

bits & pieces

**Design Your Own
Pair of Kerrits
Riding Tights!**

Kerrits is famous for its soft, stretchy Performance Tights. And now they're giving one lucky *Young Rider* reader the chance to design a pair of riding tights! Pretty cool.

So get creative. Design a pair of riding tights that you'd like to wear; in any color, pattern or design.

If your tight design is picked, Kerrits will produce a pair just for you.

To enter, simply visit **YoungRider.com** in May or June and click on the Kerrits banner, which will take you to the "Design Your Own Kerrits Tights Contest" instructions on the Kerrits website.

While you're there, check out Kerrits Kids Performance Tights, Ventilator Jerseys and patterned T-shirts.



Kids Ride Free with ACTHA

If you love trail riding and enjoy hopping over a log or two, you should consider joining the American Competitive Trail Horse Association.

The ACTHA organizes 6-to-10 mile trail rides with judged obstacles (mostly natural) along the way. Obstacles may include crossing streams, opening and closing gates and riding up and down steep hills. Each obstacle has its own

judge and you are scored on how well you perform.

At the end of the ride, ribbons are awarded in different divisions.

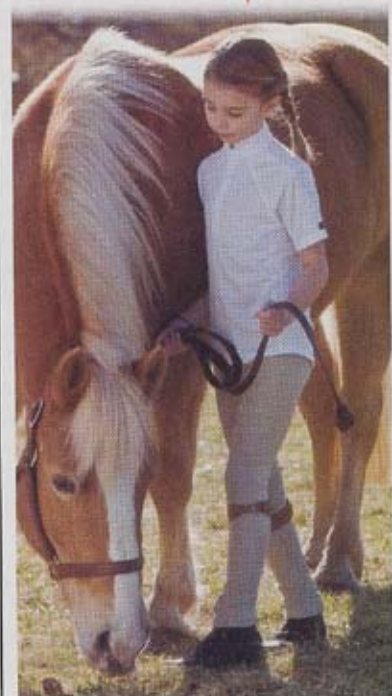
And now, the first five young riders who sign up for a ride will participate for free if they are a member of the ACTHA and attend the ride with an adult member.

For more details about this program, visit www.actha.us.



Photo courtesy of ACTHA

**young rider
SHOPPERS**



Gwenyth is wearing the Kids Ventilator \$34 & the Kids Microcord™ Jod \$79

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Don't buy a horse if you haven't walked, trotted and cantered him safely.

DON'T even consider buying a horse until you've taken at least a year of riding lessons at a good barn. You need some riding and horse care experience under your belt before you take on the responsibility of horse ownership.

DO be suspicious if a horse you're going to try out is sweaty and tired when you arrive at the barn. He may be a very energetic horse, and the owner or trainer may have lunged him or ridden him excessively to wear him out before you get on him.

DON'T buy a horse at an auction. You won't be able to ride him properly to test him out. Only experienced horse people should buy horses at auctions.

DO be honest about your riding ability. If you're a new rider, you may not be experienced enough to ride a hot or green horse.

DON'T buy a horse without seeing it or riding it. Buying a horse or pony as a surprise for a young rider is a mistake many parents make, and the new mount doesn't always work out.

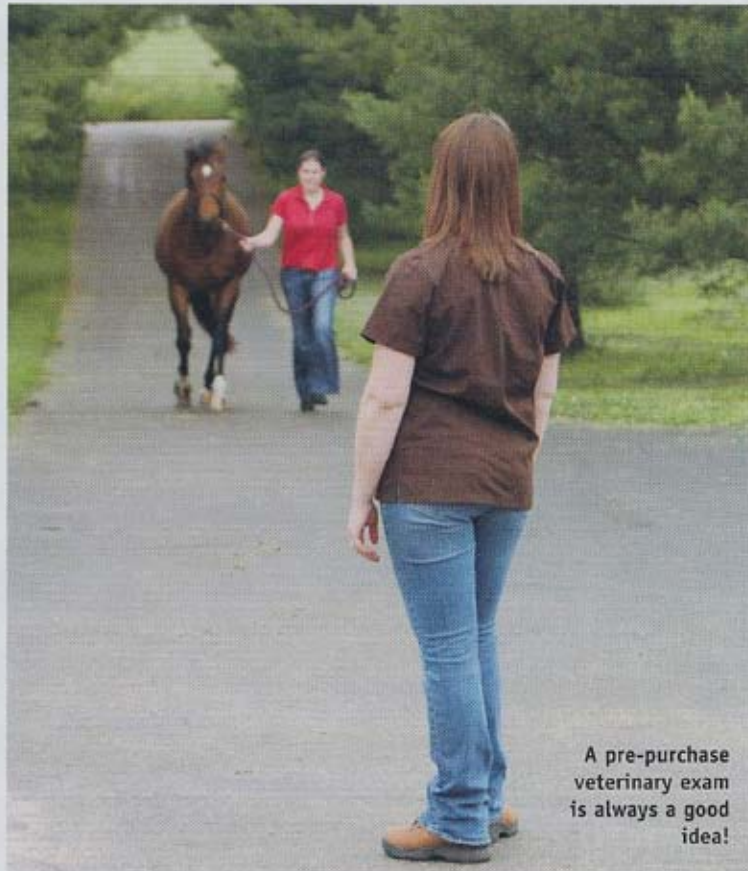
You must be able to walk, trot and canter a horse before you even think about buying him.

DO spend the money to have a pre-purchase exam done by a veterinarian. This exam will tell you if the horse has health issues that might affect his performance.

You may be able to live with some issues, like splints, but you might not be able to manage a serious health problem, like a dust allergy.

DON'T hop on a potential horse until you've seen someone else ride him first. The horse may be too much for you to handle, so it's best to see how he behaves for someone else.

DO take your trainer or an experienced horsey adult with you when you try out a horse. He or she will be able to tell if you and the horse are a good match.



A pre-purchase veterinary exam is always a good idea!