

## OPTION 1

### DIRECT FROM A TRAINER

Some former racehorses are rehomed directly from the trainer and, as Philippa explains, this can have advantages for buyers: "Trainers and their teams often know the horse extremely well and can provide valuable insights into temperament, history and potential for retraining."

This route is particularly well suited to knowledgeable owners, keen to take on the retraining themselves.

"Horses obtained this way often are at an earlier stage in their transition from racing, which can be appealing for experienced riders who are confident bringing on a Thoroughbred," adds Philippa. "It's a process that can be hugely rewarding, but it does require patience, understanding and access to knowledgeable support where needed."

Kevin Atkinson, co-founder of rehoming charity New Beginnings, agrees. "If you're very capable, taking one straight from racing is not a bad idea because you can put your own stamp on it."

But he cautions that managing the horse's transition from the track isn't something to take on lightly.

"The trainer can give you lots of information, but once the horse leaves the yard and that racing routine, it can change," he says. "Some horses adapt quickly and well, and some don't. It's not that people can't manage it, but you do need to know what you're getting into."

## OPTION 2

### VIA A RETRAINER

Some ex-racehorses are first placed with professional retrainers before being offered for sale or loan.

"As the horse may already have begun adapting to life beyond racing and started work in a new discipline, prospective owners may find this offers a stronger foundation on which to start building their partnership," advises Philippa.

Inevitably, because of the work that has gone into the horse, prices tend to

Many trainers look to rehome retired ex-racers directly, often to people they know

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be higher, but Philippa thinks it's worth it for some buyers.

"While purchase prices may reflect the level of training already achieved, many riders value the insights this route can offer," she says.

## OPTION 3

### REHOME FROM A CHARITY

For buyers looking for more support, a charity can be the best choice.

"If you take a horse from a charity such as ours, you're loaning the horse, so it's

in the charity's interests to make sure you get the best match," Kevin points out.

Like many rehoming charities, New Beginnings has a lengthy application process. While that might be off-putting to some, for others it is reassuring.



A charity will help to ensure you and the horse are a good match

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## A REASSURINGLY THOROUGH PROCESS

Helen Le-Bon Olive sourced two ex-racehorses, Chrissie and Dora, from charities and found it to be a reassuringly thorough process.

"On both occasions the assessment ensured that I was a suitable owner/ rider as well as the horse matching my requirements," she says. "The full history of each horse was known and, on both occasions, I was introduced to their previous jockeys, trainers and owners, who were all invested in a great retirement for their horse."

For Helen, there was the added benefit of knowing that she was contributing to the welfare of other former racehorses.

"By rehoming an ex-racehorse from a charity, you not only save money on the upfront cost of purchasing a horse, but any funds provided go towards ensuring the continuation of the charity's work."



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There are yards that specialise in retraining ex-racehorses