

Use your horse sense when buying a horse!

Five good reasons to go for a horse bred in Switzerland

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1. Young horses benefit from optimal rearing conditions in Switzerland, thanks to the world's highest animal welfare standards.

- a. Horses must be raised in groups, which socialises them in a species-appropriate manner – a key requirement for successful cooperation with humans, which begins on the farm on which they are reared.
- b. Exercise is an important condition for the healthy development of the young horse: Daily, free outdoor exercise, even in winter, is mandatory in Switzerland!

- c. Clear, explicit and generally recognised requirements in terms of space, air, light, bedding, sufficient roughage and water are imposed on Swiss horse breeders.



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2. Great importance is attached to the health of young horses in Switzerland.

- a. The breeding organisations ensure a high health standard for the offspring through rigorous screening of the breeding animals. The Animal Breeding Ordinance requires inter alia that animals with hereditary defects be identified in the Studbook. The breeding associations implement this requirement.
- b. According to the Swiss Animal Welfare law, 'torture breeding' is prohibited, i.e. animals may not be bred in a way that subjects them to suffering, harm, sensory impairment or illnesses.
- c. The genetic evaluation, which is well established among Swiss breeding organisations, supplies the most accurate picture possible of the performance that can be expected of future offspring from known parents.



3. The young horses are raised by people with horse sense and know-how.

- a. Species-appropriate husbandry has been a major concern in Switzerland for years. This is reflected in progressive legislation, with the protection of the dignity of animals being stipulated in the Federal Constitution.
- b. According to the Animal Welfare Ordinance, anyone in Switzerland keeping more than five horses must possess appropriate training. Only training centres recognised by the Federal Government are allowed to offer these training courses for horse specialists – this keeps training standards high.
- c. Questions concerning ethics in horse husbandry are discussed openly in Switzerland. Specialists in the equestrian sector have formulated path-breaking recommendations for practitioners in the report 'Thoughts on Ethics and the Horse'.



4. Switzerland's small scale is an advantage – the breeder remains accessible to you.

- a. In Switzerland, successful horse breeding flourishes through word-of-mouth advertising. Open barn doors allowing prospective buyers to view housing, handling and training are part of the high standards of the profession.
- b. The breeding organisations in Switzerland are committed to legal transparency, and are happy to provide you with a wealth of information.
- c. The 'field test' is the recognised training test for 3-year-old horses in Switzerland, and promotes and stands for a solid, suitable basic training.



5. Contributing to a sustainable future for the Swiss horse breeding sector.

- a. People who breed and rear horses require a variety of skills, knowledge and infrastructure that are built up over years. Fair prices reward these investments!
- b. Breeding horses also means care of and commitment to a social and cultural asset. The highlights here are local festivities offering a wide range of tourist attractions. What's more, traditional craftsmanship and training opportunities in a variety of horse related professions for young people are preserved locally.
- c. In Switzerland, horse breeding is frequently carried out within small-scale structures, which are often managed extensively and support biodiversity.



For further reading, please consult (N.B.: The following material is mainly available in German, French, and in some cases Italian, and only to a limited extent in English):

- www.nationalgestuet.ch > Pferdeland Schweiz
- Federal Office for Agriculture > Approved breeding organisations in Switzerland, 2014
- Council and board of the Swiss horse industry, Thoughts on Ethics and the Horse, (Observatorium der schweizerischen Pferdebranche, Überlegungen zu Ethik und Pferd, 2011)
- Animal Welfare Law of 16 December 2005 (TSchG, 455; Revision of 1 September 2008)
- Animal Welfare Ordinance of 23 April 2008 (TSchV, 455.1, as of 1 July 2014)
- Animal Breeding Ordinance of 31 October 2012, (TZV, 916.310, as of 1 July 2014)



Switzerland. Naturally.

Masthead

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