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## Riding HELP!!!

Posted by bikina - 2007/06/03 17:46

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Hi all, I have just bought a Western trained Criollo - he was used as a ranch horse in Argentina, a show horse in Holland, and is now living with me. I have had him 5 weeks and have been in hospital twice...he was sold to me as highly trained and responsive - and when I rode him in the school at the yard where I bought him he was. However, now I have got him home, he has become unrideable! I know horses test out new owners but its getting dangerous. I have been for a Western session and been taught the basics, but when I try to put them in to practice on him he responds for a few mins then gets headstrong and I loose all control! Can anyone help?!!

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## Re: Riding HELP!!!

Posted by billywhiz - 2007/06/03 19:07

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What is he doing?  
Rearing, bucking, both?

How are you dealing with him?

Are you doing any groundwork?

Whereabouts are you located.

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## Re: Riding HELP!!!

Posted by Cowboy - 2007/06/03 20:11

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Hi Bikina,

In my opinion you should take the horse back to the seller, It is obviously not suitable for the purpose you bought it for?

Take it back before it really hurts you. If the seller is reputable they will surely take him back and offer you another horse?

Good luck.

Cowboy.

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## Re: Riding HELP!!!

Posted by Greymane - 2007/06/03 21:32

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Hello Bikina

A horse that was sold to you as 'highly trained and responsive' doesn't sound like the horse that you now have and that has caused you to be in hospital twice.

I agree with cowboy - speak to the seller. Did you get him from Holland? Funnily enough I have been looking at criollos too.

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## Re: Riding HELP!!!

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Posted by bikina - 2007/06/04 11:25

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Hi and thank you for your replies. He doesn't rear or buck (yet!) but does throw his head around and take control of the situation - and at the weekend, I went for a western lesson, then came home to put what I'd learned in to practice. He was going fine for about 5 mins - then got bored and cantered off towards the gate (we were in an enclosed area, the gate is about 8ft tall and surrounded by chicken wire) - he went through the gate, I had to leap on to the wire to avoid being decapitated, and spent sat night in A & E -not fun. He didn't run cos he was scared - he ran to get to the grass which is about 50 yards from the gate. We live in London, and turnout is very limited - so I understand he wanted the grass. But to not listen to instructions?!! This is not the first time he has run off with me either. I was riding him a couple of weeks ago and again he was going fine - past trains, buses, motorbikes, and didn't flinch. The we turned in to another road and he cantered down a side road - I tried to stop him but he kept throwing his head around and jumping about and no matter what I did he would not stop. It was only because I turned him in to someone's garden that he stopped and I got off. A friend of mine also tried riding him and had the same problem. Do you think I should send him back to the seller or persevere? I was thinking of going on a Western course with him to see if we can work together.

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### Re: Riding HELP!!!

Posted by BLACKJACK - 2007/06/04 12:03

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i'm afraid i would be paking his bags and sending him back to the seller, life is far too short. I d have seen far too many people try to persevere or give up due to animals which through no fault of the owner are unsuitable for them. Good luck whatever you decide.

Michael

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### Re: Riding HELP!!!

Posted by QQH - 2007/06/04 12:27

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Hi Bikina, sorry have to agree with the others, he does not sound anything like what you thought you had purchased - speak to seller first and see how they respond.

Just don't get yourself hurt whilst trying to sort the horse out - as Blackjack said, life is far too short.

Jude

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### Re: Riding HELP!!!

Posted by rosie - 2007/06/04 12:55

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hi bikina

i agree with the others, go back to the person whom you bought the horse from. if they are reputable they should take him back. he sounds really dangerous.

rosie

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### Re: Riding HELP!!!

Posted by Caz - 2007/06/04 13:38

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I too would get in touch with the seller, like the others have said if they reputable they should take him back or at least help you out.

If that fails i would get his back, teeth & saddle throughly checked out.

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I believe that horses do everything for a reason & what seems like irratic behaviour that has no source may be completely called for in your horses eyes.

See what the seller says first.

Good luck.

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### Re: Riding HELP!!!

