horse from the disease. It is mainly to identify and remove those infected horses from the population.

Horses require regular worming because they are susceptible to internal parasites that are found pretty much anywhere a horse has ever been. If you do not have a worming program, the horse's internal parasite population eventually builds up to the point the horse's life is endangered. A horse's substantial parasite population also robs the horse of nutrient value of the feed you are feeding the horse which means you have to feed the horse more to make up for the nutrients the parasites take. For much more information from various sources on horse worming do an Internet search engine search for horse worming.

For much more information from various sources on the cost of keeping a horse Google cost of keeping a horse.

Once you have researched the needs of a horse then you can begin calling around your area and pricing and locating the various things you'll need.

[Back To Contents](#)

The Recession And Horses

Here's a post I found today on one of the Internet horse message boards...

"Millie,

Sounds like you did find a good home for Snoot.

I'm in a similar situation as you - needing to downsize. Since my husband's passing a year and a half ago, I'm finding it harder to keep up with all the work, so every horse that we don't use consistently in the program will need to find a new home.

Good luck in placing your animals. I'm sure you are like me in wanting a good home for them."

I see these type of posts every day. There is nothing harder than selling a horse when you want or need to sell it. I've heard of people waking up and finding strange horses tied to their property or in their pasture with their horses. People are abandoning horses in forests and large acreage. Horse rescues are out of room for any more horses. Anti-breeding horse organizations are popping up like popcorn everywhere. Why? Because there are more horses in this country than there are homes for those horses in the best of times.

There is no better time to acquire a horse than right now. Isn't horse ownership costly in time and money? Sure. I once had someone tell me a horse costs about the same as therapy but was far more effective. It's all in how you choose to spend your money.

[Back To Contents](#)

When You Simply Can't Afford To Keep Your Own Horse

Let's say that no matter how you slice it, you simply are unable to come up with a place to keep a horse or the money to care for it. Or perhaps you may not have the time to devote to a horse of your own. As we have already covered, the initial cost of the horse is not the significant factor, the maintenance of it is.

Many times you can enjoy a horse someone else is paying the upkeep on.

You can use someone else's horses if for some reason you are not able to actually own your own. Starting out by using someone else's is often the first step toward getting your own. It allows you to be around horses and get first hand knowledge of what is needed to own a horse if you are a horse newbie.

Using someone else's horse when you are unable to actually own your own often gives you insights into some way you might be able overcome the roadblock preventing you from having your own. It is also a super way to make all kinds of very valuable horse contacts.

Most horse owners will say they made a conscious decision to own a horse before they got their first horse. In reality, most horse acquisitions occur on the spur of the moment when a person finds himself in the middle of a developing horse opportunity and grabs it. In the world of horses, as in any other world, opportunities develop and change by the moment. Many of these opportunities are too appealing for a horse lover to resist and the horse lover becomes a horse owner.

Contrary to public opinion, contrary to what you may think, finances are the least important factor in the overwhelming majority of these opportunities. Many people have set out with little or no finances, little intention of getting a horse, just intending to look. And at the end of the day they were horse owners. I can't even begin to tell you how many people have told me, "I didn't intend to get a horse but..."

And it often happens over and over to the same people.

Horse owners are fond of saying, "Geldings reproduce." A gelding is a neutered male horse. There are many horse owners who started out with one gelding and the next thing they knew, there were two horses in the paddock. Once you enter the world of horses you will often hear, and perhaps often say, "Where did that horse come from?"

I have more horses than I can possibly ride. And, I know how it happened. Once you prove to yourself you can get a horse, it becomes an easy matter to get more horses.

Some years ago I advertised a "Everything You Need To Know To Own A Horse" session. One of the attendees had a boyfriend who didn't like horses. At the time that didn't matter because she didn't have a horse either. I refrained from telling her that her relationship was doomed, but I did tell her that it was very easy to go from no horses to more horses. She said one was all she wanted. In short order she had a boyfriend who did like horses and a herd of horses.

"You were right," she told me later. "Geldings reproduce."

Horses draw other horses. When you acquire your first horse it starts a process that ends only when you suddenly find yourself with more horses than you can use. If you have one horse, and it becomes lame (it seems to happen often when you only have one horse) and you can't ride, you tell yourself you should have a backup horse and voila!, you have two.

When you have two and one becomes lame (it happens, but not as often as it does when you have one horse) you tell yourself you should have a spare horse so that you always have two available if someone wants to go riding with you (it happens). If you have one more horse than you can ride, you never have a lame horse (this is a unproven scientific theory; I only know I haven't had a lame horse in years).

There is another deception factor at work here. Taking care of two horses is not much more trouble than one. Taking care of three is more trouble than two, but not enough to worry about. Four horses are not four times harder to take care of than one. We're not talking costs here, we're talking effort. Oh, the costs rise too, but you're drunk on horse fumes and you don't notice.

It doesn't cost much per horse per day, but you add 365 of those days up and multiply by four and you're talking bucks. But, you're a horse lover and you are paying in payments instead of one lump sum, so the real costs slip by you. Or you chose to ignore it.

Here's Walker's Law: The more horses you have access to, the easier it is to have access to more. You can end up over-horsed before you know it. Practically every horse owner I know, and I know a lot of them, will say the same thing; it's happened to most of them.

On any given day, if for some reason I don't want to ride my own, I can borrow any of several dozen horses. I know of far more horses than I know of people to handle and ride them.

This inequity between people and the number of horses they own is your door to the world of horses.

So the first thing you have to do is get yourself around horses.

You see, handling & riding horses every day keeps them in shape. Regular handling and grooming familiarizes a horse with many different situations. The more a horse experiences, and becomes used to, the more enjoyable it is to be around. A regularly used horse finds less to become disturbed about and accepts vet or hoof care more willingly. It's to my benefit to exercise each of my horses every day, but I have so many I am unable to handle and ride them as much as I should.

I'd love to have someone help me ride and work with my horses. Most horse owners I know share this feeling. We are unable by ourselves, for various reasons, to give as much attention to our horses as we'd like. Over-horsed, we wish we could do more for our horses than provide them with food and shelter. We would like to take our horses to more shows, trail rides, and other horse activities, but we just don't have the help. Horses can be expensive animals to care for. There is usually little money left in the budget to hire the extra help we would like to have. If there is any money left we want to buy more horse stuff.

By now you are probably saying, "What is the problem here??? Who said anything about being paid??? Your horses need riding, and I need horses to ride; why can't I ride your horses for you???"

You can if you go about it right.

Horse people are quick to say they don't allow anyone but family to ride their horses, and they have all kinds of reasons why they don't allow it. No matter what they say, their real reason is because there are not many truly responsible people around. If you can get on their good side, and demonstrate responsibility, they'll let you ride their horses.

Responsibility and maturity are the key factors horse people look at when allowing people to ride their horses. Since horses can cost as much as cars to buy and care for, safe horse handling is as important as safe automobile handling.

What you know about horses is not as important as your attitude around them. If you have never owned a horse, or been around one for any length of time (or even if you have), you have a lot to learn about horses. Before horse owners will let you near their horses you will have to demonstrate by your actions that you are responsible, open-minded and eager to learn.

You are probably wondering how you are going to show you are trustworthy enough to work with

horses if the owners won't let you near them until you prove yourself. It's a case of, can't get the job because you have no experience, and you can't get the experience because you can't get the job. Right? Well, yes, but the situation is not nearly as hopeless as you may think.

It is possible to show people you can help them with their horses without getting near their horses.

Time and time again, I've watched people with no place to keep a horse, or no money to buy one, end up living and breathing horses every day simply by first showing horse people they are responsible before they even touched a horse.

If you want to find someone else's horse to enjoy, the first step is to join a horse organization in your area right away. Feed stores and tack shops usually have bulletin boards for animal & horse information and ads. There you should find the organizations you are looking for, or names of horse people in your area who will know of horse clubs if there are no clubs posted on the board. Ask the employees and customers for any information on horse groups. Check horse magazines; a number of them list area clubs and have advertising from local breeders.

While you don't *have* to join a saddle club to find a free horse, it will sure speed up the process.

[Back To Contents](#)

Make Contacts By Joining A Horse Group

There is no better place to make horse contacts than in a horse group. Most horse groups will accept horseless members. Most will even accept folks who know little or nothing about horses. Joining a horse organization places you in the company of horse owners, and your membership makes you a part of the group. You are no longer an outsider looking in, you are where the horses are.

By becoming a part of a horse-oriented group you begin learning about horses; how to care for them and how to handle them. Nowhere else are you more able to show more horse owners, at one time, what type of person you are.

And if you do know a thing or two about horses, so much the better. The more knowledge you have the easier it is to get what you want. Knowledge gives you direction and enables you to recognize or create opportunities that will help you meet your goals.

The first thing to do when you find and join a horse group is to get to know the other members of the group as people, not as horse owners. Make friends with the other members and take an interest in them, their families and their families' interests. Think of the group as a family and work on being a caring, considerate part of that family. If you do, the group, mostly made up of horse owners, will like you as a person and will start sharing their lives, and their horses, with you.

Ask the group to teach you about horses by simply asking members questions about horses and be sure you listen to the answers. If you don't understand something, keep asking questions. Most horse owners are friendly and eager to share information with new horse people. Analyze and weigh everything you hear because some ideas sound plausible and appear to make sense, even though they lack a basis in truth.

No matter how knowledgeable you are about horses you can always learn a little more from someone else. If nothing more, you can learn what not to do - a bad example is a good example of what not to do. Many times the lesson learned when someone tells you how to accomplish something and they are unable to accomplish it themselves or it turns out badly is a longer remembered lesson than one that turns out well. It's much better to learn from the mistakes of others than to learn from your own.

Horse shows are fun, whether you are showing or just helping. If you go by a horse show, go on in. Nothing will put you in the middle of the horse world faster than a horse if you play it right.

Offer your services as a groom, go-fer or attendant to an exhibitor at a horse show. Tell them point blank you want to do what you can to help them so that you can learn about showing. There are all kinds of details that need handling at a horse show and most exhibitors, and most horse show organizers, would love to have someone lend a hand with them. It's fun to go to a show as part of the group, and to have a horse to root for in the events. And if "your" horse wins a ribbon, you will feel proud that you helped get him in the ring looking glamorous.

And if it doesn't win you'll pick up some things to try next time.

There are many years of experience and knowledge to benefit from in any horse group. If you show a genuine desire to learn, genuine teachers will find you. The best way to show a respect for knowledge is by being an eager learner. A thirst for knowledge shows maturity, another of the qualities I, and most other horse people, want to see in you before I invite you to share my horses.

