



Surprise, It's a Boy: A Friesian's Journey to Becoming a Gelding

When Debbie Cruz imported her 2012 Friesian from Europe, she was excited to welcome the gelding into her life. However, the mount she purchased as a gelding from The Netherlands still had a lot of stallion left in him. Literally.

Marquis, Cruz's hopeful dressage mount, arrived safe and sound to her home in Miami, FL, in early 2020. When he started to display quintessential stallion-like behavior, she called her veterinarian, Dr. Joseph Zerilli, to help her determine the cause of this very "un-gelding like" behavior.



After recovering from surgery at PBEC, Marquis went home without his retained testis and with a new attitude. Photo courtesy of Debbie Cruz

"I was told that he had been gelded while in The Netherlands, but when he came home, he was acting exactly like a stud rather than the sweet gelding I thought would be arriving," said Cruz. "I wasn't sure what the cause could have been, but I knew something wasn't right."

Dr. Zerilli performed a blood test as part of his exam, which revealed very high levels of testosterone for a horse that was supposed to be a gelding. The level of testosterone present was a solid marker for a retained testis, one that would require surgery to remove. Marquis was referred to Dr. Weston Davis, a board-certified surgeon at Palm Beach Equine Clinic in Wellington, FL.

Dr. Davis used a hCG stimulation test and abdominal ultrasound to determine if testicular tissue was present and the source of Marquis' testosterone levels were confirmed: he was a cryptorchid. Also known as a "rig" or "ridgling," a cryptorchid horse has one or both testes that are not fully descended into the scrotum. In Marquis' case, he had a retained left testis within the abdomen.



Marquis underwent surgery to remove his retained testis and alleviate pain. Photo courtesy of Palm Beach Equine Clinic

In a normal stallion, the testes gradually descend from just below the kidneys, through the inguinal canal, and into the scrotum. This happens either in utero or during the first few weeks of life. Occasionally, either one or both testes fail to descend for reasons that are still not fully understood by veterinarians. A cryptorchid stallion can be further classified as either inguinal when the testis is in the inguinal canal, or abdominal when the testis remains in the abdominal cavity, which was the case for Marquis.

"We could see that there was torsion, which indicates restricted blood flow and often pain, as well as severe enlargement," said Dr. Davis. "The testis, which had become quite large, was then exteriorized through an enlarged paramedian incision. Marquis recovered from anesthesia without complication and with an excellent prognosis. **The biggest victory in this rather rare case is that the horse was relieved of pretty severe discomfort and the owner could enjoy the gelding disposition she was expecting.**"

Also seen on [Horse Network](#)

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Meet Our Surgical Team

Robert W. Brusie, DVM, DACVS Head of Surgery

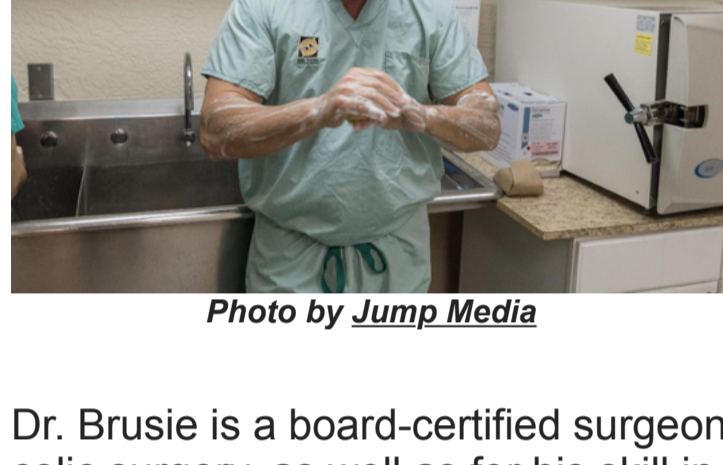


Photo by Jump Media

Dr. [Bob Brusie](#) graduated from Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine. He completed his surgical residency at the Marion DuPont Scott Equine Center in 1989 and has been in private practice ever since. He became Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons in 1994. Dr. Brusie joined Palm Beach Equine Clinic in 1996 as Head of Surgery.

