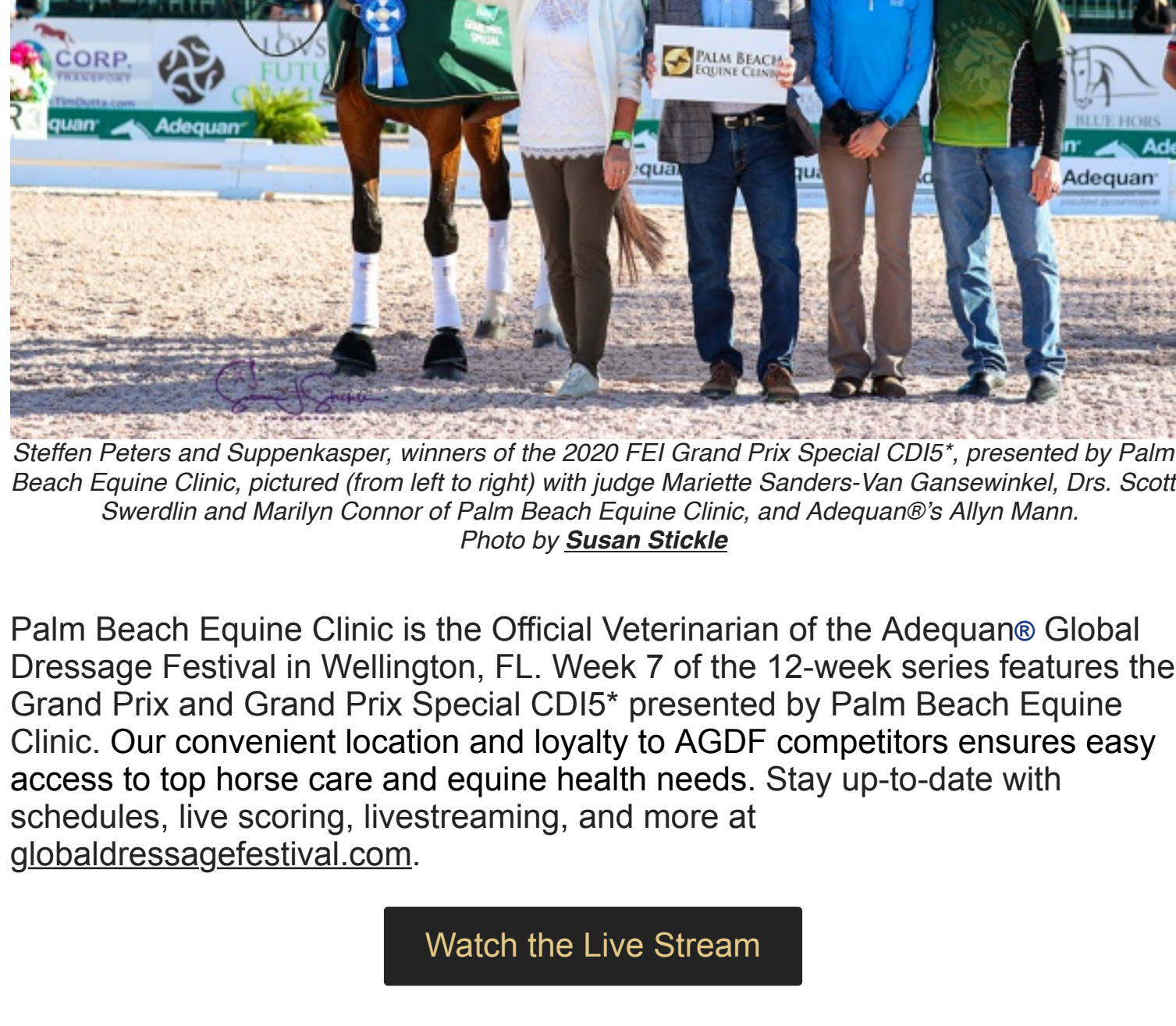




## OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS OF THE ADEQUAN® GLOBAL DRESSAGE FESTIVAL 2021



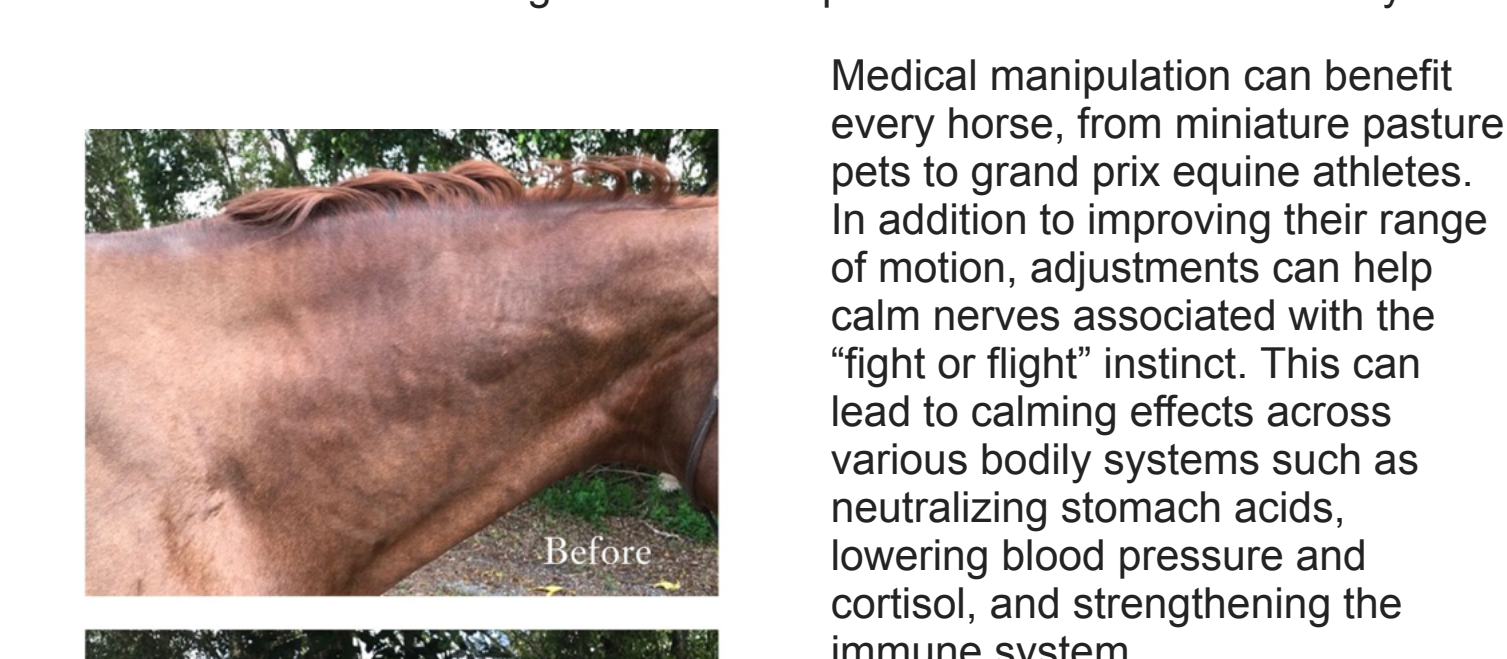
Steffen Peters and Suppenkasper, winners of the 2020 FEI Grand Prix Special CDI5\*, presented by Palm Beach Equine Clinic, pictured (from left to right) with judge Mariette Sanders-Van Gansewinkel, Dr. Scott Swerdlin and Marilyn Connor of Palm Beach Equine Clinic, and Adequan®'s Allyn Mann. Photo by Susan Stickle

Palm Beach Equine Clinic is the Official Veterinarian of the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival in Wellington, FL. Week 7 of the 12-week series features the Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI5\* presented by Palm Beach Equine Clinic. Our convenient location and loyalty to AGDF competitors ensures easy access to top horse care and equine health needs. Stay up-to-date with schedules, live scoring, livestreaming, and more at [globaldressagefestival.com](http://globaldressagefestival.com).

[Watch the Live Stream](#)

