



### **The Five Stages Of The Standard Pre Purchase Examination**

**Stage 1-** A thorough clinical examination of the horse at rest. This includes auscultation of the heart and lungs, an ophthalmic examination, inspection of the skin, palpation and manipulation of the limbs and joints and an estimate of the horse's age. At this stage an appraisal of conformation and any signs of abnormal behaviour or temperament will also be noted.

**Stage 2-** Examination of the horse at walk and trot in hand on a flat, hard surface. Flexion tests and where possible lunging of the horse on a hard surface are also performed.

**Stage 3-** Strenuous exercise to assess the heart and 'wind' and further evaluation of the horse's movement. The horse will be required to walk, trot, canter and gallop. In most cases the horse is ridden, however if the horse is unbroken then exercise can be carried out on the lunge. This allows for the detection of abnormal respiratory sounds and abnormal heart rhythms and sounds.

**Stage 4-** The horse will be rested for a period of time to allow the heart rate to return to normal. At this stage the heart and lungs will be examined again and a blood sample taken. The passport is also checked.

**Stage 5-** Further examination of the horse at walk and trot in hand to ensure the horse continues to move soundly after completion of stage 3.

Once the pre purchase examination is completed, the vet will assess the significance of any findings alongside the use of the horse for which it is being purchased.

In some cases, further tests may be recommended. For example, endoscopy to investigate a respiratory noise, and some insurance companies will require radiographs to be taken if the horse is to be insured over a certain value.

If you decide to go ahead with the purchase, the blood sample will be stored for a period of 6 months following the vetting to allow for analysis should any subsequent lameness or temperament problems develop.

## **A Limited or '2 Stage' Pre purchase examination**

Some people request a limited vetting consisting of stages 1 and 2 only. This may be because the horse is young or unbroken or because it will not be required to do any strenuous work (for example a leading rein pony). In some cases an experienced purchaser may feel that they are confident to assess the wind and lameness after exercise but would still like to have the eyes, heart and lungs examined at rest.

There are some respiratory and cardiac conditions that will not be detected during this limited examination. There are also some types of lameness that are more obvious after exercise. If you wish to have a limited or 'two stage' examination we require you to complete the downloadable request form and return it to us by post, fax or email prior to the vetting taking place. We can send you a hard copy to complete if requested.