

EQUINE PRE-PURCHASE



CLIENT INFORMATION

Equine Pre-Purchase Examinations

A Pre-purchase Examination (PPE) is strongly recommended when considering the purchase of a horse. This process involves a thorough clinical evaluation, during which any abnormalities identified are documented. Our role is to advise on the potential significance of these findings in relation to the horse's intended use, while noting that this advice is limited to the scope of the examination performed on the day.

It is important to understand that a PPE is not a guarantee of future soundness or performance. The purchaser must review the veterinary findings and make their own decision regarding the horse's suitability for its intended purpose. The examination is conducted on behalf of the buyer to avoid any conflict of interest with the vendor (seller).

Additional diagnostic tests, such as blood work, radiography (X-rays) and endoscopy can be performed upon request to provide further information.

Examination Options

Our practice offers three assessment options, each with distinct advantages and limitations. Please review the details below to help guide your choice:

1. Five-Stage Pre-purchase Examination

This is the most comprehensive option, following the internationally recognised protocol recommended by

Equine Veterinarians Australia (EVA). It includes:

1. Thorough clinical examination at rest
2. Examination during walking, trotting, lunging, and backing up (including flexion tests)
3. Examination during and immediately after strenuous exercise
4. Examination during the recovery period after exercise
5. Repeat of stage 2

This format provides the most informed assessment for purchasers. Evaluating the horse during and after exercise helps detect subtle performance related issues, as well as heart and respiratory abnormalities. Please note that the horse must be fit enough to complete the exercise component. While this is the most thorough examination available, it still represents an assessment of the horse's condition on that day and cannot guarantee future soundness or performance.



Examination Options cont.

2. Two-Stage Pre-purchase Examination

This option includes the first two stages only:

1. Thorough clinical examination at rest
2. Examination during walking, trotting, lunging, and backing (including flexion tests)

It is a more economical choice and is suitable for young, unbroken, or lightly handled horses that may not lunge.

If flexion tests cannot be safely performed, this will be noted in the report. Due to its more limited scope, certain issues, such as subtle lameness or heart and respiratory problems, may go undetected.

3. Mortality Insurance Examination

This is a basic clinical exam designed to meet insurance company requirements. It focuses on confirming the horse's identity and general health status and includes:

1. Thorough clinical examination at rest
2. Examination during walking and trotting in a straight line only

This option is practical and cost-effective for owners who need documentation and basic health information. While it can help rule out major abnormalities (e.g., severe heart murmurs), it does not include a comprehensive orthopaedic assessment or exercise evaluation and should not be considered sufficient for pre-purchase purposes.

To enquire about one of the above examinations, please contact our Equine team at the Livestock & Equine Centre on (03) 5662 2251 ext 2