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Foot Soreness in Competition Horses: The Importance of Keeping Your Horse Comfortable Throughout the Winter Show Season

As the busy winter competition season gets underway, vets at Palm Beach Equine Clinic emphasize the importance of staying ahead of physical setbacks with preventative measures. Foot soreness, especially for jumpers, becomes more noticeable after a few months of showing and can lead to further complications. Therefore, the best course of action is to be aware of what impacts the health and condition of your horse's feet and make a plan to help mitigate soreness.



Photo courtesy of [PBEC](#)

Foot Soreness Issues Surfacing Toward the End of Winter Competition Season

Well-respected veterinarian and farrier Dr. Stephen O'Grady of Palm Beach Equine Clinic has been treating horses for more than 45 years across the country. He also travels extensively all over the world, teaching and training other veterinarians and farriers on therapeutic farriery solutions. It's obvious to Dr. O'Grady why foot soreness and problems are more common later in the horse show season.

"When horses arrive in Wellington, Florida, in December, foot care starts with bar shoes, pads, pour-ins, etc. as a form of prevention for the busy three months. Perhaps it would be more appropriate to start the competition season by doing a conservative trim, leave horn on the bottom of the foot, and make sure the proper size shoe is selected. The various farrier products may actually add pressure to the structures in the beginning of the season," says Dr. O'Grady. "When it comes around to March, the structures of the foot have been compromised by the intensity of the competition schedule. The protective farrier products have already been used, and there's nothing more to absorb the shock and energy at the end of the season."

Excess moisture on the feet can also lead to problems. Dr. Robert Brusie, head surgeon at Palm Beach Equine Clinic, shares that because the foot is the closest part of the horse to the environment, feet that are too wet can become sore.

"Horses that are to show or play polo sometimes get two or three baths a day," explains Dr. Brusie. "That, coupled with rings that are sprayed with water to help the footing, can lead to problems."

Read the full article on [The Plaid Horse](#) at the link below.

[Read More](#)

