

## The Profitability of Miniature Horses

The profitability, both material and financial, of any horse operation should be examined in detail from all aspects prior to start up.

Factors of Consideration	Miniature Horse	Full-Sized Horse
<b>Suitability to Ride</b>	Children up to 70 pounds may ride depending upon age, height and body type of horse.	Children any size and adults can ride. Hazards are greatly increased due to the animal's size, and the degree of training or experience of the rider.
<b>Suitability to Drive</b>	Children 3-4 years and up routinely drive at home, parades and in shows.  Adults—a miniature horse can easily pull up to 1-2 adults in a cart in all gaits, minimal experience is needed.	Children-questionable.  Adults--Dependent upon experience.
<b>Health Resistance to Disease, Hardiness</b>	Excellent--based on good care. Treated with same medications as large horses--just much smaller doses.	Excellent--based on good care. Dosages of medications double or triple the size given to a miniature.
<b>Life Span</b>	<b>20-30 years</b>	<b>20-30 years</b>
<b>Veterinary Care</b> Vaccinations  Medications & Worming	Same as for larger horses.  Determined by weight of horse--greatly reduced dosage due to smaller size.	Same as for miniatures.  Determined by weight of horse-- 4 to 5 times the cost of miniature due to larger size.
<b>Suitability for Handicapped</b>	Greatly adaptable to handicapped individuals due to smaller size and affectionate nature.	Difficult for handicapped individuals to handle due to larger size.

Courtesy of the American Miniature Horse Association, 5601 S Interstate 35 W, Alvarado TX 76009  
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*Please Note: Information on this chart has been gathered from a variety of sources and is not intended to represent specific and actual costs. Prior to the start up of any horse operation, material and financial profitability should be examined in detail.*