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What's in This Newsletter: -The Importance of Healthy Breathing for Top Equine Athletes -Ringside Essentials: Tips From the Pros -Champion of PBEC Sponsored Division -PBEC Amateur-Owner 3'6" 18-35 Photo Gallery -Watch PBIEC Educational Webinar On Demand

The Importance of Healthy Breathing for Top Equine Athletes

In order for a racehorse to successfully speed down the track, a jumper to navigate a quick and clear round, or a dressage horse to perform a pictureperfect test, the horse has to have a healthy respiratory system. Regardless of discipline or level of training, it is key to ensure a horse is breathing properly for its overall wellbeing. If a horse is having respiratory problems, there are several ways that a veterinarian can investigate the issue. One of the most effective tools is a dynamic endoscope, which can observe a horse's respiratory system while they are active. Respiratory Specialist, <u>Dr. David Priest</u> of Palm Beach Equine Clinic (PBEC), focuses on upper airway diagnosis and surgery for equine athletes and often uses a dynamic endoscope to evaluate his patients.

The equine respiratory system is responsible for bringing large amounts of oxygen in and out of the lungs, where it is then used to fuel complex bodily processes. It comprises two sections, the upper and lower airways. The upper airway begins with the nostrils and extends through the larynx and into the trachea. The lower airway is made up of the lungs, which rest behind the shoulder, extend up the back, and reach toward the end of the ribcage.



Dr. David Priest **Photo by <u>Jump Media</u>**

"Even a small decrease in lung capacity or impingement on airflow can have dramatic effects on overall health and performance," described Dr. Priest. "Problems affecting the upper and lower airways may overlap but can include coughing or odd noises, exercise intolerance, nasal discharge, or labored breathing at rest."

During exercise, the amount of air moved in and out of the horse increases proportionately to how hard the horse is working. The more demanding the work, the more oxygen must be used. A horse at rest inhales approximately 3.5 liters of air per second (L/s), and increases exponentially to 70 L/s at maximum exertion, according to Dr. Priest.



A dynamic endoscope on a harness race horse. **Photo courtesy of** <u>**PBEC**</u>.

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Ringside Essentials: Tips From the Pros



Find out what Kim Graves keeps in her ring bag and what she does in a day working for Kent Farrington and John French.

For the first installment of "Ringside Essentials: Tips from the Pros" presented by Palm Beach Equine Clinic at the Winter Equestrian Festival, Kim Graves explains what she keeps in her ring bag and also gives an inside look at a day in her life. Graves works for Olympic jumper rider Kent Farrington and renowned hunter rider John French. During the \$100,000 USHJA/WCHR Peter Wetherill Palm Beach Hunter Spectacular, on Saturday, February 19, Graves and Babylon, owned by Marnell Sport Horses, won the Mark Gregory Award, established by Susie Humes, for the best-conditioned horse in Round 1.

Watch Here

Congratulations to WCHR Week Champion, Martha Ingram



Martha Ingram and Quimby secured the champion title during WEF 6 in the Amateur-Owner 3'6" 18-35 division, sponsored by Palm Beach Equine Clinic. **Photo by** <u>Sportfot</u>

Martha Ingram piloted Quimby, owned by John and Stephanie Ingram, LLC, to top honors in the Amateur-Owner Hunter 3'6" 18-35 division, sponsored by Palm Beach Equine Clinic, during the World Championship Hunter Rider (WCHR) week of the Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) in Wellington, FL. The pair received two firsts, a fifth, and a seventh-place ribbon to earn the championship as well as a spot in the \$100,000 USHJA/WCHR Peter Wetherill Palm Beach Hunter Spectacular.

View Division Results

Palm Beach Equine Clinic Amateur-Owner 3'6" 18-35 WCHR Week Photo Gallery



Photos by Jump Media



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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