



PALM BEACH EQUINE CLINIC



News, Horse Care Tips, and More from Palm Beach Equine Clinic

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Palm Beach Equine Clinic Emergency Colic Care to the Rescue

One of the most dreaded words in horse care is "colic." Fear of colic is in the back of any horse owner's mind, but Palm Beach Equine Clinic's (PBEC) emergency colic care offerings can help ease that fear with innovative surgical talent, technology, and dedication.



PBEC's surgical suite. Photo by Erin Gilmore

Characterized by abdominal pain or problems with the gastrointestinal tract, colic is something that often arises unexpectedly and from many different origins. Spoiled feed, abrupt changes in feed, parasite infestation, sand ingestion, lack of water consumption, and even excess stress or changes in the weather are among the numerous causes generally associated with colic.

"In the last 10 years, colic surgery has come a long, remarkable way. With our clients, if the horse needs to go to surgery, we get an approximately 95% success rate. We attribute that to the clients' excellent care of their horses, as well as their knowledge to contact us immediately. That being said, colic surgery is always the last resort. We try to help all horses improve medically first" ~ PBEC surgeon Dr. Robert Brusie

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Meet the Team: Dr. Meredith Hustler



Dr. Meredith Hustler. Photo by Erin Gilmore

Dr. Meredith Hustler celebrated her one-year anniversary at PBEC this spring. Originally hailing from New Jersey, Hustler completed her undergraduate degree in Equine Science at Centenary College while simultaneously riding as a member of their Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association (IHSA) team. Hustler then graduated from the Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in 2016.

Find out more about PBEC veterinarian Dr. Meredith Hustler:

What is your background with horses?

Both of my parents are ministers, so I come from a non-horse family, but I begged my mom for riding lessons as a kid. From there, I got involved in the show jumping community in the Ocean Grove, NJ, area where I grew up. I stayed in the show jumping world up until I became a veterinarian.

[Click to learn more about Dr. Meredith Hustler!](#)

Healthcare Reminder: Ulcers in Sport Horses

Sport horses from the racetrack to the show ring are asked to give their very best each and every day. And, they do! But, the stress created from a life on the road and in competition can lead to painful ulcers. PBEC's goal is that their clients understand, prevent, and treat the onset of ulcers in their horses.



The Scoop on Ulcers

There are two different kinds of ulcers – gastric and hindgut.

Gastric ulcers are most common and develop in the stomach, which is comprised of two different halves. The lower half of the stomach secretes acid and digestive enzymes to properly digest food. If that acid splashes up to the upper half of the stomach, there is minimal protection and it causes painful erosion of the stomach lining.

- **Causes:** The most common factors that change the environment of the stomach and cause increased acid production are drastic changes in feeding times or types and excessive stress from traveling and showing.
- **Diagnosis:** Ulcers can be difficult to diagnose as early signs can easily be confused with colic. The most definitive way to diagnose gastric ulcers is the use of a gastroscope to provide an internal scan, where a small camera is inserted down the esophagus and into the stomach.

Hindgut ulcers occur when the protective mucosal lining of the hindgut, comprised of the cecum and colon, is compromised.

- **Causes:** Chronic use of medications used to treat pain, such as phenylbutazone (bute), banamine, or other nonsteroidal-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) can be corrosive to the mucosal lining.
- **Hindgut Acidosis:** When large amounts of simple carbohydrates (like those in sugar and starches) reach the hindgut undigested, they interfere with the good bacteria and produce lactic acid.
- **Diagnosis:** Hindgut ulcers can easily be identified by a non-invasive ultrasound of the colon.

Treatment

The gold standard treatment for equine ulcers is administration of omeprazole (Gastrogard) for four weeks; one tube a day for 28 days.

Post-diagnosis & prevention tips:

1. If your horse is diagnosed with ulcers, it is important to avoid bute and banamine, if possible.
2. Do not to make any significant changes to the horse's diet after an ulcer diagnosis.
3. Keep the pH of the stomach neutral by adding one flake of alfalfa to the horse's hay per day.
4. Give omeprazole a day or two before a stressor. Additionally, gastric medications can be given every day during the stressor.

Concerned that your horse may be suffering from ulcers? Contact your PBEC veterinarian today!

Vet Talk with Dr. Richard Wheeler

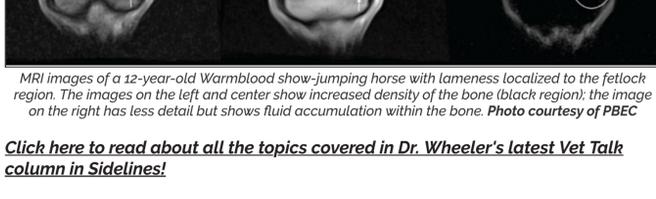
Note: The following is an excerpt from Dr. Wheeler's "Vet Talk" column printed in *Sidelines Magazine*.

Q: I recently took my horse to the vet, and my veterinarian said that my horse is suffering from a bone bruise in his fetlock. Do you have any recommendations for bone bruise care?

A: We are seeing such diagnoses more commonly in recent years. I am not sure if this is an increase in the prevalence of the condition, or if as a profession, we are becoming more accurate with our diagnosis with the more common use of advanced imaging techniques such as nuclear scintigraphy, CT (computed tomography) and MRI (magnetic resonance imaging).



Dr. Wheeler joined PBEC in 2005 and focuses on equine sports medicine. Photo by Erin Gilmore



MRI images of a 12-year-old Warmblood jumping horse with lameness localized to the fetlock region. The images on the left and center show increased density of the bone (black region); the image on the right has less detail but shows fluid accumulation within the bone. Photo courtesy of PBEC

[Click here to read about all the topics covered in Dr. Wheeler's latest Vet Talk column in Sidelines!](#)

Have You Heard About The PBEC Wellness Program?

Hurry - this program will end on November 1, 2018!

Vaccination Bundle

- Farm Visit
- Deworming (Quest Gel, Moxidectin Gel)
- Vetera Gold XP Vaccination (Eastern and Western equine encephalomyelitis, rhinopneumonitis, influenza, tetanus and viremia caused by West Nile virus)
- FREE! Physical Examination

Price: \$120
A \$172 Value

Dental Bundle

- Farm Visit
- Dental Float (w/ sedation if necessary)
- FREE! Nutrition Counseling

Price: \$176
A \$252 Value



NOTE: A 50% discount will be applied if the above services are performed at the Palm Beach Equine Clinic by appointment.

Call Palm Beach Equine Clinic today at 561-793-1599 TODAY to purchase your Wellness Program Bundle and set up an appointment!

Let's Get Social!

Here's what was happening this month on PBEC's social media channels.

Follow Palm Beach Equine Clinic!
#PBECVets #PalmBeachEquine #PBEC

