

World-Class Surgeons, Cutting-Edge Technology, and Premier Services Available for Multi-Discipline Sport Horses at Palm Beach Equine Clinic

By Lauren Fisher



Palm Beach Equine Clinic on a beautiful South Florida night. Photo by Eques Solutions, Inc.

From Olympic athlete to trusted trail horse, every equestrian wants the very best for their equine partner. Palm Beach Equine Clinic (PBEC) of Wellington, Florida, offers the best in care for sport horses of every discipline. As an industry leader in equine veterinary care, PBEC features a renowned list of 30 doctors who are experts in their respective fields. The veterinarians and staff are valued throughout the industry for their advanced level of care and steadfast commitment to both horses and their owners.

PBEC's goal is to keep horses healthy and happy while extending their performance careers through innovative veterinary services and with the support of state-of-the-art diagnostic imaging and surgical equipment.

"At Palm Beach Equine Clinic, we are extremely dedicated to our clients and the well-being of their horses," said Dr. Scott Swerdlin, President of Palm Beach Equine Clinic. "We pride ourselves on offering cutting-edge technology and diagnostics to ensure that the health of the horse comes first."

Among the extensive list of services offered by Palm Beach Equine Clinic are:

24-hour emergency coverage, intensive care available 365 days a year

Comprehensive surgical and medical resources at a state-of-the-art hospital

On-site advanced diagnostic imaging including a standing MRI unit, a Nuclear Scintigraphy gamma ray camera, ultrasonography, and radiography

Preeminent lameness examinations and follow-up

Extensive pre-purchase evaluations

Dentistry services

Preventative medicine and Wellness programs

Alternative medicine services including Chiropractic and Acupuncture therapies

Advanced Diagnostic Imaging

Palm Beach Equine Clinic prides itself as a consistent leader in horse sport medicine and provides the most advanced equine diagnostic imaging services for clients. Currently, PBEC has a standing MRI unit, MiE gamma ray camera, Digital Radiography, Video Endoscopy, and a bevy of additional diagnostic equipment.

Coupled with advanced imaging technology available on-site, PBEC is fortunate to work directly with world-renowned, Board-Certified Radiologist, Dr. Sarah Puchalski. Dr. Puchalski's job requires a high level of specialization to properly review imaging to produce comprehensive written reports for referring veterinarians. In addition to her full-time position with PBEC, Dr. Puchalski reads imaging cases for clinics all over the world.

"PBEC has a great case population and great equipment, which is a huge bonus for someone doing what I do," Dr. Puchalski stated. "The equipment is exceptional, the technical staff is excellent, and the case population of the region is obviously amazing."

PBEC proudly offers an updated Nuclear Scintigraphy lab that houses the MiE Nuclear Scintigraphy gamma ray camera. Nuclear Scintigraphy is typically used to diagnose injuries or bone remodeling within the skeletal anatomy of the horse. This specialized camera is equipped with sharper contours for precise imaging that results in accurate lameness diagnosis.

Also known as bone scans, Nuclear Scintigraphy images are very useful in defining multi-limb lameness origins for the hard to diagnose, long-duration lameness cases. Those scans isolate points of injury, which can then be identified further with other diagnostic techniques, such as Digital Radiology and MRI.

In PBEC's inviting MRI lab containing the innovative Equine Standing MRI manufactured by Hallmarq, the clinic's veterinarians are able to scan the equine distal limb in a standing position requiring only light sedation. MRI is very useful to further define a suspected lameness origin by acquiring more defined images of boney and soft tissue structures.

Emergency Services

In the event of an emergency, Palm Beach Equine Clinic clients can rest easy knowing that they have some of the world's best surgeons and veterinarians at their disposal. PBEC is renowned for its full-service surgical center and intensive care hospital located in the heart of Wellington. Board-Certified surgeons, primary care veterinarians, and skilled hospital technicians are scheduled 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to treat, monitor, and care for critical cases.

PBEC also offers the latest in surgical technology, as the operating techniques are less invasive and result in faster recovery times for the horse. PBEC's surgical suite and staff is prepared to handle all types of emergencies, day and night. The large team of 30 veterinarians includes three Board-Certified Surgeons who rotate on-call duties so every day is covered. With world-class veterinarians and a full staff of highly trained technicians, both clients and patients of PBEC are in the best hands possible.

Alternative Equine Therapies

While PBEC offers innovative conventional veterinary services with the assistance of diagnostic tools and surgical equipment, they also offer several alternative therapies, including Chiropractic Manipulation and Acupuncture. When properly applied by a trained practitioner, Alternative Medicine can be used in conjunction with traditional sports medicine to optimize health and increase the longevity of a performance horse's career.

