



**What's in This Newsletter:**  
**-Understanding Ulcers**  
**-Acupuncture Benefits**  
**-Four Summer Health Issues to Watch For**  
**-Dr. Wheeler at Kentucky Horse Park**

## Understanding the Types, Causes, and Treatments of Equine Ulcers

Equine ulcers have long been a common concern for horse owners. Our understanding of ulcers has dramatically improved over time through medical advancement, and there is currently more nuance to the diagnostics, treatment, and management of horses suffering from these internal sores. Gastroscopy and ultrasound have allowed non-specialty practitioners more experience and a greater comfort level with these tools. These developments throughout the industry have led to more animals being correctly diagnosed and appropriately treated.



*Ultrasound is one of the primary diagnostic tools for determining if a horse has ulcers. Photo courtesy of PBEC*

Jordan Lewis, DVM of Palm Beach Equine Clinic (PBEC) sees a variety of equine ulcer cases. She breaks them down into three categories: gastric ulcer disease of the squamous mucosa, gastric ulceration of the glandular mucosa, and colon ulcers of the right dorsal colon.



*Dr. Jordan Lewis breaks equine ulcers down in three categories of gastric ulcer disease of the squamous mucosa, gastric ulceration of the glandular mucosa, and colon ulcers of the right dorsal colon. Photo courtesy of PBEC*

Equine gastric ulcer disease of the squamous mucosa refers to the ulcers found on the stomach's inner lining closer to the esophagus. They are primarily caused by exposure to stomach acid and vary in severity depending on the amount of time the stomach's lining has been in contact with the stomach acid.

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## PBEC in Polo Magazine

### *Pins and Needles* Acupuncture Benefits in Treating Horses

Acupuncture has been used for treating a variety of ailments for centuries, mostly in Asia. It was relatively unknown in the U.S. until President Nixon's visit to China in 1972. Over the past 30 years, the practice of acupuncture has grown considerably for treating both humans and animals.



*Dr. Janet Greenfield Davis of Palm Beach Equine Clinic has been practicing acupuncture for about 12 years. Photo by Polo Magazine*

Janet Greenfield Davis, DVM has been practicing acupuncture for about 12 years. When she first started, it was difficult because it wasn't as widely used but now it is primarily what she does in her practice.

The practice has been scientifically studied and clinically proven. Laws are different state to state but where she practices in Florida, you have to be a licensed veterinarian to perform animal acupuncture.

Acupuncture has a thousand uses, including helping balance the body by promoting blood flow, and lymphatic drainage. It has also been successful in reducing inflammation, relaxing or stimulating muscles, improving GI function, reducing pain, and balancing fear levels in horses.

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## Four Summer Health Issues to Watch For

*By Dr. Laura Hutton*

Warm temperatures and long hours of daylight bring greater opportunity to ride and enjoy your horse. But time spent outdoors during the summer can have downsides, too. What season-related health problems is your horse likely to encounter? Here are four common concerns to keep on your radar, plus ways to safeguard your horse.

### 1. Dehydration

In cool weather, an average 1,100-pound horse at rest drinks six to 10 gallons of fresh water a day. Summertime temperatures can boost daily consumption to 15 gallons. That amount may increase to as much as 30 gallons for a horse in exercise, depending on the temperature, humidity and his level of exertion. A horse working hard in the heat can lose two to four gallons of sweat per hour. Even so, he may not show signs of dehydration until he's lost as much as 5 percent of his body weight in fluids. That's 55 pounds for a 1,100-pound horse.



*Dr. Laura Hutton Photo by Jump Media*

Dehydration can cause serious health problems, such as colic. At the extreme, it can be fatal.

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## Dr. Richard Wheeler at the Kentucky Horse Park

Dr. Richard Wheeler is currently working out of Lexington, KY, and is available for clients at the Kentucky Horse Park and the surrounding area.

PBEC would also like to congratulate Dr. Wheeler's daughter Natalie on a successful 2022 USEF Pony Finals with Infinity in the Small Pony Hunter division.



*Dr. Richard Wheeler is providing veterinary care in Lexington, KY. Photos courtesy of PBEC*

## 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.

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