

SELLING YOUR HORSE - ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

SO, YOU'VE DECIDED TO SELL YOUR HORSE. WHAT ARE THE ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS YOU NEED TO CONSIDER?

The obvious one is **honesty**. Honesty about your horse's **ability, history, soundness, value, and temperament**. But there is another side to consider, and that is the suitability of the home where your horse is going to end up.

When selling a horse, it is usually vetted by a prospective owner and the current owner is required to pass through rigorous questioning about the horse and its history - **but what about its future?** How often does the seller truly vet the new owner? The suitability of horse to rider skill level is only one part of that horse's future. We have all heard of or seen horses ending up either languishing in paddocks or passing from owner to owner all because of the owner's lack of suitability, often through ignorance, irresponsibility or financial hardship.



TO HELP AVOID THIS ISSUE, HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH THE POTENTIAL BUYER AND CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

- » **Where** will the horse be kept? Does the location suit the horse's physical and emotional needs?
- » **If the horse will be agisted**, what will happen if the agistment centre shuts down, asks the horse to leave or puts its prices up?
- » Does the buyer understand the **ongoing financial commitment** of worming, dental, feeding, farriery and veterinary expenses? The purchase price of the horse is often the cheapest part of horse ownership!
- » What would the buyer do if they could no longer look after the horse due to **personal or financial hardship** or if the horse proves to be unsuitable or develop a chronic condition?
- » Does the buyer have the **support** of a coach, riding club or knowledgeable family member or friend?
- » Is the buyer **willing to keep in touch** with you and offer you first refusal when looking to rehome the horse?

Sometimes when selling a horse, it is easy to get caught up in the moment and want to sell the horse as quickly as possible, but it is important to remember that the horse has no say in its future. If something doesn't feel right, then stop the sale. **You must be an advocate for the horse.**

It is your responsibility as an ethical owner to ensure that the horse you're rehoming has the best life possible. This may sound like a difficult conversation to have with potential buyers, but if the buyer shares the same values and will truly care for the horse, then they should welcome your questions and you can sell your horse with a clear conscience.