



# SEADOWN

VETERINARY GROUP



Tel. Hythe (023) 8084 2237

## Pre-purchase Examinations

The purchase of a new horse is a major commitment by an owner and is always associated with a degree of risk. The aim of the pre-purchase examination is to minimise these risks and allow an informed decision with regard to purchase.

Our veterinary surgeons are regularly performing pre-purchase examinations for our local clients, and indeed for clients that are not local to South Hampshire.

**The normal (5 stage) pre-purchase examination** ("vetting") lasts between 1 and 2 hours and involves-

- Stage 1: A full clinical examination, including an assessment of the horse's age.
- Stage 2: The trot up; an examination of the horse's gait is carried out by looking at the horse in walk and in trot. Flexion tests are generally carried out at this point.
- Stage 3: The strenuous exercise stage. This is preferably carried out ridden, although unbroken horses can be examined on the lunge.
- Stage 4: A period of rest, including monitoring the horse's recovery rate and an identification drawn .
- Stage 5: A second trot up and final assessment.



A blood sample is collected at the end of the examination, and stored at The Horseracing Forensic Laboratories for 6 months. It can then be tested (further cost incurred) for the presence of painkillers or sedatives should this be suspected at a later date.

After the examination the veterinary surgeon will give the purchaser a written report detailing the findings and it will give an opinion on the horse's suitability for the purpose for which it is being purchased.

**A limited pre-purchase examination** involving only stages 1 and 2 of the procedure outlined above may be carried out. The associated limitations of this abbreviated examination should be discussed with one of our equine surgeons prior to the examination

If a potential purchaser only requires a 2 stage examination we will fax or send the form instructing us to perform the reduced examination for you to sign prior to the examination. If this is not possible and you will be at the vetting, we will ask you to sign the form before we start the vetting.

**Insurance Pre-purchase examination and All-risk mortality examinations** may be required for insuring of some high value horses. Please discuss this with your insurance company.

Requirements for a vetting

- Full details of the vendor
- Passport available for inspection.
- The horse should be clean, well groomed and stabled for a minimum of 3 hours before the vetting.
- The horse should be recently shod or trimmed (ideally not within 1 week).
- Dark stable for eye examination.
- Hard, level trot up. This must be safe for both horse and handler. Neither a busy road nor a bumpy field is sufficient.
- A school or area to watch the horse exercise

If you have any concerns, please contact the Clinic so as to discuss them with one of our Veterinary Surgeons.

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