

The Paper Trail

Chapter 6

Get it in writing, keep it in one place, and have your trainer review anything before you sign it.

Horse _____

Date of sale or lease _____

IN THE BILL OF SALE

- ☐ Full legal names and contact information for both buyer and seller
- ☐ Description of the horse: registered name, barn name, breed, colour, markings, age
- ☐ Registration or USEF numbers, if applicable
- ☐ Purchase price and form of payment
- ☐ Date of the transaction
- ☐ A statement that the seller has legal right to sell, free and clear of liens or encumbrances
- ☐ Signatures of both parties

COLLECT AND KEEP

- ☐ Pre-purchase exam report, and the radiographs themselves
- ☐ Current Coggins test
- ☐ Vaccination and deworming history
- ☐ Dental records
- ☐ Farrier history and any therapeutic shoeing notes
- ☐ Registration papers and transfer paperwork
- ☐ Insurance policy and binder
- ☐ Any written health disclosures made by the seller

IF THIS IS A LEASE

- ☐ Term, cost, and what the fee covers
- ☐ Who pays for routine care, and who pays when something goes wrong
- ☐ Insurance requirements and who holds the policy
- ☐ Where the horse lives, and who decides if that changes
- ☐ How the lease ends early, on either side
- ☐ First right of refusal, if it applies

The cost of clarity at the beginning is always less than the cost of confusion afterward.