



香港賽馬會  
The Hong Kong Jockey Club

# THE HKJC VETERINARY EXAMINATION FOR SUITABILITY FOR IMPORTATION AS A RACEHORSE

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# Objectives of the Examination

- Identify pre-existing veterinary abnormalities and assess their potential significance
- Assist the buyer in making an informed decision
- It is a due diligence and risk assessment process



**There is no such thing as  
a Perfect Horse**



# Why was the system introduced?

- Prior to the introduction of the system a high proportion of horses were imported with significant veterinary problems
- Over the past few years ~20% of horses presented for the initial veterinary examination fail the screening process



# Protection of Owners Interests

- Purchase costs
- Transport costs
- Cost of maintaining an unproductive racehorse
- Insurance risk assessment.



# Protection of the Club's interests

- Increased durability of racehorses
- Improved consistency of racing performances
- Reduced risk of injury and accidents
- Efficient use of facility resources



# The HKJC Examination Protocol

- History
- The 5 stage vetting
- Endoscopy of URT
- Ultrasound Exam
- Radiograph (X-Ray)
- Blood test for NSAID



**The HKJC Protocol is  
recognized as the “Gold  
Standard” of veterinary pre-  
purchase examination  
systems.**



# The Initial Veterinary Examination

- May be performed by any equine veterinarian
- Veterinarian is engaged by the prospective buyer and/or agent



# Potential Issues with the use of any Veterinarian

- Expertise / Experience of veterinarian
- Potential conflicts of interest
- The Risk of Negligence or even Dishonesty



# The Club Nominated Veterinarian

- Experienced and respected experts in the field
- Perform a quality control function
- Ensure completeness and consistency of interpretation



# HKJC Veterinary Department

- Final review
- Categorization of horse
  - Acceptable
  - Acceptable with findings of low potential significance
  - Acceptable with findings of moderate potential significance



# Decision-Making

- Club notification of significant veterinary findings.
- What is significant?
- Seeking expert advice.
- Acknowledging receipt of advice and acceptance of risks.

**The Categorization of a  
Horse's Suitability is a  
Probability Estimate only.**



# Limitations of the Examination

- It is “snapshot” in time
- Not all conditions can be detected by veterinary examination
- Horses are individuals with individual characteristics



# Proposed Improvements to the System

- 1) Compulsory Vendors Statement
- 2) Systematic review of racing incidents via racing authority databases

