

Is Your Horse Happy?

SCORING/RESULTS:

Always = 5; Most of the time = 4; Sometimes = 3; Rarely = 2; Never = 1.

Total your points.

Unhappy (0-60)

This horse is probably not very happy. He's scared or aggravated depending on his Horsenality and is likely to be hard to catch or would run off if not on a lead rope or in a corral. Training sessions are more like battles, he's unfocused, distracted, unmotivated or tense and flighty. Riding with others is probably a frustrating and scary thing for you, he doesn't seem to learn well or retain what he's learned. It's highly likely that he has no idea what you are trying to get him to do because he doesn't understand your language, or he's bored and unmotivated and just wants to eat grass or go back to the barn. A horse that is scared or argumentative is a dangerous horse and you're probably headed for a divorce from your horse... and your dream. You need to take action now

Sometimes Happy (61-80)

This horse is happy some of the time, and probably expresses his displeasure through resistance and vices that are frustrating or risky for you. If you are a skilled rider and handler you can probably get things done, but spurs, stronger bits, tight nosebands, martingales, draw reins and other artificial aids are part of your training and control arsenal... and if you are not an advanced rider you probably need a lot of help from instructors or trainers or you don't make much progress at all.

It's likely that you have good horse days and bad horse days and have learned to accept this as normal or you are considering getting a horse with a better attitude and that doesn't have vices.

Your relationship is not bad, but not great either. A great relationship is essential for your horse to be a part of your dream.

Mostly Happy (81-110)

This horse is reasonably happy, but there are areas that could be a lot better. If you knew more about his Horsenality and what really made him tick, this would help move the relationship up a lot. And that would make things more interesting and compelling, motivating you to spend more time and set new goals and dreams that you can reach for. As your language and levels skills with horses improve you'll reveal a whole new inner horse and become interested in learning more and sharing it with people. The best part is that your horse will start meeting you at the gate, exhibiting more exuberance, affection and confidence in you.

Happy! (111-130)

This horse stands out in a crowd... he looks happy and acts happy because he is happy. This is the kind of horse everyone wants, but few realize that this seemingly perfect horse can be someone else's nightmare if he's not treated with the dignity, savvy and love he deserves. Great relationships are made and sustained, they don't happen by accident.

You should be congratulated for being such a great partner and contributing to your horse's happiness. Other horses should be jealous that they don't have an owner as caring and continually growing in savvy as you.

- 1. Comes to you the moment you call or he sees you, no matter how big the pasture**
 ALWAYS MOST OF THE TIME SOMETIMES RARELY NEVER
- 2. Is calm when with you**
 ALWAYS MOST OF THE TIME SOMETIMES RARELY NEVER
- 3. Has a relaxed and positive expression (vs. ears back, aggressive)**
 ALWAYS MOST OF THE TIME SOMETIMES RARELY NEVER
- 4. Has no stable vices (weaving, pacing, lip popping, etc.)**
 ALWAYS MOST OF THE TIME SOMETIMES RARELY NEVER
- 5. Gets to be outside, turned out**
 ALWAYS MOST OF THE TIME SOMETIMES RARELY NEVER
- 6. Gets to socialize with other horses**
 ALWAYS MOST OF THE TIME SOMETIMES RARELY NEVER
- 7. Easy to lead, wants to go with you on a loose lead rope**
 ALWAYS MOST OF THE TIME SOMETIMES RARELY NEVER
- 8. Let's you touch him everywhere, has no defensive spots (including ears, mouth, under tail, flanks, udder/sheath, hind legs)**
 ALWAYS MOST OF THE TIME SOMETIMES RARELY NEVER
- 9. Doesn't misbehave or show resistance**
 ALWAYS MOST OF THE TIME SOMETIMES RARELY NEVER
- 10. Feels understood rather than blamed or punished**
 ALWAYS MOST OF THE TIME SOMETIMES RARELY NEVER
- 11. Willingly does what you ask, both on the ground and riding**
 ALWAYS MOST OF THE TIME SOMETIMES RARELY NEVER
- 12. Would rather be with you than other horses**
 ALWAYS MOST OF THE TIME SOMETIMES RARELY NEVER
- 13. You treat him according to his Horsenality needs**
 ALWAYS MOST OF THE TIME SOMETIMES RARELY NEVER
- 14. He understands what you want**
 ALWAYS MOST OF THE TIME SOMETIMES RARELY NEVER
- 15. He puts effort into his "work" and performance**
 ALWAYS MOST OF THE TIME SOMETIMES RARELY NEVER
- 16. He is calm, trusting, motivated and obedient**
 ALWAYS MOST OF THE TIME SOMETIMES RARELY NEVER
- 17. Is easy to shoe or trim**
 ALWAYS MOST OF THE TIME SOMETIMES RARELY NEVER
- 18. Is easy to clip**
 ALWAYS MOST OF THE TIME SOMETIMES RARELY NEVER
- 19. Isn't scared of fly spray**
 ALWAYS MOST OF THE TIME SOMETIMES RARELY NEVER
- 20. Is light on your leg**
 ALWAYS MOST OF THE TIME SOMETIMES RARELY NEVER
- 21. Is light in your hands**
 ALWAYS MOST OF THE TIME SOMETIMES RARELY NEVER
- 22. Likes to be saddled**
 ALWAYS MOST OF THE TIME SOMETIMES RARELY NEVER
- 23. Likes to be ridden**
 ALWAYS MOST OF THE TIME SOMETIMES RARELY NEVER
- 24. Enjoys learning new things**
 ALWAYS MOST OF THE TIME SOMETIMES RARELY NEVER
- 25. Is exuberant, expressive and playful**
 ALWAYS MOST OF THE TIME SOMETIMES RARELY NEVER
- 26. Enjoys his daily exercise and training with you**
 ALWAYS MOST OF THE TIME SOMETIMES RARELY NEVER