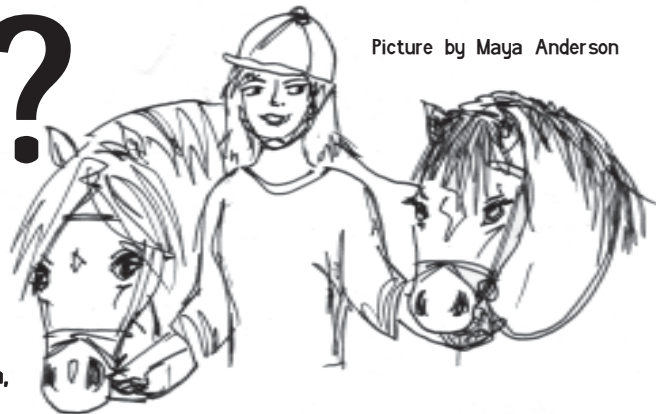


# PONY-LESS?

Picture by Maya Anderson

## GET YOUR OWN HORSE!



Dear Horsepower,

Hi! I'm Tanya Cridland and I'm 14 years old. I've been riding horses for 6-7 years but had to quit as my riding school shut down. I live in the Northern Territory and can't find anywhere to ride any more! Now there are only Pony Clubs and boarding stables. It's so unfair! My parents won't buy or lease me a horse because they think I'll lose interest. Horses are the only thing I could never lose interest in, but they won't listen. My Dad likes horses and said they would get me one when my sister got her licence. She has her licence now, and my high school is just down the road from the stables but they keep making excuses. They always say they don't have the money, but I know they do. I don't want a top show horse, I want a horse that has just been broken in so we can learn together and have a special bond. I've seen horses in the paper for sale at \$1000 that sound perfect for me but they still refuse!

Please help me! I've almost gone a year without horses and it's killing me!

Love,  
Tanya Cridland.

r r r r

Dear Tanya,

I'm sure many horse lovers are in your situation! It can be really hard when you don't own your own horse - particularly if your riding school closed down! BUT we have a few suggestions for you...

Firstly, if your parents won't buy you a horse, and they said they would, sit down and ask them why. **Don't get upset or angry** - just try to find the reason behind their decision. Once you know why, you may be able to understand where your parents are coming from, and you might understand why they've said no. From there you can discuss the problem rationally - make sure you get to say what you want to say, but make sure you listen to what your parents are saying, too!

Secondly, if you want a horse and your parents still don't want you to have one yet - **start yourself!** Get a part time job and save some money! At 14, you can still get part time work, even if it is a paper round! Next, make a budget and stick to it. On the opposite page we've prepared a checklist of everything you will need before you're ready to have your own horse, so use it as a guide. If you can save enough money to buy the equipment, and have enough for on going fees - like agistment, feed, shoeing, worming, etc, then sit down and talk to your parents again. Horses are expensive to keep, and you have to remember that it's not just the cost of the horse, but the money that you need to spend on the horse **EVERY MONTH!**

Next, you need to make sure you have **EVERYTHING** that your new horse would need - and this doesn't mean more equipment. It means things like a safe paddock - free from loose wire, with a water supply, shade, etc, and it means **TIME!** Your horse will rely on you for **EVERYTHING** - this might mean getting up at 6am to muck out stables before you go to school. It might sound good now, but think about doing it **EVERY DAY.** You also don't get days off looking after your horse. Be realistic and make sure you have the time and money that is required. The other VERY important thing you need is **KNOWLEDGE!** You say you've been riding for

6-7 years. In those 6-7 years did you learn how to tack up and un-tack a horse? How to balance out a horse's diet? (See Nov 03 HP for that!) Do you know what to do in an emergency? Owning a horse is not only about riding - you have to know how to take care of your best friend, too!

If you think you've got all that under control, **show your parents that you're responsible** - show them that you have planned how exactly you're going to care for your horse. Show them that you can balance out school, work, friends and your responsibilities. Take on a bit more responsibility around the house! Maybe you could do some work around the house for pocket money, to start you saving? If you have other pets, make sure you take care of them. Sometimes, if you can't have a horse, another pet can be a great substitute until you save enough for a horse!