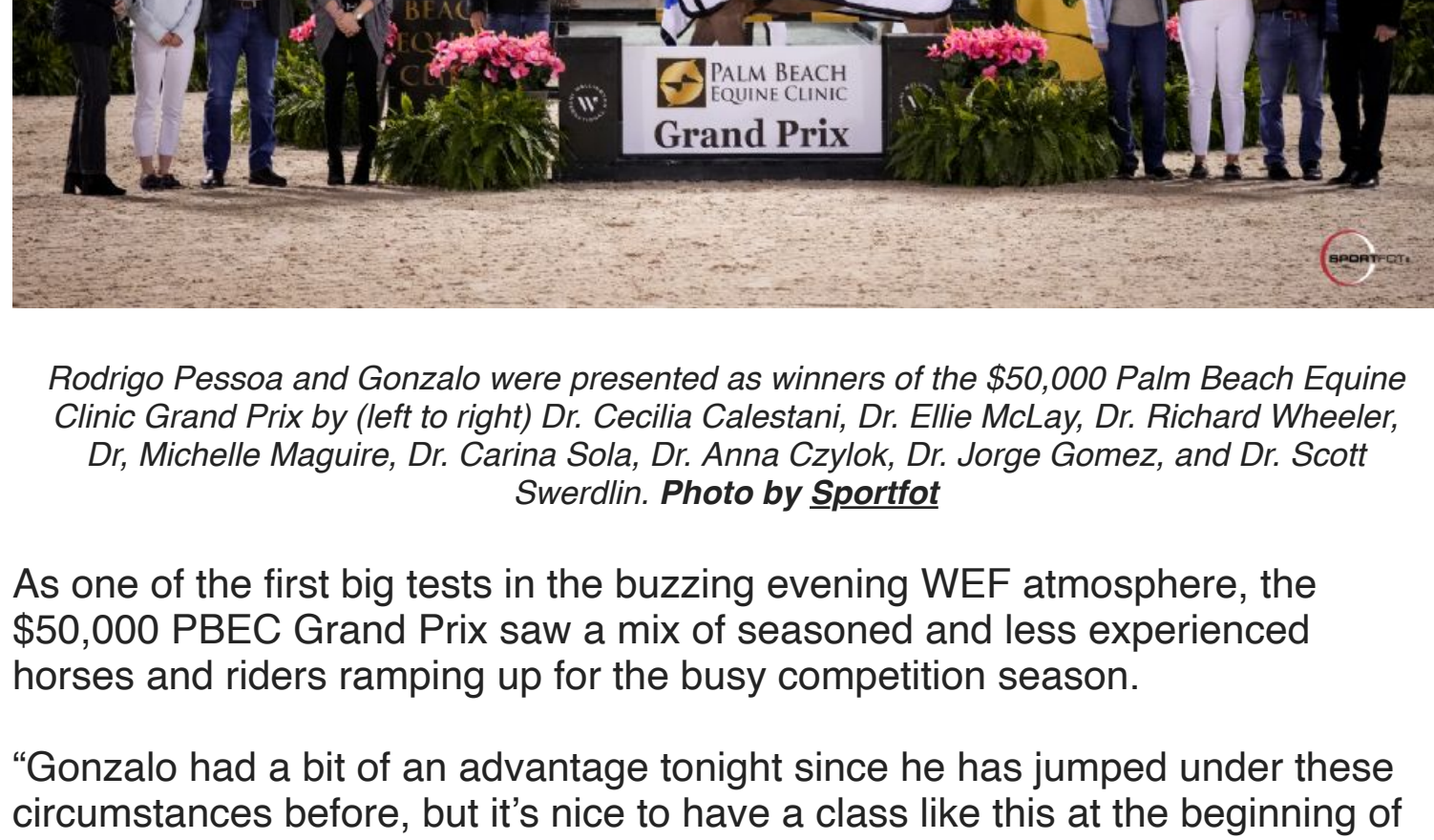


Photo courtesy of [Jump Media](#)

Rodrigo Pessoa Wins \$50,000 Palm Beach Equine Clinic Grand Prix

In the third week of the 2024 Wellington Equestrian Festival (WEF), the \$50,000 Palm Beach Equine Clinic (PBEC) Grand Prix was the marquee event during "Saturday Night Lights" on January 20, where Brazil's Rodrigo Pessoa ran away with the top prize aboard Gonzalo.

From an international field of 45 horse-and-rider pairs, 11 found the clear path through the course designed by Ana Catalina "Catsy" Cruz (MEX) to advance to the deciding jump-off. Spectators were on the edge of their seats as riders galloped across the International Arena for a shot at victory. With just two combinations to follow, the 2004 Olympic champion Pessoa put the pedal to the metal, crossing the timers in 38.421 seconds.