Posted by qhrider - 2007/06/04 14:41

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Have to say that a few years back we had a horse that used to take off when he felt like it and often buck in the process. My OH just loved that horse and thought he could work it out of him. After 2 1/2 years he was still doing it, not as often but unpredictable. As you can guess, my husband was out hacking alone and the horse bolted across a big field. Thinking he had plenty of room he tried to turn the horse, who the preceded to buck him off. He was badly hurt (thank goodness nothing lasting) had to miss work and could not move his arm for a week plus a mild concussion. Got rid of the horse a few months after that to a lady who loves challenging horses! We lost a lot of money on him as we had to sell him very cheap, but more than that we realised that he was not what we wanted or what we were sold and life is too short to risk it all on a horse that was not ever going to suit us. Thankfully he went on to a good home.

Hard to say how you feel about the horse generally, but if you are already getting hurt, your confidence will go very quickly as well. That takes a long time to come back - I know! It is not fun to ride when you sit there anticipating what he MIGHT do next. Riding is for FUN above all else.

Good luck as you have hard choices ahead. The longer you put off talking to the seller, the harder it would be to return the horse.

Good luck and stay safe.

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### Re: Riding HELP!!!

Posted by scotty - 2007/06/04 15:14

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I agree with everything that has been said, including from Caz concerning horses' attitude to things. What seems to us totally unacceptable is often done for a very good reason. You have more problems that can be cured on this forum and you need to keep safe. If the seller won't take back the horse you will obviously have to be honest about what's been happening to any potential buyer, to be fair to them and the horse. You don't know what's made him this way but the bottom line is you are hopelessly over-horsed. Good luck and stay safe.

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### Re: Riding HELP!!!

Posted by scotty - 2007/06/04 15:20

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Sorry, the other thing I meant to say was if you can't send back the horse why not enlist the help of one of our really good trainers, like Shane Borland or Lee Rutter. At least they can assess the horse properly, both are first class horsemen, and they might be able to either help you or do some work with the horse to help you sell to a more experienced home. :)

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### Re: Riding HELP!!!

Posted by billywhiz - 2007/06/04 18:51

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Having read all the responses and the detailed account of your problem. Sending him back is obviously an option. Getting help from a trainer is highly advisable.

In the meantime and having had a horse run for the gate in the manner described, for safetys sake if you do ride him the very moment he tries this pull his nose to one side. It's a surefire way to get control without wrestling. If he is thrashing

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his head then he will the tug of war.

Taking his nose to one side gains the control back to you. Make sure you continue forward momentum and hold him in tight circle. When goes soft release his nose and see how he goes, as soon as he takes over repeat until he learns that you are riding him and he is not taking you for a ride. (make sure you keep him moving forward)

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## Re: Riding HELP!!!

Posted by hondagirl - 2007/06/04 20:59

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Hi, ive just read all the replies so far to this posting and agree with every thing thats been said. I bought a new horse a couple of months ago and she was described as being 100% bombproof etc etc. I paid alot for her to get what i thought would be the perfect first horse ( if one exists!) . I did everything i could think of to safeguard my purchase, got an experienced friend to ride her, rode her myself at different times of day etc and got her vetted. Then i got her home...hmmm. She had been in the same home fo 6 years and took ages to settle down. In the end i moved yards after just one month and i was seriously worried that i had bitten off more than i could handle. She was flighty, spooky, unpredictable and very stressed.

Thankfully, due to a great new yard owner and a strict diet plus loads of exercise we are slimmer fitter and infinitely calmer two months down the line. I put her on Magic, a calming supplement just to help her chill out a bit and we concentrated on having lots of long stress free rides and getting back to enjoying it again. I m afraid had i been hospitalised as you have then the horse wouldve been sent packing by now. There is only so much behaviour you can blame on the stress of moving home etc and you either need professional help or take the choke and pack his bags before he does some damage.

Best of luck either way. :)

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## Re: Riding HELP!!!

Posted by alexsmum - 2007/07/31 23:10

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hello

If your criollo is from S America it is probably desperate for grass and turnout! Having said that, if it is dangerous then I think if you can still do so (legally and without breaking your heart)you should consider returning it.

I have a very much loved horse who scared me witless for the first year I had him (11/1/2yrs ago). He only became managable on lots of turnout and long rides (40 miles competative ones). he is better now he is growing old. However his growing old is the growing old disgracefully. At 17 1/2 yrs old he crossed our arena in two mighty bucks on Sunday!

