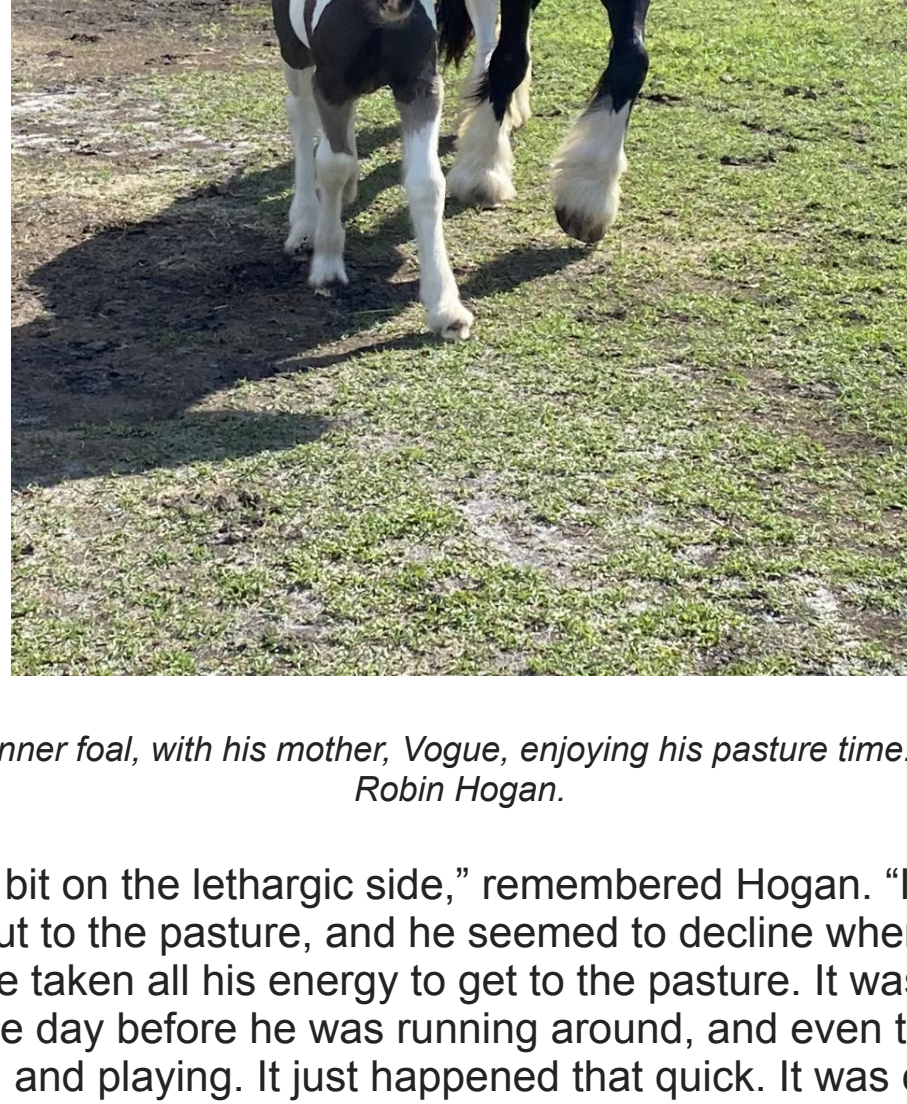


Quick Intervention Helps Foal Return to Loving Family

A new life is something to celebrate, but when a newborn foal has complications and a fever of unknown origin, the fear can be overwhelming. For Robin Hogan of Myrland Stables in Davie, Florida, getting her newborn foal the help it unexpectedly needed was the first priority.

Hogan fell in love with her mare Vogue, a two black and white Gypsy Vanner, when it came to her barn for training. The two connected instantly. There was only one caveat; Vogue was pregnant. Still, Hogan welcomed the added bonus and was excited for the chance to raise a foal that could eventually join Vogue in the equine therapy program that she is planning.

Vogue had a somewhat difficult birthing, but eventually My Wildest Dream, known as "Eros" in the barn, was born. Everything seemed good as Hogan navigated the early days of caring for Eros and his mother after birth, but at only four days old, Hogan noticed that Eros' playful, spirited attitude had changed.

