



# All About the **Thoroughbred**

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# Thoroughbreds

## About Thoroughbreds

The Thoroughbred was developed for speed. They were developed in England when English mares were bred to Arabian stallions in the hopes of creating a distance racer. Thoroughbreds can come in a variety of colors. They might have some white on their bodies, and can have white stockings. Thoroughbreds are muscular and built to race over distances. They are, however, a very versatile breed, and can be found racing, jumping, and even racing around on the polo field! 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 Thoroughbred.

## General Characteristics

The Thoroughbred is highly intelligent, very trainable, and has a gentle disposition. You can create many happy memories astride a Thoroughbred. Their beautiful coats can come in several colors but it is the unique design that makes the Thoroughbred what it is. Thoroughbreds have a distinct appearance, which includes a combination of white patterned hair along with any other color. As with any horse, Thoroughbreds will require a pasture to roam in and a stable for security and comfort. Thoroughbreds are used for and excel in a variety of areas, including racing, working cattle, participating in rodeos and pleasure riding. Thoroughbreds have a wide variety of bloodlines and horses in their lineage. This is a delicate yet intelligent breed, and if treated well, tends to have an average life expectancy. Thoroughbreds are generally trained as race horses, but can be trained for many things. They often win races over short and medium distances and some are trained to be distance runners while others are trained to be sprinters. Proper diet, exercise, grooming and veterinary attention will benefit both you and your Thoroughbred.

## Selecting Your Thoroughbred

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. Thoroughbreds are a good all-purpose breed. A Thoroughbred is primarily bred and trained to race, but it can also be a good riding horse. 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? Thoroughbreds can be found in almost any color, but will not be white. Some Thoroughbreds are shorter, while others are taller. Regardless of what color or qualities you prefer, you will have a wide variety of beautiful Thoroughbreds to choose from. 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.



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## A Few Words About Breeders

If you are interested in buying a Thoroughbred 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 Thoroughbred Association and verify the horse's registration and current ownership with the Thoroughbred Association. 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 a Thoroughbred 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 Thoroughbred

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 a Thoroughbred, you have many color options and patterns 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:

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 that 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.



You'll need these basics before your Thoroughbred Horse comes home. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices for online pet supplies.

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## Before You Bring Him 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 Thoroughbreds. 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 Thoroughbred 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. Thoroughbreds 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.

### The Thoroughbred Adult

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

As a breed, Thoroughbreds 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 over feed a horse. If a horse eats too much, he can develop 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



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need constant access to a salt block to replace the essential minerals they lose during the day.

As your Thoroughbred 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, 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 Thoroughbred Senior

As your Thoroughbred becomes a senior, his needs will change again. Thoroughbreds 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 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 Thoroughbred. Horses can be a very special part of your family and can add many happy memories during its life. Thoroughbreds are an intelligent and loving breed that will give you a lot of love, memories and unforgettable times.

## Necessary Items

Thoroughbreds 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 Thoroughbred online, at retail stores or through mail order catalogs.

## 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, Thoroughbreds are rather average in size. Some Thoroughbreds 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 Thoroughbred and go with the tack most comfortable for him. Ask other Thoroughbred owners for advice, and usually a tack store employee can be helpful as well.



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## Feed

Most Thoroughbreds require a moderate amount of feed. The amount of feed your horse requires will depend on how active it is. You will need high-quality feed and should always make sure your horse is eating enough because 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, Thoroughbreds are generally sound and healthy. This is mostly due to its origins. Thoroughbreds have a very wide, broad genetic base and as a result are very healthy animals. However, modern Thoroughbred racing has selectively bred many horses for their extreme speed. This has led to Thoroughbreds with decreased bone mass and increased muscle mass. As a result, modern Thoroughbreds are carrying a lighter skeleton and using abnormally strong muscles. This has led to many more career-ending injuries, usually in the form of broken leg bones. A lot of these injuries can be fatal, and many Thoroughbreds are euthanized if the break is severe. Modern Thoroughbreds are also more susceptible to circulatory problems in their legs when injured, which can lead to infections.



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