

Cost of Owning a Racehorse contd...

Jockey Fees

As an owner, you will receive all of the money that your horse earns after paying a percentage to your trainer. The jockey who rides your horse also gets a mount fee and also might be entitled to a percentage of the purse money won, depending on the size of the purse, the type of race and where the horse finished.

Stakes Races

Owning and racing a Quarter Horse will entitle you to enter certain Stakes Races put forth by the Alberta Quarter Horse Racing Association. AQHRA has a variety of Stakes Races to enter and race in depending on your eligibility. The most recognized Stakes Race is the Canada Quarter Horse Cup Futurity. This race has an estimated purse of \$100,000. If that won't get you interest I don't know what will.

Stakes Races are considered "jackpots" in which the purse consist of nomination, entry and starting fees, plus significant money added by the track or other sponsors.

Trial Races are designed to determine the qualifiers for finals in stakes races (futures, derbies and maturities), based on the fastest qualifying times or order of finish.

Claiming Races are races in which horses are entered for a specific price and can be purchased or "claimed" by any licensed owner at the track for that price.

Allowance Races are non-claiming races for better quality horses. These races generally offer higher purses than the claiming races.

For a complete list of all the Stakes Races offered in Alberta please, see a 2008 Alberta Quarter Horse Racing Association Stakes Book.

Quarter Horse Racing in Alberta

Presently there are four operating race tracks in Alberta.

1. Balzac/Calgary- Century Downs
2. Northlands Park - Edmonton
3. Rocky Mountain Turf Club - Lethbridge
4. Evergreen Park - Grande Prairie

The Alberta Quarter Horse Racing Association participates in racing at all of the above tracks mentioned. For further information please refer to the AQHA Stakes Book or contact AQHRA office anytime.

NEW OWNERS GUIDE TO RACING A QUARTER HORSE



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THE HORSES
HORSE RACING ALBERTA

Getting Started

So you just bought a Quarter Horse? Or you are thinking about buying one. The next question you may ask yourself is:

1. What now?
2. Where do I go?
3. How do I get started?
4. Who do I need to talk to?

Don't worry, if you think your alone guess what you're not. Many people purchase a horse and then start to ask the questions, others do a little research and then take the jump. Either or you will always find someone who can guide you threw this amazing and exciting sport they call Horse Racing.

So lets get started! The most inexpensive and safest way to get involved in racing is to become part of a racing partnership or syndicate. This means that ownership of a horse is divided equally among the partners. This reduces the cost for each individual but you will still experience the enjoyment of owning and racing a Quarter Horse. There are some important things to consider before entering or organizing a partnership.

- ✍ Select a trainer that suits your partnership group and who will be helpful and patient with new owners.
- ✍ Be sure you are comfortable dealing with other people involved.

- ✍ Make sure that all partners involved have a full understanding of the risks (as well as the rewards) associated with racehorse ownership.

- ✍ Get a signed agreement, even if your partnership is between friends. This should clarify what percentage each partner owns and how expenses and earnings will be divided.

- ✍ One thing to consider is who will be managing partner. This person will be responsible for keeping in contact with the trainer.

- ✍ Also, consider opening a separate bank account for the partnership so the tax and accounting records are easier to keep.

Choosing a Trainer

This is one of the more important decisions you'll make as a new owner. There are several key points that offer ways of finding a professional.

The Comfort Factor

As an owner you should feel comfortable speaking with the person who might be training your horse. If you are uneasy around that person it may be an indication that this may not be the trainer for you.

Visit the Barn

After you have discussed and met a potential trainer you should then make it a point to visit his/her stable. Remember, this is where your horse will be living. While at the barn, notice how well things are kept. By observing basic stable area operations, you should be able to walk away with a good indication of the care a trainer will provide.

Trainer's Trends

Look for trainers who have proven they can qualify their horses for futurities and derbies.

Is More Better?

You may notice a trainer with a high number of winners at a racetrack but does this mean he is the best candidate to train for you. A consistent trainer normally wins 20 percent of his races and finishes with at least 50 percent of his starters in-the-money. Also, a trainer with dozens of horses under his care, might not be able to provide you with the personal attention you need when starting out in racing.

For a complete list of Quarter Horse trainers please visit our web site at www.aqhra.ca.

Costs of Owning a Racehorse

Owning a Quarter Horse is indeed exciting, but lets get to the numbers. How much is this all going to cost?

Licensing

To begin racing your horse you will need to be licensed at the race tracks. Horse Racing Alberta requires everyone who trains, works (grooms), owns and even rides the horses to be licensed. This will vary from race track to race track. If you are running in a race in Calgary and Edmonton you will be required to pay for an owners license. If you are racing on the Lethbridge and Grande Prairie track you will also have to get a separate license. To acquire these licenses you will need to contact the tracks.

Insurance

You might want to consider purchasing insurance on your horse. These policies may reimburse you for the value of your horse should it die as a result of an accident, sickness or disease.

Training Costs

You will need to consider the money that is owed to your trainer for the cost of caring for your horse. This amount varies from trainer to trainer. This money is the trainer's cost of doing business. For example, feed, hay, bedding etc.

Veterinary / Farrier Costs

While your horse is in training, you can expect veterinary bills each month for routine care. You may contact local veterinarian offices to inquire about a monthly cost. Footwear for your horse is essential. Your horse will require special racing shoes to be competitive. A farrier will generally change these shoes once a month.