



All About the

American Quarter Horse

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The American Quarter Horse

About the American Quarter Horse

The American Quarter Horse is a uniquely American horse breed. The American Quarter Horse earned its name for its ability to race the quarter mile very quickly. They were often found in the company of cowboys, since they were so useful in helping with cattle. American Quarter Horses have a compact body that helps it perform intricate maneuvers when roping, cutting or performing in rodeo events. They can also be found competing in races, bullfighting and police work. Needless to say they are a very versatile breed. It is important to make informed decisions throughout your pet's life. This complimentary book is full of information to help you fulfill your needs. We will provide you with a number of tips and helpful advice. Take a few moments to enjoy this information and you will spend many years enjoying a loving, fruitful relationship with your American Quarter Horse.

American Quarter Horse Characteristics

The American Quarter Horse is highly intelligent, very trainable, and has a gentle disposition. You can create many happy memories astride an American Quarter Horse. Their beautiful coats can come in a wide variety of colors and designs. As with any horse, American Quarter Horses will require a pasture to roam in and a stable for security and comfort. American Quarter Horses are used for and excel in a variety of ways, including racing, working cattle, participating in rodeos and pleasure riding. The American Quarter Horse origin can be traced back to the American colonial period. They have a wide variety bloodlines and horses in their lineage. Even today, they are bred with other breeds to achieve other desirable traits. This is a reliable and intelligent breed and they tend to have an average life expectancy. American Quarter Horses are trained in both Western and English styles for the show ring. They often win races over short and medium distances because they are bred to be sprinters rather than distance runners. Proper diet, exercise, grooming and veterinary attention will benefit both you and your American Quarter Horse.

Selecting Your American Quarter Horse

Choosing and buying any kind of horse can be a daunting task, especially if you do not have much experience in this process. The first question you should ask yourself is what do you plan on using the horse for? Your answer can change the qualities you are looking for in a horse. American Quarter Horses are a good all-purpose breed. You can train an American Quarter Horse to race, to be a rodeo horse or to participate in the show ring. You may buy a horse and then find out it is better at jumping than racing, or vice versa. What color do you want your horse to be? American Quarter Horses can be found in almost any color. Some American Quarter Horses are shorter, while others are taller. Depending on what you want your American Quarter Horse to do, you will have to decide what body type you are looking for. The taller American Quarter Horses are used for racing, while the shorter, stockier ones are used as stock animals. Regardless of what color or qualities you prefer, you will have a wide variety of beautiful American Quarter Horses to choose from.



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Make sure that you ride the horse and get a good feel for how he acts and how he has been trained before you make any decisions.

A Few Words About Breeders

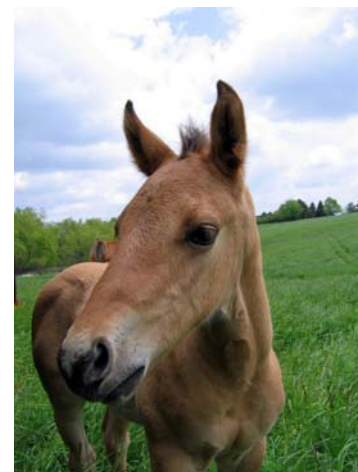
If you are interested in buying an American Quarter Horse from a breeder, make sure they are reputable. There are lists of breeders online and in published magazines. Visit the farm, bringing your own expert with you if you are not sure what you are looking at or feel uncomfortable going on your own. Make an appointment to visit the farm and look at the horses you are interested in. Look at the facilities the horse has been kept in. Are they clean? Has the horse been kept mostly in a stall or in a pasture? How does the horse interact with other horses and people? Also, make sure the breeder has the registration papers from the American Quarter Horse Association and verify the horse's registration and current ownership with the AQHA. You also should be able to see the horse's papers and lineage. If the horse's parents are at the farm, ask to visit with them as well. All of these things will give you a better idea of what kind of horse you are looking at.

A Few Words About Auctions

If you decide to look for an American Quarter Horse at a horse auction, do some research before you go to the auction. Usually, you will be able to find information on various auction houses online. You can also ask around your community to find out what kind of reputation the auction house may have. It may be a good idea to find another owner who has bought from this auction house. What was their experience with this auction house? Try to find out as much history as you can about the horse you are interested in. Is the horse already registered? What is its pedigree? Horses may be at an auction for many reasons. Sometimes an auction is just another avenue for a breeder to sell his horses. An auction may be a cheaper way to buy a horse, but you will probably have to be a little more careful since you will not be able to see what kind of training or life the horse has come from.

How to Choose your American Quarter Horse

Choosing a horse can be a hard decision because there are so many different personalities and aesthetic qualities you may want to take into consideration. With an American Quarter Horse, you have many color options available. Sometimes you can make up your mind what you want before you look at a variety of horses, but what you had in mind may just go out the window if you happen to instantly fall in love with a specific horse. There are a few signs you need to look for to indicate a healthy horse:



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1. Bright and clear eyes
2. Healthy coat and no skin conditions
3. History and lineage are necessary as the genetics of animals are much like those of humans
4. Make sure the hooves are solid and well taken care of
5. Pay attention to the demeanor of the horse: does it shy away from people?
This may be an indicator of abuse and you will need to take that into consideration

Bringing Your American Quarter Horse Home

It is vital that you have a place for your horse to live when you bring him home. Will you be renting a stable for him to live in? Or do you have a barn on your property? If you have never cared for a horse before, have you done your homework to find out how to care for a horse?

