

Pre-Purchase Vetting Checklist

WORKSHEET · VERSION 1.0 · OCTOBER 2026

A worksheet to plan the vetting, agree its scope, prepare on the day and record the outcome. Print it, take it with you and keep it with the sale documents.

Not a substitute for your vet

This checklist helps you prepare and ask the right questions. It does not replace veterinary advice. What the examination includes, which extra tests make sense and what the findings mean for your plans must always be decided with your own vet, who has examined the horse.

1. The horse and the vet

Horse (name, age, sex, UELN or microchip)

Seller and location

Vet and practice (independent of the seller)

Date and time booked

Agreed fee estimate

What I want the horse for (discipline, level, how many years)

- ☐ The vet knows the intended use and level
- ☐ The vet has no connection with the seller or the seller's yard
- ☐ I have told the vet about anything I noticed when I tried the horse
- ☐ Scope and costs confirmed in writing (email is fine)

2. Agree the scope before the day

Tick what you and your vet have agreed. Ask the seller to confirm that they allow each extra procedure.

Procedure	Agreed	Not needed	Notes
Clinical examination (format and stages as advised by your vet)	☐	☐	

Ridden or lunged exercise phase	☐	☐
Flexion tests	☐	☐
X-rays – feet	☐	☐
X-rays – fetlocks	☐	☐
X-rays – hocks	☐	☐
X-rays – stifles	☐	☐
X-rays – back / neck	☐	☐
Ultrasound (e.g. tendons, ligaments)	☐	☐
Endoscopy of the airway (at rest / after exercise)	☐	☐
Blood sample taken and stored	☐	☐
Detailed eye or dental examination	☐	☐
Other: _____	☐	☐

- ☐ Seller has agreed in writing to the extra procedures
- ☐ It is agreed who reads the X-rays and how the original digital files (DICOM) are sent to me
- ☐ Front shoes: removal for foot X-rays agreed, or it will be noted that they stayed on
- ☐ I know what my insurer needs (certificate, X-rays) for the value I plan to insure

3. Documents to see before or on the day

Document	Seen	Matches the horse / OK	Notes
Original passport, with markings and description	☐	☐	
Microchip scanned and matched to the passport	☐	☐	
Vaccination record	☐	☐	
Studbook / breeding papers	☐	☐	
Competition record (national or FEI)	☐	☐	
Previous vet reports or X-rays (with dates)	☐	☐	
Insurance history or exclusions	☐	☐	

4. Ask the seller to confirm in writing

- ☐ No medication, painkillers, anti-inflammatories or sedatives given in the days before the vetting (ask your vet how many days to state)
- ☐ No joint injections or other treatments in recent months, or full details given
- ☐ The horse will be in the stable, not worked, before the vet arrives
- ☐ Completed seller's disclosure received (see the EquiMarket purchase agreement template, Annex A)

5. On the day: practical set-up

- ☐ Firm, level surface available for the trot-up
- ☐ Space to lunge, if your vet wants it (soft and hard ground)
- ☐ Somewhere suitable for the eye examination, as your vet requires
- ☐ Arena or space for the ridden phase, and a rider agreed
- ☐ Tack that fits the horse
- ☐ Someone to hold and trot the horse
- ☐ My own phone video of the trot-up and ridden work
- ☐ Time set aside to talk to the vet straight after the examination

6. Record what happened

Stage	Done	Vet's comments (in your words)
Examination at rest	☐	
Walk and trot in hand	☐	
Flexion and turning tests	☐	
Lunge	☐	
Exercise (ridden or lunged)	☐	
Rest and re-examination	☐	
Final trot-up	☐	
X-rays and other tests	☐	

7. After the vetting

- ☐ Written report received
- ☐ Original X-ray files received and stored
- ☐ Each finding discussed with my vet: what it is and what it could mean for my plans
- ☐ Insurer's requirements met
- ☐ Decision recorded and the seller told in writing before the deadline in the contract

My decision

- ☐ Go ahead at the agreed price
- ☐ Go ahead at a renegotiated price
- ☐ More tests or a second opinion first
- ☐ Do not buy

Reasons and next steps

Keep this worksheet, the vet's report, the X-ray files and all messages with the seller together with your purchase agreement.