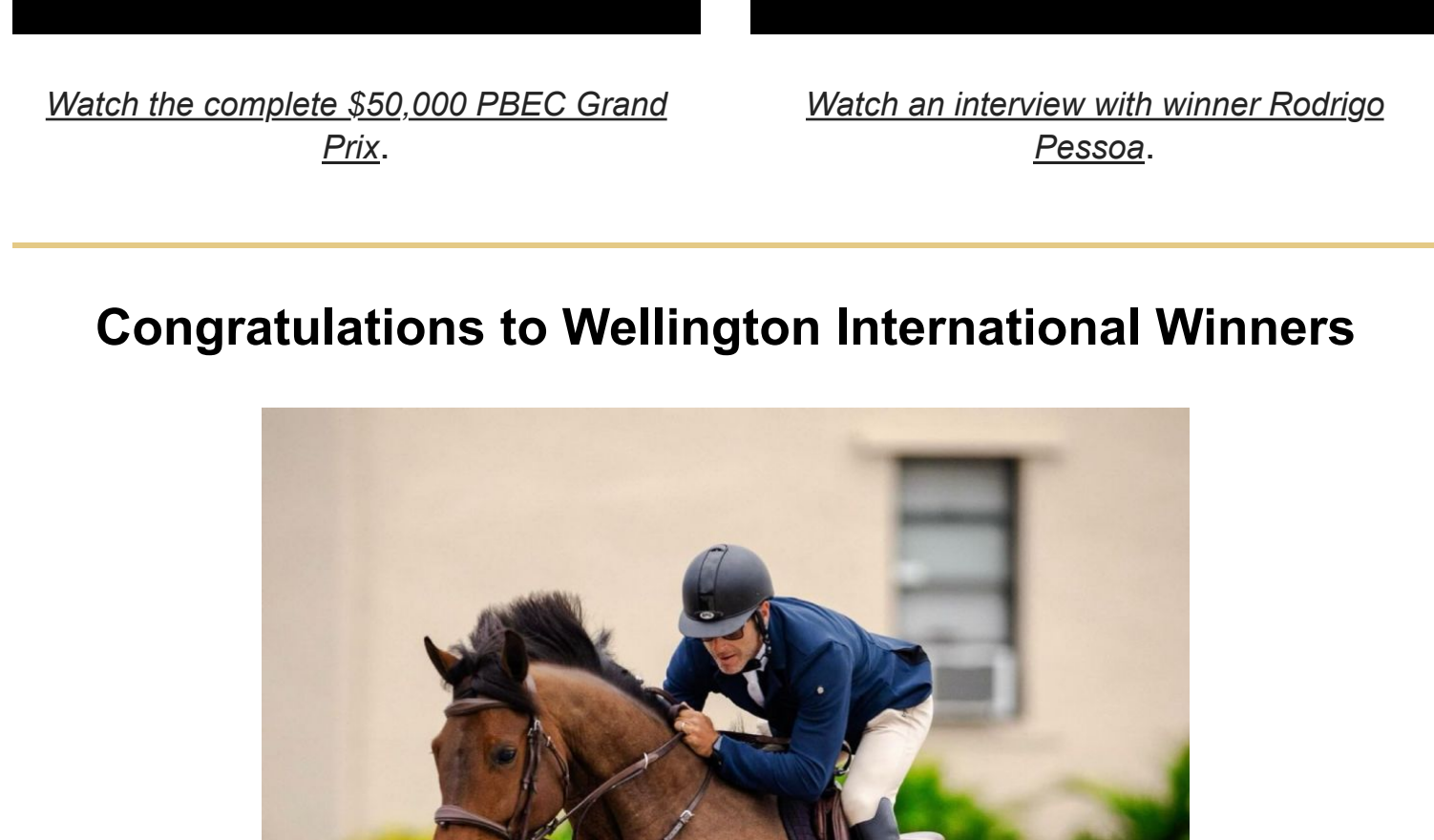


Rodrigo Pessoa and Gonzalo jumped to victory in the \$50,000 Palm Beach Equine Clinic Grand Prix during WEF 2. [Photo by Sportfot](#)

The final challenger, Irish Olympian Darragh Kenny, came very close to catching Pessoa with Eddy Blue, a 12-year-old Oldenburg gelding (Eldorado vd Zeshoek x Chacco-Blue) owned by Kerry Anne LLC, but when the clock stopped at 38.574 seconds, it would be second for Kenny, and the night belonged to Pessoa. Spain's Gonzalo Busca had the first double-clear effort of the evening aboard Cristiano Obolensky, the nine-year-old Hanoverian gelding (Cornet Obolensky x Stakkato) he owns with Stud V.V BVBA. His jump-off time of 39.386 seconds held up for third-place honors.