Most horse groups make decisions by voting and the majority rules. If you disagree with an idea, or plan, state your objections quietly and evenly before the ballot. If the group decides to go ahead despite your objections, do everything you can to make the idea work. This shows open mindedness and respect for the thoughts of others, both are qualities people admire in others.

Show the group you can carry more than your share of the work load. Every group has club projects, fund-raisers or day-to-day tasks that need doing. You can probably handle much of the work that needs doing to make the groups efforts successful; volunteer as much help as you can. If your club publishes a newsletter, offer to interview noteworthy horse people, or write an article for the next issue. Adopt the habit of thinking, "How can we make this better? What can we do to make this easier or more efficient? How can I help?" By being a willing worker you show people you are willing to pay your way; and you don't want to ride without doing your share of the work.

When does the payoff come? When will you find yourself being able to be around horses all you want?

I'd like to give you a timetable, but I can't. I only know a responsible and mature manner will draw trust and attention from those horse owners with more horses than they can ride. They will see what kind of person you are and will want to have you around them.

There will soon come a day when someone, maybe it will even be me, will ask if you are planning to join in a horse-required club activity. Your answer will be, "I'd love to, but I don't have a horse to ride."

Chances are they'll reply, "I have one you can ride," and you are on your way.

Treat that horse like it was your own and put its needs before yours and the next time there is a group activity requiring horses the owner will almost certainly let you use it again. Groom it well before and after riding and make sure everything is put where the owner wants it to be. If there is any out of pocket expense involved, like gas if you trailer anywhere, offer to help out with it. If you do trailer out as part of the party make a pass around the trailer before leaving to double check trailer connections, all doors that are supposed to be closed are and that nothing is left that shouldn't be. Ask the driver to work the vehicle lights to make sure they work. Just do everything you can to be handy to have along. Make yourself missed if you are not there the next time.

There may even come a day when you and a particular horse will form a special relationship. The owner of that horse may decide you and the horse should own each other. Once horse owners get an idea like that in their head, they usually goes out of his way to get around all the reasons why you should not own your own horse. They will do everything in their power to help you get over any hurdle standing in your way. Once that happens, you are likely to become a horse owner.

I know the owner of a riding program who has a horse a little seven year old girl is absolutely crazy about to the point she is giddy. The owner told her husband, "If anything happens to me, that horse goes to her."

In looking back over my horse career, there were many times when I borrowed a horse from someone I knew, that I ended up with that horse in my pasture. The horse was mine to do with as I pleased (within reason and common sense that is) for as long as I wanted it. The actual title stayed with the owner but the rest of the horse stayed with me. I was responsible for the care and upkeep of the horse just as I would be if it was actually mine.

I am a well known horse person and it is extremely easy for me to borrow horses. I have a reputation for taking care of them and many of the horse people I know have more horses than they can ride. The thought of having a responsible person taking one of them off their hands (and feed and time bill) is very appealing to them. Especially when I tell them the agreement is day to day, at any time either of us can call it off.

I have never known an owner to ask for a horse back. If they get it back they almost always start

looking for another place for the horse to go. Many who sell horses have a contract containing a buy-back clause stipulating they get first chance if the horse is sold, I have never known anyone to buy the horse back. I'm not saying it doesn't happen, I'm just saying I've never seen or heard of it happening.

Remember, place yourself where horse people can get to know you. Show them you are trustworthy, reliable, considerate, and willing to do more than your share. They will make sure you have a horse to ride when you show them you're responsible enough to ride it. I can't count the times I've seen the process happen. I've seen many people go from horseless to having more horses than they can ride just by showing horse people they are responsible and can be trusted.

If you drive by a horse farm, stable, or a horse trailer parked in a parking lot, stop and ask where the clubs are. Watch the "announcements" or "bulletin board" columns in your newspaper; sometimes horse clubs list horse show or meeting information there. Place an ad in the newspaper for part-time work with horses, and/or advertise yourself as a responsible, horseless horse lover looking for a trail riding partner.

Some horse owners have a trailer but no truck to pull it. If you have access to a truck, place an ad or notice somewhere that you have a truck and you would like to go riding with someone with horses and a trailer.

Check your local county extension office for information on 4-H horse clubs in your area. Even if there isn't a 4-H horse group, county extension agents usually know where to find people who own horses. Veterinarians are often a good source of information on where to find horse owners and their activities; many vets treat large animals as well as dogs and cats. One of our large animal vets has a young animal-loving girl who hangs around his office and goes with him on farm calls to learn all she can about animals. She sees a lot of horses.

Some areas have schools for handicapped riders, and therapeutic horsemanship programs. These programs rely heavily on volunteer help. In addition to the emotional rewards, volunteering your services to such a program would result in useful horse contacts.

Go hang out at a stable and talk to the folks you meet there. Engage them in horse conversation and tell them you are looking for a horse.

Start today.

[Back To Contents](#)

Start A Pet-Sitting (Time Selling) Service

Another way to get in the middle of horses and earn a few bucks as well is to offer barn/horse sitting services.

One of the things I remember most about my farming grandfather is that his whole life was anchored in the farm. He had a herd of milk cows and the cows needed to be milked EVERY morning and EVERY evening at very close to the same time. The nature of cows being what it is, HE had to be the one to do it because the cows were used to him and he knew each of them personally. If anyone else did it, the cows routine would be upset and they would give less milk. So my grandfather's life, except for the rarest of occasions, involved never getting far enough from the farm to where he couldn't get back to milk them.

It is almost that bad when you have horses, a pack of dogs and a flock of birds.

One of the main problems we had at Daymark is finding someone to watch over the place while we all go off someplace for a few days. Someone always has to stay home and take care of the animals. Now that we have animals at two farms the situation is even worse.

In fact, as I write this, I am staying here watching over things at the Conyers, GA farm while my horse partners are taking part in the King Of Spain's visit to St. Augustine, FL. If my partner's brother and his wife weren't staying at the Hillsboro farm some 50 miles from here, there would be one less person in St. Augustine.

If we knew of someone trustworthy and horse knowledgeable we would be hiring them to horse/farm sit when we went to meetings, clinics, shows, etc. Well, actually, we do know of people like this. We just don't know of any who don't have a flock of their own animals to take care of.

I have been reading more and more of the trend toward buying and selling time. Quite a few people have been making really good money being personal cooks, nursing assistants, house cleaners and so on.

I read one article about a woman who serves as a personal cook. She is graduate of some fancy cooking school. She comes to your house and uses your kitchen to prepare a week's worth of meals. She marks and freezes them and when the clients are ready to eat they unthaw and heat the meals according to the directions. She charges a \$150 for half a day. When you examine it on the surface, she is not selling cooking, she is selling time. The time the clients normally spend cooking can be devoted to something else.

Now days hospitals are extremely profit conscious. So much so they confine nurses to actual nursing duties, giving meds, taking vitals and so on. They track the nurse's activities to make sure they are not spending unnecessary time with the patients. The personal care that was once so common is no longer as readily available as it used to be. Now if patients want pillow fluffing and other amenities, they either get a family member to handle it or they hire a personal care provider. There are people who make good money assisting patients.

In another article I read about a woman who charged people to come to their house and wait for service personnel. In these days of customer no-service service people insist on having someone at the house even when there is no need to have access to the house. Appointments mean nothing to these people more often than not and many times they don't even show up. If a person has to lose \$200 worth of work sitting around waiting for someone who isn't even going to show up for a \$50 cable hookup that hookup has cost them \$250 before they even got it. And if you have to wait another day, which is not unusual, paying someone \$100 to wait for you is a real bargain. For extra fees she would do basic household chores while waiting.

I'm not saying you should become a cook, personal care provider or a professional waiter. I'm saying that for a creative person with a little get up and go, this concept could be tweaked into a nice little horse business. Not only would it put cash in your pocket, it certainly would get you around horses.

I've heard of pet taxis where someone comes around and collects pets to take them to the groomer or the vet. Why not a similar service for horses?

There are all kinds of variations on the pet-sitting, time selling concept that one could do. Ask yourself "Could I make a business out of this?" as you go about your horse stuff. You might surprise yourself.

[Back To Contents](#)

When The Asking Price Is Out Of Your Price Range

Perhaps you have some disposable cash and would be willing to buy a horse if you could find the right one and it was within your price range. Maybe you have been shopping around and all the horses you want are way beyond your wallet.

Take a lesson from a horse trader I know.

He simply ignores the asking price.

He makes very good money dealing horses. He is a member of that looked down on group of horse people who deal in meat horses. He is what horse people are referring to when they say, "If we don't do something, that horse will go to the killers." He will buy ANY horse that is not skin and bones that he thinks he can deliver to a slaughter house and turn a profit on.

While he will buy horses for slaughter, he prefers to buy horses he can resell to horse lovers because there is more profit involved. When horses are sold by the pound prices are fairly constant with the market dictating the price. Meat buyers are very savvy when it comes to guessing the weight of horses because they have bought and sold a lot of them. When horses are sold for pleasure the emotions dictate the price. The more you can play on the emotions, the more you can ask for the horse and get it. When horses are sold for meat the meat dictates the price of the horse.

Without getting into the merits of what he does let us see if we can use his strategies to our advantage.

He gets the “horse for sale” sheets and contacts everyone on the list. One of the people he calls up advertises, “16.2 hand athletic bay gelding. An Own Son of World Champion Surreptitious Lips. ROM points. He does everything including long division and Common Core. \$5,000. Absolutely firm, don’t ask!” and makes an appointment to go see it.

He drives up pulling his horse trailer and gets out to see the horse. The owner goes through the sales spiel, including everything listed in the ad and says, “Five grand. Firm!”

The horse trader looks at the horse for a few moments and then quietly says, “Tell you what. I know he’s a great horse and you want \$5,000 for him, but to me he’s worth \$300. I’ll give you \$300 for him and take him and all his tack off your hands right now.”

Once in a great while the owner says, “Load him up.”

Most of the time the owners loudly reflect on the horse trader’s parentage and character and totally lose their cool. They yell and holler the whole time they are throwing him off their property. “I understand what he’s worth to you,” Trader explains sympathetically as he nods and hands them his card. “\$300 is what he’s worth to me. Call me if you change your mind.”

“Won’t happen!” or something along those lines, is what they reply.

Horse Trader politely thanks the person for their time and then goes off to his next appointment. Where he repeats the same scenario.

At any given moment there are far more horses for sale than there are people to buy them. The horse trader I know banks on this fact. Many, many, many good horses are advertised and not one person even calls about them. It can be very difficult to sell a horse. It’s really nerve racking if you have to sell it.

Every day that goes by and no one calls about Ol’ Lips, his owner has to feed and take care of him. And then there are those who make appointments to come and see the horse who never show up at all without even so much as a phone call. Some of the ones who do show up bring friends and or a trainer to help the buyer decide if Lips is “the one.” Almost always, the trainer has the perfect horse in his barn or knows where he can pick one up, that way he gets the money. Ol’ Lips is not going home with them. Selling a horse is a real pain under the best of conditions.

