

Is Your Horse Protected From Summer Sores?



June 2019 Newsletter



The Road to Grand Prix Glory: Royale is Back in Action Thanks to Palm Beach Equine Clinic



Meagan Davis and Royale. Photo courtesy of Meagan Davis

When rider Meagan Davis and owner Scott Durkin think about the goals they have for their dressage horse Royale, they have tunnel vision for the grand prix ring. Royale, a 16-year-old Oldenburg gelding (Routinier x Ironman) was well on his way to accomplishing that goal during the 2019 season when something strange started happening.

After arriving at their winter home in Loxahatchee, FL, from a northern base in Stone Ridge, NY, Davis kicked off Royale's winter competition schedule with a show in January. The horse was coming off a very successful fall season that included CDI Intermediaire I and CDI Prix St. Georges victories at the New England Dressage Fall Festival and Dressage at Devon.

"Our first show was unusually chilly and I noticed that Royale was breathing a little hard and didn't sweat very much," recalled Davis. "I didn't think that much of it because of the weather, but when we returned home and it warmed up, he wasn't sweating at all.

"He could not catch his breath after being perfectly fit a month before," continued Davis. "I rely on Palm Beach Equine Clinic for the care of all the horses in my barn and I immediately turned to them."

Read On



Photo by Erin Gilmore

Meet Palm Beach Equine Clinic's Dr. Ryan Lukens

Dr. Lukens became interested in horses at an early age while growing up on a horse farm in Lebanon, OH. He performed his undergraduate studies and earned his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from The Ohio State University. After graduating with his DVM in June of 2012, he became the fourth generation veterinarian in the Lukens' family, dating back to his great-grandfather's graduation from The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1912.

Dr. Lukens joined the Palm Beach Equine Clinic team in 2012 with specific interests in sports medicine, lameness, and ultrasound. Learn more about Dr. Lukens:

What is your background with horses?

I grew up on a 30-acre boarding farm in Lebanon, OH. I spent many summers cleaning stalls and grooming horses. I took some hunter/jumper lessons and would regularly trail ride my thoroughbred, Dexter, through my neighbor's 200 acres of land. My father was an equine veterinarian and I was hooked as soon as I realized my dad's profession was to work with horses all day.

Find Out More About Dr. Ryan Lukens



Healthcare Reminder: Equine Summer Sores

Summer has arrived! With the humid weather of the season, pesky flies are at their worst this time of year, which creates common problems for many horse owners. The increase in fly population can often lead to summer sores, medically known as Habronemiasis.

Summer sores are lesions on the skin caused by the larvae of equine stomach worms Habronema. These worms in the horse's stomach produce eggs that pass through the digestive tract and are shed in the horse's feces. Barn flies typically gather around manure and ultimately collect the parasite's larvae on their extremities. Summer sores will occur when flies carrying the larvae deposit the eggs onto an open wound or the mucous membranes of a horse. The larvae infect the open wound or mucous membranes, causing an inflammatory reaction, discharge, and the production of granulation tissue infected with larvae.

One way to detect a summer sore is the visible granulation of tissue containing small yellow, rice-like larvae within the skin and a mucopurulent (mucus or pus-like) discharge associated with the wound.

Learn More About Summer Sores

From The Waiting Room

"Most experts estimate that the horse is 70-80% of the sport, which makes it so important that our equine partners are healthy and fit to play. This would not be possible without the skilled and experienced veterinarians at Palm Beach Equine Clinic. Thank you so much for all that you do!" - Gladiator Polo



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