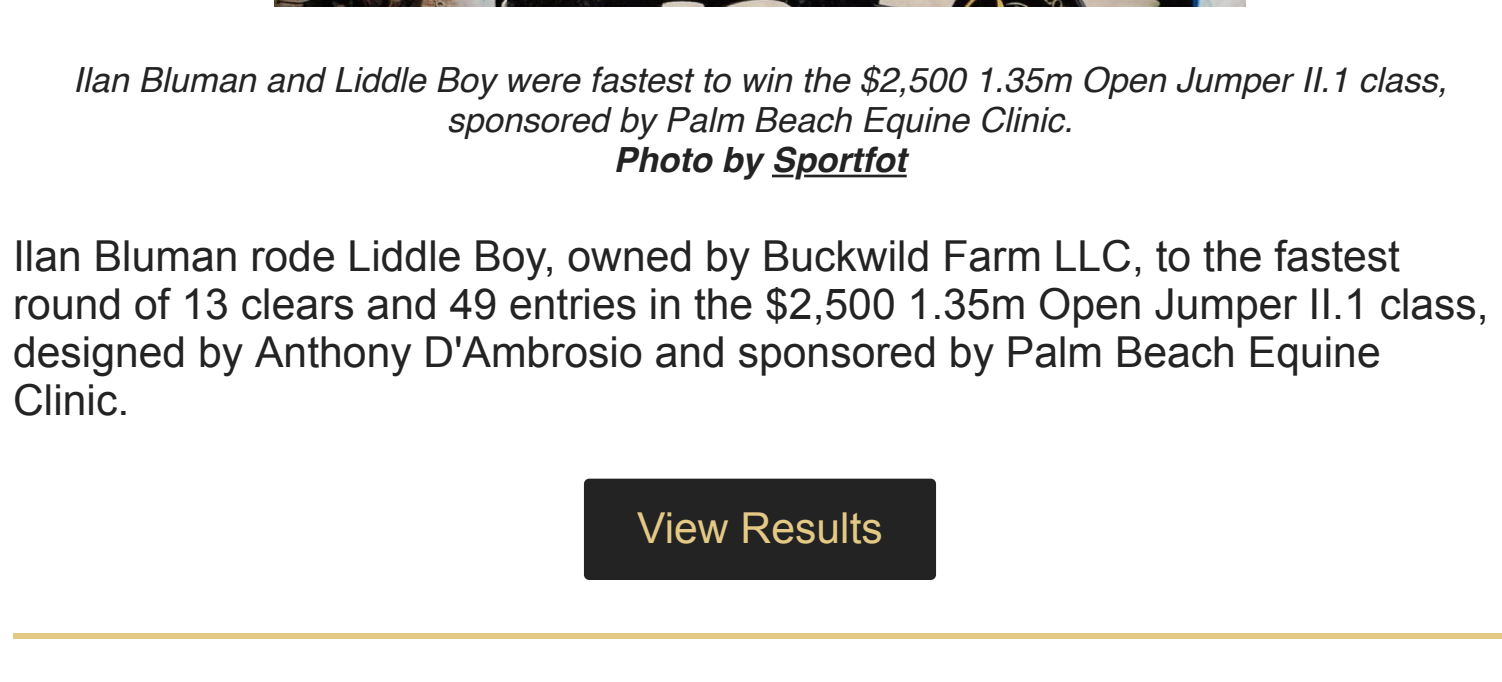
Gonzalo is the former mount of Irish rider Trevor Breen and recently joined Pessoa's stable under the ownership of his student Rachel Penner. With Penner sidelined by an unfortunate injury, Pessoa has taken up the reins to keep the 13-year-old KWPN gelding (Viceroy T x Londontimes) in top form for her return.

"We got Gonzalo last summer and have been pleased with him so far, especially tonight," said Pessoa. "He has a lot of experience, so it was no mystery to us what he could do. We wanted to put him under the lights tonight for possibilities later in the season when he goes back to Rachel."

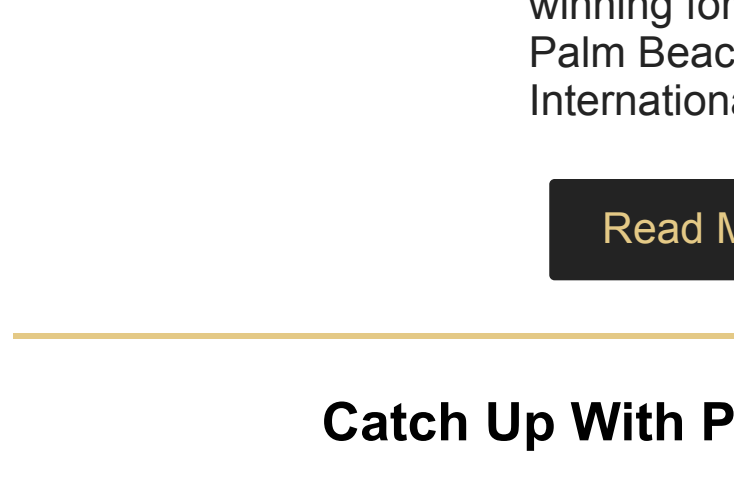


Rodrigo Pessoa and Gonzalo were presented as winners of the \$50,000 Palm Beach Equine Clinic Grand Prix by (left to right) Dr. Cecilia Calestani, Dr. Ellie McLay, Dr. Richard Wheeler, Dr. Michelle Maguire, Dr. Carina Sola, Dr. Anna Czylok, Dr. Jorge Gomez, and Dr. Scott Swerdlin. [Photo by Sportfot](#)

