

Thinking About a Boarding Barn Change? WARHorses has penned a few questions for new and returning riders and horse owners contemplating change. If you are considering change, ask yourself the following questions. Be honest with yourself. Try not to overthink your answers. Jot your answers on a piece of paper. When you're finished put your answers aside, after a few days have passed, retrieve your answers and review them. You may see a pattern that can give you the confidence to make a change. Or not.

Good luck,
WARHorses!

Do I have to **compete** for time in the arena?

Am I **RESTRICTED** to using the farrier and vet chosen by the barn manager or **am I free** to select my own? What about other professionals, like bodyworkers or acupuncturists?

What is the **WORST** that will happen if I tell the barn manager that I have chosen to make a **CHANGE**?

Am I happy with the shape of the facility? Is it in good repair and is there regular maintenance?

When I think about going to the barn, do I become **anxious** or **nervous**? If so, what causes those feelings?

How is my horse's attitude? Has it changed?



Am I **SATISFIED** with the level of care by barn staff, such as those **cleaning stalls** and turning out horses? How does my horse **respond** to them? How do they interact with me?

Can I find **other places** on the property to ride or work my horse when the ring is busy, like trails or open **greenspace**?

When I think about going to the barn, do I tend to go when I can **avoid interacting** with others?

Are **TURNOUT** and **FEEDING** appropriate for my horse? If not, will the barn manager permit changes? If not, **am I satisfied** with the reason?

Can I **EASILY DISCUSS CONCERNS** and questions with the barn manager? Do I walk away feeling like I was listened to or do I feel like nothing will change? Are my requests (if any) reasonable and able to be accommodated?

Why do I want to make a change? Am I a "CHANGE-AHOLIC" or is there something in my current situation that **DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT**?

If the barn manager has concerns or questions, **am I able to listen** and respond openly and honestly? If appropriate, is there room for negotiation? Are questions, concerns and responses communicated **WITHOUT EMOTION**?