



Our experienced equine team at Seadown are happy to undertake a comprehensive examination of any horse or pony you are looking to purchase. We can perform the examination at the vendors yard or we can examine the horse at our hospital.

Pre-purchase examinations or “vettings” involve a thorough examination of your potential equine purchase. In 5-stage vetting the examination is performed at rest, during exercise, in the recovery period and post exercise.

Stage 1

Full clinical examination, checking passport and microchip, obtaining background information about the horse.

Stage 2

Trot up and flexion tests, performed on a hard level surface. The horse will be required to turn in tight circles and rein back and be lunged on a hard surface to check for any subtle problems.

Stage 3

The horse undergoes a period of strenuous exercise which is usually under saddle, if the horse is unbroken it should be loose schooled. The heart and lungs are then checked to pick up an abnormal sounds.

Stage 4

The “rest phase” which lasts about 20-30 minutes to allow the horse to recover from the exercise undertaken previously. The vet will be observing the horse during recovery and will periodically check the heart.

Stage 5

The horse is trotted up for a final time and the heart checked. Any areas for concern will be examined further. A blood sample will be taken which will be stored for 6 months.

Further tests such as radiographs and ultrasound scans may be requested by the purchaser or the insurer, these can be carried out after the vetting.

In some circumstances a “two stage vetting” can be performed where only stages 1 and 2 are completed, a blood sample will still be taken from the horse.



Delivering first-class veterinary care to the New Forest since 1923