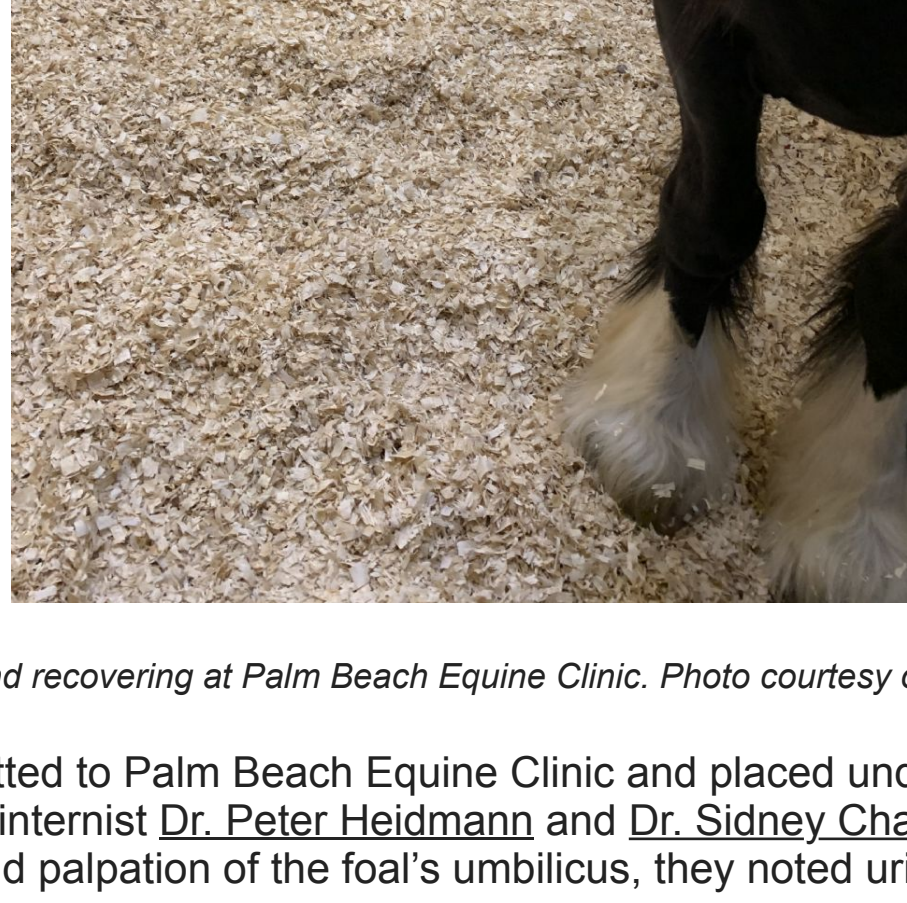


Eros, a Gypsy Vanner foal, with his mother, Vogue, enjoying his pasture time. Photo courtesy of Robin Hogan.

"He was a little bit on the lethargic side," remembered Hogan. "I walked Eros and his mom out to the pasture, and he seemed to decline when he was there, like it must have taken all his energy to get to the pasture. It was surprising because just the day before he was running around, and even the night before he was running and playing. It just happened that quick. It was crazy. I noticed he was peeing out of his umbilicus (navel) which was a big red flag."

Hogan was able to move Eros back to the barn and found that he had an extremely high temperature. Hogan called her veterinarian, Dr. Natalie Carrillo, and they were able to bring the foal's temperature down slightly. However, when it spiked again, he was administered intravenous fluids and the decision was made to take Eros to Palm Beach Equine Clinic (PBEC) in Wellington, Florida.

Hogan noted, "PBEC had come highly recommended, and I thought, 'if you've got a chance to save him, this is it.'"



Eros resting and recovering at Palm Beach Equine Clinic. Photo courtesy of Robin Hogan.

Eros was admitted to Palm Beach Equine Clinic and placed under the care of board-certified internist Dr. Peter Heidmann and Dr. Sidney Chanutin. Upon examination and palpation of the foal's umbilicus, they noted urine dripping out.