PBEC's Dr. Richard Wheeler detailed how alternative medicine can be used to improve a horse's chance for success and treat many different issues.

"The line between success and failure is very thin for performance horses, and a lot of these alternative therapies can be very useful to give the horse that little bit more," Dr. Wheeler explained. "Chiropractic and acupuncture are two alternative therapies that PBEC offers. They are both conjunctive therapies that can keep horses comfortable, happy and performing well.

"Both chiropractic manipulation and acupuncture can get the horse moving a little bit better and can help to maintain some minor chronic problems that they may have, therefore avoiding more invasive treatments," Dr. Wheeler continued. "These therapies are used with the aim of keeping the horse supple and moving with ease and helping the musculature to work correctly. We work with the trainers to optimize muscle development so that we can fix the problem and keep the horse moving forward and performing at the top level."

Veterinary Chiropractic Manipulation is thought to optimize equine health by restoring normal joint motion, reversing mild pathology, and helping to slow the progression of degenerative joint and spine disease. Over the years, this therapy has become a valuable adjunct for competition horses.

Acupuncture is a form of treatment used in both traditional and classical Chinese medicine. It is based on the principle that there are energetic pathways, or channels, throughout the body that influence associated internal organs and structures. Energy from these pathways surface at various points on the body, identified as acupuncture points. Extremely fine gauge needles are inserted at selected points, stimulating these points and thereby activating the body's natural healing abilities.

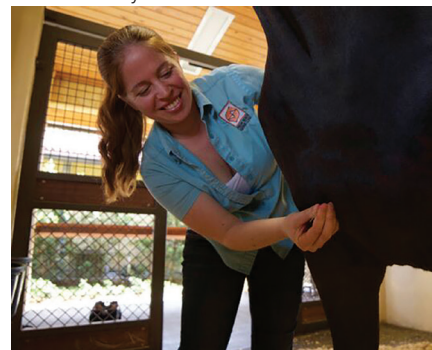
Chiropractic and Acupuncture therapies are complementary treatments for lameness problems. Alternative methods do not replace conventional veterinary medicine or surgery, but can be very useful in maintaining top performance levels in the horse.



PBEC President Dr. Scott Swerdlin takes pride in offering cutting-edge technology and diagnostics. Photo by Eques Solutions, Inc.



Dr. Natalia Novoa performs a chiropractic adjustment. Photo by James Wooster



Dr. Janet Greenfield-Davis specializes in alternative therapies such as acupuncture. Photo by James Wooster



Dr. Tyler Davis enjoys the intricacies of dental care. Photo by Eques Solutions, Inc.

Preventative Equine Medicine

Regular, routine veterinary care is important to maintaining equine health. Dental care, vaccinations, deworming, and annual physical examinations keep horses healthy and can identify problems early. It is very important that horse owners have a veterinarian who is familiar with their horses and can provide routine care.

Proper dental care is essential to the well-being and peak performance of every horse. Dental maintenance keeps horses working well, performing well, and more importantly, eating well. It is important to get the horse's teeth examined and regularly floated at least once a year and sometimes more frequently in older horses.

The veterinarians of PBEC are available to visit clients at their farms to perform thorough dental evaluations and "float" the teeth – a term that refers to the veterinarian wearing down the surface of the teeth, usually to remove sharp points or balance out the tooth surface.

With PBEC's advanced technology, the veterinarians are also able to perform more progressive, specialized treatments beyond routine dentistry. Veterinarians are able to perform tooth extractions as needed for horses suffering from a tooth abscess or fracture. With the surgical staff at PBEC, dental surgeries, sinus surgeries, or similar procedures are easily performed at the clinic.

Along with dental care, PBEC offers further preventative care services, including worming protocols for parasite control, and routine vaccinations. Preventative care is extremely important to the health of every horse. Whether it is a top level show horse or a backyard pet, the veterinarians of Palm Beach Equine Clinic are here to help with all maintenance needs.

Palm Beach Equine Clinic provides experience, knowledge, availability, and the very best care for its clients. Make Palm Beach Equine Clinic a part of your team! To find out more, please visit www.equineclinic.com or call 561-793-1599.



PBEC is renowned for its full-service surgical center and intensive care hospital. Photo by Eques Solutions, Inc.



PBEC proudly offers an updated Nuclear Scintigraphy lab to diagnose injuries or bone remodeling within the skeletal anatomy of the horse. Photo by Jack Mancini