



SUFFOLK HORSE SOCIETY

The Breed Society of the Suffolk Horse

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SUFFOLK HORSE SOCIETY STALLION LICENCE INSPECTIONS.

All Suffolk stallions who are registered with the Suffolk Horse Society must pass a Stallion Licence Inspection. These inspections are considered important in maintaining a breed standard and helping to minimise the chance of clinically discoverable congenital and hereditary conditions.

Colts are eligible for inspection once they are in their second year and the owner has certified that they have reached 15' 2" high with 10 inches of bone and have two fully descended testicles. It is not expected for the height to be certified under JMB rules and so there will be a small discretionary allowance with regards to measurements.

The inspections are carried out by an Inspection Panel comprising of two inspectors appointed by the Society who are experienced judges, ideally with experience of judging stallions, and an equine veterinary surgeon approved by the Society. Society inspectors will serve for two years with a new inspector appointed each year. The inspector who is serving their second year will be nominated as Senior Inspector. It should be considered that the Society inspectors and the veterinary surgeon are working as a single team and that any necessary discussions take place at the time of the inspection. Should the Society inspectors have any relevant concerns then they should bring it to the attention of the veterinary surgeon and vice versa.

Suitable facilities for the inspection must be available including a well lit area with a level trot up at least 30m long, an area to lunge the colt safely and a darkened area to allow examination of the eyes.

Colts must be well-handled to allow a thorough examination by the Inspection Panel including picking up all four legs, examination of the mouth and palpation of the testicles. If it is not possible to complete the inspection due to safety of the inspectors and handlers or lack of training then the inspection will stop. Colts should be clean and well-presented. Some owners choose to braid as for the show ring although this is not necessary.

Recommended Protocol for Inspection.

Inspectors should confer during the Inspection and discuss any points as necessary. It is recommended that the Inspectors bring any relevant concerns they have to the vet's attention.

- The passport is inspected and the colt's identity is confirmed
- The colt is presented to the inspection panel and stood square. The panel inspect the colt from a distance viewing from each side, the front and the rear.
- Each Society Inspector in turn carries out a more detailed inspection.
- The colt is then walked away and towards the panel and trotted away and back.
- The colt is pushed back in a straight line for a few steps, pulled forwards then turned in a tight circle in each direction.
- The vet then performs flexion tests on all four limbs.

- Once the Society Inspectors are satisfied, they have completed their inspection, the vet performs a more detailed examination to confirm the presence or absence of the specific conditions listed on the Veterinary Inspection Form.
- The colt is then lunged and any abnormal respiratory noise consistent with left laryngeal hemiplegia is noted.
- The vet then measures height and bone.
- If the vet requires further examinations to enable him/her to reach a decision (e.g. X-rays, endoscopy or more detailed ophthalmic examination) then these can be organised, by agreement with the SHS, to be carried at a later date and the licence decision is deferred. Any reports of such examinations including any radiographs or video recordings of endoscopy should be submitted to the SHS before the owner is informed of the findings. These costs of further examinations are the responsibility of the owner.
- The paperwork is completed by the Inspection Panel and a decision reached (pass, fail or deferral).

Appeals.

If a colt fails the inspection, either for breed standard or veterinary reasons then the owner has the right to appeal. The appeal must be lodged within 14 days of the date of the letter informing the owner of the result of the inspection and a fee of £200 paid. This fee is returned if the appeal is successful.

If the colt has failed on breed standard then a second inspection is arranged and carried out by a member of the current inspection team with a second inspector who has previously acted as a Senior Inspector.

If the colt has failed on veterinary grounds then an independent vet is appointed by the Society to examine the horse. A report should be submitted to the Society before the owner is informed of the findings.

If a colt has been deferred then there is no right of appeal and he can be re-examined the following year.

What Happens After the inspection

- The Stallion Inspectors can confirm if the Colt has been passed deferred or failed the inspection
- The Stallion Inspectors will complete the forms and return them to the SHS office
- The Vet will complete the inspection forms and return them to the SHS Office
- The blood taken will be sent to Weatherbys to confirm parentage
- Once all the reports and bloods have been confirmed you will be asked to return the Passport to the SHS office for it to be endorsed.
- The Stallion will be given a SHS licence number. Only when the Stallion licence has been given should you advertise your Stallion.
- You will then need to complete an information sheet about the Stallion and send a picture to the office so that all information can be added to the Stallion Booklet and put on the website to advertise your Stallion to Suffolk Horse Owners.
- Please arrange for a Stallion Swab before the first covering of each season and return to the SHS office
- The SHS grants change each season therefore always check the website for confirmation of what the Stallion is entitled to – www.suffolkhorsesociety.org.uk