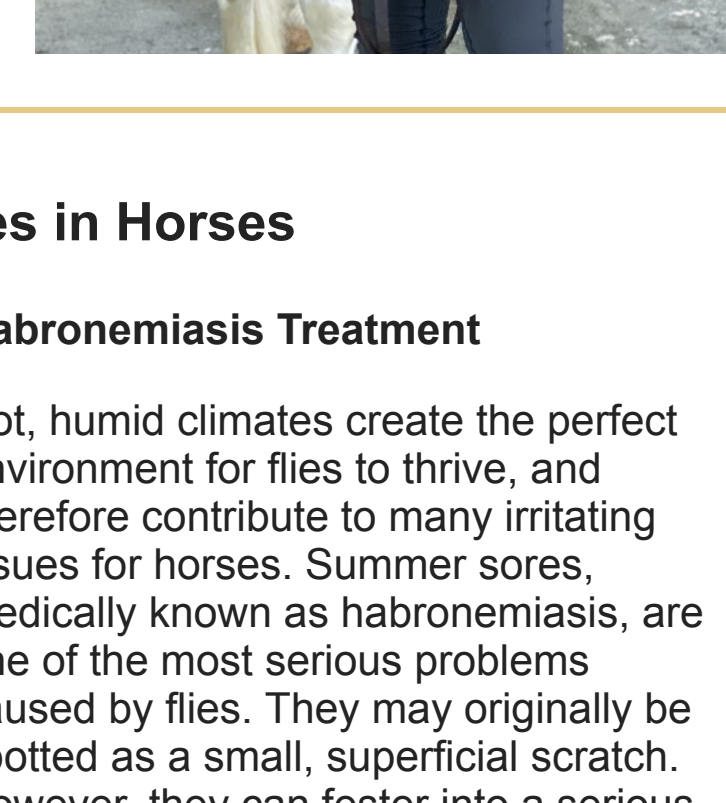
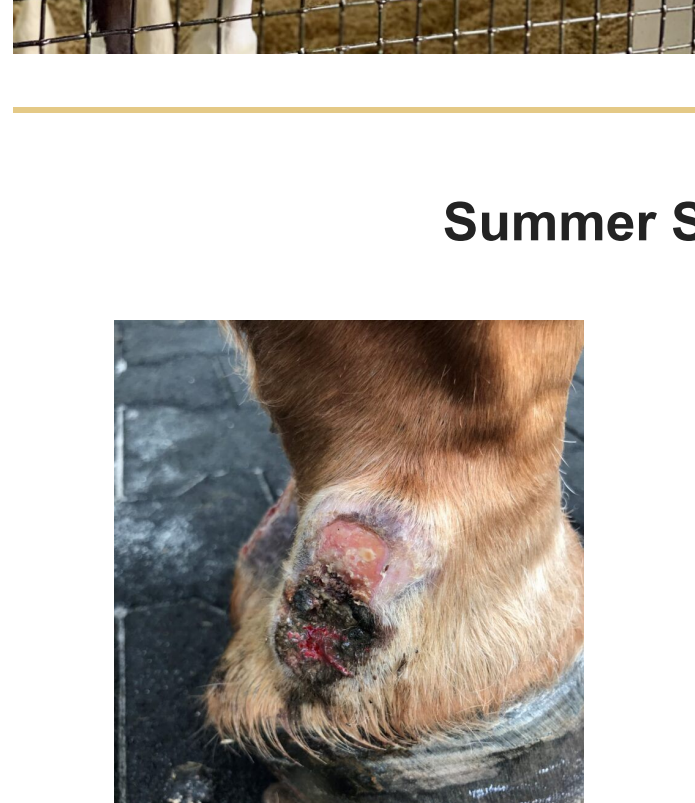
Dr. Clarisa Romero (front), a graduate of the PBEC Internship program, performs an ultrasound on Eros. Photo courtesy of Palm Beach Equine Clinic.

