



# PALM BEACH EQUINE CLINIC



## May 2018 News, Horse Care Tips, and More from Palm Beach Equine Clinic

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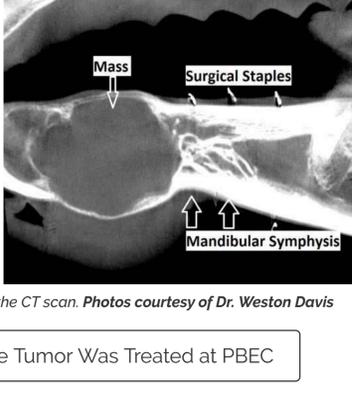
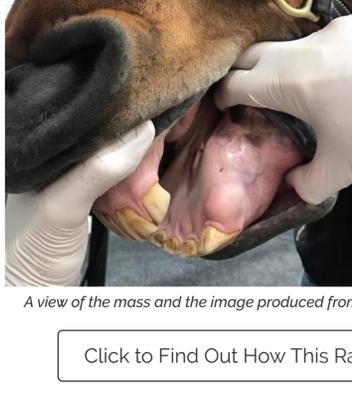
### From the Show Ring to the Operating Room and Back Again

When a middle-aged mare with a mysterious mass in her mouth came under the care of Palm Beach Equine Clinic (PBEC) in Wellington, FL, Dr. Weston Davis pulled out all the stops to find a definitive diagnosis. The oral mass was growing at a rapid rate and was positioned just behind the bottom incisors on the left bar of the horse's mouth.

First, Dr. Davis turned to the use of PBEC's state-of-the-art computed tomography (CT) machine to obtain an image of the mass and its exact location within the horse's mouth. Then, a surgical biopsy was performed and the histopathology, or microscopic examination of the biopsied tissue, revealed the manifestation of an ameloblastic fibroma. An ameloblastic fibroma is a mixed odontogenic (dental) tumor composed of soft tissues.

**"Although this tumor type rarely metastasizes, it tends to be locally invasive and aggressive, requiring the complete removal and/or aggressive radiation therapy."**

~ PBEC board-certified surgeon Dr. Weston Davis



A view of the mass and the image produced from the CT scan. Photos courtesy of Dr. Weston Davis

[Click to Find Out How This Rare Tumor Was Treated at PBEC](#)

### Vet Talk with Dr. Richard Wheeler

Note: The following is an excerpt from Dr. Wheeler's "Vet Talk" column printed in *Sidelines Magazine*.

**Q: What was the most easily preventable injury you saw recently? What could have been done differently?**

A: As with any sport, injuries are inevitable. I'm happy to say that in the sports I'm directly connected with, severe injuries are rare. I believe the majority of horses are exceptionally well cared for and injury prevention is at the front of everyone's mind. However, any injury — even one that might be considered mild — is devastating to the owners and trainers of our equine athletes. Following a diagnosis, we all look to see what could have been done differently.



Dr. Wheeler joined PBEC in 2005 and focuses on equine sports medicine. Photo by Erin Gilmore

I have some clients who will perform routine, periodic advanced imaging on their top horses. Nuclear scintigraphy, or bone scans, would be the most logical and frequently used modality. I've found, during the competition seasons, that it's helpful to refer back to such exams, both to guide therapy programs and also to know when we need to back off and give the horse time to rest.

[Click here to read about all the topics covered in Dr. Wheeler's latest Vet Talk column in Sidelines!](#)



### PBEC Featured Service: Computed Tomography (CT) Machine

PBEC proudly offers the most state-of-the-art imaging capabilities in the equine veterinary industry. During the winter of 2018, PBEC added a computed tomography, or CT, machine to its arsenal of advanced imaging technologies.

The CT scan gives PBEC veterinarians the unique opportunity to conveniently explore areas of a horse's body that they were not otherwise able to, including the head, poll, and neck.

**"Our CT machine takes 3-D images of a horse's neck and gives us the ability to see things we were never able to see before. It is an amazing technology that we will now see included in everything from diagnostics to pre-purchase examinations."** ~ Dr. Swerdlin, President of PBEC



The CT machine in use at PBEC. Photos by Erin Gilmore and Jump Media

Additionally, the veterinarians of PBEC have performed several standing myelograms thanks to the CT machine. A myelogram provides a view of a horse's spinal cord using an injection of contrast prior to the CT scan and removed the necessity and risks of general anesthesia.

### In The News

PBEC's own internal medicine specialist Dr. Peter Heidmann discussed the types of respiratory diseases among horses in *The Horse* magazine!

**AAEP FORUM** TheHorse.com/AAEP-Forum

PETER HEIDMANN, DVM, MPH, DIPL. ACVIM

## Three Types of Respiratory Disease

The American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) website defines internal medicine as a field focused on organ systems and their problems. What it really entails is analyzing problems specific to the organ systems, which can be split into three categories: gastrointestinal problems, neurologic system issues, and respiratory diseases.

