

*get ready for your first andalusian*

Congratulations on your decision to select this remarkable breed for your next equine partner! You are about to embark on the ride of your life!

At Andalusians de Mythos, we haven't forgotten the excitement of the arrival of our FIRST Andalusian in the barn. It's a feeling I still experience each time a new arrival graces our farm!

We're a bit prejudice, of course, but soon you'll discover why. Once you see beyond the riveting beauty and regal demeanor of the breed; the talent, athleticism and versatility, you will find a horse that possesses the most incredible temperament imaginable.

We have introduced many first time Andalusian & Lusitano owners to the breed, perhaps you will find yours here.

Paramount to a successful partnership is a sound temperament. In all their power and strength, this is a highly intelligent, tractable and sensitive steed with a strong desire to please.

Andalusians are easy to be around and fun to ride! No more constant spooking, pulling, head tossing, evasion, bolting... they are so willing, responsive to aids and extremely fast learners.

Through a clinic, or perhaps a trainer, you may have experienced your first ride on an Andalusian and been amazed at the lightness and intuitive responsiveness. A slight shift of pressure and the horse instantly responds to the command. You ride with your seat and legs, and very little rein pressure. At times, it seems as though the horse reacts as soon as you "think" it. A Spanish saying goes something like this: "...a ball of fire on a silken rein."

Additionally you will find the trot to be so smooth, many people ask, "is this horse gaited"? and generally forget to post the trot its just that comfortable. No more post-ride back pain...



### Diet/Nutrition

A balanced diet is the key... no need to **over** supplement or feed excessive grain to most Andalusians.

This breed tends to be a hearty, easy keeper, generally requiring a good mix of grass hay, and little grain of no more than 12% protein. Alfalfa only in small portions. Unless you are keeping stallions that tend to get excitable during breeding season, this is an easy keeper who maintains weight quite well with a good food source.

Most Andalusians maintain their weight easily. If you have rich pasture, you may find that leaving them out more than 2-3 hours a day will quickly result in an overweight horse. Foundering is also possible with this breed. Many of these horses, particularly mares, have thyroid issues, especially once they reach their teens. Watch that you don't have a mare getting a big cresty neck, consult your vet about founder prevention.

Generally, in maintenance weight, I find that these typically horses require 1/3 to 1/2 less than the recommended proportions on the feed bags, otherwise they easily become too heavy. As for raising young foals, its especially important to take care with protein levels. Overloading them with excessive protein can be harmful to the joint capsule and cause long term problems with soundness, in any breed. Take care not to get into a rush to see your foal reach 17H! A young Andalusian goes through a peculiarly gangly stage after about 6 months which can last up until three years. Some bloodlines in the breed do not hold fat well and appear lean and wispy. A good worming program and a diet of free grass hay and the proper amount of grain is what they need. Over graining to put on extra weight is not healthy for the joints.



### Transitioning

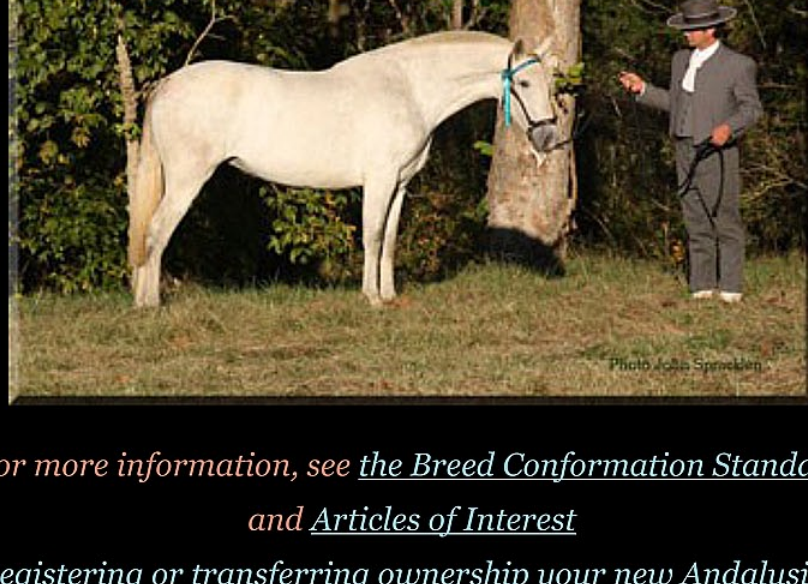
Your new Andalusian has arrived. What do you do now? If it's a baby, you can count on the inherent friendly, brave, inquisitive nature to rise to the occasion. A young foal usually adjusts very quickly to their new home, they're typically anxious to bond with you and make new friends.

A bit of healthy confinement to a stall or small paddock is recommended so they can rest from a long journey. A large turnout space could result in over exertion and exhausting your foal, even injury. Give them a day or two of stall rest before releasing them into a large turn out space, as they may be more tired than they show.

If you have acquired an adult Andalusian, you may encounter a slightly different reaction. Some adults experience a bit of melancholy, homesickness, even mild depression. I have found the one thing that most Andalusians do not like is a change of environment. If they are well traveled show horses, they are quite used to a change of pace. But even the most seasoned, experienced show stallion or mare may respond to their new home with anxiety or frayed nerves. They can be distant, sad, anxious, and hard to reach emotionally. They may lose appetite and drop weight.

These horses have developed a deep attachment to their former home, and especially to their person. Patience and lots of time is needed to help them adjust. It can be hard for them to let go of the emotional tie to their former human partner and they may reject your affection.

Therapeutic massage, acupuncture and chiropractic adjustments are helpful to release the tension and anxiety of moving. Some members of this breed are gregarious and just love attention from everyone. Others are more one-on-one, and while friendly to all people, they reserve themselves & form a deep long lasting bond with one human partner. This horse will eventually accept you in time and can offer the most rewarding relationship you have ever experienced with a horse.

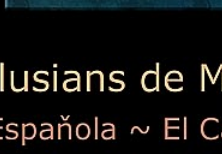


For more information, see [the Breed Conformation Standard](#)

and [Articles of Interest](#)

[Registering or transferring ownership your new Andalusian](#)

For further research visit our [Library](#) for suggested reading.



Andalusians de Mythos

PRE ~ Pure Spanish ~ Pura Raza Española ~ El Caballos Español ~ Lusitano ~ APSL  
Stallions at Stud ~ Purebreds Available  
Exceptional Quality ~ Classical Type

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