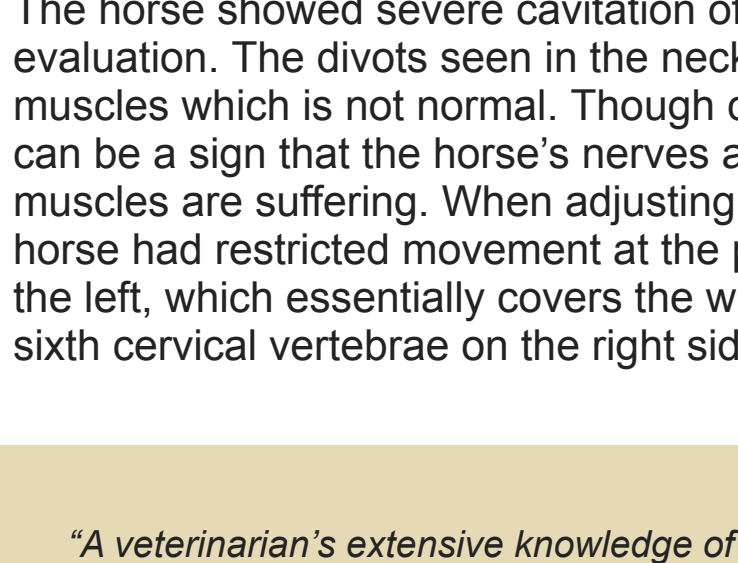
### Master of Manipulation: A Veterinary Medical Manipulation Case Study

When the "chiropractor" visits the barn to adjust your horse, what's really being done is called veterinary medical manipulation, which Dr. Ryan Lukens, DVM, CVMMPP, of Palm Beach Equine Clinic defines as the art of improving motion at segmental levels, including bones, the supporting soft tissue structure, and nerves. The ultimate goal of veterinary medical manipulation is to allow free movement throughout the horse's body by restoring normal range of motion.

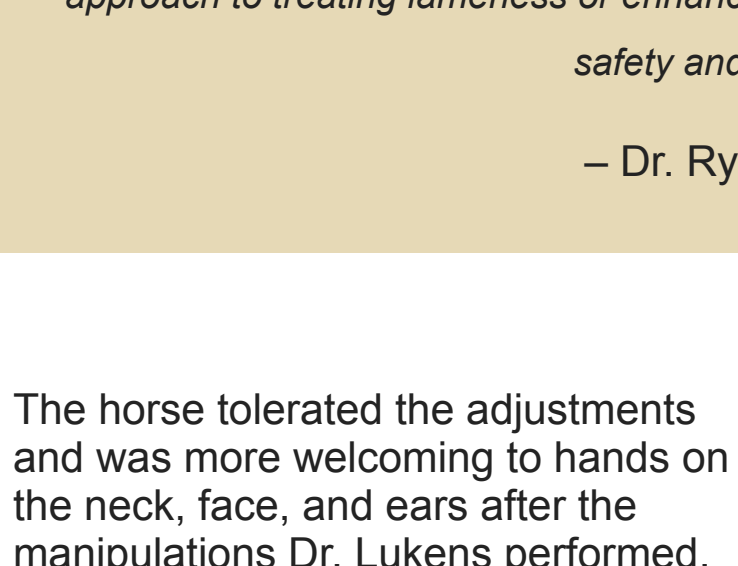


Dr. Ryan Lukens adjusts a horse's back to allow for more free movement and comfort. Photo courtesy of PBEC

The way Dr. Lukens determines what specific segments to manipulate is by motion palpation, or by examining for a decrease in motion. Not only does this have the ability to relieve pain and soreness, but it also reduces the chance of horses having to physically compensate for an area of their body that may not be functioning properly. This act of compensating for being off balance is a frequent cause of sport horse injuries. Regular adjustments by a certified veterinary medical manipulation practitioner helps the horse to maintain its natural balance and full range of motion to perform at the best of its ability.



Before



After

The above horse had atrophied paracervical muscles, shown as divots in the neck, which improved after just two adjustments from Dr. Lukens and four weeks of training. Photo courtesy of PBEC

Medical manipulation can benefit every horse, from miniature pasture pets to grand prix equine athletes. In addition to improving their range of motion, adjustments can help calm nerves associated with the "fight or flight" instinct. This can lead to calming effects across various bodily systems such as neutralizing stomach acids, lowering blood pressure and cortisol, and strengthening the immune system.

