



What's in This Newsletter:
-A Horse Owner's Guide to Colic Surgery Recovery
-PBIEC Educational Webinar on Equine Reproduction
-Champion of PBEC Sponsored Division

A Horse Owner's Guide to Colic Surgery Recovery

What To Expect After the Unexpected Strikes

Every owner dreads having to decide whether or not to send their horse onto the surgical table for colic surgery. For a fully-informed decision, it is important that the horse's owner or caretaker understand what to expect throughout the recovery process.

Palm Beach Equine Clinic (PBEC) veterinarian Weston Davis, DVM, DACVS, assisted by Sidney Chanutin, DVM, have an impressive success rate when it comes to colic surgeries, and the team is diligent about counseling patients' owners on how to care for their horse post-colic surgery.



Dr. Weston Davis
Photo courtesy of PBEC



Dr. Sidney Chanutin
Photo courtesy of PBEC

"After we determine that the patient is a strong surgical candidate, the first portion of the surgery is exploratory so we can accurately define the severity of the case," explained Dr. Davis. "That moment is when we decide if the conditions are positive enough for us to proceed with surgery. It's always my goal to not make a horse suffer through undue hardship if they have a poor prognosis."

Once Dr. Davis gives the green light for surgical repair, the surgery is performed, and recovery begins immediately.

"The time period for the patient waking up in the recovery room to them standing should ideally be about 30 minutes," continued Dr. Davis. "At PBEC, we do our best to contribute to this swift return by using a consistent anesthesia technique. Our team controls the anesthesia as lightly as we can and constantly monitors blood pressure. We administer antibiotic, anti-inflammatory, anti-endotoxic drugs, and plasma to help combat the toxins that the horse releases during colic. Our intention in the operating room is to make sure colic surgeries are completed successfully, but also in the most time-efficient manner."



A colic surgery incision.
Photo courtesy of PBEC

Colic surgery recovery often depends on the type and severity of the colic. At the most basic level, colic cases can be divided into two types – large intestine colic and small intestine colic – that influence the recovery procedures and outlook.

Large intestinal colic or impaction colic is characterized by the intestine folding upon itself with several changes of direction (flexures) and diameter changes. These flexures and diameter shifts can be sites for impactions, where a firm mass of feed or foreign material blocks the intestine. Impactions can be caused by coarse feeds, dehydration, or an accumulation of foreign materials such as sand.

Small intestinal colic or displacement colic can result from gas or fluid distension that results in the intestines being buoyant and subject to movement within the gut, an obstruction of the small intestine, or twisting of the gut. In general, small intestinal colics can be more difficult than large intestinal colics when it comes to recovery from surgery.

Continue Reading on Horse Network

Breed Your Next Top Horse: Equine Reproductive Specialist Dr. Justin McNaughten of Hagyard Equine Medical Institute Discusses New Advancements and Options in Breeding at Palm Beach Equine Clinic



PBEC will once again be a part of the PBIEC Educational Series, presented by Adequan®. During this virtual educational webinar, Dr. Justin McNaughton will discuss equine reproduction. The webinar will take place during Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) 10 on Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 6 p.m. E.T. Pre-registration is required. Mark your calendar today!

Register Here

Congratulations to WEF 8 Champion, Callie Seaman



Callie Seaman and Silver Lining earned the top prize during WEF 9 in the Amateur-Owner 3'6" 18- 35 division, sponsored by Palm Beach Equine Clinic. Photo by Sportfot

Callie Seaman and her own Silver Lining received top honors in the Amateur-Owner Hunter 3'6" 18-35 division, sponsored by Palm Beach Equine Clinic, during the Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) in Wellington, FL. The pair earned three firsts and two second-place ribbons in the division to claim the championship.

View Division Results

Palm Beach Equine Clinic Works With AcutePlus



AcutePlus is a veterinary Wellness Membership Plan offered through Palm Beach Equine Clinic. The program is designed to give veterinarian practices a way to create a customized annual plan that they can offer directly to their clients and patients. AcutePlus provides veterinary discounts, equine protection, and equine loss protection.

Register Here