I love him to bits but I do think if I had returned him in the first few days when his health and mental issues (hes alpha male+) became obvious my riding woudl be far further on now. Cos hes so damn pretty looking he has got away with hospitalising me once last year and some injuries when I first had him when I was daft enough not to go to hospital and now cause me ongoing problems. I dont regret buying him because of his personality but I do know I would have progressed further with a more amenable horse.

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## Re: Riding HELP!!!

Posted by mrickard - 2007/08/01 12:53

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Just a thought - it might be worth getting his teeth checked maybe there could be problem there or even his backed checked from what you have said in relation to his head shaking he maybe in pain - did you buy the tack with him? or did you have to buy new?? I agree with everyone else whether its bad manners or lack of proper professional training you really do need to speak to the people you bought him from - find out what kind of turnout he was having with his previous owner if he was having 24hr turnout etc - if you have restricted turnout this could be another reason for him misbehaving (not acceptable obviously) but at least it will give you some insight to what he has been used to. One thing is for sure you don't want this horse wrecking your confidence in riding - he will be able to feel your tenseness which will just add to the problems you are having.

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## Re: Riding HELP!!!

Posted by Shiny Mole - 2007/08/01 19:41

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Hi there,

Sorry you are having so many problems, sounds like a nightmare, especially when you were probably really excited about getting him and looking forward to doing stuff with him.

If you have not already contacted the seller I would suggest you do so, even if you are not settled on whether you are going to keep him. If you bought him from someone who sells horses as part of their business, you may have rights under the Sale of Goods Act/sale and supply of goods to consumers regulations. If the horse is not fit for its purpose, it may be that the seller has a civil legal obligation to provide you with a remedy to what is, effectively, a breach of contract, but the sooner you contact them and make them aware there is a problem, the better position you will be in, even if you decide to keep him in the end. It may be that as a solution, the seller could agree to part funding the cost of some re-training? I guess it depends how amicable they are about it.

If you feel you want further advice on your legal position with this, and what your options are, Consumer Direct is a government run helpline who provide impartial advice to consumers who are experience problems with something they have bought, or a contract they have entered. They are on 08454 04 05 06.

Good luck, really hope you get it sorted.

Rachel

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## Re: Riding HELP!!!

Posted by Gem - 2007/08/10 15:18

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Did you buy him from one of these Criollo farm places?

Dont thier horses usually come under a garuntee or such like, I would send it back and get your money back for it, if it is being dangerous its not worth the hassle.

Your not the only person I have heard about having problems with a criollo

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## Re:Riding HELP!!!

Posted by criollofarm - 2007/11/19 21:28

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Just happened to come across a link to this forum and was diapointed to find a criollo owner with a problem.

I think it is difficult for any one to come up with advise or an explanation without seing the horse and owner. Unfortunately there are a lot of people selling criollo's as they are such an easy breed and nice way to earn a quick buck. Criollo's as a breed are incredible but can have like all horses an imperfection. It is up to the seller to advise the client of that so that the client get to choose weither that imperfection suits them or not. If there is no explanation given with a Criollo I can understand that the owner would have problems as they are nothing compared to an english bred horse. Not knowing what bit to ride with or that criollo's are not used to being lunged ect.

I am not saying that the specific criollo mentioned in this topic does not have problem and it might be a mismatch but you will never know untill you go and see some one who has eperiance with this specific breed.

Best of luck!

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## Re:Riding HELP!!!

Posted by Kajowright - 2007/11/20 19:52

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Finally logged in-had problems with aol. Picked up the thread re: Criollo problems.I have been riding English on and off all my life-converted to Western this year.My partner is a novice and I was thinking that a Criollo would be a better option than a QH, believing they are more placid. Had only one expearence with the breed Went out on a hack and they seemed very trustworthy. All had nice characters. from what i can gather they have a rough time being shipped over and land very stressed. Perhaps a testament to the breed that they still trust us.

Would like any feed back to other peoples thoughts and experiences.

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## Re:Riding HELP!!!

Posted by K.T - 2007/12/15 19:14

Hi

I have a Criollo, im very pleased with him!