During fetal development, the umbilicus is connected to the urinary bladder via a tube called the urachus. Normally, within a few hours after birth, the urachus will shrink and close at the navel, and then urine is diverted to empty through the urethra into the bladder. When the urachus does not close completely, urine can dribble out from the umbilicus. This condition is referred to as patent urachus, and it may happen within the first few weeks of life, even after the urachus originally appeared to have sealed at birth.

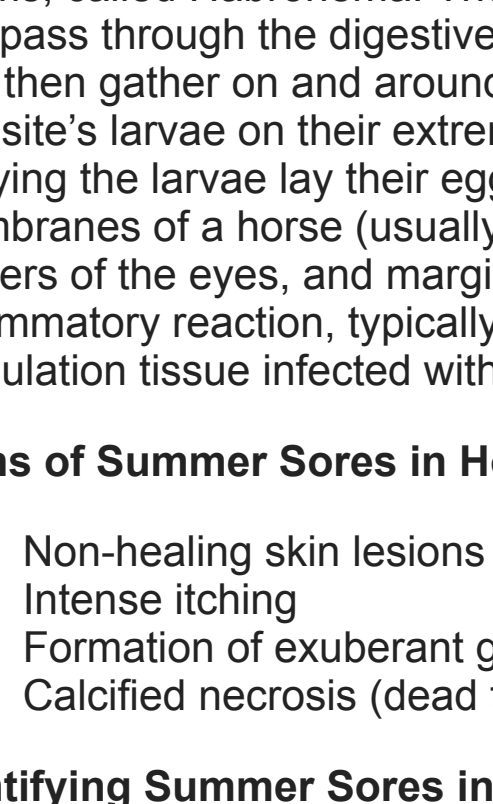
Eros was diagnosed with patent urachus, along with omphalitis (infection of the umbilical stump) and septicemia (bacteria present in the blood), which are severe complications commonly seen in foals.

Dr. Chanutin performed an ultrasound examination on Eros, which confirmed patent urachus and helped determine the presence and extent of infection in the umbilical structures. Blood cultures and a complete blood count were taken, as well as bacterial cultures of the navel, to determine which bacteria were causing the infection. This helped the veterinarians confirm the appropriate antibiotic choice for the foal.

Read More on The Plaid Horse



Summer Sores in Horses



Habronemiasis Treatment

Hot, humid climates create the perfect environment for flies to thrive, and therefore contribute to many irritating issues for horses. Summer sores, medically known as habronemiasis, are one of the most serious problems caused by flies. They may originally be spotted as a small, superficial scratch. However, they can fester into a serious condition and persist for weeks to months if not properly diagnosed and treated.

What Are Summer Sores in Horses?

Summer sores are lesions on the skin caused by the larvae of certain stomach worms, called Habronema. These worms in the horse's stomach produce eggs that pass through the digestive tract and are shed in the horse's feces. Barn flies then gather on and around the manure, consequently collecting the parasite's larvae on their extremities. Summer sores will ensue when flies carrying the larvae lay their eggs onto an open wound or the mucous membranes of a horse (usually areas such as the prepuce, lower abdomen, corners of the eyes, and margins of the lips). The larvae cause an inflammatory reaction, typically with discharge and the production of granulation tissue infected with larvae.

Signs of Summer Sores in Horses:

- Non-healing skin lesions
- Intense itching
- Formation of exuberant granulation tissue (proud flesh)
- Calcified necrosis (dead tissue)

Identifying Summer Sores in Horses

"Firstly, it is incredibly important that the owner does not assume a lesion is a summer sore because of its appearance or their experience with summer sores," said Dr. Meredith Mitchell, a Palm Beach Equine Clinic veterinarian who often treats patients with this condition. "Granulation tissue can look like a summer sore but actually be the result of a different infection or skin issue. So, it is crucial to contact a veterinarian at the first sign of a potential summer sore before any treatment is administered."

Summer sores commonly appear as proud flesh with small, yellow-colored beads, which are the larvae within the horse's skin, and a mucopurulent (mucus or pus) discharge associated with the wound.

