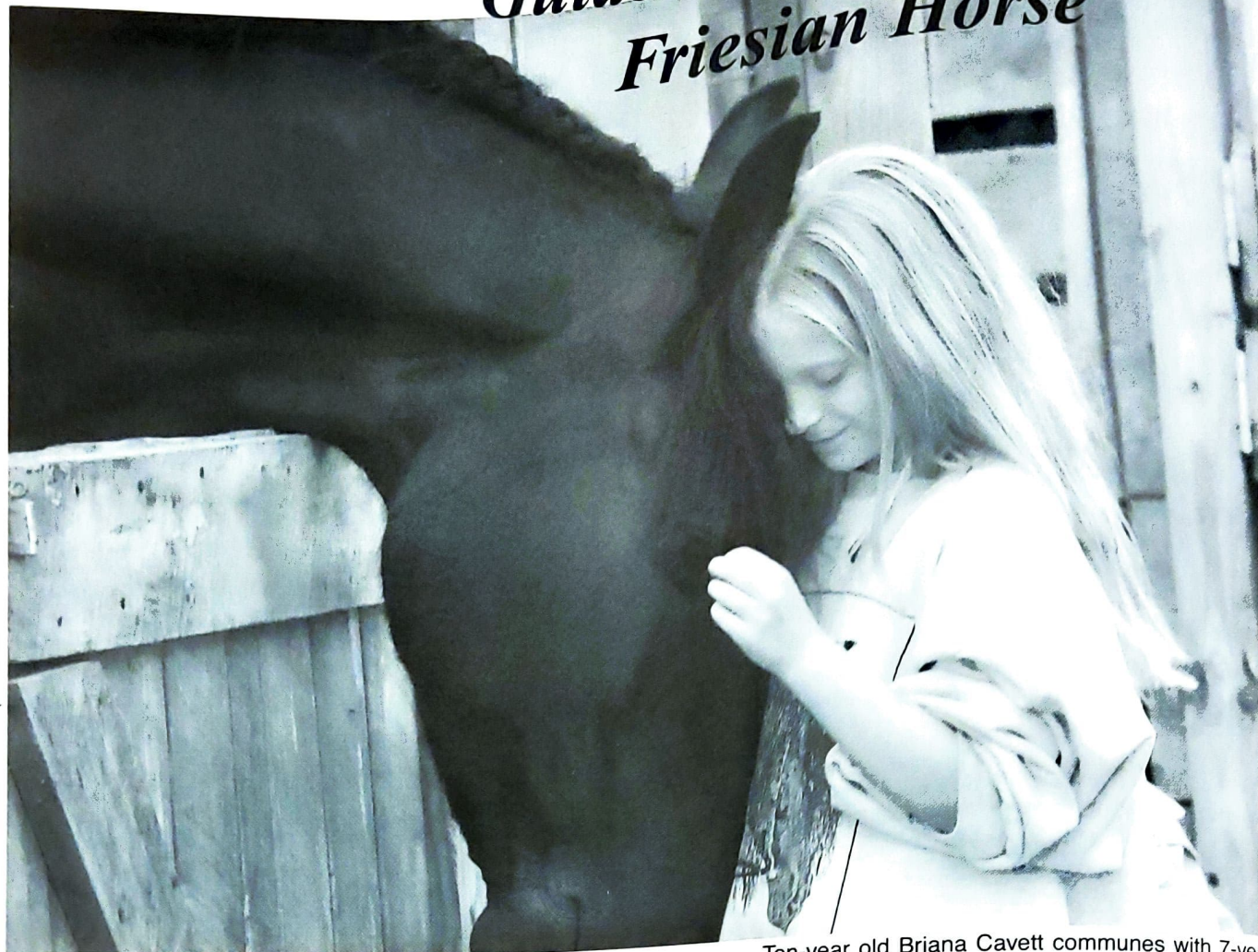




# *Guidelines for Buying A Friesian Horse*



Ten-year old Briana Cavett communes with 7-year old Thetman B. Thetman is owned by Briana's Mom, Darlene, of Ohio. Photography by Barbara Rice/Rice Photography.