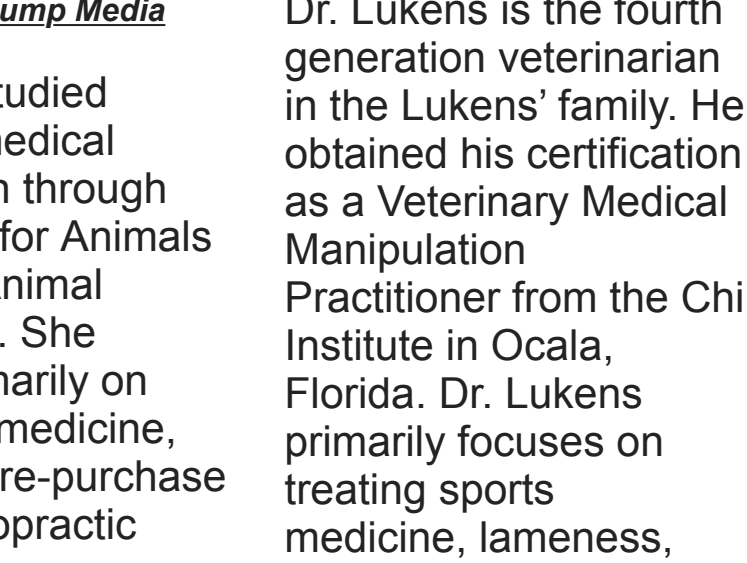
One notable case Dr. Lukens recalls involved a nine-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding that was training at Third Level dressage. The horse was roughly 300 pounds overweight and was too head shy to even have a fly mask put on. Under work, it presented with right front limb lameness and stiffness on the left while traveling left. Balance is essential for dressage, and this horse struggled with its natural balance.

The horse showed severe cavitation of the musculing in its neck at the first evaluation. The divots seen in the neck indicate the atrophy of the paracervical muscles which is not normal. Though circumstances like this are seen often, it can be a sign that the horse's nerves are not functioning properly, and that the muscles are suffering. When adjusting the horse, Dr. Lukens found that the horse had restricted movement at the poll and cervical vertebrae 5, 6, and 7 to the left, which essentially covers the whole lower neck on that side, and the sixth cervical vertebrae on the right side.

*"A veterinarian's extensive knowledge of anatomy and understanding of when not to adjust a horse is key. Medical manipulation is a safe treatment if performed by the correct practitioner under the correct circumstances. A veterinarian can use a whole-body approach to treating lameness or enhancing performance while ensuring the horse's safety and well-being."*

— Dr. Ryan Lukens

The horse tolerated the adjustments and was more welcoming to hands on the neck, face, and ears after the manipulations Dr. Lukens performed. Four weeks later, after just two sessions, the muscles appeared more filled out in the neck, signaling improvement. On the left side of the neck, the muscle mass became very convex, signifying proper muscle tone. Dr. Lukens adjusted only the head and neck while treating the horse to see what changed and how the horse performed before making further adjustments. The horse lost about 100 pounds of fat with training, and the right front lameness improved without any other treatment or medical manipulation.



Convex musculature of the neck showed a significant improvement after manipulation sessions. Photo courtesy of PBEC

[Read More](#)

### Meet Our Alternative Medicine Team

Employing a holistic approach to treating patients, Palm Beach Equine Clinic therapies are all the available avenues for health care. Alternative medicine therapies are often used in conjunction with traditional medicine and can be uniquely tailored to enhance a horse's performance and overall health. Palm Beach Equine Clinic boasts trained alternative medicine practitioners who specialize in acupuncture, veterinary medical manipulation, Chinese herbal medicine, laser therapy, and shockwave services.

[Learn More About Alternative Medicine](#)

**Janet Greenfield Davis, BVMS, MRCVS, CVA, CERPM**



Photo by Jump Media

Dr. Greenfield Davis studied traditional Chinese veterinary medicine at the Chi Institute. In addition to providing western medicine, Dr. Greenfield Davis employs eastern medicine as a certified veterinary acupuncturist and Chinese herbal medicine expert.

**Natalia Novoa, DVM**

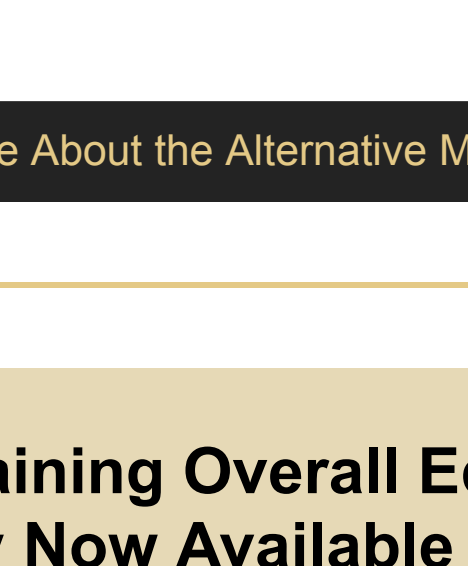


Photo by Jump Media

Dr. Novoa studied veterinary through the Options for Animals College of Animal Chiropractic. She focuses primarily on sport horse medicine, lameness, pre-purchase exams, chiropractic adjustments, acupuncture, and preventive medicine.

