



What's in This Newsletter:
-Kissing Spines Success Stories
-PBEC Pays It Forward for First Responders at Vinceremos
-ESP Year End Awards Show Winner Sponsored by PBEC
-PBIEC Educational Series
-Join the PBEC Team

A New Lease on Life with Surgical Intervention

Palm Beach Equine Clinic is one of the foremost equine surgical centers in the world with three board-certified surgeons on staff, including Dr. Weston Davis. As a busy surgeon, Dr. Davis has seen many horses with the dreaded "kissing spines" diagnosis come across his table. Two of his most interesting success stories featured horses competing in the disciplines of barrel racing and dressage.

Flossy's Story

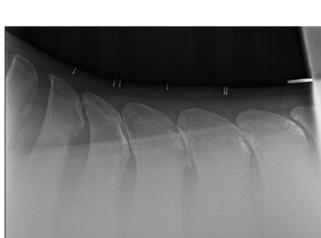
The words "your horse needs surgery" are ones that no horse owner wants to hear, but to Sara and Kathi Milstead, it was music to their ears. In 2016, Sara – who was 17 years old at the time and based in Loxahatchee, Florida – had been working for more than a year to find a solution to her horse's extreme behavioral issues and chronic back pain that could not be managed. Her horse Two Blondes On Fire, a then-eight-year-old Quarter Horse mare known as "Flossy" in the barn, came into Sara's life as a competitive barrel racer. But shortly after purchasing Flossy, Sara knew that something wasn't right.



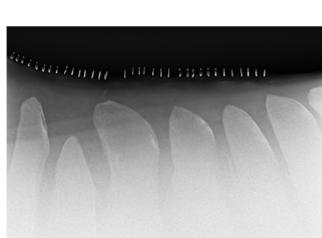
Sara Milstead and Flossy barrel racing. Photo courtesy of Sara Milstead.

"We tried to do everything we could," said Sara. "She was extremely back sore, she wasn't holding weight, and she would try to kick your head off. We tried Regu-Mate, hormone therapy, magna wave therapy, injections, and nothing helped her. We felt that surgery was the best option instead of trying to continue injections. We were told surgery could be more beneficial."

At the time, Sara and her primary veterinarian, Dr. Jordan Lewis of Palm Beach Equine Clinic (PBEC), brought Flossy to PBEC for thorough diagnostics. They determined Flossy had kissing spines.



Pre-operative Kissing Spine. Photo courtesy of PBEC.



Post-operative Kissing Spine. Photo courtesy of PBEC.

Lakota's Story

With dressage horse Lakota owned by Heidi Degele, there were minimal behavior issues, but Degele knew there had to be something more she could do to ease Lakota's pain.



Heidi Degele and Lakota competing. Photo by Susan J. Stickle Photography.

"As his age kicked in, it was like you were sitting on a two-by-four," Heidi said of her horse's condition. "I knew his back bothered him the most because with shockwave he felt like a different horse; he felt so supple and he had this swing in his trot, so I knew that's what truly bothered him." Though she could sense the stiffness and soreness as he worked, he was not one to rear, pin his ears, or refuse to work because of the pain he was feeling."

[Read More on The Plaid Horse](#)

PBEC Pays It Forward By Teaching Horsemanship to First Responders

Vinceremos Therapeutic Riding Center hosted area first responders at its facility in Loxahatchee, FL, on December 6, 2021. The annual event provides training by veterinarians from PBEC for first responders in handling horses during an emergency. The Winter Equestrian Festival season sees the influx of thousands of horses each winter. These sessions have successfully educated area first responders in equine care during a crisis to create a safer community for the horses.



Dr. Janet Greenfield-Davis giving the demonstration to the area first responders. Photos courtesy of Vinceremos Therapeutic Riding Center.

\$2,500 Medium Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper Stake, Sponsored by Palm Beach Equine Clinic



Tessa Brown and Mystique VH Kijkvrerdriet in their winning presentation. Photo by ESP.

Congratulations to Tessa Brown and Mystique VH Kijkvrerdriet on their victory in the \$2,500 Medium Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper Stake, sponsored by Palm Beach Equine Clinic, during the ESP Year End Awards Show at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center. The pair stopped the timers at 34.506 seconds to take home the blue ribbon out of a field of 19 horse-and-rider combinations.

[See Class Results](#)

**Join Us Virtually for the PBIEC 2022 Educational Series,
Presented by Adequan®**



PBEC will once again be a part of the PBIEC Educational Series, presented by Adequan®. PBEC vets will host a virtual educational webinar on sport horse health during the Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) 3 on Thursday, January 27, 2022. Mark your calendar today!

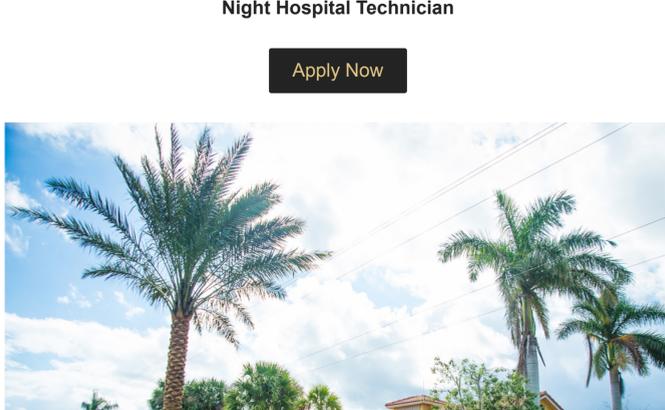
Educational Series sessions will be held virtually each Thursday at 6 p.m. EST. Admission is free. Pre-registration is required.

[Learn More Here](#)

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