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 standard examination is conducted in five stages, although the exact sequence of the examination may vary.

The stages are:

STAGE 1: PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

This is a thorough external examination of the animal at rest using visual observation, palpation and manipulation to detect clinically apparent signs of injury, disease or physical abnormality. It includes an examination of the incisor teeth, a thorough examination of the horse's eyes in a darkened area and auscultation of the horse's heart and lungs at rest.

Examination of the eyes does not include dilating the pupil but should include examination of internal and external structures.

The examination does not include examination of the inside of the prepuce (sheath), a detailed mouth examination with a speculum, a height measurement or any examination for pregnancy.

Stage 2: Walk and trot, in hand

The animal is walked and then trotted in hand to detect abnormalities of gait and action. Ideally this is carried out on firm, level ground. The horse is turned sharply each way and is backed for a few paces. Flexion tests of all four limbs and trotting in a circle on a firm surface may be carried out if the examining veterinary surgeon considers it safe and appropriate to do so.

STAGE 3: EXERCISE PHASE

The horse is usually ridden and given sufficient exercise to:

1. Allow assessment of the horse when it has an increased breathing effort and an increased heart rate.

2. Allow assessment of the horse's gait at walk, trot, canter and, if appropriate, gallop.

3. Allow assessment of the horse for the purpose of stage five. If ridden exercise is not possible for any reason then this stage may be conducted by exercising the horse on a lunge, but this fact should be made clear to the purchaser and on the certificate.

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.

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

Hand or send this letter to the examining veterinary surgeon. You may wish to make a copy for your own records.

From: (client's name and address)

_____

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_____

_____

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: _____

Relationship with client: _____