*Text by Cindi Spear  
for the Northeast Friesian Horse Club*

It is easy to be swept away by the beauty and majesty of a Friesian horse and before you know it, you own your very own Friesian! The purchase of a Friesian should be a happy and exciting time. Unfortunately, just as with any significant purchase, there can be unpleasant outcomes if you are not an informed and educated buyer.

Listed below is some basic information to consider before you purchase your Friesian. Some of this information comes from the FHANA website, and some from our own members' experience and input. This is by **no means all inclusive** and you are strongly encouraged to review the FHANA website for additional information on the Friesian breed, as well as registry **Rules and Regulations** ([www.fhana.com](http://www.fhana.com)).

First of all, it is important to protect yourself! Know that it is okay to ask the seller questions. In fact, you should probably ask a lot of questions. If the seller isn't able to answer questions about the breed or the actual horse, that may tell you something about the seller's knowledge and expertise with this unique breed. It is also a good idea to ask for references and be sure to check them! This will give you insight as to how the seller conducts business and how effectively they deal with problems.

Ask about the history of the horse. What kind of training has it had? What has it done/been used for? Can you speak to the horse's trainer? Are there any past injuries or illnesses, any medications or supplements that the horse requires? These types of questions not only give you added insight into the horse, b



might help uncover information you might not otherwise find out until it is too late. Ask to see a copy of the **horse's registration certificate**. You can authenticate information, such as the age, breeding, studbook status, etc., by viewing the certificate. You can also ask to see a copy of the **linear score sheet** which is provided with new registration papers after the horse has been to his/her three year old inspection.

Keep in mind that it is extremely difficult to have a stallion approved for breeding - there are approximately 75 approved breeding stallions in the world today. If someone is telling you that a colt or young horse is a "perfect stallion candidate," know that it has as good a shot as any other horse and there is certainly no guarantee the horse will be approved for breeding. The same can be said for a horse going for star - whether it is a mare, gelding or stallion - there are no guarantees.

When purchasing a Friesian horse, it is strongly suggested to negotiate conditions of the sale and document them in writing. This **Bill of Sale** should be signed and dated by you and the seller and can help to protect you should something go awry with the process. If the seller presents their own bill of sale, know that you can negotiate the terms. Don't sign it if you don't agree with it!

Some things to consider as part of the agreement:

- Description of the horse, including the studbook status (i.e. foalbook, star, model, etc.)
- Deposit - if one is required include how long it is refundable? Be sure to obtain a receipt for your deposit.
- Price - Purchase price of the horse. Is anything else included (i.e. tack, etc.)? If there is a payment plan, spell out the terms of payment.
- Microchip - include the microchip number of the horse for identification purposes.
- Guarantees - if the seller guarantees ANYTHING get it in writing.

- Conditions of Sale - things that must happen in order for the sale to go through, such as clean x-rays/vet exams, etc.
- Training - is there any training included? What is the duration and what will be covered?

Finally, it is always wise to actually see the horse in person. Don't rely on pictures alone! Bring a knowledgeable horse person with you, too.

### The KFPS Registration Certificate

Registration Certificates are provided at various times:

1. Birth Announcements are provided upon notification of the birth of a foal and will be used as part of the transfer of ownership process should a foal be sold before attending the inspection. These are turned in to receive the Certificate.
2. When a foal is registered for the first time, typically after attending the annual inspection when he/she is presented next to the dam.
3. When an adult horse receives a new status at an inspection (i.e. makes star or higher at three years of age or older).
4. When ownership of the horse is transferred.

The Registration Certificate is strictly a statement that a specific horse has a recognized pedigree and the privilege of being entered in the official worldwide registry of the KFPS. It has no specific rights or privileges in conjunction with it, and is not, in itself, a proof of ownership. Buyers should obtain a properly executed Bill of Sale from the Sellers for this purpose. The Registration Certificate is not the property of the horse owner and can be withdrawn by the KFPS or FHANA for justifiable cause. The certificate must be returned to FHANA upon the death of the horse.

