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too will fit into the picture. Here is a comparison of what you can commonly expect at each type of boarding facility:

Natural boarding facility	Conventional boarding facility
Full 24/7 turnout within a herd environment providing adequate shelter and access to grass hay on a continuous basis	Outdoor board – 24/7 turnout usually within a herd environment Indoor board - turnout is limited; it can be only when exercised by you, or outside during the day and in a stall at night
Barefoot trim methods applied – no shoes and varied terrain for optimal hoof wear	Expect varied hoof care methods from shoeing to barefoot; they may insist you use their farrier
Nutritional needs met utilizing natural feeds such as whole oats, vegetables and herbs	Nutritional needs are extremely varied, generally providing processed feeds (sweet feed, extruded grains, etc.) and infrequent hay feeding
Likely embraces homeopathy, massage, chiropractic, energy healing and many other non-traditional healing modalities as well as traditional veterinary care	Acceptance of different healing modalities vary greatly depending on the owner's experience
Integrative approach to vaccinations and worming, perhaps utilizing titers and worming on an as-needed basis using fecal tests and/or herbal products	There would likely be a list of required vaccinations and frequent chemical deworming
Usually a non-competitive environment, although natural horsemanship is often used	Facility is commonly geared toward some kind of sport. i.e. dressage, reining, eventing, racing

2. What's important to you?

Next, you need to ask yourself some questions to help decide what type of facility would best suit your requirements.

1. What do you enjoy doing with your equine partner?
2. Are you involved in a specific style of riding?
3. Are you competing now, or will you be in the future?

4. Would you feel strange riding in an English saddle surrounded by others in Western riding gear, or vice versa?

5. Do you enjoy the social atmosphere or would you prefer a more private facility?

6. Is there an indoor arena or access to trails?

7. What do you consider to be the best care for

Hint
It's as important for you to fit into the facility as it is for your horse's best interests to be met.