He re-advertises him several times, dropping the purchase price further and greater with each ad. He

has to pay for the ads and that's more money Lips is costing him. The more ads the owner places the less he'll spend on advertising and the less people see the ads. Instead of cutting his losses, he is throwing good money after bad. Human nature.

More and more, Ol' Lips' owner is thinking. "If I'da sold him to Horse Trader, at least I wouldn't be putting more money into him." Or cleaning his stall, or any of the other things horses can require.

4 out of 10 times, Horse Trader gets a call "Still want that Lips horse?" It may be a few days, a week or a month or two later but enough of the owners he visits call him to make it very worthwhile.

Horse trader goes and gets Lips, and often several hundred dollars worth of saddle, bridles and grooming equipment, for \$300. After all, what good is tack with no horse to use it on? Lips' owner has worn himself out trying to sell the horse, he's usually is not all that interested in selling tack.

Lips is a quality horse so he doesn't go to slaughter. Horse Trader decides to keep him to sell as a pleasure horse. He turns Lips loose in a 150+ acre field of good grass with a hundred or so other horses he bought the same way. They have grass and water and that's all they get from Horse Trader.

Since he believes in advertising and everyone knows he buys and sells horses, Horse Trader gets a lot of calls from dads, "I want to get a horse for my daughter, got anything?"

Horse Trader says, "Sure, come on over, I've got a number of horses for you to look at including a 16.2 hand athletic bay gelding. An Own Son of World Champion Surreptitious Lips. ROM points. He does everything including long division, even knows Common Core math."

If Daddy's daughter likes Ol' Lips, he goes for whatever the market will bear. I can guarantee you that with Daddy's Darling hanging all over that horse and pleading, "Please, Daddy, please, please...", it'll cost a lot more than \$300. Lips will have a pretty steep price tag on him. \$1500 to \$2500 if not a lot more. The more emotions there are involved, the more Horse Trader asks for Lips. Horse Trader is an expert judge of emotions and the costs of vehicles, clothes and jewelry.

With a herd of sale horses there will be one that Daddy's Dear will fall in love with even if she doesn't have any interest in Ol' Lips. The chances of her going home with one of those horses are VERY high.

Horse Trader will even sell the horse on terms. A hefty down payment, which is always more than Horse Trader paid for the horse, and a "you no pay, I come get and you're out" contract and the next thing you know the horse is at someone else's place.

Horse Trader sells the horse to Daddy with a promise, "If things turn out to where you need to sell him, give me a call. I'll buy him back from you." If the buyer won't or can't keep the contract the horse

comes back to be resold again or sent to the slaughter house. Horse Trader isn't buying the horse back at what he got for it.

When Daddy's little girl starts showing more interest in boys than horses, goes off to college, catastrophic illness, or job loss, or divorce, strikes the family, Horse Trader will buy Lips back - in the same manner he bought him before, for around \$300.

I tell you this story to tell you, horses seldom sell for what you think. The price of the horse depends on the seller's need to sell it. A horse is worth exactly what you can get for it the moment you absolutely have to sell it. It does not matter what someone paid for it originally or who its relatives are or what qualities it has.

Here at Daymark we have some high quality stock with some rather stiff price tags. If someone wants one of our horses they will pay the price we want, period. Some rather famous people have crossed paths with our horses. We even refer to one of our horses as "Magnum, the horse that bought the farm."

But that is today, at this moment.

If we have a catastrophic illness strike, our income stream dries up or something else happens that forces us to disperse the horses and we have to do so in a week, someone would get some very nice horses at some incredibly rock bottom prices.

And many times it takes very little for someone to reach the point where they want the horse out of their life as soon as they can get it done.

I hear all the time about divorces, illness, disinterest, job changes, what have you, bringing about herd dispersals that are really no more than giveaways. It happens here in Rockdale County, Georgia all the time. And it happens where you live if there are horses in your area.

The more horses a person has when life deals a bad hand, the more difficult it is to come up with a break-even result.

If you are short of the asking price, you may have enough. Offer it and see what happens.

I've had many people ask me how Horse Trader can sleep at night taking advantage of people's changing life situations the way he does. Horse Trader views it as helping out someone in need. If he wasn't there buying the horse, what would happen to it? Abuse? Abandonment?

If Horse Trader is unable to sell the horse to a pleasure buyer, he'll take it to the slaughter house. He pragmatically says, "Death is not the worst thing that can happen to an animal."

No matter how emotional I am about Horse Trader's methods, I have to admit that he does have a point. When a blessing turns into a burden you simply have to settle for the best offer. A low price might not be what the owner wants but it may be the best the owner can get.

And, as Horse Trader has pointed out to me, they don't have to accept the offer. He has told me that if they don't accept his offer he doesn't give it a second thought no matter how angry they are about it. He says so many owners accept his offer, that he is almost relieved when they don't.

I have said on many occasions I would never buy another horse. I didn't say, I'd never have another horse. I said, I'd never buy another horse. Unless I have a specific need, such as a horse with a particular ability and/or bloodline, I will not buy another horse. There are way too many horses needing homes.

It is not a question of money. It is taking over someone else's burden and turning it into a blessing. Odds are you may be the horse's best chance. The sooner you get it, the sooner it will have a new home.

Here is a fact: There are many times more horses than there are homes for those horses. A good share of the problem comes from emotional, not thought out breeding. People will breed poor specimen horses out of emotion and not logic, contributing to the horse over population. As one meat buyer said, "I just clean up the mess someone else made."

I tell you all this because there are usable gems here. You just have to dig for them.

[Back To Contents](#)

People Will Give Anything Away

People who don't need to give horses or anything else away for nothing or next to nothing often do anyway.

I signed over a bunch of horses I owned to a children's home therapeutic riding program. For free. didn't even deduct them on my tax return. They were good, usable, valuable horses. To me. I was able and willing to support and care for them.

However, they were even more valuable to kids who had been disappointed by every adult they had ever trusted. Kids who needed someone to bond with that was inherently honest and dependable, like a horse.

I started by loaning one to the program and when I checked up on her I saw how well it worked out I told the program director she could use any of my other horses. She said she could use them all and I told her to go get them.

You see, I knew many other people who would lend me horses to ride for as long as needed them so I could spare mine. After seeing my horses in the papers for several years in the program's PR, I signed their papers and sent them to the program.

They needed more horses for the program, and I couldn't afford to buy any more. So, I started looking for people who had horses, but didn't want them, and could be persuaded to give them to me. I was surprised at how many there were. Especially since everybody I knew in horses in my immediate circle told me I'd never find anyone who would just up and give away a horse.

Once I put the word out I was willing to take horses off of folks hands I had folks from all over giving me horses. I had folks hauling horses across two states to bring them to me. The number of folks who wanted a receipt for the horses they gave was so low that it almost never happened.

As hard as it is to believe, there are folks all over who cannot give their horses away fast enough. You just gotta let them know you'll take them, that's all.

A couple of years after I pretty much stocked the therapeutic program with horses, I was listening to a talk show on the radio. The host was having a field day discussing the silliness of the person who put a classified ad in the Atlanta Journal asking for two free premium Master's Golf Tournament tickets. The Master's is a big deal here in Georgia, and tickets are very hard to come by.

The radio program host made a big deal out of the advertiser's naivety. Here was some guy who really thought someone would just give him tickets to the premier golf event of the year. Tickets that were expensive and hard to find. The host decided to answer the ad on the air and get some yucks at the advertiser's expense. He ended up talking to a friend of the guy who placed the ad and the guy told him, his friend not only got the free tickets he wanted the day the ad came out, he also was given some pretty deluxe accommodations to go with them. The friend told the talk host that a number of people had called with tickets.

Because I had looked for, and found, free horses, I knew exactly how that happened. The best laid plans of mice and men often go astray. Things change from moment to moment. People planning many months in advance to go to a sporting event often find current events derailing the plan. An employer sends them out of town on an important assignment, what have you, and the tickets lay unused.

Some people don't like things laying around unused.

The horse you want today can become the horse you want to get rid of tomorrow. Divorce, college, job relocation, boys discovering girls, or vice versa, and a myriad of other events, can all turn a horse into a half ton of white elephant.

I realize that the concept of a horse turning from blessing to burden in the blink of an eye can be hard to swallow. But it happens everywhere there are horses. That is how life works.

By telling the universe you are looking for these kinds of situations, the universe sends them your way.

[Back To Contents](#)

Training Yourself To Find Horses

There are a lot of factors involved, but many times if you want a horse, and you're where there is a horse looking for a home, and things go halfway well, you'll have a horse.

To quote my business partner, "it's a vibrational thing." There is a saying, "I'll believe it when I see it." I wish this was original, but I heard it expressed a little differently once. It was, "You'll see it when you believe it." When you go where horses are, and you see yourself with a horse in your life, you end up with a horse in your life.

If you do not move in the horse world the chances of you finding a FONF horse are pretty slim. You do not look in a chicken coop to see if a bank has any money. You have to be like Willie Sutton and go where they have what you want. At the very least you have to train yourself to find what you're looking for.

Tom Y. "The Tracker" Brown tells of a guy who trained himself to look for golf balls and as a result finds tremendous numbers of them where one would not normally expect to find them. Rather than looking for golf balls he looks for golf ball shaped bits of color in low-lying areas of playgrounds, open fields and other places golfers might be practicing their techniques. He has seen so many golf balls in unusual places that he knows what might be a golf ball and what isn't.

My business partner is a hawk admirer. She can spot hawks every where because she has trained herself to be able to tell where to look for hawks and what could be a hawk and what isn't. She looks at a bird's flight pattern, she looks in places where hawks are likely to roost and she knows where they are likely to hunt so she sees hawks. We will be going somewhere and she'll be looking in one direction and suddenly look in another direction and point to the sky. Hardly a day goes by when she is not able to point out several that would go unnoticed by the less experienced.

As good as she is at locating hawks, I've never seen her spot one in someone's living room. She looks for hawks where hawks are likely to be.

Train yourself to look for signs of horses. That way you'll become aware of the horse populations around you no matter where you are. Look for those signs that point out horse crossings. Look for horse trailers, manure along the road, fences that might indicate horse fence, check out buildings behind houses that might be horse stables.

Check out the people you come into contact with. Do they dress horsey? Do they smell horsey? Do they drive pickups with horse related bumper stickers or custom vanity tags? Is there hay, straw, horse type dogs such as Aussies, Border Collies, Jack Russell Terriers, Catahoula Heelers, or other horse indicators in their vehicles.

