



Picking out a good horse

Before you purchase a horse, consider how you will be using that horse because different breeds have different personalities and purposes. To select the best horse for you:

- Find a reputable trainer/instructor in your area and ask him/her about different breeds and their purposes.
- If new to horses, spend as much time around them as you can so you can learn their behavior, handling and how you should behave around them.
- When you are ready to purchase a horse, ask the trainer to help you find a horse that suits your horsemanship skills level.
- Do not buy a horse sight unseen. Before you buy a horse, you and your trainer should ride him. Also, many people will let you take the horse home for 30 days before you make your decision.
- Have a vet do a prepurchase exam to be sure you are getting a healthy horse.
- If you are an inexperienced rider/horseman, you should not purchase a green horse (a horse that has not had a lot of training) or a young horse (anything between a foal to a 6-year-old horse.)

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Dr. Fernanda C. Camargo and her friend Skye.



**Read Dr. Camargo's horseback riding safety blog
by following the link at saddleupSAFELY.org.**