



# PALM BEACH EQUINE CLINIC



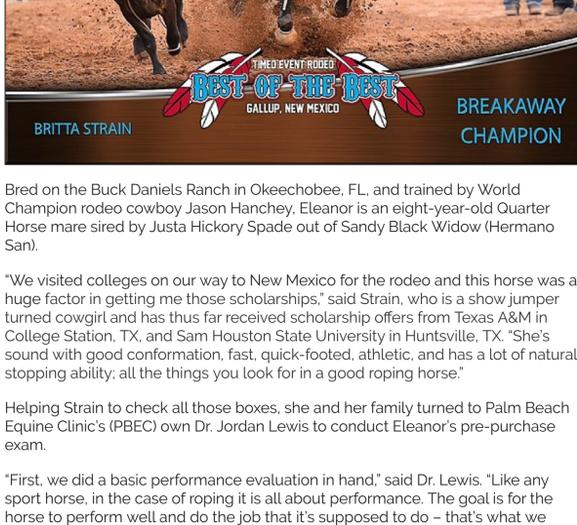
News, Horse Care Tips, and More from Palm Beach Equine Clinic

## In This Month's Newsletter

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- PBEC Featured Service: Reproduction
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- PBEC is Hiring!

## PBEC Success Story: Rodeo Glory

This summer, 18-year-old Britta Strain of Davie, FL, scored the ride on a new horse, won a National Breakaway Roping Championship, and earned two full-ride rodeo scholarships all in two weeks. Purchased a week before leaving for the Best of the Best Timed Event Rodeo in Gallup, NM, Sandy Black Spade, or "Eleanor", is the horse that helped get her achieve it all.



Bred on the Buck Daniels Ranch in Okeechobee, FL, and trained by World Champion rodeo cowboy Jason Hanchey, Eleanor is an eight-year-old Quarter Horse mare sired by Justa Hickory Spade out of Sandy Black Widow (Hermano San).

"We visited colleges on our way to New Mexico for the rodeo and this horse was a huge factor in getting me those scholarships," said Strain, who is a show jumper turned cowgirl and has thus far received scholarship offers from Texas A&M in College Station, TX, and Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, TX. "She's sound with good conformation, fast, quick-footed, athletic, and has a lot of natural stopping ability; all the things you look for in a good roping horse."

Helping Strain to check all those boxes, she and her family turned to Palm Beach Equine Clinic's (PBEC) own Dr. Jordan Lewis to conduct Eleanor's pre-purchase exam.

"First, we did a basic performance evaluation in hand," said Dr. Lewis. "Like any sport horse, in the case of roping it is all about performance. The goal is for the horse to perform well and do the job that it's supposed to do - that's what we consider when we are doing pre-purchase exams on horses that will go on to compete."

[Click to Read More](#)

## Have You Heard About The PBEC Wellness Program?

Hurry - this program will end on November 1, 2018!

### Vaccination Bundle

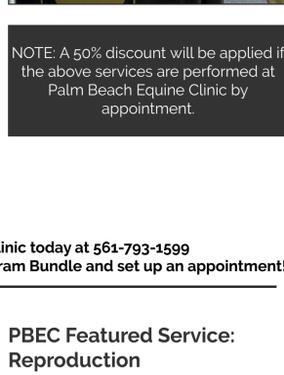
- Farm Visit
- Deworming (Quest Gel, Moxidectin Gel)
- Vetera Gold XP Vaccination - Eastern and Western equine encephalomyelitis, rhinopneumonitis, influenza, tetanus and viremia caused by West Nile virus)
- FREE! Physical Examination

Price: \$120  
A \$172 Value

### Dental Bundle

- Farm Visit
- Dental Float (w/ sedation if necessary)
- FREE! Nutrition Counseling

Price: \$176  
A \$252 Value

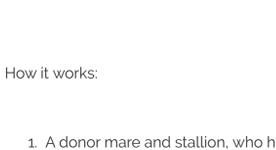


### ~EQUINE WELLNESS PROGRAM~

NOTE: A 50% discount will be applied if the above services are performed at Palm Beach Equine Clinic by appointment.

Call Palm Beach Equine Clinic today at 561-793-1599

TODAY to purchase your Wellness Program Bundle and set up an appointment!



Dr. Katie Atwood focuses on the science of equine reproduction at PBEC. Photo by Erin Gilmore

[Click to learn more about Dr. Katie Atwood!](#)

## PBEC Featured Service: Reproduction

The process of breeding sport horses has seen numerous innovations in recent years. Whether in an effort to produce the healthiest, most talented foals, to prolong the competition career of a mare, or make the most of a stallion's longevity, reproductive science in horses has come a long way from the days of the traditional breeding shed.

"I like the creating of life," said Dr. Katie Atwood, who is a Florida native and PBEC veterinarian currently pursuing steps to become a board-certified reproductive specialist. "Equine medicine is intriguing, but you're dealing with sick, unhealthy animals. With reproduction, I am working with healthy animals and making their babies, which I love!"

### Embryo Transfer

The most popular wave of advancement that has hit the horse sport industry over the past several years is embryo transfers.

How it works:

1. A donor mare and stallion, who hold the genetics of the future foal, are bred.
2. At seven or eight days of pregnancy, the embryo is flushed out.
3. A catheter is placed through the vagina and cervix, and an inflatable cuff on the catheter provides a fluid-tight seal.
4. A lavage fluid with surfactin (added to reduce the "stickiness" of the embryo and allow it to be extracted easily) passes down through a tubing system into the uterine lumen. As the fluid swirls throughout the lumen and drains back out through gravity, it collects the embryo, which is swept back out. The fluid and embryo pass out through the tubing system into and through an embryonic filter.
5. When the embryo is identified under microscope, it is removed into a more enriched medium until the time of transfer.
6. The embryo is shipped to a recipient farm where a young and healthy surrogate mare of decent size receives the embryo. That mare carries the foal to term, but it is genetically created from the donor mare and stallion.