Here we'll explore the latter, which are acute in nature and as common as colds in humans. In horses respiratory diseases can be broken down into the following three categories:

**Equine Asthma, or 'Heaves'**

Most performance horses are impeccably cared for, which reduces their chances of developing chronic respiratory or significant lung conditions. As a result, the respiratory issue we most commonly see in this population is equine asthma, previously known as heaves.

This noninfectious condition is very similar to asthma in humans. Reacting to triggers in the environment, the small airways constrict with inflammation and restricts air flow. As a result, a horse might perform as a top athlete one minute, and experience real exercise limitations an hour, a day, or a week later. Here in South Florida, for example, horses can react to the inherent moist air; dander, dust, and pollen, making equine asthma by far the most common respiratory problem in our horses. It's also the most treatable.

Veterinarians can treat equine asthma using a combination of inhaled, oral, or injected medications. These serve to quiet the inflammatory response, much like how an inhaler helps relieve a human's asthma symptoms.

**Acute Infections**

Viral respiratory diseases include influenza and rhinopneumonitis, or rhino, caused by one of two types of

isolation stalls with individual filtered airflow systems can help prevent respiratory disease spread.

equine herpesviruses (EHV-1 and EHV-4). These infectious diseases are quite common; study results indicate that as many as 95% of adult horses have already been infected and have strong immunity against them. In most cases, these infections cause a mild, "snotty" nose and remain dormant throughout the horse's life. Vaccinating is the easiest way to prevent cases of flu and rhino. Because these infections spread so readily, proper biosecurity protocols (see the American Association of Equine Practitioners' guidelines at [aaep.org/AAEP](http://aaep.org/AAEP)) must go hand in hand with vaccination. Isolation is also key when it comes to preventing spread. At Palm Beach Equine Clinic, for instance, we designed our isolation stalls with individual filtered airflow systems to prevent exposure via contaminated air.

**Shipping Fever**

The most severe kind of respiratory disease found in horses is shipping fever, which is an infection that takes advantage of a horse's stress while traveling and the resulting immune system compromise. This condition is not readily transmitted to other horses.

No amount of dollar or expertise can save the sickest of these horses, so those are the ones we really worry about. Whether a horse gets exposed to a pathogen or inadvertently aspirates food into the trachea while traveling, the result can be a deep bacterial infection.

While treatable, these infections require two to three or more months on antibiotics that transition from injectable to oral.

**Preventing Spread**

Veterinarians, technicians, and anyone in contact with a contagious horse can best mitigate risk of respiratory disease spread by taking every available biosecurity precaution, including using foot baths before entering and upon exiting stalls and wearing Tyvek suits, gowns, and masks for multiple layers of protection. These precautions also reduce much of the owner's and veterinarian's anxiety about disease spreading from one patient to another. While the end goal is to have a healthy horse, almost as important when treating respiratory disease in horses is making potential transmission a nonfactor. 🐾

American Association of Equine Practitioners, 4033 Ross Horse Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511-859/233-0147 [www.aaep.org](http://www.aaep.org)

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### Let's Get Social!

Here's what was happening this month on PBEC's social media channels.

**phoebmedic • Follow**

phoebmedic: Book in and step into the OR with @PBECVets like @weston\_davis @weston\_davis @weston\_davis and Dr. Richard Wheeler performing a procedure on the hind leg of a horse at PBEC. #PalmBeachEquine #PalmBeachEquine #PalmBeachEquine

**phoebmedic • Follow**

phoebmedic: Here a horse receives a CT scan. This is a great service offered at PBEC. The Palm Beach Equine Clinic.

**Palm Beach Equine Clinic**

"Most commonly seen in Thoroughbred racehorses and occasionally polo ponies or eventing horses, a condylar fracture was once considered a career-ending injury. Today, however, advances in technology aid in a full recovery with horses regularly returning to competition in their respective divisions."

#TBT to this article on how #PBEC helps get horses with condylar fractures treated, recovered, and back to training! #PBECVets

**Condylar Fractures: No Longer A Career Ending Injury**

Condylar Fractures: No Longer A Career Ending Injury Palm Beach Equine Clinic (PBEC), located in Wellington, FL, offers advanced diagnostic imaging, world renowned surgical talent, and...

[EQUINECLINIC.COM](http://EQUINECLINIC.COM)

**Newborn Foals: What to Watch For - The Horse**

Be familiar with the most common problems that can happen within 24 hours of foaling.

[THEHORSE.COM](http://THEHORSE.COM)

### From The Waiting Room

What our clients are saying...

*"It took tremendous effort, creative thinking, and exceptional teamwork to free Freeman from the hook impaling his leg. PBEC sent several of their top vets to help us rescue Freeman. The teaming of vets is truly great. The team did a fantastic job there and kept Freeman until he was ready to begin long-term rehab. He definitely defied all odds and expectations and came back to his level."*

~ International grand prix rider David Blake on Freeman, a horse that suffered a trailer injury to his stifle and femoropatellar joint, was treated by PBEC, and fully recovered to return to the show ring!



Raising The Bar In Equestrian PR

