

Loaning a horse – 5 tips for borrowers



Owning a horse requires time, commitment, and money. There's the cost of the farrier, medication, the vet, as well as getting the right tack. Then, unless full livery is an option, there's the daily stable visits for chores like watering and mucking out.

For some, loaning a horse can be an excellent compromise as the borrower gets the chance to gain confidence and experience with less of a financial outlay.

So, what should you know when loaning a horse? Here are 5 top tips.

1



Right fit

Ensure that both the horse and its owner are the right fit for you. Visit with a checklist, ask questions, and see if you can view the horse a few times in its current environment.

2



Welfare

Find out about the horse's medical history and if it has any current ailments or special requirements. Also, agree on the process and responsibilities if a critical event occurs.

3



Location

If it's a full loan, the horse usually stays with the borrower, so you'll need to agree what contact the owner is allowed. If it's a part-time loan, the horse usually stays with the owner, but with an agreement that you'll both have use of it on set days.

4



Finances

Although a loan of a horse is free, you're expected to meet the regular costs of caring for it, such as food, livery, medication, insurance and vet and farrier bills. Each loan agreement is unique, so it's important to clearly understand who'll be responsible for what.

5



Expectations

Disputes arise when you've not set out clear procedures for when difficult decisions need to be made. While you may be comfortable discussing who pays for transportation at the beginning and end of the loan, don't be afraid to bring up trickier topics and decide how they should be resolved.

If you're thinking about loaning a horse and would like to talk through the legal aspects, why not call the Harry Hall legal helpline? Its available to all Gold members with an active policy.