



News and Updates

First Equine will be the on call vets for the **DSDCTA Blue Angels Dressage Show** coming up on April 14-15th as well as the **Alabama All Arabian Horse Show Riverboat Parlay Regional Qualifier and Championships** held March 21-25th.

We are also proud to help sponsor the **George County Blazing Trails 4H Horse Club** as well as the **Grand Bay Polocrosse Team!**

Also, thank you to our clients that came out to our client education talk on "Colic Management" on March 15th. We also spoke to the Mobile Mounted Unit during their annual Mardi Gras School on colic and common injuries in horses.



Spring time and show season is here!! Make sure your horses are up to date on their vaccinations and Coggins for traveling to shows. Certain shows and states will require a health certificate, indicating your horse is of good health within the last 30 days. For those traveling frequently, we offer a 6 month Go-Pass/Event Permit that is good for 6 months of travel within certain states. Call us to set up an appointment to get your horses up to date!

We have had several horses come down with **contagious respiratory diseases** within our area recently. Please be mindful if you travel with your horses!

- Horses without outward clinical signs can still be carriers of a disease and shed it-especially when stressed. Quarantine any new horses coming to your barn for 2-3 weeks.
- Don't allow your horse to drink from standing water sources-even at a show. Certain infectious agents can live for several weeks in water. Bring your own water buckets and only allow your horse to drink from that.
- If your horse has had **any** nasal discharge, fever, lethargy, cough, etc elect to stay home to protect him and other horses you may come in contact with. Keep him separated from your herd including over fence contact.
- Make sure your horses are up to date on their vaccines! Our rhino/flu vaccine protects against both EHV 1 and 4 as well as influenza. We also carry the intranasal strangles vaccine.

Don't forget to follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#)- we enjoy your participation in our Trivia Tuesday's and Friday's with the Firsts! If you haven't already, write us a review!

Visit our Website

Upcoming Events

April- Dr. Brittany will be speaking to the local GCDCTA group on acupuncture in horses with a live demonstration.

May 6th- Hobby Horse Derby 1-6pm
A local rescue group, Delta Dogs, is hosting this derby as a fundraiser. Dr. Brittany will be helping judge this event! Come out for some good laughs and help support or donate to Delta Dogs!



May- Our next client education event will be on "**Common Equine Emergencies**" Time and place TBA on our Facebook page

Service Spotlight

Spinal Manipulation

Dr. Brittany is certified to perform spinal manipulation (chiropractics) on horses. Many horses will develop restrictions in joints, which is simply a decrease in the normal range of motion.

SM is a therapy that relieves these restrictions and restores the normal range of motion to joints through a very specific placement and HVLA adjustment. SM also allows for appropriate blood flow and nerve function to muscle groups which can help alleviate pain and muscle spasms.



Theo's Success Story

When we first met Laura Lee Williams horse, 8 year old Theo, he was kind of a puzzle. His performance issues had originally started with him being stiff to the left, and over time had gradually increased to him refusing or bolting over jumps, refusing to bend or turn to the left, and eventually bucking. Even after a year of rest and turnout, his behavior hadn't improved.

Dr. Patrick initially saw Theo for a lameness evaluation. Theo didn't have an obvious lameness in either direction, but Dr. Patrick noticed he didn't really track up underneath himself. His flexions were not that significant to warrant lower limb injections or as the primary cause of his performance issues, so Dr. Patrick looked higher up. He found Theo was quite reactive and sore over his lower back muscles and extremely positive to palpation of his SI joint, so he performed an ultrasound guided SI injection and placed Theo on a muscle relaxer (methocarbamol).

Theo did well after his initial SI injection and was sent to a trainer to help build up his strength and to see if he could have an attempt at being a show horse again. Over the following months in work, he had spinal manipulation performed by Dr. Brittany and saw a massage therapist to help with residual soreness and stiffness as needed. Dr. Brittany also performed mesotherapy on him to help with lower back muscle spasms. Theo's work continued to improve as well as his strength and comfort level.

We are so happy to report that after 2 SI injections, 1 mesotherapy session, spinal manipulation and massage, time, patience, and a good trainer, Theo has made it back to the show ring! In 1 year, Theo has gone from having a melt down over ground poles and running/bucking away from jumps to being competitive in the 0.80m jumpers at HITS Ocala. According to Laura Lee, "He has become a totally adjustable and handy little horse. He's become a little superstar that has surprised everyone with his willingness and seems to genuinely enjoy his job. He's a different horse altogether." Congratulations to Laura and Theo!



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