To get an idea of what I mean go visit a feed and seed store or tack shop. Study the folks you see there so that when you run into similar looking people elsewhere you'll have a clue.

These are the type of people you need to be around. You need to be where the horses are to find the horses that are available.

When you find horses, get to know them on sight so that when you see them somewhere other than you normally see it you can investigate and find out why it's there. If it is saddled and at a parade staging area you can go up and introduce yourself to the owner, "Hello, I'm Jane Horselover and I see this horse all the time at Johnson and Parker." You then have another horse contact. If you see a horse from one place suddenly pastured somewhere else you can investigate why. Is it at the new pasture because the owner is having some sort of problem? Does he/she need help with the others who are still at Johnson and Parker?

You are in effect taking your own horse census.

The more information you have the more value it is to you.

[Back To Contents](#)

Free-Leasing A Horse

You can lease horses pretty much the same way you can lease anything else. While on occasion there are leases agreed to where the party leasing the horse pays an amount over the cost of the horse's upkeep, this type of lease is relatively rare. The most popular leasing agreement in the horse world is what is known as free-leasing. You strike a deal with someone where you take their horse and care for it and use it as if it was your own while they retain ownership of it.

You then become responsible for all the horse's expenses. You cover all food, farrier and vet costs. You get all the responsibilities of horse ownership without actually shelling out money for the horse up

front.

This gives owners who may be reluctant to turn a horse over to someone else a sense of protectiveness. It answers the question, “What if this person ends up abusing Precious?” with the answer, “I’ll just go get her back.” In reality, if you are in a position where you are pressured to find another home for your horse, it is very difficult to bring it back even if you don’t relinquish the right to do so once you have let the horse go home with someone else.

Free-leases are simply agreements between owner and the person leasing the horse. Free-leasing agreements can have any number of conditions from one to a hundred. The conditions of any lease are what both parties agree to. Some owners may want the horse kept where it is. Some owners may want the horse back if you wake up one morning and find life’s events have made the horse has a burden to you. Free leasing gives the owner some control and relieves any insecurities they may have.

There are many people who need to find new homes for their horses but they simply cannot bring themselves to sell the horse outright. They would much rather allow someone to keep and maintain the horse at their house. This allows them to feel that they have some degree of control over what ultimately happens to the horse.

Many people have sold treasured horses only to have them end up in less than desirable situations. Free-leasing allows them some piece of mind and lessens the possibility of it happening to their horse.

It is very rare for a leased horse to go back to the original owner for any number of reasons. Does it happen? Yes. But it’s rare.

Do not under any circumstances, co-lease a horse with a friend, owner or anyone else. In all my years with horses I have never seen this work out. Never. As tempting as it is, the imbalances that occur when one party rides more than the other or both parties want to use the horse at the same time, or one wants to spend more, or less, quickly causes resentment. It sounds good on paper but that is usually as far as it goes.

Got a friend you want to lose? Lease something with him.

[Back To Contents](#)

How To Advertise For Your FONF Horse

You need to let people know you are looking for a free or nearly free horse. You need to advertise for what you want. There is little way on God’s green earth that people who have what you want are going to find out about you unless you advertise.

Advertising is the number one thing you can do to speed up finding your horse. The more of it you do, the faster you'll find what you are looking for.

Public bulletin boards abound in every town and city in the US. They are in grocery stores, laundromats, convenience stores and pretty much everywhere else people gather. I don't believe I have ever been in a tack shop or feed store, or any other store with a bulletin board for that matter, in my entire life that there wasn't a bulletin board simply overrun with notices of all kinds. The feed store I frequent is a classic example of that. There are notices falling off the boards, doors, and every other flat surface someone can stick a pin or tape to. In all the For Sales, Upcoming Events, Boarding Facility Ads, you'll find few, if any, "FREE HORSE WANTED" notices.

It is the unusual that stands out. A Free Horse Wanted notice posted on a tack or feed store bulletin board will get noticed, especially if it is obvious that that is what it is.

For some reason it hardly ever occurs to someone to just give a horse away when it has gone from being a burden to being a blessing. But when the idea is suggested to them they often are extremely receptive to it especially when they have been unsuccessful in selling it.

Because someone advertising for a FONF horse is so unusual it will get the attention of anyone who sees what it is. What better place to let someone know you might be willing to take over their burden than the place where they have come to lay out even more money for supplies that will prolong the burden?

While I have no proven statistics to back it up, I believe fully half of the horse people who look over the bulletin boards have, or know of, horses that are available simply by convincing the owners that the horse would get good care (resolving cast-off guilt) and would be appreciated (humanitarianism toward the horse). And then there is also the motivation that the horse would be out of their pocketbook and to quote many of them, "It wasn't fair to the horse to just sit around doing nothing."

You can often find free or inexpensive places to run classified ads in your area announcing your search for a horse. Advertise everywhere you can find in your area. Many publications in your area may even offer free classified ads where you can run a "Free Home To Good Horse" ad. It may even pay you to pay for a classified ad in a horse oriented publication in your area. You'll be surprised how many calls you get. And there is also the Farm & Garden section at Craigslist.com

As I write this I remember when I was in the seventh grade and my best friend had a devoted Collie. I wanted a Collie in the worst way but they cost more than I had any hope of coming up with.

There was a local radio program called "Talk Of The Town" where folks called in "for sale" and "wanted to buy" ads. On an impulse I picked up the phone and called the program and said I was looking for a Collie but I didn't have much money. Within minutes after I hung up, the phone rang and a man's voice told me he was bringing me my Collie and asked for my address. He and his wife drove

two and a half hours and I had a Collie.

Years ago during a rodent infestation we had in the barn and under our outdoor aviaries, I impulsively placed an ad in the local shopper's guide we do pre-press work for. The ad read simply, "Wanted Cat. Must be neutered. Must be clawed." You have no idea how many calls I got. If there are thousands and thousands of cats and dogs looking for homes in every burg in the land, why wouldn't there be horses looking? Horses are a little more involved to care for than cats and dogs.

Run ads like the following everywhere you can in your area and you'll have all kinds of people contacting you...

"WANTED: HORSE TO LOVE. Family seeks horse to care for and enjoy. No money available for purchase but room in budget for upkeep. Call 555 555-5555"

"FAMILY AVAILABLE TO RIGHT HORSE. Purchase price unobtainable but love and care budgeted. Call 555 555-5555"

Hand write your ad on 3 X 5 index cards and on 8 1/2 x 11 sheets of paper. Try to make your headline very noticeable and tell the story: "FAMILY SEEKS THE RIGHT HORSE TO ADOPT" and so forth.

Experiment a little with your ads. You want to get across the right blend of emotion and practicality. You want to convince the current owner that you really want to do what's best for the horse.

If you live in an area where there are horses, you *WILL* get calls from people wanting to place horses.

If I were looking for a FONF horse I would put something like the following on an 8 1/2 x 11 inch sheet of paper...

~~ **FAMILY LOOKING FOR SPECIAL HORSE** ~~

"Dear Friend,

Our family is seeking a very special horse. The horse we are seeking is in desperate need of a home. We are looking for a horse that has somehow, through no fault of its own, gone from a blessing to a burden and really needs to be a blessing again.

Perhaps you have or know of a horse who is the victim of its owner's divorce, job loss or one of life's other misfortunes. Perhaps at one time it

was a cherished family member but now its family is not able to devote the attention to it it once did.

The horse we're looking for stands somewhere unenjoyed in need of a family's adoration. The horse we're looking for must be ready for an over abundance of brushing, petting and companionship. We are eager to become its servants.

The horse we're searching for is between the ages of 8 and 16. It should be somewhere around 14.2 to 15.1 hands. Our preference is for a mare because we like the feminine personality, but we will accept a friendly gelding. Since our family will be spending a lot of time loving on it, it should like that kind of treatment. Because we will be spending a lot of time with it it should be sound with no chronic health problems that will interfere with its being an active part of our family.

Our family budget does not allow us to take out a lump sum purchase price out of our budget but we have done some figuring and discovered that we have enough extra to support a horse starting immediately after the horse we are looking for finds us. We will be able to house and feed it as well as see that it gets regular vet care.

If you have our horse, or know where it is, call Marv Walker at 555 555-5555. Our family, and our new horse will be very grateful.

Thank you for your time, we appreciate any help you could give us in locating our special horse.

Marv Walker 555 555-5555"

I'd take it down to the local quick print shop and get a 100 copies printed on 20 pound goldenrod. Then I'd visit every bulletin board I knew of in town and I'd tidy up the boards. I'd remove every outdated, dirty, faded or otherwise unsightly notice on the board, neatly arrange the remainder while saving a prominent space for my notice. I've yet to see a bulletin board that couldn't use a little tidying.

With rare exceptions the person whose job it is to watch over the bulletin board has no real incentive to keep it maintained.

Almost every tack and feed store bulletin board has a number of outdated notices that can be removed. If you have been keeping your eyes, ears and nose working in the horse world you'll also see other

notices that can legitimately come down such as stables and boarding barns that have closed down, instructors that no longer teach, horses that have been sold and so on.

If anyone asks what you're doing just tell them, "Removing the soiled and out-dated notices and tidying the board a little to make it easier to read the notices." The person whose job it is to that will almost certainly appreciate it. If not, there are plenty of other bulletin boards. You can always return later to that one and put your notice on top of the others.

[Back To Contents](#)

Look Close To Home For Your FONF Horse

I live in Conyers, GA. That is not too far from Atlanta. I cannot tell you how many people contact me from every state in the Union asking if I know of any horses needing homes. I cannot stress enough, look in your own area for horses.

While I believe that you can get VERY specific in your search, the more specific you get the longer the search will take. I believe that if you had your heart set on a 15.2 hand, 12 year old black, push-button, registered Morgan mare who rides, drives, is an English/Western switch-hitter who is capable of winning World Champion Whatever, that you could find it. Somewhere a horse meeting that description exists and is available just for letting someone else know you would take responsibility for it. I also believe that barring some extremely fortunate chain of events it will take you quite a while to find it.

If you are looking for a horse to just enjoy, one that you want to climb on and ride around, one that you want to have fun with, then your search will go a whole lot faster.

The more conditions you apply to your search the longer it will take.

Judge each case on its own merits and apply those merits to your personal situation and see if the horse can be blended into your criteria.

I have actually seen people turn down a horse that met ALL of their criteria except for the fact that it was a sorrel instead of a bay.

You are far better to concentrate your search in your own area. That will allow you to actually see the horse before you commit to taking it.