The Registration Certificates are always presented in Dutch.

#### Which Register

Foalbook  
Studbook  
Studbook w/Star, etc.

#### Gender

Merrie (Mare)  
Hengst (Stallion)  
Ruinen (Gelding)

#### Registration #

#### Microchip #

#### Birthdate - In European Order

#### Inbreeding Coefficient

#### Registered Name

Color (Zwart = Black)  
Markings (Geen = None)

#### Premiums Awarded

#### Breeder

#### Owner when issued

#### Ownership transfers

#### FAMILY TREE SECTION

#### KFPS Logo & Signature





## Buying A Friesian Horse - Continued...

You may hear that a horse has "full papers." This means that for 3 generations, the mother line has all star, model or preferent mares. This is the lower most line in the family tree section.

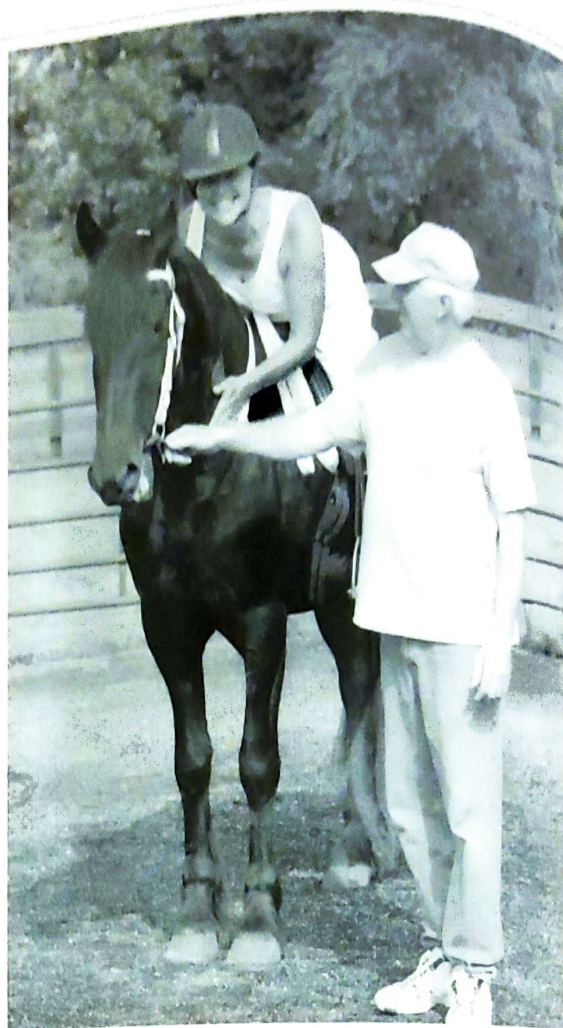
The information provided here just touches the tip of the iceberg in terms of the registration papers and family history of a horse. You may hear things about mother lines, and which mother lines are better than others, etc. There are books which contain the mare lines (*Merriestammen Van Het Friese Paard Deel 1 & Deel 2*, by R. Geurts), as well as the approved stallions (*Friese Stamhengsten Deel 1 & Deel 2*, by Eelke Dijkstra) and they can be purchased though a number of catalogue and internet sources as well as through the KFPS.

As you can see, there is a lot to know and understand about the beautiful Friesian horse! Take the time to do your homework and ask questions before making such a valuable purchase. We wish you much luck on your search for your dream Friesian!

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Cindi Spear is a member of the Northeast Friesian Horse Club. The contact information for the Club is on their website at [www.nefhc.com](http://www.nefhc.com). They welcome your questions.

Photograph right: Gail Aumiller & Thomas Heverin with Heidi for the "first sit." Photograph by Gail Aumiller of Dreams Come True Farm, Carlisle, PA.



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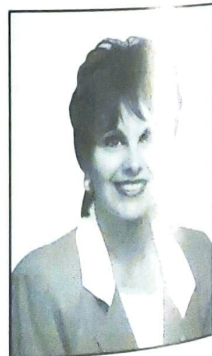
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