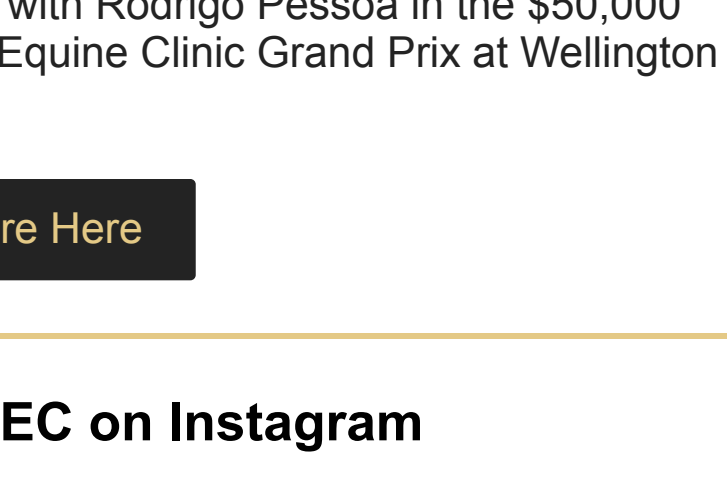
\$50,000 PBEC Grand Prix Gallery



Photos by [Sportfot](#)



[Watch the complete \\$50,000 PBEC Grand Prix.](#)



[Watch an interview with winner Rodrigo Pessoa.](#)

Congratulations to Wellington International Winners

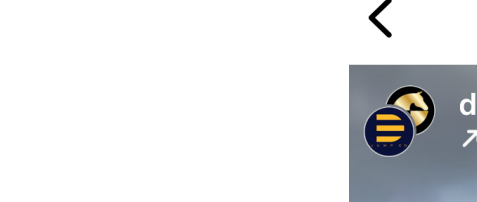


Ilan Bluman and Liddle Boy were fastest to win the \$2,500 1.35m Open Jumper II.1 class, sponsored by Palm Beach Equine Clinic. [Photo by Sportfot](#)

Ilan Bluman rode Liddle Boy, owned by Buckwild Farm LLC, to the fastest round of 13 clears and 49 entries in the \$2,500 1.35m Open Jumper II.1 class, designed by Anthony D'Ambrosio and sponsored by Palm Beach Equine Clinic.

[View Results](#)