[Back To Contents](#)

The Importance Of Education In FONF Horse Searches

You can easily learn half of everything there is to know about horses in a year, give or take. It'll take you another year, give or take, to learn half of what's left to learn. Then it'll take you another year, give or take, to learn half of what's left and so on. So far, no human has been able to live long enough to know everything about horses. The longer you are involved with horses, the longer it takes you to learn anything new. When you have been in horses for a LONG time you learn less and less new stuff but the stuff you do learn is far more profound.

Even at that one has to keep learning. Education enhances any undertaking. The more you know, the more rewarding it is.

Education is extremely important in most areas. It is doubly important when it comes to horses. If you are not careful, you can end up assuming someone else's burden instead of turning their burden into your blessing. It is very easy to end up with a horse that needs so much medical or mental care you spend so much time and energy fixing the horse, if it even can be fixed, that it detracts from the enjoyment of the horse.

I have to keep stressing to people seeking FONF horses that you have to fight the urge to say "yes" too quickly. It is much better to say "no" to a horse that may have some borderline problem than it is to say "yes" and have the problem turn heart-breaking and costly.

Horse traders have a saying, "There is always another horse." That sounds kind of cold but it is a fact. It is a buyer's market when it comes to horses - there ARE more horses than there are people for those horses. The universe will supply you with a perfectly acceptable horse if you let the universe know you are looking and then let the universe produce it.

While there are MANY perfectly good horses in need of homes in most areas there are also scads of horses who have little use for anything other than looking at. And there are horses who aren't even appealing to look at.

It is important that you look your gift horse in the mouth (and in other places as well). If you are a tender-hearted person who has no interest in doing anything other than letting a horse live out the remainder of its life grazing on your lawn, more power to you. I, for one, certainly won't look down on you for that. There are many people who are perfectly content to keep horses simply for eye-candy and lawn mowing. Even at that, the more you know about your horse the better your lawn mower experience will be.

If you want to do more than look at your horse you'll need to be a little more cautious. You'll have to fight the temptation to accept the first horse that's offered to you out of fear there won't be another. There'll be another. And another. When word gets out you are willing to take horses needing a home

you'll hear from folks.

Caution comes from knowledge.

The more educated you are about horses, the less likely it is that you'll have trouble. Education is no guarantee that you'll be trouble free, it merely lessens the amount of trouble you'll have.

For instance, cribbing is probably one of the most destructive and annoying habits a horse can have. Cribbing for the most part means the horse chews wood. A cribbing horse is worse than a whole passel of termites. A cribbing horse can chew the barn down around it in a surprisingly short time. Okay, so literally chewing the barn down is taking artistic license but you'll see what I mean if you end up with one. Quite often horses who do this have unusually worn teeth. If you look in the mouth and see the unusually worn teeth you know how those teeth got that way and you can save yourself a lot of frustration and annoyance.

Another nasty habit that some folks call cribbing is windsucking. That is when the horse hooks its teeth over something, stall door, limb, fence post or what have you, then pulls back and begins sucking in huge quantities of air. And then there is weaving where the horse stands in one place and rocks back and forth. Then there is photic headshaking. I have not heard of a horse stopping these habits once they start them.

[Click here](#) to do a Google search for chronic horse issues.

As you visit the sites you will learn many things about what to look for beneath the surface of the horse. The more you are aware of all aspects of horse ownership the more likely you are to have a positive life-long experience with horses. The more you learn the less likely you are to find yourself over your head and waiting for someone to get their copy of this ebook so that they can find you and take your horse off your hands.

[Back To Contents](#)

Examining The FONF Horse For Physical Problems

When you start looking for a FONF horse FONF horses will start coming out of the woodwork.

If you have your mind made up you want a horse, and you keep the information in this ebook in mind, you'll have a number of horses offered to you.

You do not want to blindly accept any horse you're offered.

Horses can have many problems that can make them unusable for riding. If you want to do something with your horse other than look at it and pay vet bills for chronic problems you'll have to become quite picky about what you'll accept as a FONF Horse. You will need to look the horse over very carefully for obvious problems and even that is not foolproof.

There are many extremely experienced horse people who have overlooked a problem they should have seen and ended up taking on a horse that needed more care than horses normally do.

That's why horse trading has such a bad name.

There are too many good horses looking for homes to settle for one that may cause you grief down the road. Just as you can look at certain people and tell things about them, you can look at horses and tell things about them. Some people can look at a horse standing loose in a field without ever getting near it and tell you a staggering amount about the horse's soundness, temperament and personality.

I'm assuming since you're interested in horses, you've studied the various breed standard sheets put out by the various breed organizations. If you haven't, you should. These illustrations of horse perfection, that no horse meets, may vary slightly from breed to breed, but when you study them, you see that a horse looks like a horse. That sounds redundant, but it isn't.

If at all possible, go to a place where there are a number of loose horses. Take a lunch and sit for an hour or two. Watch and examine the horses carefully. Compare heads, compare necks, compare ears, compare eyes, compare...compare...compare. You'll soon see what the majority of the horses look like, to a degree. They probably will look like horses. Hopefully, for the most part, each horse will look pretty much like the others.

A horse outline is free flowing. If you allow your finger to trace over the horse's outline from a distance you see the outer lines curve smoothly into the horse. Trace the neck, it curves back into the body. Trace the hips, they curve back into and under the horse. Each part of the horse gently curves into the other. Each part of the horse looks like it belongs with the others. The parts are proportional. If they aren't, the horse doesn't look like a horse. It looks like a horse crossed with something else.

Look at the horse from a distance. If a horse is zebra shaped (squat, short and short-legged), giraffe shaped (neck rising straight up out of its shoulders, back sloping to the hips) or ewe necked (neck looks like an upside down "u", camel legged (long, skinny, bony legs), or has the conformation of a hyena, leave it there. Jutting hip bones, prominent spines, angular croups, necks that look like they belong on a sheep, and legs that splay in or out, are all, "No. Thank you." These things are physical flaws in the horse and may cause handling or using problems.

The head is the first thing you look at. There is a saying, "Don't look a gift horse in the mouth." Well, the mouth will give you some indication of the age of the horse, and it can give you some indication of the condition of the horse. Open the lips and look sideways at where the front teeth meet. Do they

meet at a point or do the top and bottom teeth curve toward each other.

Hmmmm. Curve toward each other?? didn't we just say something about horse lines curving to each other? Look at the teeth from the front. Are the corresponding teeth on each side pretty close in length on both the top and bottom? If we sight a line from one side of the mouth to the other along where the top and bottom teeth meet, is it fairly even without any rises or curve? If not, the horse will have eating problems and won't be able to chew or digest its food properly.

Study a horse tooth chart. Get some idea what horse mouths are supposed to look like at different ages so when you look in there, you'll have some idea what you are looking at.

There is a nasty habit horses acquire called cribbing. Cribbing is when the horse thinks it's a beaver and no piece of wood is safe. A cribber will do more damage to a barn than a whole mound of termites. The wood it swallows quite often affects its digestion which then causes digestive problems. Digestive problems can easily kill a horse by inducing a condition called "colic."

Another nasty habit horses can acquire is called windsucking. Windsucking is when the horse hooks its teeth over an object, pulls back and begins sucking in huge quantities of air. This habit besides being annoying as all get out can cause physical problems in the horse. Some will do it for hours at a time.

Horses who crib or windsuck will often have oddly worn teeth because the teeth wear differently when they are engaging in their vices than when they are grazing. Knowing what teeth are supposed to look like may help you spot a horse with a windsucking or cribbing habit.

Look at the horse's eyes. Are they brown, soft and gentle? Good. Brown eyes with a lot of white showing around them? Or pig-eyed? Not good. Blue, white, pink, or any other color affect how light enters the horses eyes. Some horses will see white or light things incorrectly and will react differently to such things. Put one color eye on one side and another on the other you have a horse who'll act inconsistently. The eyes need to be out on the points of the head so the horse can see equally well front and back.

You can tell a lot about a horse by looking at the head. If a horse is roman-nosed, or has a quirk bump on its face, the horse requires more horse experience to deal with. Look at the horse's face from the side. Any bulges from the flow, up close to the eyes, such as a quirk bump, or down by the nose, roman-nose, interfere with the horse's ability to look down.

Are the ears upright, front facing, and moving smoothly? Good. You can tell where the horse is looking by looking at its ears for the most part. A horse is capable of looking in one direction with one eye and in another with the other. A horse with ears pinned back along its neck is perturbed and telling everyone it is displeased at something. A horse who's ears are only aimed backwards is more familiar with things behind it than ahead of it and will be reluctant to freely move forward into what is the more unfamiliar area. A horse who's ears jerk from one position to another is uneasy and distracted. It is

untrusting and continually looks for any possible boogers that may eat it.

Check hair swirls on the face. Hair swirls are the little places of hair that look like water going down a drain. Swirls are usually found close to the center of the face somewhere between, or just above or below, the eyes. A two swirl horse is a complicated horse, and requires a very experienced owner. A horse with a swirl within a swirl, even more so. A single swirl is okay. A horse with an elongated swirl is a horse that likes people. If it doesn't, it has been abused. Abuse usually can always be overcome.

Look closely at the tail. Does it look like it is just stuck on the horse? A too high or too low position on the horse indicates possible hip and back problems. If it interrupts, instead of blending into the flow of the horse's shape, say, "No." Does the tail hang straight down the center? Good. Does it appear to hang more to one side than the other? Not good. That indicates possible lumbar or hip problems.

Sight down the horse's back from behind. The horse's spine should not have any noticeable bumps on either side of the spine. If it does, its back is out. If your back is out, how easy is it for you to carry anything or even bend over? Put a little food in the ground in front of the horse and when it bends to eat, sight along its neck. The flow of the neck should go from withers to ears. Any kinks, or bows to the side, means the neck is out. How do you feel with a stiff neck? When you look at the horse from the side do you see any humps in its back, especially back where the rear of the saddle would sit if the horse was saddled? If so, it likely has a strained sacroiliac a very difficult to cure condition that usually causes the horse great pain and affects his ability to be ridden.

A horse lives on its legs. No legs, no horse. Stand at the side of the horse and imagine an imaginary line following the boneline of the horse's leg. If the line goes through the hoof anywhere but the center, heel or toe, let it go. If the line of sight goes through the center of the front half of the hoof, the horse may have navicular, a condition where the foot bone is in danger of coming out the bottom of the hoof. At the very least, navicular causes physical problems to the horse. At the very worst, the horse has to be put to sleep.

You also want to stand behind the horse (far enough to avoid being kicked) and imaginary line the leg bone line on both legs through the hooves. If the legs are splayed in or out, the horse will not travel true. This has a lot to do with balance and coordination.

