

WHEN YOU FIRST GET AN EX-RACEHORSE HOME

■ Treat your former racehorse as an individual. Depending on where they are in their retraining journey, they may benefit from being turned away or may be better off kept in their existing routine.

■ Build a good support network around you. "Make sure you have an instructor and a farrier that understand Thoroughbreds," advises Kevin.

■ Arrange for a vet, farrier, physio and equine dental technician to MOT the

TOP TIPS



PHOTO: DAN KITWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

horse before you ask them to begin any work. You'll need a saddle fitter out, too.

■ Don't forget the paperwork! "New owners should ensure legal requirements are met, including updating ownership details with Weatherbys within 30 days of purchase and ensuring passport information is correct," says Philippa.

■ Joining the ex-racehorse community can be a fun way to enjoy your journey and make friends.

"RoR offers a network of support designed to help ensure that every former racehorse can thrive in a suitable home and that owners feel confident and well equipped as they build their partnership," Philippa explains. You can register your horse with the RoR free of charge.

Any new horse needs time to adjust to their life and an ex-racer is no different

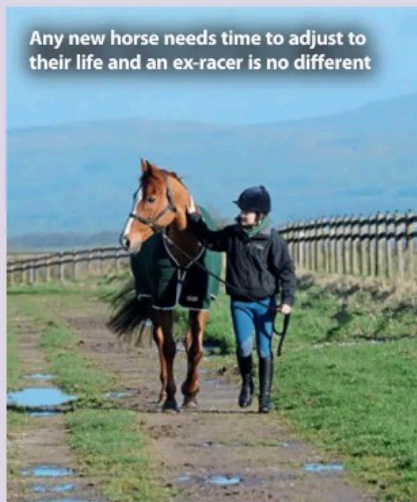


PHOTO: YOUR HORSE LIBRARY

DO YOUR RESEARCH

Ultimately, knowledge is power when it comes to buying any horse, but with ex-racers, there's plenty of information out there, if you know where to look.

■ "Look at the horse's racing history," says Kevin. "That will tell you how many times they raced and if there is a gap between races. If they'd been racing consistently, then had three or four months off, you might question if they'd had an injury."

■ Do your due diligence on any trainer or retrainer you think might be a good source. Kevin advises looking for those with National Equine Welfare Council membership: "That's a good sign; it shows they've got standards."

■ It's a good idea to check the reputation of a private seller, too, especially if they buy and sell a lot of horses. Ask around as friends and instructors may be able to recommend a seller they've had a good experience with.

■ Take your time and make sure the decision is right for you.

"Regardless of the route taken [to find an ex-racehorse], careful matching between horse and rider remains one of the most important factors," concludes Philippa. "Taking time at the sourcing stage to ensure compatibility can make a significant difference to the long-term partnership." 🐾



SUPPORTING AN EX-RACER'S STOMACH

Reports indicate that up to 93% of racehorses have gastric ulcers during their racing careers. This susceptibility is rooted in a combination of factors inherent to training and management.

> Intense exercise increases stomach acid production and pressure, stressing the stomach lining. The stress of racing and travelling further disrupts their digestive system.

> Energy-dense, high-starch diets are common in performance feeds and prolongs high stomach acidity, which can exacerbate gut issues.

The physical presence of fibre is crucial for digestive health. Chewing fibre stimulates saliva production, which acts as a powerful buffer for stomach acid when swallowed. Fibre also contains soluble pectins, an ingredient abundant in beet pulp, which reduces stomach acidity.

■ British Horse Feed's Fibre-Beet is a conditioning feed with a carefully formulated combination of Speedi-Beet and alfalfa supplemented with biotin, sodium and calcium. With all the benefits of Speedi-Beet's high level of easily digested, soluble fibre for slow energy release, along with low starch and sugar, Fibre-Beet provides a balanced combination of essential amino acids and minerals for optimal health and muscle support.

Fed wet, it slows eating, increasing the time feed spends buffering acid in the stomach compared to high-starch feeds, reducing stress and promoting healthy gut function. In short, Fibre-Beet, with its blend of alfalfa, pectins and emulsifiers, is an excellent dietary choice for ex-racehorses in retraining and in their new career.



The UnBeetable Conditioning Mash



Superior fibre blend of alfalfa and beet



Condition without the fizz



5% sugar, 3% starch



Suitable for horses & ponies prone to gastric ulcers*

*When fed as part of a balanced diet