Hes calm and well trained. I agree the shipping over does sound grim, the picture in my profile here is him a month after shipment - he dosnt look too bad eh!

Katie

pm me any questions.B)

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## Re:Riding HELP!!!

Posted by isabelph - 2008/01/04 11:36

.What are you feeding him? Criollos never get hard feed in South America, they're just turned out after a long working day. When they are shipped to Italy ( where the dealers get them] the voyage can be between two and six weeks, again they are just fed hay, if they're lucky. If he does'nt suit you, return him. Best solution for both of you.

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## Re: Riding HELP!!!

Posted by Angie - 2008/03/10 14:49

I have heard this breed are dealt with quite severely during their first experience of humans! They are shipped over, overly herd instinctive, halve starved and then UK great kind owners, more feed that they normally have survived on, and wow things change. They probably have not had the type of ground work, schooling or care we offer! They probably know limited ques from the rider other than kick, hands forward, whoa. What about the tack, does the saddle fit properly, has his teeth ever been seen too!!! does he lunge or long reign well what about leading him, handling him on the ground if these first basics are not there don't get on....it might be he has to be re-started from scratch but if he was sold as good for a beginner then the seller lied!!!! I spent 2 yrs with a Welsh C he was a "rig" but did try all these options first...you might find step by step you can work it out but dont ride till this has been done. I can give you a Horse Communicators tel no who deals with problem horses if you like, but how much time and money do you have another question for you. Best of luck I know how this feels.....

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## Re:Riding HELP!!!

Posted by bikina - 2008/03/11 07:50

Hi all!

Sorry I've not been on this forum in ages, but now I'll give you an update on what happened. I had a specialist come to see my criollo, who advised he was not a first criollo for someone. He is currently out to grass at her yard and I have been to see him to see how he is getting on. I have also ridden another criollo whilst I was there, and was terrified - but he was great! I am now considering buying another criollo, as they do seem very trustworthy and responsive - you just need the right one. I also need something thats going to be able to go the distance, as I'm off on a 4 year ride in the summer and criollo's are renowned for their endurance!

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## Re:Riding HELP!!!

Posted by K.T - 2008/03/11 09:54

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I know you mean Monique from Criollo Farm - Thats great that there are people out there with knowledge of this FINE breed , im glad Banjo is in good hands. - this is the trouble with purchasing from dealers with no understanding of them, good luck with your quest to find a suitable horse for your exciting trek!!!:woohoo:

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## Re:Riding HELP!!!

Posted by Trio - 2008/03/15 11:03

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i got my beautiful criollo from monique as well and even though he's only just 5 he's a dream to handle and ride- never spooks or does anything nasty and is so responive and light to ride so i'm so glad you havent been put off the breed.

my boy Archie

<http://i82.photobucket.com/albums/j265/skeats30/Archie27108036.jpg>

Like the earlier poster says, you can get problem horse within any breed but i really don't think its indicative of how criollos on the whole are.

Hope monique manages to help Banjo and that you find your perfect criollo now.:P

just out of interest which dealer did you get banjo from as i tried out another place which sold criollos as well.

Post edited by: Trio, at: 2008/03/15 11:07

Post edited by: Trio, at: 2008/03/15 11:09

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## Re:Riding HELP!!!

Posted by K.T - 2008/04/15 09:21

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Hi Bikini

Here is your Criollo Horse "Banjo" - he was going really well for the Goucho on the last Criollo Club Ride at Criollo Farm on 4/5/08

Im glad hes doing so well - as im sure all the readers on here will be glad to know too!

[http://i196.photobucket.com/albums/aa136/katieclare\\_photos/IMG\\_2643.jpg](http://i196.photobucket.com/albums/aa136/katieclare_photos/IMG_2643.jpg)

[http://i196.photobucket.com/albums/aa136/katieclare\\_photos/IMG\\_2672.jpg](http://i196.photobucket.com/albums/aa136/katieclare_photos/IMG_2672.jpg)

[http://i196.photobucket.com/albums/aa136/katieclare\\_photos/IMG\\_2648.jpg](http://i196.photobucket.com/albums/aa136/katieclare_photos/IMG_2648.jpg)

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