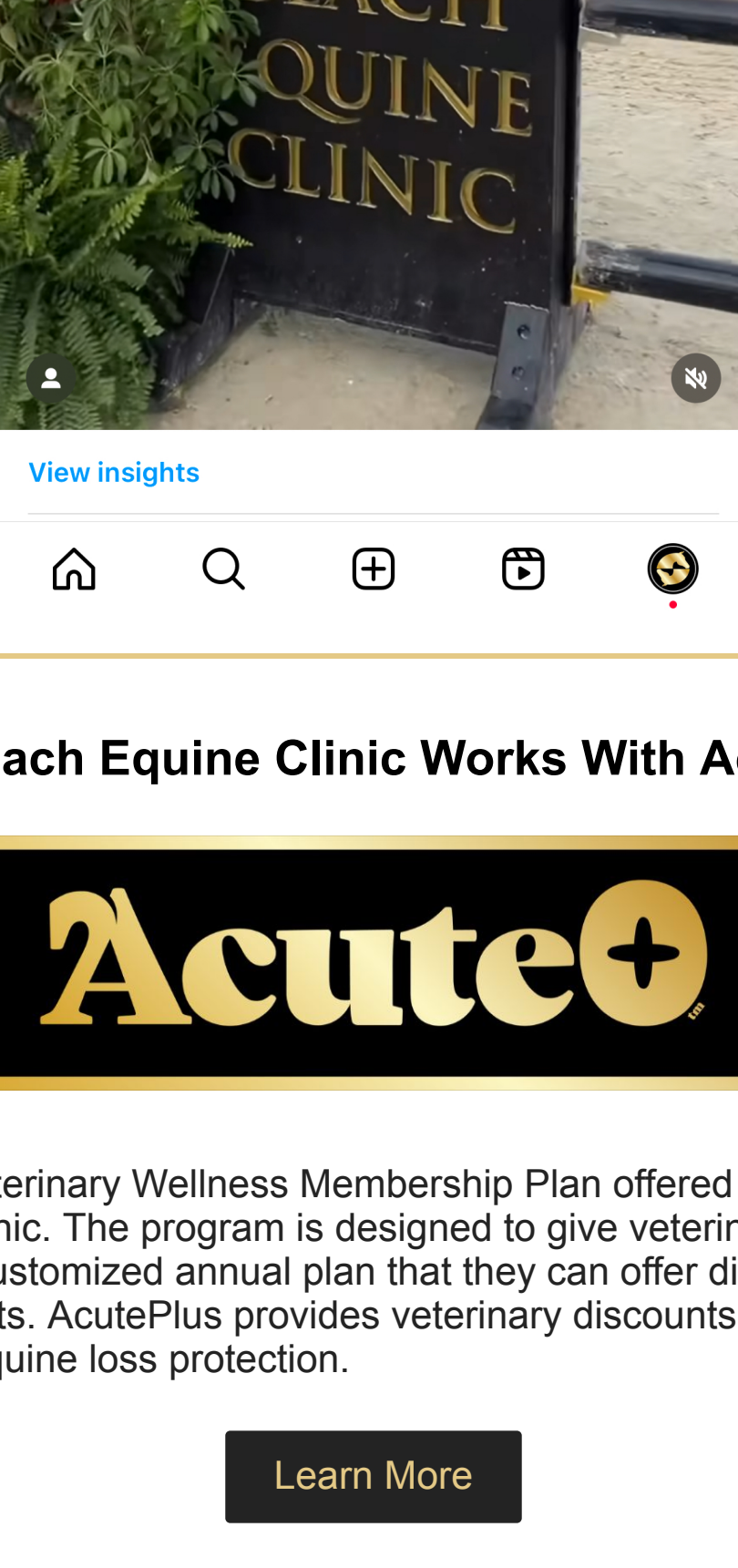
PBEC In the Media



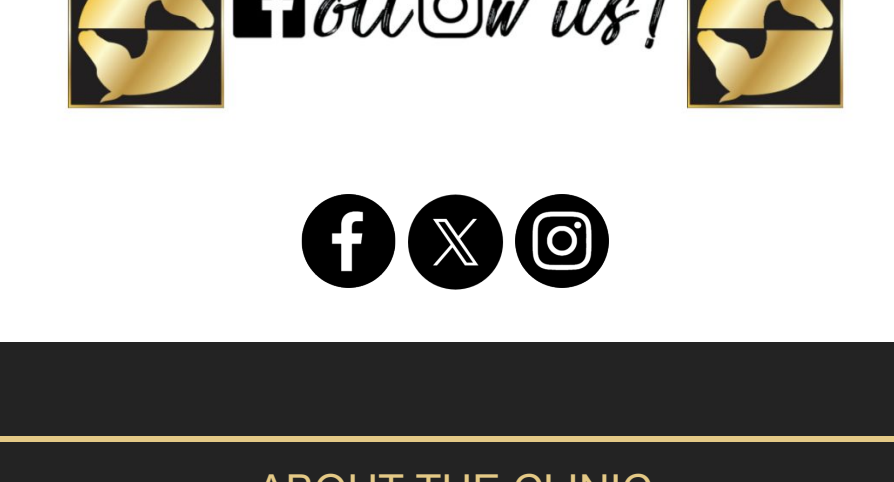
In more international showjumping news this week, Trevor Breen's former stable star Gonzalo found winning form with Rodrigo Pessoa in the \$50,000 Palm Beach Equine Clinic Grand Prix at Wellington International.

[Read More Here](#)

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 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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