

# **Great Horses of America**

*'Finding Great Homes for Great Horses'*

20 yrs experience – Professional Sales, Training & Consulting

[www.GreatHorses.org](http://www.GreatHorses.org)

Teresa Kackert 619-572-3087

Rev 1-09

## **Horse Take Home Review Information**

1. **DISCLAIMER**: This short list of reminders and general information is by no means a complete list of every possible item, issue or circumstance and **MUST** not be considered such. **YOU**, the HORSE OWNER is **SOLELY** responsible for learning, asking, reading **EVERYTHING POSSIBLE** to ensure a healthy, safe, enriching environment for your horse.
2. **OPTIONS**: Among others, ourselves, your farrier, your veterinarian, any other horse professional or experienced horse person can assist you by sharing their years of hands on experience – all **YOU** need to do is call or ask – your horse's life may depend on it!

**General:** (Initial here for receipt of this 4 page Info Pkt: \_\_\_\_\_ )

1. **ADJUSTMENT PERIOD**: REMEMBER, your new horse has and is experiencing a **SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN HIS OR HER LIFE**. They have just been moved and removed from one or more 'dwellings' to now yours. **YOU** and the horse's handlers **MUST ALLOW THE HORSE TIME TO ADJUST TO THE NEW SURROUNDINGS, ENVIRONMENT, STABLE, PEN, BARN, HORSES, DOGS, NOISES, WEATHER, FEED...EVERYTHING**. **This should only take a matter of weeks but if the horse continues to be exposed to new changes it will need more time, possibly MONTHS. DO NOT RUSH THE HORSE, DO NOT FORCE THE HORSE BUT DO ASK HIM TO ADJUST – HANDLE HIM, GROOM HIM, USE HIM while being aware of both his mental and physical limitations AT ALL TIMES – build trust, build a relationship. When new horses arrive at our stable for training or sale we basically no NOT touch them for two weeks while they settle in: we feed and turn them out and that's it. Then we start tying, grooming and tacking VERY GRADUALLY while they learn the in's and out's of their new home. This will minimize surprises and undesirable behavior. Again, CALL US IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS AND OR PROBLEMS, we provide on 'your site' training services as a regular part of our business or SEEK OTHER QUALIFIED, PROFESSIONAL TRAINING ASSISTANCE IMMEDIATELY. Horses purchased for children should be handled with even more caution during the adjustment period.**
2. **WATER**: all horses must be provided a constant supply of fresh, clean water at all times. **SOME** horses **MAY NOT** drink from an 'automatic waterer' at first. It might take time, days, weeks, ... for them to get used to the sound it makes and the fact that they must use their face / muzzle to press the 'tounge' of the waterer in order to make it fill! **DO NOT ASSUME** your new horse knows how to or will 'learn' how to do this on his or her own. **YOU** may need to 'teach' him.

# **Great Horses of America**

*'Finding Great Homes for Great Horses'*

20 yrs experience – Professional Sales, Training & Consulting

[www.GreatHorses.org](http://www.GreatHorses.org)

**Teresa Kackert 619-572-3087**

Rev 1-09

ALWAYS provide your horse with at least a 20 gallon bucket or barrel of water until he or she is 'converted' over to the automatic one – or simply use the bucket.

3. **FEED:** ALL of the horses we sell have been on a '4-Way Hay mix, Bermuda grass and or alfalfa mix – approximately 10 pounds combined per feeding (adjust up or down if they waste or need feed). This means we take part of a 'flake' (approx. 4-6 inches thick) of Bermuda grass and part of a 'flake' of alfalfa and feed it to them at each feeding. We feed VERY LITTLE IF ANY ALFALFA due to the fact that it tends to 'hype' up even the quietest horse – this is not very conducive to training or riding. Our horses are all fed two times per day: once in the morning (approx. 8am) and once in the evening (approx. 6pm). The Bermuda grass helps keep the horses 'busy' and not 'bored' throughout their time in their pen. Bermuda grass provides 'little' if any actual 'nutrition'. Your horse may need to change their feed after you get them home. If so, DO THIS GRADUALLY by introducing the 'new' (your) feed WITH the previous or old feed. This will help to minimize 'stomach upset'. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR HORSE AND FEED DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL US! Remember, a horse's behavior might change and his or her health might change as a result of feeding change. If you decide to put your horse on supplements, higher powered hay, grains, etc. BE READY FOR A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN HIS BEHAVIOR & PERSONALITY!
4. **MINERALS:** All of our horses are provided with a constant supply of 'trace minerals' via a 50lb 'brown salt' block found at any feed store and PetSmart. There are smaller ones available but for the money and the longevity, we use the 50 pounders. Be sure and ask your feed / hay provider if there are any 'known mineral deficiencies (or excesses) in the hay you are buying and using. If they don't know, they or you MUST get the answer.
5. **EXERCISE:** All horses MUST receive an adequate amount of exercise in order to remain healthy AND HAPPY!!!! Many behavioral issues arise as a result of a lack of exercise AND INTERACTION – either with you and or other horses. YOUR HORSE MUST NOT BE KEPT IN A SMALL PEN ALL WEEK LONG AND THEN RECEIVE A 'CRAMMED' VERSION OF EXERCISE ON SATURDAY MORNING – IT WILL NOT WORK. Please call us immediately if you have any questions regarding this issue. We offer professional services in evaluating and designing the ideal program for you and your horse based on your unique situation. ALL OF OUR HORSES ARE TURNED OUT FOR HOURS EACH DAY. We have a large pasture at our disposal. This helps the horse exercise naturally and interact with each other. Your horse's behavior and attitude may change if you do not give him adequate exercise and socialization. **A SHORT, LIGHT LUNGE AND OR FREE TURN OUT IS RECOMMENDED FOR ALL HORSES PRIOR TO RIDING.**

