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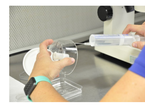
Breeding the Sport Horse Mare

Planning for the Future While Preserving Your Horse's Career

Taking your sport horse out of her training and competition schedule so she can be bred is a daunting decision, to put it lightly. The gestation period for a mare is 11 months, not including the time required to be bred and then recover after giving birth. A mare's prime reproductive window also tends to close once they are reaching the height of their career.

Thanks to advanced reproductive practices, mares can be bred without a detour from training while preserving their body and allowing for the possibility of producing multiple foals per year. Through the process of an embryo transfer, mares can enjoy a long, healthy career while still producing the talent of the future.



How Does an Embryo Transfer Work?

Learn the Steps of an Embryo Transfer Procedure

Embryo transfer involves the mare and stallion, who hold the genetics of the future foal, being bred through artificial insemination. Within the first eight days of pregnancy, the embryo is collected from the donor mare and protected in an enriched medium. This embryo is then sent to a recipient mare who is chosen based on her reproductive soundness and synchrony with the donor mare's cycle. The recipient mare will carry this embryo to term while the donor mare continues to train, compete, and forgoes the risks of pregnancy and parturition.

Dr. Katie Atwood identifying a collected embryo under microscope.
Photos courtesy of PBEC

Palm Beach Equine Clinic performs 30 to 50 embryo transfers each year, offering competitive prices for equestrians on a budget. Speak to a reproductive veterinarian today.

Breed Your Best Playing Polo Pony

Develop your best string of polo ponies with innovative reproduction and fertility services by Palm Beach Equine Clinic. Proudly offering artificial insemination breeding services with some of the world's most distinguished and celebrated polo bloodlines. **Click below to learn more.**

Dolfina Cuartetazo

Dolfina Cuartetera x Aiken Cura Clone

Dolfina Popular

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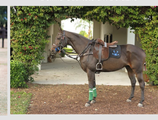

A View 6 Feet From the Track

Dr. David Priest comments on veterinary life amid COVID-19, specifically on its impact in the Kentucky horse racing community.

Photo courtesy of PBEC

By the time I returned to my family's farm and residence in Kentucky on March 26, the commonwealth had already issued a stay-at-home order. The normally incredibly busy Keeneland Racecourse April Sale had been cancelled with no horses being allowed to stable at that track. I wasn't surprised by that decision, given the circumstances, but it certainly had a profound impact on the horse industry and racing in Kentucky.

My normal daily care of horses at Keeneland during April, which is typically my busiest month, was non-existent. However, as a veterinarian and farm owner, I consider myself incredibly fortunate during this challenging time. I have still been treating horses daily, primarily those with more pressing medical needs, as well as horses at my family's farm, which includes thoroughbred lay-ups, mares with foals, and dressage horses. All in all, I feel incredibly lucky.

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From The Pharmacy

PBEC's Pharmacy is Well Stocked with Summer Sore Cream

As the temperature and humidity levels rise, so do the number of flies swarming around our horses. When fly season is in full swing, owners and barn managers need to be even more diligent about checking their horses for signs of summer sores.

Summer Sore cream made on-site at the PBEC pharmacy. ***Photos courtesy of PBEC***

Most equestrians based in Florida and the southern states are well acquainted with this persistent and serious condition known medically as Habronemiasis. Summer sores are the result of an unfortunate domino effect involving the Habronema (a stomach worm) being ingested by flies which then transfer their infected larvae onto a horse by landing on moist areas and wounds.

Summer sores can be difficult to treat, need daily attention, and should be overseen by a veterinarian. They typically present as nonhealing, itchy skin lesions that progress to form proud flesh, and can usually be spotted on the horse's mouth, fetlocks, corners of eyes, sheath, or open wounds. Call your PBEC veterinarian for a definitive diagnosis and to discuss treatment options. The PBEC Pharmacy is well stocked with summer sore cream to safely and effectively treat summer sores.

Contact Your PBEC Vet

Palm Beach Equine Clinic continues to stay up to date on COVID-19 developments and will update our clients, partners and fellow equestrians as the situation progresses. Contact Palm Beach Equine Clinic at 561-793-1599 for questions or to speak with a veterinarian.

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