

Notes on the Examination of a Horse on behalf of a Purchaser

Veterinarians have developed a general routine of examination which has been found to be satisfactory as a means of detecting signs of disease and injury. This examination is conducted in five stages and all the stages should be completed. If this has not been possible it should be made clear on the certificate in what way the examination has been varied and that any opinions are based on this restricted examination.

The full 5 stage examination consists of:

Stage 1 - Preliminary examination

This is a methodical examination of the animal's body to assess general appearance and condition. It includes examination of the teeth, the resting heart, the eyes by ophthalmoscope, the skin, the limbs and feet, and flexion of the limb joints to reveal pain or limitation of movement.

Stage 2 - Trotting up

The animal is walked and trotted on hard, level ground in order to detect gross abnormalities of gait and action.

Stage 3 - Strenuous exercise

The animal is given sufficient strenuous exercise (1) to make it breathe deeply and rapidly so that any unusual breathing sounds may be heard;(2) to increase the action of the heart so that abnormalities may be more easily detected; and (3) to tire the animal so that strains or injuries may be revealed by stiffness or lameness after a period of rest.

Stage 4 - A period of rest

The horse is allowed to stand quietly for a period. During this time the breathing and the heart are checked as they return to their resting levels.

Stage 5 - The second trot and foot examination

The horse is walked and trotted again, turned sharply and backed, in order to reveal abnormalities exacerbated by the strenuous exercise stage.

The accompanying letter instructs the examining veterinary surgeon to omit stages 3, 4, and 5 of the full examination.

From: (CLIENT'S NAME AND ADDRESS)

**HAND OR SEND THIS LETTER TO
THE EXAMINING VETERINARY SURGEON
YOU MAY WISH TO MAKE A COPY
FOR YOUR OWN RECORDS**

To: (VETERINARY SURGEON'S NAME AND ADDRESS)

Dear _____
(VETERINARY SURGEON'S NAME)

Re _____
(NAME OF HORSE)

(AGE) (COLOUR) (SEX)

I am considering the purchase of the horse described above owned by:
(OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS)

_____ for the purpose of:

I do not wish to incur the expense of a full 5 stage examination of the horse as detailed in the explanatory memorandum in the notes accompanying this letter, a copy of which I have retained. Accordingly, I wish to restrict the scope of your instructions to a limited examination involving only stages 1 and 2, as set out in the aforementioned notes.

I acknowledge that prior to the examination the extent of this limited form of examination has been explained to me. I accept and understand that such limited examination may not reveal certain conditions which may have been discovered during the course of a full 5 stage examination.

Dated this _____ day of _____ 2

Signed _____

If signed by an agent on behalf of the client, please add the name and relationship with client.

(NAME OF AGENT IN BLOCK CAPITALS) (RELATIONSHIP WITH CLIENT)