Create a list of items that you will need for your horse. Among the essentials you will need are a couple of good brushes, good feed, a halter, tack and a lead rope. There are many other things you may need, but this is a good list to begin with.

It is vital to keep your horse up to date on any immunizations they may require. You will also need to pay attention to their hooves since they are vital to a horse's health. You will also want to buy books or even check them out from the library and find out more regarding American Quarter Horses. You will also need a veterinarian who specifically deals with horses. Choose your vet before you have any problems, since it will help your vet to see how your horse acts when it is healthy so he can help your horse when he is sick. Horses are a bigger responsibility than the average house pet. However, if you pay attention to the needs of your horse, you will be a success as a new horse owner.

The American Quarter Horse Foal

Each stage of your horse's life will be characterized by special needs. Foals' lives are full of learning experiences from the day they are born. Enjoy the time you spend with your foal, since his experiences as a young horse will shape him into what he will be as an adult. American Quarter Horses are highly intelligent and very people-oriented. They are very trainable and are generally eager to please. However, if you feel uncomfortable training a foal, it may be a good idea to hire an expert to help you in this vital part of a horse's life.

As a foal, your horse will require its first shots. He will also need to become used to various grooming aids, such as brushes and combs. While it is a foal, your horse will depend on its mother for food. After it is weaned, you will need to pay particular attention to its feeding so it will grow up with healthy eating habits. Growing horses will need additional grain or supplements to help them grow up strong and healthy.



You'll need these basics for your American Quarter Horse colt/foal. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices online.

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- [Grooming Kit](#)

The American Quarter Horse Adult

As your foal ages into an adult, his needs will begin to change. American Quarter Horses very much enjoy human contact, so it is vital that you stay in touch with them and interact with them daily.

As a breed, American Quarter Horses generally eat a moderate amount of food. Pay attention to what your horse eats and you should get a good idea of how much to feed him everyday. It is also vital that you do not overfeed a horse. If a horse eats too much, he can founder, which is a serious inflammation of the hooves. A horse can also develop colic if he eats too much rich feed, which can include grass in the spring, high protein feeds and too much grain. If a horse is being shown or is more active, obviously he will require more feed than usual. All horses will need constant access to a salt block to replace the essential minerals they lose during the day.

As your American Quarter Horse ages, his hooves, coat, skin, eyes and teeth may need special attention. Make grooming a happy, special time for your horse. You should keep his coat well groomed and free of dirt and debris. You will also need to have a farrier visit to care for your horse's hooves and horseshoes. If your horse is well groomed, healthy and happy, your time together will be much more enjoyable.

The American Quarter Horse Senior

As your American Quarter Horse ages, his needs will change again. American Quarter Horses age at about the same rate as any other breed. You will need to reevaluate your senior's feeding and care needs as he ages. As a general rule, much like any other animal, a horse's skin, eyes, teeth and hooves age and may require different care than they did in their youth. You can help your horse age gracefully with proper feeding, exercise and care.

A senior horse's disposition may change over the years just as any senior's demeanor can change as they age. They may be more grumpy when introduced to new things or if they simply do not want to do something you ask them to do.

You will have many happy years and memories with your American Quarter Horse. Horses can be a very special part of your family and can add many happy memories during its life. American Quarter Horses are an intelligent and loving breed that will give you a lot of love, memories and unforgettable times.

Necessary Items

American Quarter Horses will need the same kinds of saddles, bridles, halters and other equipment that other breeds need. The items you need can be found in a variety of sizes to fit the needs of your specific horse. You can find equipment for your American Quarter Horse online, at retail stores or through mail order catalogs.



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Tack

Tack is an all-encompassing word that basically refers to the equipment you will need for your horse to care for and ride him. These items include halters, bridles, saddles, and other equipment.

As a general rule, American Quarter Horses are rather average in size. Some American Quarter Horses are shorter and rounder while others are taller and leaner. As a result, you may need help in finding suitable tack. With all that in mind however, you need to look at your American Quarter Horse and go with the tack most comfortable for him. Ask other American Quarter Horse owners for advice, and usually a tack store employee can be helpful as well.

Feed

Most American Quarter Horses require a moderate amount of feed. The amount of feed your horse will need depends on how active it is. You will need high-quality feed and should always make sure your horse is eating enough; they need a proper mix of vitamins and minerals to stay healthy. Quality feed and plenty of fresh, clean water will keep your horse healthy and happy. In addition to grain, your horse will need to be able to graze in a pasture or have access to hay. A salt block and possibly mineral supplements are also vital to your horse's health. A salt block should be accessible at all times for the horse's use. You can also research this topic by asking other owners or by referring to books.

Medical Considerations

As a breed, American Quarter Horses are genetically sound and healthy. This is mostly due to its origins. American Quarter Horses have a very wide genetic base and as a result are very healthy animals. It is very rare for an American Quarter Horse to have any genetic problems; it is generally one of the more sound and healthy breeds you can find.



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