# **Great Horses of America**

*'Finding Great Homes for Great Horses'*

20 yrs experience – Professional Sales, Training & Consulting

[www.GreatHorses.org](http://www.GreatHorses.org)

**Teresa Kackert 619-572-3087**

Rev 1-09

---

6. **TRAILERING / SHIPPING:** If your horse experienced ANY difficulty either entering, occupying and or exiting your trailer while transporting him or her please call us and let us know. We can try and advise you on the best course of action and or provide our services to ensure BOTH YOU AND HE OR SHE have the skills to continue 'shipping' safely and as stress free as possible.
7. **SOCIALIZATION:** Socialization is very important for your horse. **HOWEVER, DO NOT SIMPLY TURN HIM OR HER OUT WITH ANY OTHER HORSE OR ANIMAL THAT HE IS NOT FAMILIAR WITH.** You also want to watch out for incompatibility with his or her 'next door' neighbors!
8. **PEN / STABLING:** **DO NOT ASSUME THE PEN / STABLE YOU ARE MOVING YOUR NEW HORSE INTO IS 'HORSE SAFE'!** We have seen brand new, professionally installed pens that have had 'safety' issues. Perform a 'hands on' inspection just like you would if you were moving in 'yourself' – 'kick the tires' so to speak. Make sure the waterer / trough is clean and operates easily and that there is no moldy, old feed in the manger or on the ground.
9. **HOOF CARE:** Generally speaking, horses should be 'shod' (shoe put on) or 'trimmed' every 6 to 8 weeks. However, this may vary from horses to horse – some might need care sooner and some may last longer – it depends on how you use your horse and how fast his foot 'grows'. Simply 'keep an eye' on them, if 'think' they need attention then they probably do. If you need direction or advice or the name of a farrier in your area – **PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL US!** Regular hoof care is critical to the continued soundness and overall health care of your horse.
10. **VACCINATIONS:** Upon purchasing your horse we will have provided you with whatever history we have on your horse. If you need it again please call us. However, you should contact your local large animal veterinarian immediately after you arrive home with your horse. This will give immediate help in the case of an emergency and begin your relationship with your Vet. Ask the Vet what the recommended vaccines are in your area and schedule a health exam or site visit if need be. If you are unfamiliar with basic treatments, look up or ask your Vet about: strangles, west nile & 4-way treatments.
11. **DEWORMING:** Again, we will provide you with our history and then you will want to consult with your Veterinarian. Generally speaking, your horse should be de-wormed every 8 weeks with alternating treatment type. Once you're familiar with the process you can purchase these and administer them yourself or you may choose to have your Vet do it for you – it's up to you. We generally alternate between an 'ivermectin' product and a 'strongid' product. Your de-worming

# **Great Horses of America**

*'Finding Great Homes for Great Horses'*

20 yrs experience – Professional Sales, Training & Consulting

[www.GreatHorses.org](http://www.GreatHorses.org)

**Teresa Kackert 619-572-3087**

Rev 1-09

process will be dictated by where and how your horse is stabled. However, do not take this lightly. Horses get worms and the worms weaken the horse internally: they may cause colic, an overall unhealthy appearance, general illness, etc.

12. **DENTAL CARE**: There are at least 3 choices here: you may choose to file & grind your horses teeth yourself (unlikely!) or you may have your Vet do it or you might find an 'Equine Dentist'. Generally speaking, the 'dentist' has more experience and time available to treat your horse's teeth. Remember, a horse's teeth continue to 'GROW' their entire lives. As they change and wear and deteriorate they **MUST** have treatment. If not, a horse will eventually **NOT** be able to chew his or her food or it might be painful to do so. We check all our horses and have their teeth 'floated' **ONCE** each year. Without proper teeth management a horse may colic, loose weight, be very 'cranky' and or develop behavioral problems both riding and on the ground.
  
13. **OVERALL**: **TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS!** If you feel someone or something isn't right **DON'T HESITATE TO TAKE ACTION – CALL US, CALL YOUR VET, CALL YOUR FARRIER**, etc. Over the years we have seen many, many problems where a simple phone call would have saved the horse measurable discomfort and or suffering. We will be happy to provide you with an onsite inspection and evaluation at a minimal cost.

Remember, this is only a small portion of what you will need to become familiar with regarding the care of your horse. Continue to read, ask, attend clinics whenever possible to better equip you with the knowledge and experience required to properly care for a horse **AND NEVER BE AFRAID TO GET A SECOND OPINION!**

Good luck and enjoy the wonderful world of horses!



Teresa Kackert, Pres.  
Signal Mount Equestrian, Inc.  
Great Horses of America  
[www.GreatHorses.org](http://www.GreatHorses.org)  
619-572-3087