**Ryan Lukens, DVM, CVMMPP**

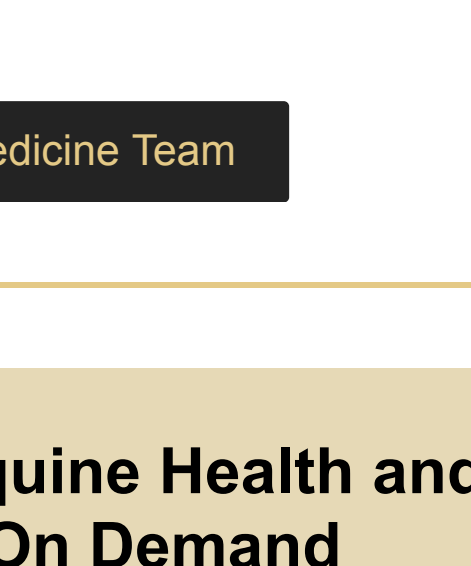


Photo by Jump Media

Dr. Lukens is the fourth generation veterinarian in the Lukens' family. He obtained his certification as a Veterinary Medical Manipulation Practitioner from the Chi Institute in Ocala, Florida. Dr. Lukens primarily focuses on treating sports medicine, lameness, and chiropractic patients.

**Meredith Mitchell, DVM, CVA**

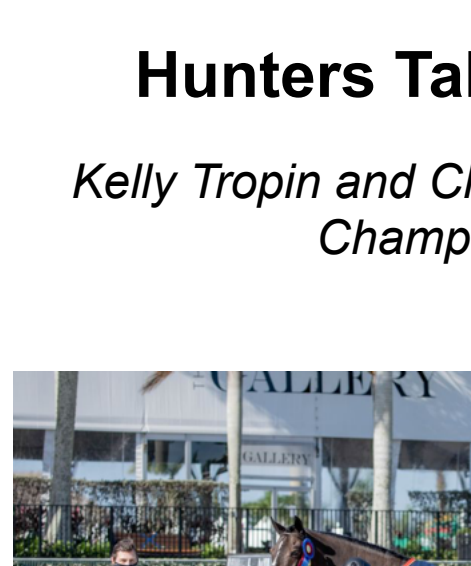


Photo by Jump Media

Before becoming a veterinarian, Dr. Mitchell worked with elite show jumping stables as a rider and FEI groom at the World Cup Finals, Olympic Trials, Spruce Meadows, and other top competitions. She focuses on sports medicine, lameness, rehabilitation, acupuncture, and alternative therapies.

**Marilyn Connor, DVM, CVC**

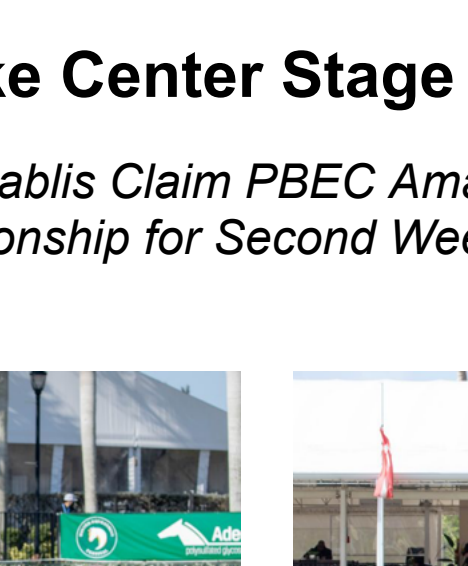


Photo by Jump Media

Dr. Connor primarily focuses on equine sports medicine, nutrition, lameness, soft tissue surgeries, wound management, and alternative medicine. She is certified in veterinary chiropractic through the Options for Animals College of Animal Chiropractic as well as the International Veterinary Chiropractic Association.