Dr. Brusie is a board-certified surgeon who is recognized for his expertise in colic surgery, as well as for his skill in arthroscopic surgery. His surgical experience expands the clinic's progressive care in both emergency and elective procedures. He has published articles on numerous topics, including the equine intestinal tract and septic arthritis in horses. Dr. Brusie is married and has three daughters.

[Read More About Dr. Bob Brusie](#)

Weston Davis, DVM, DACVS



Photo by Jump Media

Dr. [Weston Davis](#) is a second-generation veterinarian from South Florida. His father is retired from veterinary medicine and his family raises beef cattle in Clewiston, FL. Dr. Davis graduated from the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine in 2008. During his studies, he was awarded the Barbro Gulfstream Scholarship, the Calder Race Course Scholarship, and the Student Award for Excellence in Large Animal Surgery.

After graduation, Dr. Davis completed his internship in Sports Medicine and Surgery at Oakridge Equine Hospital, followed by a residency in Equine Surgery at North Carolina State University. In 2012, he became board certified in Large Animal Surgery by the American College of Veterinary Surgeons.

[Read More About Dr. Weston Davis](#)

Jorge Gomez, MVZ, MS, DACVS

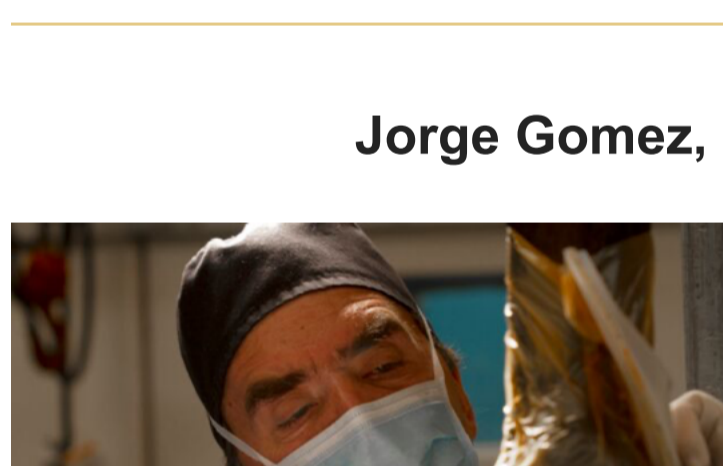


Photo courtesy of Palm Beach Equine Clinic

Dr. [Jorge Gomez](#) graduated from the University of Caldas in Colombia. He practiced equine veterinary medicine in Colombia for 14 years before completing his Masters Degree and Surgical Residency in Biomedical Sciences and Surgery at Auburn University. After completing his residency, Dr. Gomez became a Clinical Instructor in Equine Surgery. In 2004 he received Diplomate status in the American College of Veterinary Surgeons.

Dr. Gomez joined Hagyard Equine Medical Institute in 2005 as a staff surgeon and sport horse veterinarian. In 2010, Dr. Gomez and his family relocated to Wellington, FL, where he then joined Palm Beach Equine Clinic in the same capacity.

[Read More About Dr. Jorge Gomez](#)

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 Medical Manipulation. If you missed the live session, the full presentation is now available on demand.

[Watch On Demand](#)

Tropin Tops Palm Beach Equine Clinic Amateur-Owner Hunters 3'6" During WEF 5



Kelly Tropin and Chablis, pictured with Dr. Caitlin Hosea from PBEC, were named champion in the Amateur-Owner Hunter 3'6" 18-35 during WEF 5. Photo by Sportfot

The division championship in the WEF 5 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 two of the over-fences classes and the Stake, earning a total of 37 points to be named champion.

[See Division Results](#)

