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## PRE PURCHASE EXAMINATIONS (VETTINGS)

The aim of a pre purchase examination or 'vetting' is to carry out a thorough veterinary examination of the horse intended for purchase and to attempt to identify and assess those factors of a veterinary nature that may affect the horse's suitability for its intended use, so that the prospective purchaser can make an informed decision as to whether or not to proceed with their chosen purchase.

A pre purchase examination consists of 5 stages, to carry out the stages completely and competently the vet will need somewhere firm and flat to trot the horse.

If you are having a full 5 stage vetting there will also need to be someone present who is capable of riding the horse and facilities to do so.

The examination is an evaluation of the horse on that specific day, therefore the vet can only pass judgement on clinical findings encountered on that day and is not responsible for any injuries that occur after this date.



At the end of the examination a certificate will be completed noting down any significant findings of disease, injury or physical abnormality, and the veterinary surgeon's opinion as to whether or not, on the balance of probabilities, those findings prejudice the horse's suitability for purchase and its intended use.

The stages consist of:

### Stage 1

Thorough external examination of the horse at rest, ideally in a stable. It includes an examination of the incisor teeth, examination of the horse's eye in a darkened area and listening to the horse's heart and lungs at rest.

### Stage 2

The horse is walked and then trotted in hand to detect abnormalities of gate and action. This should be done on firm, level ground. Flexion tests of all four limbs and trotting in a circle on a firm surface may be carried out if the vet considers it safe to do so. The horse will be turned in tight circles and backed for a few steps.

### Stage 3

The horse is usually ridden and given sufficient exercise to:

1. Allow assessment of the horse when it has an increased breathing effort and an increased heart rate
2. Allow assessment of the horse's gait at walk, trot, canter and if appropriate, gallop
3. Allow the assessment of the horse for the purpose of stage 5



**Stage 4** – The horse is allowed to stand quietly. During this time the cardiovascular and respiratory systems are monitored as they return to their resting levels.

### Stage 5

The horse is trotted in hand again to look for any signs of strains or injuries made evident by exercise and rest stages.

A blood sample may be taken for storage (usually 6 months) for possible future analysis for substances in the horse's system which may have masked any factors affecting the horse's suitability for the purchaser's intended use.

If you wish to have a limited (2 stage) examination it does not include stages 3-5 and is therefore limited in its scope and may not detect important factors that may otherwise influence the decision to purchase the horse.

You will be asked to sign a disclaimer before the examination to state you understand that it is a limited examination.



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