"The gestation period for a horse is 11 months, so you're only getting one foal per year when you breed traditionally," she said. "Embryo transfer allows a mare to produce multiple foals per year, but it also allows that mare to remain in competition. This process can be done on younger mares with no interruption to their competition and training schedules."

Horses are now being bred at an ideal reproductive age while they are still in training, which is made even more valuable by the fact that advances in equine science have prolonged the longevity of horses.

### What's New at PBEC

PBEC initiated significant facility renovations in 2017, which included improvements to their on-site breeding shed. The breeding shed is now covered from the sun and inclement weather similar to an indoor arena. PBEC's breeding shed also provides a hydraulic phantom mare.

"We can raise and lower our phantom with the push of a button so it can be the appropriate height for the stallion," said Dr. Atwood. "Previously, we had to bring a tractor in to raise and lower the phantom."

Additionally, PBEC recently incorporated the use of a SCA® CASA (computer assisted sperm analyzer) system into their reproduction work. An excellent way to improve quality control of a stallion's sperm, the system evaluates sperm motility (velocity and type of movement), concentration (sperm count), morphology (sperm shape), DNA fragmentation (counting of fragmented sperm), vitality (live and dead count) and acrosome reaction, which is what ultimately allows the sperm to penetrate the egg.

[Click to see PBEC's reproductive services in the news!](#)

## Healthcare Reminder: Equine Dentistry is More Than Just Floating

According to a study conducted by North Carolina State University, approximately 40% of horses have significant dental problems. What's the solution? According to Dr. Tyler Davis of PBEC, the answer is routine and thorough dental exams.

Dentistry in horses is important because the mouth is the first part of the horse that is taking in and processing food. Horses must grind their food into a finely masticated bolus before swallowing. The combination of a horse's upper jaw being larger than the lower and the fact that a horse chews by moving the jaw from side to side results in uneven wear of the teeth. This uneven wear may cause sharp edges, which hinder efficient chewing and may ulcerate or lacerate the cheeks and tongue thus causing incomplete mastication and sometimes leading to problems like colic.

### What is floating?

Floating is the term for rasping or filing a horse's teeth to ensure an even, properly aligned bite plane. While floating is the physical process, the scope of equine dentistry is much broader and examines the horse's overall health as influenced by the mouth.

"You can get a rasp and without even float the points off, and the horse's mouth, float the points off, and you may be getting the vast majority of the work done," said Dr. Davis. "But a really good dental exam with a speculum, a very good light source, and a dental mirror allows you to see possible problems and prevent those problems from becoming painful and affecting your horse's overall health."

How often should you have a veterinarian perform a routine dental exam on your horse? Dr. Davis recommends every 12 months at the very minimum. In many sport horses, the fact that they are working at such a high level may require bi-annual exams to prevent any problems that could sideline them from training or competition. Lastly, horses with known dental problems may require exams every three to four months.



PBEC's own Dr. Tyler Davis examining a patient.

### The most common signs of dental discomfort in horses include:

- head-tilting and tossing
- difficulty chewing
- bit-chewing and tongue rolling
- tail-wringing and bucking
- drooling and bad breath
- (sometimes) weight loss and (spillage) of grain

### The most common dental problems in horses are:

- Malocclusions: Periodontal pockets caused by gum disease making a pocket around the tooth. Food gets caught in these pockets and causes even more decay. The disease progresses as the horse is unable to chew properly. It can lead to infection, abscesses in the mouth, and tooth loss.
- Fractured tooth caused by weakness or a foreign object picked up while eating. These most commonly cause lacerations to the gums and tongue.
- Tooth root infections that can cause a tooth to die.
- Equine Odontoclastic Tooth Resorption and Hypercementosis in geriatric horses: The buildup of a calcified area around the root of a horse's incisor and canine teeth. When identified, radiographs can be performed to assess damage below the surface of the mouth.

Contact your veterinarians at PBEC for more information on their dentistry services at 561-793-1599.

## PBEC is Hiring!

Do you live in South Florida and have a passion for equine care? PBEC is looking for full-time horse handlers in its Imaging Department!

### Job Requirements

- Duties include, but are not limited to: Assisting lab managers with patients during imaging studies, caring for each horse, and maintaining the cleanliness of the labs and facilities.
- A minimum of two years equine-related experience is required. Stallion and young horse experience is a plus.
- Monday through Friday and occasional Saturdays from October 2018 to May 2019.

Resumes may be faxed to 561-793-2492 or e-mailed to [beckymullin@equineclinic.com](mailto:beckymullin@equineclinic.com).



## From The Waiting Room

What our clients are saying...

"I am so thankful to Dr. Marilyn Connor for saving my miniature horse, Itty Bitty. She is the most compassionate veterinarian that I have dealt with in my lifetime of owning animals and I was so grateful for all the timely updates while Itty Bitty was in the hospital. She also works with both my mares and has completely won both over. They love her to death!"

~ Julie Russell on Itty Bitty

Itty Bitty was admitted to the PBEC hospital with a colic diagnosis and has made a full recovery!



Itty Bitty at home and well.

## Let's Get Social!

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



Follow Palm Beach Equine Clinic!  
#PBECVets #PalmBeachEquine #PBEC



# JUMPMEDIA

Raising The Bar In Equestrian PR