**Selina Watt, DVM**

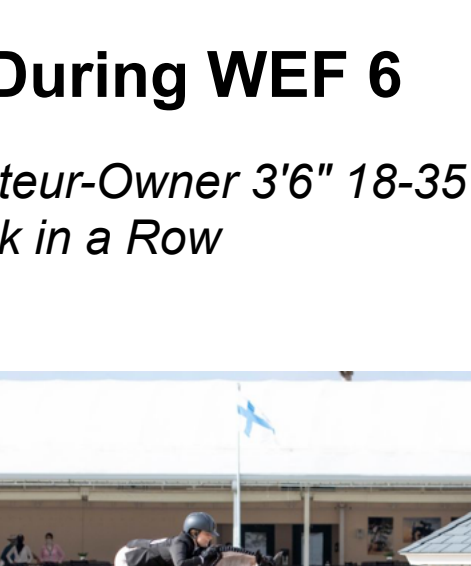
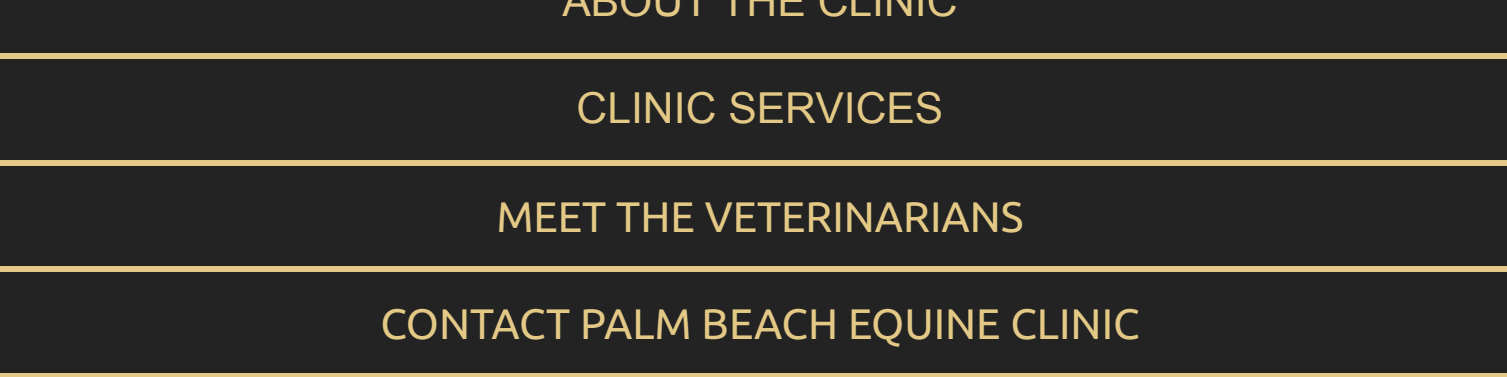


Photo by Jump Media

Dr. Watt is certified in equine acupuncture and veterinary chiropractic from the Options for Animals College of Animal Chiropractic. Drs. Selina and Walker Watt operate an ambulatory equine practice in Alberta, Canada, where they live in the summer and fall months.

[Read More About the Alternative Medicine Team](#)

### Tips for Maintaining Overall Equine Health and Longevity Now Available On Demand



As a proud sponsor of the 2021 PBIEC Educational Series, presented by Adequan®, PBEC vets hosted a virtual educational webinar during the Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) 2. During the session, entitled "Tips for Maintaining Overall Equine Health and Longevity," Drs. Marilyn Connor, Tyler Davis, and Ryan Lukens offered valuable insight to participants based on their respective areas of expertise, including Sports Medicine and Regenerative Therapies, Dentistry, and Veterinary Manual Manipulation. If you missed the live session, the full presentation is now available on demand.

[Watch On Demand](#)

### Hunters Take Center Stage During WEF 6

*Kelly Tropin and Chablis Claim PBEC Amateur-Owner 3'6" 18-35 Championship for Second Week in a Row*



Kelly Tropin and Chablis accepted a perpetual trophy for their win in the division during WCHR week. Photo by Jump Media



Kelly Tropin rode Chablis to first place on a score of 90 in the first hunter trip. Photo by Jump Media

The division championship in the WEF 6 WCHR Amateur-Owner Hunter 3'6" 18-35, presented by Palm Beach Equine Clinic, went to Kelly Tropin of New Caanan, CT, and Chablis. The pair won the stake class and Chablis was honored as WCHR Hunter of the Year for 2020.

The championship in the division earned Tropin and Chablis the chance to compete in the WCHR Peter Wetherill Palm Beach Hunter Spectacular on Saturday, February 20, where they received a first round score of 78.33. Division reserve champion Stephanie Danhaki was also invited to compete aboard Bright Side, earning a score of 82.33.

[See Division Results](#)



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