

Boarding Barn checklist

Address & contact information: _____

Indoor or outdoor board cost \$ _____

Non-negotiable – 5 freedoms of animal welfare and National Code of Practice:

- 24/7 water –and outdoor waters heated in winter.
- Quality hay.
- Salt is provided.
- Good footing for turn out and riding so as not to cause injury.
- Adequate shelter/shade/windbreak, areas that are free of mud.
- Turn out has sufficient space to canter and move away from others in herd. Compatible groups.
- Parasite control program and routine veterinary care program in place?
- Vaccinations required for new arrivals? Coggins test? Quarantine period?
- Policy for immediate treatment of injuries (& protocol if owner cannot be reached)?

Next questions/observations (Some of the following only pertain If the horse will be occupying a stall):

- Good Ventilation? Non-slip flooring. Adequate ceiling height for horses (converted cow barns are not always suitable for equids larger than ponies).
- Barn is clean, free of clutter, no foul or dangerous odors (especially ammonia).
- Bedding is not dusty and adequate depth; stall is adequate size and safe? rubber mats?
- Paddock size adequate for cantering? Group Turn Out? Not over-stocked?
- If not on 24/7 turn out, how much turn out time?
- Are shelters and paddocks an adequate size for the stocking density?
- Fencing? Safe & in good repair?
- Are paddocks maintained: Weeds? Rocks? Manure? Seeding? Rotating to allow regrowth?
- Barn has an emergency action plan. Safe wiring and other fire safety considerations. [Fire safety checklist](#).

Questions/observations tailored to your needs and preferences:

Owner or manager lives on property? Y/N How long have they leased/owned? _____

Are there spare stalls available if an outdoor board horse(s) needs to come in for an emergency or injury? Y/N

Pasture in summer? Y/N Dirt paddock if needed for a metabolic horse? Y/N

Hay quality? _____ tested? Y/N. **Round bales** or **small squares**?

Types of Concentrated Feed offered? _____ How many feedings/day? _____

Any supplements provided, or owner provides at cost? _____

Discipline specific questions: Jumps? Y/N Area to gallop? Y/N Trails? Y/N Hills? Y/N

Indoor Arena: Y/N Size? _____ good footing, not dusty _____

Outdoor arena Size? _____ good footing, not dusty, well maintained? _____

Wash stall? Y/N Tack Lockers? Y/N Washroom Y/N Viewing lounge? Y/N

Hours? _____ Riding School? Y/N Busy barn? Y/N

Lessons \$ _____ Coaches on premises? _____ Outside Coaches allowed? Y/N

Vet & Farrier- designated or your choice? _____ Holding for vet/farrier? Y/N \$ _____

Blankets and boots on off service? Y/N \$ _____ Any other extra service fees? _____

Trailer Parking or trailering available? Y/N _____

Other notes:

It is highly recommended to read the [National Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Equines](#) before starting your search to become aware of minimum required standards of care.

Good luck with your hunt!