

QUICK CHECK LIST FOR PURCHASING A SHIRE HORSE

What the buyer should be responsible for:

1. Purpose: Will you use the horse for breeding, show, pleasure, riding, farm work, or driving?
2. Housing/pasture: Determine how you will provide adequate housing and pasture/hay for a large horse.
3. Price range: Contact several breeders and use the internet horse sale sites to determine prices in your region, and, possibly, over a larger area.
4. Transportation: Determine how you will transport your new “large” purchase to your residence and the vet.
5. Plans for ongoing costs: Estimate for ongoing costs for housing, feed, veterinary care, hoof care, training, and accessories like harness, tack, and vehicles depending on usage.
6. Plans for care of the horse: Who will be the primary caregiver? Will you be keeping the horse at your residence or boarding that animal?
7. Outward appearance:
 - Does the horse look healthy (glossy coat, clear eyes, general fitness, not thin or overly fat)?
 - What kind of training does the horse have (have you witnessed it driven or ridden if it’s “broke”)?
 - Have the feet been properly cared for?
 - Is the horse well-handled?
 - What kind of vaccination, deworming, and dental programs has the horse been involved with?
8. Pre-purchase vet check: Does the horse “pass” a vet check for the “intended” use of that horse? For example, breeding soundness of a mare or stallion, and working soundness for driving or riding.

What the seller should provide:

1. A buyer’s agreement that outlines all details of the sale/purchase of the horse.
2. A receipt or bill of sale (necessary for your records and insurance purposes) plus a “brand inspection” in states where one is required.
3. Health and farrier records for the horse: Deworming, vaccinations, previous health problems, trims/shoeing dates.
4. Feeding records: All products that the horse is currently being fed and recommended transition diet. Possibly, hay to be sent with horse in transport.
5. For mares and breeding stallions: all breeding and foaling records.
6. Registration certificate with a signed transfer of ownership (on back of certificate). Seller usually pays this fee and sends the papers directly to the registry office. The office will then forward them to the buyer after processing. In this case, the seller usually provides a temporary copy of the registration papers to the buyer.

NOTE: If a purchaser has any questions about the registration of a horse, he or she should contact the American Shire Horse Association secretary before finalizing the purchase. Normally, the owner of a mare on the date she foals is responsible for the registration of the foal.