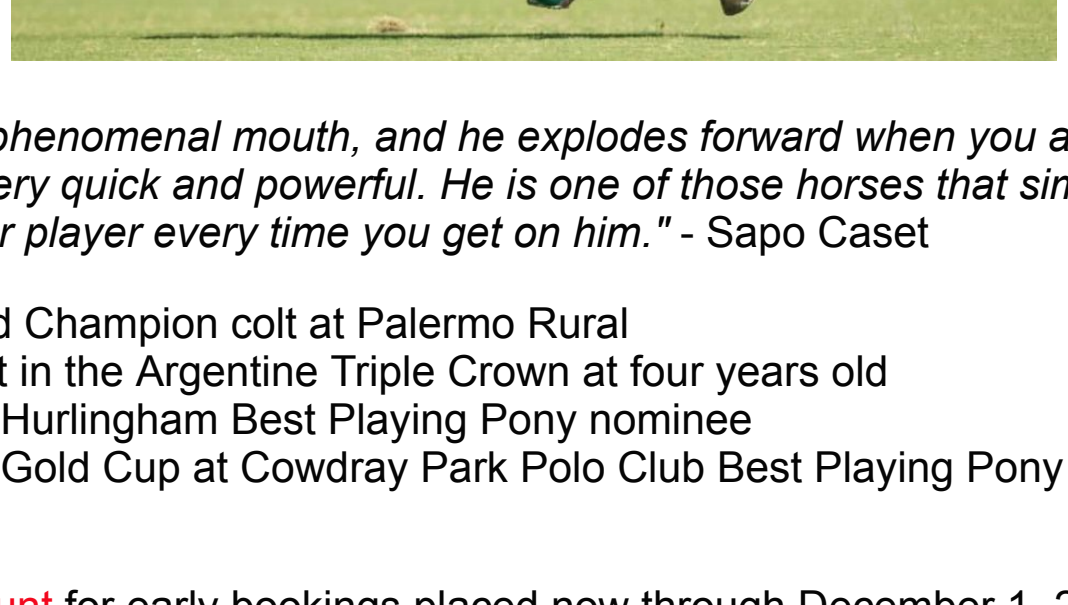
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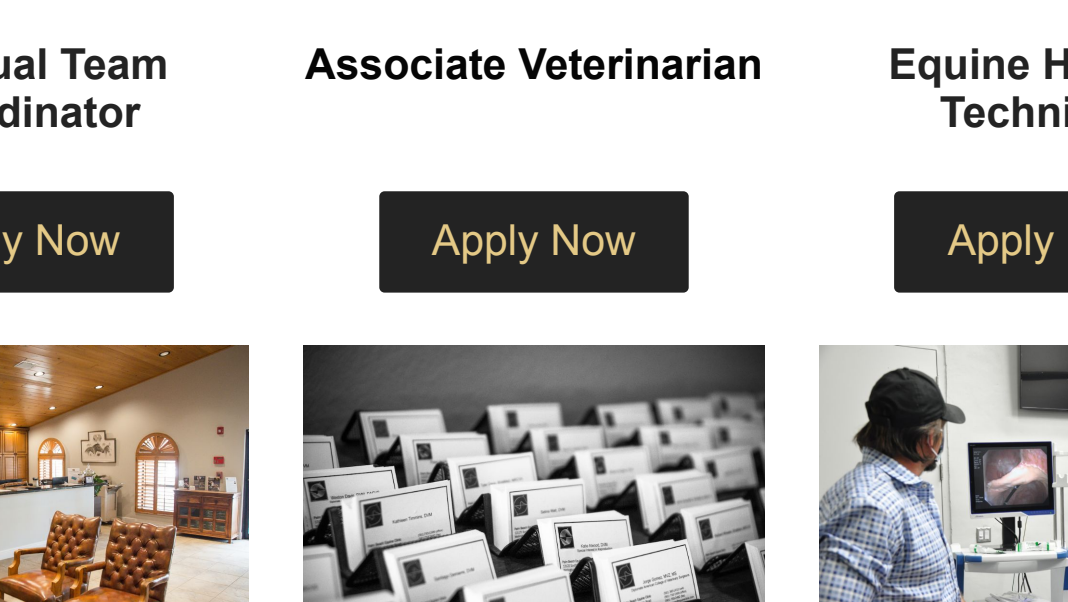
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