

# Parade Ring

About half an hour before a race begins, the runners start to appear in the Parade Ring. This is where you can check the state of the horses and decide which one to go for. Have a good long look before making your choice!

## Rear Check!

A well-rounded, taut rear end is a sign of a good runner.

## Gait Check!

A horse that walks purposefully and shows spirit is thought to be in a positive mood for the race.



## Neck Check!

A healthy horse holds its neck staright and walks with vigorous, straight strides.

## Sweat Check!

If a horse is sweating or agitated before a race, it could be using up all its stamina.



## Body Check!

A horse in good form will puff out its body and make itself look large.



This is where you can check the condition of horses running in a race.



The Parade Ring fence is lined with homemade banners put up by racing fans.



The jockey is aboard, and it's off to the starting gate.



For a lot of people, seeing the horses at close quarters in the Parade Ring can be quite a thrill. The Thoroughbred has been called "the most beautiful animal on earth". Five pointers shown above can be used as indicators to check the condition of the horses. Of course, you can just use your own intuition – it's up to you! But please note – no flash photography (including mobile phones) is allowed in the Parade Ring. We don't want to startle the horses and cause an accident. Also, please try not to raise your voice, for the same reason. Manners and courtesy are important, even when we're having fun!

Things not to do (to avoid startling the horses)



## What's that on the horse's head?

