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A Small Horse With a Big Problem

Although small in stature, the 10-year-old miniature horse named Itty Bitty is anything but shy in personality. When owner Julie Russell of West Palm Beach, FL, and her good friend Mary Katz noticed a difference in Itty Bitty's outgoing disposition, they knew something was wrong.

In August of 2018, Russell left Itty Bitty in the care of Katz while she went on a business trip. One evening, Katz noticed Itty Bitty was acting aloof and not vocalizing for food or attention as she normally would. She quickly called Russell, who knew it was an early warning that something was wrong.

"Usually, Itty Bitty is extremely talkative and always begging for food," described Russell. "That night she did not want to stay on her feet and wasn't interested in eating at all. Mary kept walking her but when she wasn't passing manure, we decided together that it was time to call Palm Beach Equine Clinic."



Russell and Katz knew that something was wrong with Itty Bitty when she was not her normal outgoing self.
Photo courtesy of Julie Russell

Itty Bitty was initially seen by [Dr. Bryan Dubynsky](#) of Palm Beach Equine Clinic (PBEC) on the evening of August 14, 2018, at Russell's farm. Russell made the decision to send the mini to PBEC the following day because she was still laying down and seemed to be in pain. When Itty Bitty unloaded at PBEC on August 15, the team of veterinarians began a physical examination and colic evaluation.

"The veterinarians sent me photographs and videos of Itty Bitty while she was there," explained Russell. "I can't even tell you how comforting that was because I was out of town. I could absolutely tell from the photographs that my mini was extremely bloated so, obviously, she had a lot of air in her that needed to get out. I was told that PBEC had expertise with minis, so I knew she was in good hands."



When Itty Bitty arrived at PBEC, the veterinarians noticed she had labored breathing as well as gas distention in the abdomen.
Photo courtesy of Julie Russell

When the veterinarians evaluated Itty Bitty, they noticed that the mini had labored breathing. Additionally, the little mare had gas distention in the abdomen. This occurs when air or fluid accumulates in the abdomen and causes it to expand.

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Ringside Essentials: Tips From the Pros



Find out what Margot Thomas keeps in her ring bag while working for Laura Kraut.

Don't miss the final "Ringside Essentials: Tips From the Pros" presented by Palm Beach Equine Clinic at the Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF). In this video, Margot Thomas shares what she keeps in her ring bag while working for Olympic gold medalist Laura Kraut. Thomas also explains how she began working as a groom and recalls her favorite WEF 2022 memory.

[Watch Here](#)

Congratulations to Dr. Bryan Dubynsky



Dr. Bryan Dubynsky, Dr. Jacqueline Janes, and Dr. Justin McNaughten with Twiggly and Lavender. **Photo courtesy of PBEC.**



Twiggly laying down with her foal Lavender. **Photo courtesy of PBEC.**

On May 9, 2022, Dr. Bryan Dubynsky's rescue horse Twiggly gave birth to a healthy foal named Lavender with the help of Dr. Justin McNaughten and Dr. Jacqueline Janes.

Dr. Robert Brusie Helps Quasi Cool Rebound From Eye-Socket Injury



After Quasi Cool had a serious eye injury in February, Dr. Robert Brusie of PBEC performed surgery so that the gelding was able to finish second at the Lexington CCI4*-S with Phillip Dutton. **Photo by Lindsay Berreth**

As Sidnee Ledyard went to collect Quasi Cool from his paddock at Phillip Dutton's winter base in Loxahatchee, FL, on the morning of February 5, 2022, and she told something wasn't right. The gelding hadn't touched his grain, and when she approached him, she noticed that his nose was bleeding.

She reached up to slip his halter on, and "Quasi" spooked and didn't want her touching his face. Upon removing his black fly mask, she determined the cause. Overnight, Caroline Moran's 11-year-old Holsteiner (Quo Vados—B-Estelle, Lord) had broken his right orbital bone, and due to the swelling, his eye was protruding from the socket with the iris facing down.

"I went around his field [later] to see what he could've hit his head on," Ledyard said. "There were some sliding marks next to a tree that was in his field, and then there was a chunk of forelock up in the bark, so it was pretty clear what had happened there. He must've spooked or something in the night and either spun or run and skidded and hit his face on the tree, the poor guy."

Dutton called Courtney Wittich, DVM, of B.W. Furlong & Associates, for an initial evaluation and X-rays to determine the extent of the damage, including whether any bone fragments had damaged the eye, necessitating removal. Wittich referred them to Palm Beach Equine Clinic in Wellington, FL, to surgically repair the damage.

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Congratulations to ESP Spring V Winner



Mia Green and Forget Me Not Farm's Fiero won the \$2,000 Medium Amateur/Junior Jumper Classic, sponsored by Palm Beach Equine Clinic. **Photo by Anne Gittins Photography**

Mia Green and Forget Me Not Farm's Fiero earned the victory in the \$2,500 Medium Amateur/Junior Jumper Classic, sponsored by Palm Beach Equine Clinic, on Sunday, May 15, 2022, during the ESP Spring V show in Wellington, FL. Green and Fiero stopped the timers at 44.127 seconds to take home the blue ribbon.

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AcutePlus is a veterinary Wellness Membership Plan offered through Palm Beach Equine Clinic. The program is designed to give veterinary 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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