

When looking for a Paso Fino to buy, one should consider his or her facilities and location first, in addition to the intended purpose for the horse. For example, if someone is looking for a great trail horse, he may not want to buy a baby and wait to see how it trains out. He should look for horses who already are under saddle and have some trail experience. Especially for someone who has to pay to board horses at someone else's farm, it would not make sense to buy a young horse that then needs training to be suitable, because you will miss months or years of riding time while waiting for your horse to grow up and get trained and will be spending board and maintenance on the horse during that time. On the other hand, someone who is a competent rider and can do most of his or her own training may wish to buy a younger horse at a lower price and put most of the time and effort into training that horse himself. If someone has his own facility where costs for keeping horses are minimal, it may make sense to buy a younger horse and wait for the horse to grow up. This would be especially true for someone wanting breeding fillies or colts because these can be obtained for less money at a young age, so a higher quality horse could be obtained for the same money as compared to buying a fully trained or proven breeding animal. In general, it is never wrong to buy the best quality you can afford, because it costs just as much to feed any horse properly and the quality horse will make you more money in the long run, through producing good babies or appreciating in value, or save you money, by staying sound and healthy for its intended purpose and thus keeping vet and farrier expenses at a minimum.

When looking at horses, it is wise to visit several farms and ride different horses to get a feel for the gaits. Some horses are quicker in the footfall and may feel different than a horse that is slower in cadence, although both will be smooth compared to trotting horses. Have some idea in mind of what kind of horse you want (breeding or riding horse, mare or gelding) and what your budget is before visiting lots of farms. Be honest with the sellers of horses though, and don't waste their time if you really aren't serious about buying. Most owners are happy to give you demo rides whether you want to buy or not, so don't take undue advantage of their hospitality. Don't be afraid to consider a younger horse if that horse has the traits and training that you need or want. A horse with a good disposition will be easy to handle at any age, while a horse with a poor disposition will be hard to handle even with age and lots of training. You can also consider a smaller horse when looking at Paso Finos, since the gait and stability in movement allow a horse to carry more weight without undue strain on its legs, as opposed to a trotting horse that impacts the ground harder. Keep an open mind about these horses. Many times a buyer falls in love with a horse that isn't what he thought he was looking for, but the match of horse and rider works out anyway. It is usually best to see a horse a few times before making the commitment to buy, especially if it is one that you will be riding right away and taking out of its current environment to another barn.

If you find a horse you want, you should confirm the price and any other conditions of the sale. Have a vet check done on the horse. Reputable sellers will disclose any habits or health issues the horse has that they know about, but a vet check protects the buyer in the event there is some issue that is not known. A vet will not tell you to buy or not buy a horse but will disclose the current condition and health of the horse on that given day so that the buyer can make his own decision. There is never any guarantee that a horse will not get sick or hurt subsequent to the vet check, which is why mortality and medical insurance on a horse can be considered. If you buy a horse under a payment plan, the seller will usually require that the buyer maintain insurance on the horse as a condition of the sale until the purchase price is paid in full.

A new owner needs to be willing to learn about horses in general and the Paso Fino in particular, as well as any special training or riding gear the horse feels comfortable with. Reputable trainers and owners will be willing to teach you on your new horse and may even require a minimum amount of time in the saddle for you to get comfortable. This is the time you can purchase the

proper equipment that your horse may need, which the sellers will help you with. Take these opportunities to get to know your new horse. The Paso Fino is a wonderful and desirable equine partner and deserves to be treated as such.