

Sample Questions to Ask an Equine Retirement Facility Owner

- What is the fee, and what services does that include?
- Are there fees for add-ons? What are those add-ons and their cost?
- Does the manager or a staff member live on-site?
- Do horses live inside or outside?
- How many acres of land per horse?
- How many horses per pasture?
- What kind of fencing is used?
- Are there run-in sheds in the pastures?
- Is there ample shade so all horses have access to shade?
- Do you offer hay during months when grass lacks nutritional value? What kind of hay and how much?
- Is the farm perimeter fenced?
- What type of fencing is used?
- Is the water source manual or automatic?
- If automatic, how often is it checked? How often is the waterer cleaned?
- If manual, how often is it checked, refilled and cleaned?
- How often do horses come into a stall?
- How large are the stalls?
- What is the condition of the stalls?
- Can my horse have a stall for inclement weather?
- Can my horse have a stall if he were injured?
- What is the feeding program, and is it customizable?
- What kind of grain is fed?
- How many times a day are horses fed?
- Do you feed supplements or medications? Is there an added fee?
- Do you cater to special needs or requests?
- Can my horse be blanketed?
- Does the farm provide fly spray, and are the horses sprayed daily during fly season?
- Do the horses wear fly masks?
- Can my horse wear a fly sheet?
- How often are the horses' feet trimmed? Is this included in the board?
- How often are the horses dewormed? Is this included in the board?
- Are annual vaccinations included in the board or will I be billed?
- Are annual dental exams done, and is dental work included in the board?
- Do you offer routine updates to the owner, especially if he/she lives out of town? In what way and how often?
- Do you permit hacking or riding on the property?
- Are there specific times for riding if it is allowed?
- Who is the vet and farrier?
- What is the protocol for contacting the owner in an emergency?
- Would you mind if I contacted a reference?

Brought to you by the USHJA Horse and Rider Committee. For a list of equine retirement facilities, [click here](#).