Look at the hooves. Are they chunked, wide cracked, curled? Pass on him. Draw an imaginary line through the center of each hoof front to back. Does the line go straight ahead in front and back of the horse? The most deviation I'd accept would be a two minutes to twelve to a two minutes after twelve range using a watch face for a diagram. Anymore than that, I'd pass. Excessively turned in or out hooves affect the horse's "way of going" and put strain on the entire leg. Yes, I know a good farrier can fix this, sometimes.

And there is the matter of the horse's age. Usually, the older the horse the more easy going it is. I would say 10 to 14 years old is about the age you would want a horse if it is your first horse. It will take you a while to get to know it and then you'll want to enjoy it for years afterward.

Horses live a lot longer than they used to even twenty years ago. I know many horses that are 20+, and have the strength and spirit of a four year old, but the older the horse, the less likely it is to be sound enough to use. Experienced horse people can judge the horse on individual merits. New horse owners don't have that luxury.

I said all of this to urge you to be patient. You don't have to accept the first horse that's offered to you, or even the second or third. You don't have to accept any horse the first moment it's offered to you, you can take your time to make your decision. If not, it's better to let it go than to make a hasty decision. Another will come along after you've found the first one.

This is where education and learning all you can about horses is so important. I have been involved with horses in one way or another for over 60 years and I know an awful lot about horses but in reality I know very little about them.

Once you've looked the horse over and compared it your studying and nothing rings a gong or buzzer, THEN you can call a vet OF YOUR CHOOSING (the vet works for you and not the owner so you don't want them naming one) and have the vet do a "pre-purchase exam" on the horse. You'll have to pay for that of course even if you don't take the horse. Call it insurance, if you will. It decreases the chances you won't be taking someone else's even more costly problems home with you.

[Back To Contents](#)

Going To Look At FONF Horses

Again, and it bears repeating, just because someone wants to give you a Free Or Nearly Free Horse doesn't mean you are obligated to take it.

We talked about examining the horse for possible physical problems by looking it over very carefully. Now lets talk about looking for possible behavioral problems by looking over the people who are giving the horse up.

Ideally, you would want the owners to be completely honest with you and tell you everything they know about the horse good and bad. I certainly wouldn't expect it if I were you. After all, horse trading is considered by many to be a sheep get shorn activity.

I received a tearful telephone call from a woman who simply was unable to manage her horse and she wanted me to help her. It turns out she bought the horse strictly for its color and assumed it was rideable, especially since the guy who sold her the horse "lied" to her and told her his six year old daughter rode the horse every where. "No six year old kid rode that horse!" she exclaimed.

I said, "Oh, you bought the horse from Horse Trader."

"You know him? He tells that lie to everyone, I'll bet."

"Yes, I know him and he is the most honest person I have ever met. The problem is he'll tell you the literal truth, If he told you his six-year old daughter rode that horse everywhere, she rode it everywhere. What he didn't tell you, and what you never questioned, was that his six-year old daughter can ride ANYTHING with four legs and hair."

When you go look at the horse there are things that you want to look out for that might indicate the owner has covered something up, simply omitted something or told you the literal truth that needed qualifying that would indicate a problem. Does the horse have any dried sweat marks that would tell you the horse was ridden before you got there? If so, it's possible the horse needs the edge taken off before it can be easily ridden.

Is the horse alert? Is it acting like it's aware of what is going on around it? People have been known to dope a horse up so that it appears very easy-going and rideable. You've probably seen doped-up people. Horses act the same way.

A word about the sex of a horse. Geldings, neutered male horses, are the most tractable and consistent in their attitudes. Mares, female horses, are less so, especially when they are in their breeding cycles. Stallions, un-neutered male horses, were put on this earth for one purpose, to be a stallion. Unless you are an experienced horse person, you do not want to own a stallion. Stallions require special handling. Don't let anyone snow you about how gentle any particular stallion is. Stallions are stallions and require experienced handlers.

Ask if someone familiar with the horse can ride and demonstrate it for you. If not, you may want to pass. I'll grant you that a grandparent seeking a home for a grandkid's horse may have a perfectly valid reason for not wanting to ride the horse. But if there is someone there who appears to be able to ride and does not want to ride it, you may want to be a little more cautious than usual.

If you are really serious about a particular horse you may want to tell them you need to think about it a little longer and then show up unexpectedly to see the horse at a later time. "I've been doing a lot of thinking about your horse and I just happened to be in the area. May I come by now and see it again?" Is the horse different than it was the last time you saw it? If they suggest you come another time and their reason sounds a little odd. That is a Red Flag, well certainly a yellow one.

If the horse passes your examination and before you make the final decision to accept him, have it vet checked. Pay a large animal veterinarian, and not the horse owner's vet, to examine the horse and check it for soundness. Vets deal with the critters every day and will have a good idea what physical conditions to look for. The vet will ask you what you want to do with the horse and then will decide if he thinks the horse is sound enough for your purposes based on his experience and his feelings.

The person who pays for the vet exam (pre-purchase exam) is the one who requests it. That should be you. Since you're paying it should be a vet of your choosing and not one recommended by the horse owner. Their vet may be as honest as the day is long but it still needs to be another vet. If you are a horse owner already your vet knows you and will have a better idea how the horse will fit into your lifestyle. A pre-purchase exam can be your best investment even if the horse doesn't pass it.

Also when visiting the horse for the first time you'll want to assess the owner's horse knowledge. If they have little, you are going to have to be more cautious because they will almost certainly will have ignored some important horse areas, like worming, riding habits and so on.

When you are dealing with people you can tell an awful lot about them simply by observing and listening to them. You can often gauge their horse knowledge by what they say.

Probably the most extreme case of this was a guy who told me he had spent the weekend at his friend's farm riding his friend's purebred Black Stallions. Black Stallions were all his friend bred and he had a whole herd of them - papa Stallions, momma Stallions and little baby boy and girl Stallions. This told me his horse knowledge was hovering around zero and if he actually ran into a horse he had a small chance of identifying it.

By the same token, there are no horses so fast they run out of their shoes all the time. Shoes are nailed on, not tied on.

To lesser degree if someone uses "filly colt" to describe young female horses, or "gaulding" to describe a neutered horse or draws a blank when they hear the word farrier, you know their horse knowledge is borderline. People with borderline horse knowledge normally give their horses borderline care.

While that does not mean the horse may not be the horse for you, it does mean that even greater care is required to make the decision.

[Back To Contents](#)

Finding FONF Horses Through Horse Rescues

Many people turn to horse rescues when looking for a horse. A large percentage of horse rescue organizations go to great lengths to insure that the horses do not end up in need of rescue again. While that is indeed a lofty and desirable goal, it often makes it difficult to meet their adoption criteria when you are looking for a FONF horse regardless of how well qualified you are.

Many horse rescues do not actually turn over ownership of the adoptees to the adopter. Many have a long list of conditions you must agree to in order to keep the horse in your possession. Some rescues

prohibit breeding (which I certainly agree with because there are enough common horses in the world) and some even insist on unannounced inspections to insure the conditions and the horse's needs are being met. Horse rescues often charge adoption fees that are comparable with market purchase prices. No judgment here, just a statement. Rescues are certainly entitled to at least break even.

Does that mean that I think there is no place for horse rescues? No, not at all. Horse rescues definitely serve their purpose. If you are willing to jump through all their hoops and you realize that a large percentage of the rescued horses were in very sad shape when rescued, then by all means, go through a rescue.

If you are one of those who choose to get involved in the most dire of cases determined to do what you can regardless of the odds and are willing to accept the results, then perhaps horse rescues are for you.

I personally think that one has greater freedom and more opportunities by being their own horse rescue. If you operate on your own you are far more likely to get into the horse's life before the owner exhausts all options and abandons the horse to the whims of chance.

There is no reason to look down on a rescue because it tries to take steps to insure the welfare of their adoptees. When one acquires a horse, one accepts the responsibility to do what the rescue would like to see everyone do anyway. It is just that because these rescue people see so much really horrible stuff, many of them become over protective. There is often a tendency to go from rescuer to collector. Many of them feel that no one can properly take care of the animal as well as they can so they often refuse to turn away any animal. As a result there often comes a time when the rescue itself needs to be rescued.

Years ago I decided to get a dog. I figured I'd get one who needed a home so I went to Ann & Jerry Fields' *Life For God's Stray Animals, Inc.* animal rescue in Conyers, GA. I was told that every one of the 1500 or so dogs was unadoptable because of medical reasons or behavioral issues. When I told them, "I take the dog, I take its problems," they remained firm and refused to let me adopt a dog. The Fields went through numerous county court battles and eventually fled to another state.

If you go to a horse rescue make sure you understand everything you are told and clarify everything you are unsure of. Emotion and horse acquisition do not go well together no matter how sympathetic you feel at the moment.

[Back To Contents](#)

The Government (BLM) Wild Horse Program

The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the part of the Government charged with managing the Public Lands, will sell you a horse for a relatively small adoption fee.

There are more wild horses than public lands can support (according to the Government). The

Government knows the average citizen wouldn't care for just shooting them so they round them up occasionally. Horse people as a general rule aren't real keen on selling them to slaughter houses so they offer them to Joanna Q. Public at "auction." The BLM then holds Wild Horse And Burro Auctions around the country.

There are surprising numbers of these rounded-up horses held in Government facilities awaiting homes.

The Bureau of Land Management holds Wild Horse And Burro Auctions at various spots around the country to find suitable homes for the animals that roamed on the bureau's 270 million acres of public land.

The BLM says the program benefits the animals and public lands.

"The animals benefit because of the overpopulation problem in the West," according to a BLM information specialist with the Wild Horse and Burro Program. "It protects the viability of the herd and the health of the land when overgrazing is relieved."

The BLM estimates 9,000 horses and burros are adopted annually.

The adoption program began in 1971, and the adoption process has undergone several changes. After trials with sealed bid and lottery auctions, the BLM decided to post bids and allow people to competitively bid openly.

The new auction process encourages more bidder participation than the lottery system.

The animals are examined by veterinarians before adoption.

Minimum bids for horses and burros start at \$125. Individuals are limited to two adopted animals per year and facilities are limited to four animals per year. The BLM retains ownership of the horses for a period of one year. If at the end of the year you still have the horse and you have met the BLM conditions (basically keeping it safe and healthy) you will be issued a Certificate Of Title and the horse will be yours to do with as you please.

You must also sign a statement saying that you have a place to keep the horse contained and safe. BLM horses are wild animals and as such have little respect or concern for fences that are not physically strong enough to contain them should they attempt to escape before they are gentled. Should the horse escape, you will be responsible for recovery costs.

Normally the horses can be acquired for between \$125 to \$150 with some individuals with striking or

unusual characteristics going somewhat higher.

Monies received during the auction funds the Wild Horse and Burro program and costs associated with the auctions.

