



EQUINE VETERINARY SERVICES

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Request Form for Pre-purchase Examination

Please read the following information before completing your Pre-purchase Examination Form.

What is a pre-purchase examination?

The purpose of a pre-purchase examination is to provide a potential owner with as much information as possible to enable them to make an informed decision about the proposed purchase of a new horse. The vet will not make the decision to purchase on behalf of the buyer, nor will he pass or fail the horse. A horse that is perfect for one rider may not be what another is looking for. There is some risk associated with the purchase of any horse and the purpose of an examination is to quantify the risks associated with any particular horse. Prior to requesting a pre-purchase examination you are entitled to ask the vendor for:

- A current measuring certificate (in respect of show animals)
- Current registration papers listing the vendor as the current owner
- A written and signed medical history

Any pre-purchase examination will include a general health and soundness examination. It is very important that the horse is currently fit and in training for this because it is very difficult to access the suitability of a horse that has been spelling in a paddock for three months.

Additionally, more in depth clinical tests such as blood profiles, tendon scans, endoscopy of the airways or x-rays may be undertaken on the advice of the examining vet or at the request of the purchaser after the initial examination. Such tests will be charged out individually and are in addition to the pre-purchase examination fee.

The four steps of a pre-purchase examination include:

- A general clinical examination including the coat, eyes, heart, respiratory system, mouth, feet and general confirmation
- Walking and trotting out in hand in a straight line on a firm flat surface. Turning, backing, flexion tests and the application of hoof testers.
- The vendor will be expected to either ride or lunge the horse at the trot and canter for at least fifteen minutes
- A final trot up and further flexion tests will be done after the horse has cooled down

In order to conduct a thorough examination the following facilities are needed:

- A dark stable in which to examine the eyes
- A hard flat surface
- An area in which to ride or lunge the horse

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If these facilities are not available it may be advisable to transport the horse to another location or to our veterinary surgery for the pre-purchase examination

Blood sample

Blood testing to detect the presence of any medications that may affect the out-come of a pre-purchase examination is expensive and time consuming. For this reason it is not done routinely. However, at every pre-purchase examination a blood sample will be taken and stored for a minimum period of three weeks so that it can be referred to by the purchaser in the event of a dispute. If a vendor refuses permission for a blood sample to be taken the vet will always advise against the purchase of the horse.

Report

The veterinary surgeon conducting the pre-purchase examination will provide a full written report. They will also discuss all their findings with the purchaser and answer any question that may arise. The veterinary report is a professional assessment of the risks associated with the purchase of the horse based on the findings on the day of the examination. It is not a guarantee and no warranty is given or implied.

The final decision to purchase the horse will rest with the purchaser.

Conflict of interest

It is possible that we may be asked to undertake a pre-purchase examination on a horse that is owned by one of our clients. In this instance we will make a full disclosure of our relationship with the vendor and it is up to the purchaser whether or not they wish us to proceed. In such an instance the clinical history of the horse remains the confidential property of the vendor unless express permission to release it is granted by the vendor to the purchaser.

We are always happy to recommend other veterinarians in the local area.

Confidentiality

All information obtained during the pre-purchase examination is owned by the purchaser. No details or findings will be released to the vendor without the express permission of the purchaser. Nor will we discuss the findings with any other prospective purchasers unless we are retained by them to undertake an examination on their behalf.