



FACTSHEET

Two Stage Vettings

A limited pre-purchase examination (PPE) takes less time than a full five stage PPE, and although cheaper, it is important to remember that it is not a full assessment of a horse prior to purchase. If you choose to have a 2 stage vetting you will be asked to sign a letter to this effect. Things that are not assessed in a two stage vetting are the horse's wind, how the horse moves under saddle and post exercise flexion tests simulating soundness after ridden work.

Stage One: Observation and Clinical Examination

The horse should ideally be rested in the stable for 3 hours prior to the vetting. This is to see the horse without the effect of a leg stretch or exercise out in the field. We will say hello to the horse in the stable, and assess its demeanour, temperament and conformation. We will confirm the horse's identity by checking the passport and scanning for the presence of a microchip. At this point we will thoroughly examine the head and mouth including checking the horses' teeth.

The lungs and heart will be listened to, this is very important to rule out any cardiac abnormalities such as atrial fibrillation or a heart murmur. The horse will be palpated all over to identify any abnormalities, lumps and bumps, or old injury sites. With the horse in a dark area, the eyes are examined, before being taken outside and stood square so conformation can be assessed.

Stage Two: Lameness and Foot Examination

This will take place on a hard, level surface, and the vet will watch the horse walking and trotting in a straight line to look for signs of gait abnormality or lameness. Flexion tests will be carried out on all 4 legs, as well as asking the horse to turn in a tight circle to watch how it moves on the turn. The horse will also be required to back up in a straight line to assess hind limb gait. The horse may need to be lunged on a hard circle, this is to help identify any subtle problems the horse may have that are not immediately apparent in a straight line.

The vet will also look at the horses' feet for conformational faults and foot balance.

Vetting Requirements

In order to carry out a vetting there are a few things we require:

- ³⁵/₁₇ Full details of the seller – name, address, contact telephone number
- ³⁵/₁₇ The horses' passport – this must be present at the time of vetting, without this the vetting will not take place
- ³⁵/₁₇ The horse should be stables for 3 hours before the vetting, and should be clean enough for us to see markings clearly!
- ³⁵/₁₇ Dark area for the eye examination
- ³⁵/₁₇ Hard, level area to trot the horse up.

Please be aware that if the condition of the horse or the environment is not adequate then the Vet may not be able to carry out all areas of the vetting. If you have any concerns then please call the surgery.

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