Finally, while you're saving up, you could find out if you have a local RDA - Riding for the Disabled. They are always in need of volunteers with horse knowledge, and some centres will offer you short rides on the horses in return! Get involved in everything you can - learn as much as you can! What if you could get a part time job at the stables up the road? You could be around horses during 'work' and be paid for your efforts. Some Pony Clubs run a 'non owners' club - so make enquiries and find out how you can get involved!

Lots of luck Tanya! =)  
- The Horsepower Team.

## WANT YOUR OWN PONY?

If your parents won't buy you a horse, we reckon your best bet is to use the checklist on the opposite page! If you can complete the **WHOLE** sheet (INCLUDING the money section!), Horsepower says you're about ready to own a horse. **BE HONEST** when you answer the questions, and talk to your parents if you think you're ready. Remember, nagging won't get you anywhere - do something **POSITIVE** about it! =)

Picture by Maya Anderson!



HORSEPOWER MAGAZINE PRESENTS:

# THE PONY OWNER'S CHECKLIST!



Horsepower reckons you're ready to own a horse if you can complete this sheet HONESTLY! Take a good hard look at the time, effort, love and money you'll need! (We take no responsibility for nagging children or financial ruin!) =)

## COST:

I have saved:

\$1000 +

For my horse, depending on what sort of horse I want.

\$300 +

For a VET CHECK! (Yes, you need it!)

\$600 +

For a good quality saddle and bridle.

\$300 +

For my clothing, including proper riding boots, jodhpurs and a helmet.

\$300 +

For horse equipment, including a grooming kit, first aid kit, halter and lead rope, etc.

\$500 +

For winter rugs for my horse.

\$500 +

In an account in case of a veterinary emergency!

## ON GOINGS:

Agistment: \$\_\_\_\_\_ Per Month  
(HP Estimate: \$70)

Feed: \$\_\_\_\_\_ Per Month  
(HP Estimate: \$40 - \$100+)

Worming: \$\_\_\_\_\_ Per Month  
(HP Estimate: \$20)

Shoeing: \$\_\_\_\_\_ Per Month  
(HP Estimate: \$70)

Dentistry: \$\_\_\_\_\_ Per Year

**YOUR ESTIMATED GEAR & EQUIPMENT COST:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**ESTIMATED MONTHLY ON-GOING COST:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## WHAT I NEED:

- Halter & Leadrope
- Complete Grooming Kit
- Complete First Aid Kit
- A Paddock or Agistment
- Saddle & Bridle (Tack!)
- Helmet & Boots (Clothes!)
- Horse Rugs
- Feed For Your Horse
- Transport To The Stable
- MONEY! (See Left)

### TIME!

(We say AT LEAST three hours every second day of QUALITY TIME - NOT RIDING TIME - that's extra!)

### LOVE & RESPONSIBILITY

(You need to care enough to make sure your horse is happy and healthy ALL THE TIME! This can mean getting up at 5am to take rugs off on hot days, calling the vet at 3am and staying up with your sick horse!)

## KNOWLEDGE:

I can safely:

- Catch & Lead a Horse
- Groom a Horse
- Pick Up a Horse's Hooves
- Tack Up a Horse
- Mount & Dismount by Myself
- Walk & Trot by Myself
- Untack a Horse

I know about:

- Handling Horses Safely
- Good Horse Care
- Feeding My Horse
- Worming My Horse
- Injections My Horse Needs
- When to Call the Farrier
- Horse Health & Common Health Problems
- I have the practical knowledge and am CONFIDENT handling horses by myself!

## FINER DETAILS:

I PLAN TO:

AGIST MY HORSE AT:

The cost per month is: \$\_\_\_\_\_

*This Agistment Has:*

- Good Fencing
- Access to Fresh Water
- RULES on SAFETY!
- Shade & Shelter
- Clean Paddocks
- Somewhere Safe To Ride
- Lots of Room
- A Worming Program
- Good Pasture All Year Round
- OR
- A Feeding Program

I PLAN TO:

TAKE LESSONS AT / WITH:

At a cost of \$\_\_\_\_\_ a week  
Because I know it's important to continue learning!

I PLAN TO:

Take a knowledgeable horse person with me when I'm looking at horses to get a second opinion!

I REALISE THAT:

If I am to get a horse that it is a LIVING ANIMAL and that I must take care of it!

**PARENTS / KIDS:**

How did you go with the questions?

What are your thoughts?

TELL US! =)