



www.erabc.com

Vet Check – What Vets Look For

GUIDELINES FOR PERFORMING THE VET CHECK			
Parameter	Normal	Caution	Danger
Eyes	bright, clear	glassy	fixed stare, sunken eyeball
Mucous Membranes	pink, moist	pale, tacky	dry, purple, blue
Capillary Refill	0-1 seconds	2-3 seconds	4+ seconds
Jugular Refill	1-2 seconds	2-3 seconds	4+ seconds
Skin Pinch	0-1.5 seconds	2-3 seconds	4+ seconds
Heart Rate (after strenuous exercise)	<64 in 10 minutes	64 in 10-30 minutes	>64 in 30 minutes
Gut Sounds	normal	reduced/increased	absent
Respiratory Rate	relaxed/regular	panting/inversion	laboured/abnormal
Joints/legs	no heat/no swelling	heat/swelling	heat/swelling/pain
Wounds/Saddle/ Girth	no visible marks	heat/swelling	painful/raw/bleeding
Muscles/Back	relaxed	tight/ tender	very tight/painful
Anal Tone	tight	slightly loose	anus/penis relaxed
Rectal Temperature	<38.6EC pre-ride <39.6EC during ride	39.5E-40.5EC during ride	>40.5EC
Impulsion	free, willing, animated stride	stumbling, short strided, unwilling	stiff, very reluctant
Attitude	bright, eating, drinking	depressed, lethargic	dull, disinterested, lack of thirst, appetite, urine, or feces
Gait	no abnormal gait	slight gait change, inconsistent	consistent gait change, non