There are many people around the country who have adopted a BLM horse and managed to gentle and train it. Gentling and training BLM horses requires more skill, finesse and patience than training domesticated horses. For every person who does well with a BLM horse there are ten who fail (anecdotal experience). They are wild animals and require the same caution and care as other wild animals until they are domesticated.

My first experience with a BLM horse was in the early sixties in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. One being used in a children's camp at Pickford got away and for a number of weeks made its way a hundred miles from where it escaped. Naturally it was newsworthy in a place where watching moss grow was an Olympic sport. Sightings and feats were regular news fodder. During its freedom two pseudo cowboys riding very nice horses decided to make a name for themselves and rope it. One of the horses stepped in a hole at full speed and the other ran into it and both horses had to be destroyed. One morning a farmer found it eating with his cows in a feedlot. He took a halter, walked up to it and put the halter on it. He then took the horse to a sale where a young girl bought it for \$15.

Unless you know what you are doing and are fully capable of dealing with hyper sensitive horses, you might want to stay away from BLM auctions. I personally knew a family who "just went to look at the horses" and came home with three. They backed the trailer up to their enclosure, opened it up and the horses shot out of the trailer, across the lot and right through the fence on the other side.

I got the call wanting me to help catch them at 10 o'clock at night. Was I surprised they had gotten the horses and had them delivered without any checking by anyone to see if conditions were right? Well, yeah.

Are there happy outcomes? Of course. Enough to where the aficionados sing the BLM praises.

Bottom line, know what you are doing.

[Back To Contents](#)

Off The Track Thoroughbreds (OTTBs) And Appendix-Quarter Horses

The overwhelming percentage of race horses who are produced do not make the grade in racing. They may be too slow, they may have chronic injuries, they may be past their prime or any of a number of things that make them unsuitable for racing.

If a race horse doesn't win, it doesn't stay at the track. Race horses are bred for one thing and one thing only - speed. Because racing is a money sport, the sooner you can get the horse running and winning, the more money you make and the less money you lose. Race horses are raced before they are physically or mentally mature because of this pressure. As a result they are very often susceptible to chronic problems that may last their entire lives.

If race horses don't make the grade they are expendable. Many horses unsuitable for racing are disposed of by race breeders in the quickest, most convenient way possible. Many of them are just given away or sold for quick-sale prices. Many are quietly sent to slaughter houses.

Large numbers of these horses find their way into the horse market every year.

They are called OTTBs (Off Track Thoroughbreds). OTTBs are minimally trained, minimally socialized and immature. They are trained and bred for one purpose and one purpose only - to travel as fast as possible for as long as possible. Little else matters in racing.

Since they are bred for straight-away speed they are usually more delicately built than other horses and have less structural padding. This is usually not a problem with a light jockey and a light saddle but can be when you put more weight and larger saddles on them. The racing line physical frame of the horse is also often stressed by maneuvers it was not bred for such as trail riding and athletic movements.

OTTBs require experienced handlers and a lot of time and energy to retrain. Many of them have chronic physical ailments as a result of their racing careers that may cause behavioral or handling problems.

Are all OTTBs as I have painted them? No. But enough are to the point where I am compelled to warn you to stay away from them if you do not have extensive horse experience. They are so common that the chances of you being offered one are pretty high.

An Appendix-Quarter horse is one that has both Quarter Horse and Thoroughbred blood. It is the product of breeding Quarter Horses and Thoroughbreds together. As one who has worked with many horses and has talked with quite a few experienced trainers and horse people, I have no problems saying that these horses also also require highly experienced horse people.

As a clinician specializing in problem horses I find that these horses make up the greater percentage of the horses that are brought to my clinics. They usually have the most severe problems and they are not as predictable as other breeds.

This breeding is the crossing of two breeds of horses bred for two opposing purposes. I refer to them as fast-twitch (Thoroughbred) and slow twitch (Quarter Horses) horses. For many generations TBs

have been bred to run as fast as possible for as long as possible. They give their all in one run. Quarter Horses have been bred for generations for work. They are capable of great bursts of speed but only for short distances. Mostly they were bred to work all day with the purpose of saving energy.

What often happens with these horses is that they get into a situation where they become confused and they then often resort to what they were bred to do, run for all they are worth. Because of the Appendix mix quite often the fast-twitch urge to run conflicts with the slow-twitch urge to conserve and you have a blowup. They may explode into a bucking frenzy, throw themselves down or even rear up and fall over backwards.

If you are not a very experienced horse person, stay away from OTTB & Appendix-Quarter Horses.

[Back To Contents](#)

Buying Horses At Ye Olde Auction Barn

I recommend that if you are not an experienced horse person that you stay away from horse auctions. It is just too easy to take a horse to an auction. The horses that end up there are very often there simply because their owners found them too much trouble to deal with or they have a chronic physical problem that limits their use.

Does that mean all horses at auctions are lemons?

No, not at all. It only means that if you are not very experienced you can quickly get over your head. There is seldom any kind of history with any auction horses. Your sole experience with them consists of a few moments you see them in the ring or in the pens.

If you are dealing with an owner you can at least question him and others about the horse's history and habits and have a little more time to examine the horse at leisure. You are far more likely to have the horse's training and disposition demonstrated to you when dealing with a private owner than when dealing with an auction consignor.

As I was writing this I received a call from a woman in Massachusetts whose family had been to an auction and had bought two horses. The family lacked horse experience and paid thousands of dollars for horses they are simply unable to manage. This can happen to experienced horse people too. But it is more likely with the unexperienced.

Auctions are for horse-traders and horse trader wannabees. If you don't know what you're doing you can quickly get in over your head. If you **do** know what you're doing you can get in over your head. But if you know what you're doing you accept it by rationalizing that you can't be right all the time and you learn for the next time.

Horses Bred For A Particular Characteristic

One of the things I take a bit of flak for is telling those new to horses to stay away from horses bred for a particular characteristic such as color, gaits, racing and so on.

Why do I say this?

Because the characteristic very often becomes the predominant consideration in breeding. This is demonstrated in the color breeds for example. Pick up any Paint, Appaloosa or any other color breed journal and look at the ads. Pretty much all of the ads brazenly tout some form of the following phrase: "He shore throws pretty babies!" He can be meaner than a snake, have all of his legs pointing to the same hole in the ground, what have you, and they will still breed him.

A good horse is a good horse regardless of its color. It may not poke you in the eyes to get your attention but it still is a good horse.

Now, are all horses bred for a particular characteristic to be avoided? No. Not at all. But enough are to the point where you can end up with one who'll take a lot of fun out of horse ownership if you are new to horses. It's best to avoid them until you get a little more horse handling experience.

Does that mean you won't have any trouble with a run of the mill grade horse? Nope. Not at all. You are just less likely to.

Helpful Things To Think About by Janis Comstock-Jones

1. Learn about your state's equine liability law, and be sure it's posted at your farm or where you board. Understand the difference between liability insurance, equine mortality insurance., homeowner's insurance., and commercial farm insurance. Check out liability coverage that is included in club memberships such as the USEF. Understand that the insurance your local show club carries for events does NOT cover you or your horse for illness or injuries.
2. Learn to take the vital signs on your horse when it's healthy so you will get a feel for the ideal.
3. Wisely accept that a gentle old horse, well-trained and in good health, is a better First Horse than an untrained foal, horse with issues, or other "exciting" horse is. If you are concerned that an old horse won't be around a lot of years, know that a young one has no guarantees, either. A hot young horse might colic, injure itself during a sour training session, or otherwise die prematurely.
4. Do not believe you are entitled to get a new horse the minute you are tired of, or unable to relate to, the horse you already have. You can be in debt and stuck with multiple unusable horses this way very

quickly. This is yet another reason to start with a golden oldie as noted in #3.

5. If you think your horse is sick, call the vet before you start asking other people what's wrong with it.
6. Be prepared to have to put your horse down or to deal with its passing by natural causes. Think about how you will handle this. That includes checking into disposal of the body. At the point where the horse is dead is a very difficult time to have to sort through this. Yes, it's unpleasant, but you want to be a good, responsible owner, and if you learn about the situation before it happens, it will go a lot easier for you.
7. Do take advantage of all chances to learn from those who have been down this path already. Read, listen, borrow videos, ask questions, watch the bulletin boards and horse publications for clinics, and make new friends who have horses. Respect the time of those who help you. When you ask for help with specific problems, be courteous and let your mentors know the outcome, because you both can learn.
8. Every session with a horse is a training session.
9. Whatever your favorite discipline is, you can learn from people and horses who are involved in different disciplines. If you study dressage, don't avoid learning from someone who rides hunters, a working ranch horse, or a long-distance trail horse, even if you just watch a video or show class of other disciplines.
10. Consistency is one of the most important components of training, but not as important as being your horse's leader.

[Back To Contents](#)

After All Is Said Is Done

In this ebook I have tried to tell you what **I** would do if I were looking for a FONF. It is also what **I** think you should do. But in reality, you are the one who has to live with all of your choices and you are the one who has to make the decisions.

I caution you against auctions and OTTBs, horses with chronic health and behavioral problems, horses bred for a particular characteristic and so on, but in the end what it all boils down to is that it is your choice. If there is something in you that draws you more to the starved abused animal with the uncertain history or outcome than the apparently blossoming and shiny, far be it from me to look down on you for that.

If that is the type of person you are, you are certainly going to get the opportunity to exercise your heart when you start looking for FONF Horses. You will find horses from all ends of the spectrum. Only you can decide how you'll act when you see them.

I have a Facebook discussion horse list – [Marv Walker Horses](#). You can ask horse questions, share horse information and the like. There are many experienced horse people in the group who will be glad to offer what they can.

There are many horse related email discussion lists (forums) on the net. Googling *horse forums* should find you a slug of them.

[Back To Contents](#)

FONF Horses Who Have Found Homes

Appaloosa Mare

I“m not sure if \$500 is nearly free....although around here most horses I see are between \$2000 and \$20,000 so I guess it would be 8)

my mom got a very nice 15hh, 5 year old Appy mare for \$500. The mare was originally for sale for something like \$2000 or sothe owner of the barn I board at was trying her out for a month or so as a lesson horse. The mare was way too green so they were going to send her back home but the mare wouldn“t get in the trailer to go back to her owners who lived a couple hours drive and a ferry ride away in Vancouver. They tried to load her numerous times on many different occasions but it was just too dangerous.

One day when my mom was visiting me and she came to the stable with me I showed her the mare because she looked almost identical to my mom's 28 year old Appy gelding that she has had since she was a teenager. I pointed out that she was for sale since my mom was looking for another trail horse, especially since Duke, her appy gelding, is getting up in age. She was interested and talked to the owner of my barn and got ahold of the mares owner and her owner made a deal with my mom ...after much arguing and such.... that if she could get her in the trailer she could have her for \$500....and that’s what happened. 8)

Bailey

Bailey’s new owner writes:



Bailey, The FONF Horse

Hi Marv,

I am new to the list and haven’t posted at all, but have learned alot just in the couple months that I have

been on. This story probably isn't as glamorous as some you receive but here is my story.

