

# Are you buying a new pony?

Here are a few tips that will help you.

## 1. **Be honest with yourself about your child's riding ability**

This will help determine what sort of pony you are after. Look for a pony that is fit for purpose. There is no point buying a GP jumping pony if you or your child is just starting out.

## 2. **Start your search.**

Look online (trade-me, social media etc) or ask around. NZ is small in the grand scheme of it all and there is a chance that someone will know or have heard of a pony that would be suitable.

## 3. **Do your research**

Check equestrian entries for the pony's results. This will give you a good snapshot of its competition life. Is the pony ESNZ registered?

Unfortunately, not all sellers are forthcoming with the whole picture at times.

Do your research!

## 4. **Try to look at a few different ponies.**

This helps you to determine what you like and want in a pony and also what you don't like and want in a pony. Sometimes the one you don't expect to fit will!

## 5. **Viewing the pony.**

Be early or on time and if possible and ask to see the pony be brought in from the paddock.

Check over the pony thoroughly - look for any scars or bumps.

*This is your opportunity to ask questions.*

- What has the pony done today? (ie. Has it been hacked earlier in the day, schooled or lunged?)
- How long have you had the pony? (This is important as many are being sold through professionals)
- Has the pony ever been medicated?
- Has the pony ever been unsound?
- Does the pony require any special management?
- Does the pony have any quirks or vices?
- How is this pony with others? (Riding, warmup etc)
- Can the pony be grazed on their own and/or in a herd?
- What is the pony like to hack out?
- How much work are they currently in?
- Does the pony truck or float?

*If possible, taking someone with you that is knowledgeable of buying ponies or knows your child and their ability helps a lot. Take plenty of video of all paces so you can review them later.*

## 6. **Riding**

Watch the pony be ridden first by the owner/seller.

- How does it look when ridden with contact and also a loose rein in all gaits?
- Does it move freely or does it need a lot of kicking or pulling?

Make sure your child rides the pony so they have a feel for how the pony moves.

Don't rely on others (instructor/friends) opinion.

If your child is feeling confident after the initial ride in an arena, ask to also ride it in a paddock.

If you are buying a pony for eventing taking it somewhere to cross country is a good idea, this may well be on the second visit.

Try the pony more than once and if possible, ask them to take it to a new place to change its usual surroundings.

## **7. Equipment**

Take note of what gear the pony uses.

- What type of bit does it use?
- Does it require a martingale for jumping?

## **8. Pre-purchase Examination (aka Vet Check)**

Purchasing a new pony can be a big investment. You want to make sure you are buying a healthy fit for purpose pony. A pre-purchase examination is recommended for all horses regardless of the intended use or value of the horse.

Click the link for more information. <http://www.aucklandvets.co.nz/prepurchase>

***Remember it may take up to 6 months for a new pony to settle in with a new rider. It has not only changed riders, but the familiarity of its previous home, paddock mates, feed and routine.***

***Take your time and enjoy getting to know each other.***