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## Vettings

The aim of a vetting (pre-purchase examination) is to carry out a thorough veterinary examination of the chosen horse on a chosen day, and to identify and attempt to assess those factors of a veterinary nature that may affect the horse's suitability for its intended use. This allows the purchaser to make an informed decision about whether or not to proceed with their chosen purchase.

### What to expect:

You will be asked by the office to make sure you have the passport of the horse, it has seen a farrier recently and had been stabled for a minimum of 6 hours prior to the vet arriving. The location of the vetting is very important and there must be a dark stable, suitable trot up and lunge area on both hard and soft surfaces.

The vet will ask the seller a series of questions relating to the history of the horse and use a microchip scanner and identity sketch to identify the horse.

### Stage 1 Preliminary Examination

This is a thorough external exam of the animal using visual observation, palpation and manipulation to detect any clinical abnormalities. This includes an exam of the incisors of the horse, heart, lungs and eyes in a darkened room. This is why we request a dark stable for the vetting to allow for a proper examination of the eyes.

### Stage 2 Walk and Trot, in hand

The animal is walked and then trotted in hand to detect abnormalities of gait and action. This requires firm and level ground for an accurate assessment. Flexion tests of all four limbs and trotting in a circle may be carried out if the vet considers it safe and appropriate.

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Somersford Park  
Holmes Chapel Road  
Somersford  
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### **Stage 3 Exercise Phase**

The horse is usually ridden and given sufficient exercise to:

1. Allow assessment of the horse when at increased respiratory effort and increased heart rate
2. Assessment of gait in walk, trot, canter and gallop
3. Allow assessment for the purpose of stage 5

### **Stage 4 Period of Rest and Re-examination**

The horse is allowed to stand quietly for a period. During this time the respiratory and cardiovascular systems may be monitored as they return to their resting levels.

### **Stage 5 Second Trot Up**

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

#### **Flexion Tests and Trotting in a circle**

Flexion tests of all four limbs and trotting in a circle are not mandatory but can sometimes provide useful information and is up to the vets discretion to perform.

### **Oral Exam**

A mouth examination with a speculum is not included as standard procedure and as such the examination of the mouth is limited.

### **Blood Sample Collection**

A blood sample is taken and stored for 6 months for possible future analysis to detect substances present in the horses system at the time of the vetting.

### **Variations from the Standard Examination**

Whilst there is a recognised format for the examination, the examining vet may vary it where there is good practical or clinical reasons. Any additional procedures carried out at the time of request such as x-rays endoscopy or dental examination will be recorded on the certificate and the original records will be retained by the vet.

### **The Certificate and Opinion**

The certificate will include all clinically relevant findings, but will also include the vets opinion as to whether or not, on balance of probabilities those findings prejudice the horse's suitability for purchase for its intended use. The vetting certificate is only valid for the day of the vetting.

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