About a year and a half ago on one of my other lists it was posted that someone had an 11 year old mustang mare that they wanted to find a good home for. We exchanged messages and came up with a day and time for me to come and look at the horse. We hooked up the trailer (ya know just in case) and started out on our drive. Well after a 6 hour drive round trip and about \$250 later in gas we arrived home with our new FREE horse.

She had a lot of issues and still does with trusting but we are working through them and she is soooo much better than when we picked her up.

Well that's my story.

Bonita

Bonita's new owner writes:

A girl my neighbor met on the internet (Arab email ring) was moving to Texas with her family when her husband fell asleep at the wheel. There were 3 horses in the trailer, his horse was killed during the wreck, one had no injuries, and Bonita, and she was hurt badly. She was moved to a place while the husband arranged his wife's funeral and his son rehabilitated from a coma resulting from a head injury. About a week after the wreck my neighbor went to check on the remaining two horses, who had no water, feed or hay available and Bonita was not getting her wounds tended, so my neighbor arranged to bring the two remaining horses to her place until the husband's sister-in law would take the uninjured mare in a month, but no one wanted Bonita.

The first time I saw her it was all I could do to keep from losing my lunch. At her withers at the base of her mane looked like someone took a scalpel and cut all the flesh from her spine about 8 inches along the mane line and down 4 inches on either side. I could not believe I was looking at vertebra and disks with no flesh at all on it anywhere except underneath. She also had a place on her haunches about the size of a turkey-serving platter that has all of the hide and meat cut from it. I wish I had taken pictures, but there were too bad for anyone to look at. She was also about 500 lbs underweight and had not eaten the first week and a half after the accident and was depressed for almost 6 months, She was the husband's wife's Dressage mare and they were well bonded together. She has not wanted to bond since, but is coming around now almost a year later. I am hoping that my husband will try to bond with her. She still has some bad places, but is 100% better. I have got to take some pictures of her and will get around to it soon.

Chester

Chester's new owner writes:

In December, I had fallen off my horse and have been working on my fear of riding Sugar again. Thanks to all of you kind people out there who offered advice, I took some steps backward and went to just grooming her and being lead on a lead line. But the best advice was to ride another horse for a while.

I have been riding a 28 yr. old horse at the barn named Chester. He is a small, 14.2 hands, grade quarterhorse --bony, has sunken eyes and a split ear but he has a lovely chestnut coat when he sheds in the spring and the most lovely disposition.

He has an interesting story. As far as we know, he had probably been a barrel racer and a trail horse --overused and abused. He was rescued by a local trainer and then sold to the school about 4 years ago where he has had a comfortable and kind life. He is very stoic and tries not to show any pain when he is hurting. As our trainer says-- he looks like he is waiting for the other shoe to drop and be abused again.

Anyway, i've brought him home for a few weekends over the last few months and he has enjoyed the fresh grass, big pasture and he loves to play and splash in the pond. When he is here, I like to brush him (great therapy for horse and human) and at odd times during the day or night, bring him an apple or carrots or horse peppermints. Now when I show up at the barn, he comes right over for a petting, brushing and treats. Jill has said that he hasn't responded that way to many people because most of the kids ignore him.

Of course, for all that fussing, the other part of the bargain is that he has to let me ride him at a nice sedate walk for 30 to 40 minutes. He has only 2 gaits as far as I can tell -- Walk and Stop and Stop is definitely more popular! But I'm learning how to insist that he continue to walk on and he is getting used to going for a walk with me on him.

To make a long story shorter, I have been offered Chester and I'm going to take him home for retirement sometime in April. I had to really think about this because he is so much older and I worry that I won't recognize when he is sick or that he may die very suddenly because he is so old. But I am going to take him. There is something about him that has touched me. I seem to take in all the funny and odd strays (that includes cats, dogs, and kids). I would have liked a nicer name but he is used to Chester. He'll have our 2 goats, the elderly arab gelding and a rescued abused shetland pony next door for company.

And 2 weekends a month, Dreamer and Sugar will be here for the local horse shows. I am not selling Sugar. I had thought about that and was going to get another horse but I really care about her. Seven year old kids are riding her. So I will ride Chester, build up confidence and let Jill keep training Sugar. My plan is to ride her in the future when I am more comfortable with riding. My husband wants Chester also. He said that HE would ride Chester but on a Western saddle. He wants to have a handle to hold onto and not one of those little english saddles. Now that I have to see!

Jem

One of my 4-H students had been looking for/at horses all winter. I had been taking riding lessons from a friend. My friend was given an 18 month old Arab/Appy filly because the owner just didn't have time with her. Well, the friend had her at the barn for a couple of months and found that she just had too much with 12 horses, giving lessons, and her own 4-H group. She decided to put Jem up for sale for the board for the 2 months she had had her. That was \$300. I told my 4-H student about the filly, and the rest is history. Jem and her new owner are tickled as punch with each other and they are

going to make a great team.

Nugget

Nugget's owner writes:

Two winters ago, I took care of an acquaintances horses on the weekends while she was away at sled dog races. She had a large QH mare named Dancer, Dancer's foal Thunder, a grade QH mare Nugget, and Nugget's foal Lightning. She had been trying to sell Nugget since the summer when she had bought her and her colt at an auction. She was asking \$1000 for her. I really liked the mare and disliked the way the lady kept her. She was in a stall 24/7. She was very scared of people. She was very head-shy. She was only getting 1 pound of grain and 3 flakes of hay a day. She just barely had what I would call good weight on, but the owner refused to give her more than that a day because she felt it would make her fat.

Well, come February, the lady started to get low on hay and asked if I wanted the mare for \$400. I offered to finish taking care of the horses for the winter when she was gone and give her hay from our summer crop for the payment. She took it.

I brought the mare home in February, actually, my husband led her the 2 1/2 miles because I was 6 months pregnant and he did not want to chance me slipping and the mare freaking out. She walked perfectly with my husband all the way. She would stop to call to the other horses about every 10 steps as they went.

When I got her home, I put her on my grain mix at 4 pounds a day and all the hay she wanted. At this time, we assumed her to be 4 years old. She did great and gained a lot of confidence that summer. We decided to wait until the next summer to train her as she had just had too much wrong in her past and it took us a long while to get her trusting people.

Well, last summer, I decided that she was healthy and happy enough to go to my friends and breed her to her tovero stallion. After she came home, I started her training lightly. We spent 1/2 of the summer getting her ground trained and ready to be ridden. Then, we spent the rest of the summer in the round pen just walking and trotting. She did very well and was making great strides when winter hit and it was time to stop working the horses.

Last week Monday, March 26, 2001, she presented me with a gorgeous buckskin tovero stud colt. Very nice markings, and a great attitude to boot.

This mare has turned into a gentle, loving, and sweet mare. She is still jumpy about some things, but she has really turned into a horse that will stay here forever.

Three Stories - One Owner

All of the horses I have I consider to be “free or nearly free” horses.

My first horse was \$60. Now granted that was back in 1970, but that is still darn near give away prices. She was 2 years old and had only had a halter on her one time, and that was when she was injured because she jumped a 5 foot barbed wire fence and tangled her hind foot in the barbed wire. She nearly cut her tendon, but it healed well, and she was sound. I took that horse from a flighty, scared two year old, to a horse that would do anything for me. She was my first horse, and taught me loads. (I shudder when I think of it.... a pretty much wild horse for a horse crazy teens first horse?)

One time, after I had taught her to lead, we were just walking around the pasture. She came up on a little teeny tiny “trench” that she could have stepped over and she wouldn’t go across it. I pulled, she pulled back, I yelled she stood her ground. I got mad, and she peered at me with those big blue eyes and got more stubborn. After a few minutes of not getting her to move. I just stopped, looked at her and said, Ok, ok..... stand there then. As soon as I did that the silly mare stepped across the trench as if nothing had happened. I learned right then and there, that this mare was smart. Right then we became partners. If we were to get along, we had to be partners, and she had a say in what she would do, depending on how I asked. That stood us in good stead for 15 years.

My second free horse was a TB mare. A friend of mine knew someone he worked with that had a young TB mare that needed training. I had no horse to ride, and hadn't had any fun with horses in over 5 years, so I jumped at the chance. I trained the horse up, and rode her in the arena. Well, the owner decided he wanted to ride her, and she dumped him. Up until that point she had never dumped me. He hurt his back, and decided he didn’t like the horse. They never got along after that. After I left the training relationship, he leased the mare to another girl. She sent the mare back to him because she kept bucking her off, he called me and told me to come and get her. He didn’t want her anymore, and she was costing him feed. I got her for nothing. She was a beautiful mare, but the gal that leased her ruined her. She would buck for seemingly no reason. Given what I know now, I think she needed a chiropractor.

The third one is my Poco Bueno/Three Bars mare, Miss Alto Bars (what a name huh?) whose grandsire is a full brother to the famous Poco Lena. She was in poor shape, had just had a 1 year old baby taken off her. She had really long hair, needed worming pretty bad, and feet were all cracked. She was dead lame too. The owner would feed her a bale of hay on Monday and expect it to last until Friday. She wasn’t the horse I wanted, she was too small for me. After visiting her for 3 days in a row and having to give her water all three days, I decided I couldn’t let her stay there. I offered the owner \$300 and he said “fine” I just need her out of here. (He gave me his bill of sale.... he paid \$3000 for her) She’s given me two nice babies, and I will never sell her. She’s here for the rest of her life.

I have never paid more than \$500 for a horse in my entire life. I have a feeling that I will be soon though..... it’s tough to find a purebred Andalusian filly for any less than \$5000 for a weanling. Sigh.....

[Back To Contents](#)

Thank You!

Thank you for purchasing this “How To Find Free Or Nearly Free Horses” ebook and I hope you have found it helpful, enlightening and educational. If you take the words in this publication to heart you will end up up to your ears in horses. I know this because I have found a good number of very nice FONF horses myself using the techniques in this book and I’ve seen others doing exactly the same thing.

If something should happen and you find yourself in confusing territory with your horse, don’t forget MarvWalker.com. I have a BUNCH of pages on my site dealing with a wide range of horse problems. In addition, I have a good inventory of educational DVDs and ebooks at MarvWalker.com that will help you to become a better horse person. Be sure and check out my “How To Get Into The Head Of Any Horse In Minutes” \$3.99 E-Book at <http://marvwalker.com/bondbook.htm>.

Thanks again,

Marv Walker

[Back To Contents](#)