



## Things to Remember When Buying a Miniature Horse

1. Think about what you want to do with your Miniature Horse. Do you want to show? Do you want a halter horse? A driving horse? Or are you just looking for a pet? In any case, don't impulse buy just because it's cute! Make sure you're getting the right horse for you.
2. Look objectively at the conformation of the horse. Are the legs straight? Does it have a good bite? Good temperament? Conformation information can be found on the AMHA Web site at [www.amha.org](http://www.amha.org). Also, have a vet check out the horse before you buy.
3. Ask to see the horse's AMHA registration papers. Don't buy the horse until you see the papers. An honest seller will have them and won't have a problem with showing them to you.
4. Check the horse's papers carefully. Are the name of the horse, its color, markings and age correct? Do the pictures on the back match the horse you're looking at? And is the seller listed on the papers as the current owner? If not, the seller may have a transfer form signed by the last listed owner. If so, they can sign the transfer over to you, or they can complete their transfer first and then transfer it to you. If the seller is not the listed owner and hasn't got proper transfer forms, don't buy the horse: if you can't register it in your name you won't be able to show it or breed it.
5. Are the papers temporary or permanent? Horses under 5 years old will have temporary papers; if the horse is over 5 it should have permanent papers. At 5 years of age, the horse's papers must be made permanent. If necessary, this can be done at the same time as the transfer, but there is an extra fee if it has been more than 6 months since the horse's fifth birthday. Keep the extra cost of permanent papers and the late fee (if applicable) in mind when negotiating with the seller. Also remember the AMHA fees are higher for non-members.
6. Ask the seller to measure the horse for you. Remember, AMHA Miniature Horses must be 34" or under. (Weanlings must be 30" or under; yearlings 32" or under; two-year-olds 33" or under; and all senior horses must be 34" or under.) Horses over 34" can't be registered with the AMHA, and horses over height for their age can't be shown. If the seller doesn't have a proper measuring stick, wait until you can get the horse measured. Don't take the seller's word on height. It's a good idea to bring along your own stick when looking at horses.
7. If you and the seller agree on payment arrangements, the seller will most likely want to hold the papers until the horse is paid for. This is common practice, but if you want to show the horse before you're the registered owner, you'll need a signed lease form from the seller. Make sure you get a copy to file with the AMHA and one to take with you to shows along with color copies of the horse's papers.
8. There are additional considerations when buying a stallion or a bred mare. Check out our Web site for more tips on these situations – and be sure to have a vet check out the horse before you buy!
9. If this will be your first mini, be sure you can provide a proper home. Your mini will need a barn/shed and well-fenced turnout area -- check your local zoning rules first! And take the time to learn about care and feeding before you bring your new friend home.

For more information on Miniature Horses, to find local breeders, or to find Miniatures for sale in your area, check out the New England Miniature Horse Society (NEMHS) Web site at [nemhs.org](http://nemhs.org). NEMHS Officers and Board members are always happy to help. Contact information can be found on the Web site.

If you have questions about registration papers, transfers, or fees, contact the American Miniature Horse Association (AMHA) at (817) 783-5600, or email them at [information@amha.org](mailto:information@amha.org).