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### Meet the Palm Beach Equine Clinic Team: Dr. Natalia Novoa

Dr. Natalia Novoa has been part of the Palm Beach Equine Clinic team since 2011. Dr. Novoa focuses primarily on sport horse medicine, lameness, pre-purchase exams, chiropractic adjustments, acupuncture, and preventative medicine.

**When and why did you decide that you wanted to become a veterinarian?**  
I decided to become a veterinarian when I was in high school. I enjoyed working with animals at my family's farm. I spent time with the farm's vet, and I learned how to do artificial insemination before I even finished high school. I liked the problem-solving aspect of it. I found it fascinating to have the ability to identify and understand what the problem was and then help relieve the suffering of animals after injuries or illnesses. It was an indescribable sensation. Nothing beats helping an animal when they are sick or in pain. There is nothing more rewarding than knowing you are making a difference in a horse's life. It is a very satisfying feeling.



*Dr. Natalia Novoa joined the team of veterinarians at Palm Beach Equine Clinic in 2011. Photo courtesy of Dr. Natalia Novoa*

**What aspects of equine medicine interest you most, and what types of cases do you find most rewarding?**  
I am most interested in sports medicine and lameness (conventional medicine) as well as alternative medicine (chiropractic adjustments and acupuncture). The most rewarding cases for me are the challenging ones where I have to "solve the puzzle." I like when I have to rely on my detailed observation including a thorough exam and accurate history, then put together all the data and information I gathered from the diagnostic tools, choose the appropriate treatment, and then reach a successful outcome.

**What do you enjoy most about working with performance horses?**  
I enjoy treating them as top athletes through the combined use of our practical skills, the new technology, and evolving therapies. At Palm Beach Equine Clinic, we are very fortunate to work on a variety of horses of all disciplines, including horses that are the best athletes in the world in dressage, show jumping, polo, etc. We use the most advanced equipment to provide the best service. Also, at Palm Beach Equine Clinic we have an amazing team of veterinarians with different specialties, knowledge, and skills to help these performance horses execute and perform at their best.



*Dr. Natalia Novoa focuses on sport horse medicine, lameness, pre-purchase exams, chiropractic adjustments, acupuncture, and preventative medicine. Photo courtesy of PBEC*

**What has been one of your favorite moments while working for Palm Beach Equine Clinic?**  
One of my favorite moments was when my daughter Lola told me she wanted to be a veterinarian after watching the process of resolving a challenging lameness case in a grand prix level show jumping mare. Lola was able to observe the positive outcome and cheered for the mare when she won a big jumper class.

**What is something interesting that people may not know about you?**  
I am a fearless squash player, and I also enjoy playing tennis and ping pong. I love traveling with my family and showing my daughter Lola the world.

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### When the Bone Breaks



*Condylar fractures are most commonly seen in racehorses and polo ponies and were once considered career-ending injuries. Photo by Jump Media*

A condylar fracture, most commonly seen in Thoroughbred racehorses and polo ponies, was once considered a career-ending injury. Advances in diagnostic imaging and surgical skillset have allowed Palm Beach Equine Clinic to quickly diagnose, treat, repair, and rehabilitate horses with condylar fractures.

**What is a Condylar Fracture?**  
A condylar fracture is a repetitive concussive injury that results in a fracture to the cannon bone above the fetlock due to large loads transmitted over the cannon bone during high-speed exercise. On a radiograph, a condylar fracture appears as a crack that goes laterally up the cannon from the fetlock joint and out the side of the bone, essentially breaking off a corner of the cannon bone, sometimes up to six inches long.

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### PBEC Service of the Week: Surgery and Emergency Care

Palm Beach Equine Clinic is known for its full-service surgical center. Current surgical techniques are less invasive and result in faster recovery times for your horse. The surgical team is led by Dr. Robert Brusie and includes Dr. Weston Davis, Dr. Jorge Gomez, Dr. Elizabeth Barrett, and Dr. Karen Beste. Surgical specialties include orthopedic, arthroscopic, and emergency surgeries.



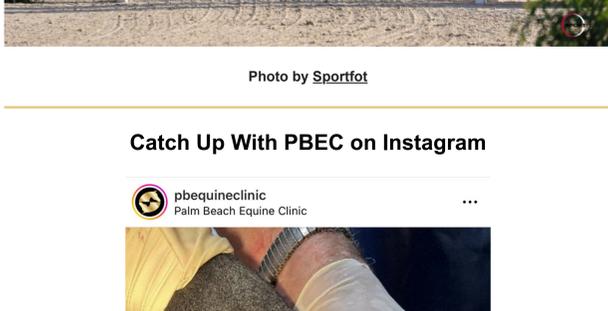
*Palm Beach Equine Clinic is equipped with a strong team of veterinarians who are board-certified in surgery. Photo by Jump Media*

**Emergency Care**  
In the event of an urgent medical issue, Palm Beach Equine Clinic is ready to take action with 24/7 emergency veterinary services. With a large staff of skilled veterinarians and a fully equipped equine hospital, there is always a doctor ready and able to help. The talented staff is prepared to treat any kind of equine emergency, from reasonably minor needs to the most severe life-saving situations.

Clients are encouraged to contact Palm Beach Equine Clinic immediately in the event of an equine medical emergency. Call 561-793-1599 to reach the veterinarian on call.

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### PBEC Photo of the Week From the Winter Equestrian Festival

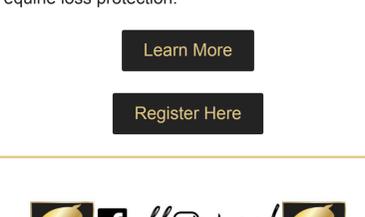


*Photo by Sportfot*

### Catch Up With PBEC on Instagram



### 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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