

Northern Horse

Calling in an expert eye

When do I organise for a horse to be vetted?

Once you have tried the horse, preferably with an experienced friend, and think it is suitable, tell the seller that you are interested and want to organise the vetting as soon as possible.

How do I go about organising the vetting?

Check that the seller has a stable that can be darkened in order to examine the eyes, a stretch of tarmac or concrete that can be used to trot the horse on and, depending on the type of vetting you want, an area to lunge or ride. Then contact an equine veterinary practice that can carry out the vetting, preferably not one used by the seller. Your own vet can advise, or research an independent practice with experienced equine practitioners who carry out vettings.

Should I be at the vetting?

I think it is important to speak first with the examining vet so that you can discuss any concerns you have and outline what you want to use the horse/pony for. Then it is not necessary to be pre-

EQUINE VET

Lesley Barwise Munro, of the Alnorthumbria Veterinary Group, on how to have a horse vetted

sent at the vetting. Your absence allows the vet to focus and the findings can be discussed in private by telephone, it also gives some breathing space for decisions.

What is the difference between a two-stage and a five-stage vetting and do I need to get the expensive one done?

The two stage, as the name suggests, misses out three phases, principally there is no exercise phase, which means that the body systems are not re-examined during and after strenuous exercise. The five stage vetting is the "gold star" and provides a certificate to this effect. Many insurance companies specify this certificate to insure higher value animals.

You may be asked to sign a disclaimer by your veterinary practice before a vetting is carried out to ensure that you understand the procedure.

Should I get a cheap horse vetted?

Even cheap horses can develop costly problems and by having a horse vetted you significantly reduce the risk.

Are X-rays needed as part of a vetting?

X-rays provide additional information about a horse's

limbs and back that can be taken into consideration. Insurance companies may request pre-purchase x-rays as part of the vetting for high value horses. It is essential to let the insurance company see all the veterinary reports and for them to have agreed to insure the horse before purchasing.

Why are horses blood sampled as part of the vetting?

If the seller agrees, a blood sample is taken from the horse and stored securely. Should there be a problem with the new purchase then tests can be carried out on the blood sample for sedatives, bronchodilators and anti-inflammatory agents. The buyer covers the cost of blood tests.

Is it true that some changes to vettings are going to be introduced soon?

Yes, after the end of February 2012 the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons will introduce a new guidelines. If the vet has clinical records on this horse, then before vetting there is an obligation to disclose the information with the permission of the seller. Flexion tests and lunging on a hard circle are a recommended part of a five stage vetting which, if omitted would need explanation.

Dressage star secures Paralympic scholarship



GREAT TEAM: Fiona riding Ted, with Becki Thistle, Fiona's coordinator

A DISABLED dressage rider from Yorkshire has secured a top scholarship with the British Equestrian Federation.

Fiona Maynard, 25, from Stillington, near York, has been selected with 50 others for the British Equestrian Federation (BEF) England Excel Talent Programme, which selects potential Paralympic riders from the Great Britain team.

The selected riders are from all four Olympic disciplines – dressage, showjumping, eventing and para-equestrian dressage.

Miss Maynard said: "I'm really looking forward to putting the extra training and advice to good use to help me achieve my goal of riding at the Paralympics."

The programme's managers work closely with British Dressage, British Eventing and British Showjumping.

Leader of the Excel Programme, David Hamer, said: "We are lucky to have the funding to support these riders from the Lottery and Government Exchequer through Sport England."

Northern Horse news

Pass your equestrian news and information to:
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