

Horse Breather

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In Practice

Cough case study – Pumlon Marinello

by Wendi Noy

Marinello is a welsh section B, by Twycross Cavalier. He is 10 years old, 12.3 hh and a lovely rich liver chestnut with a long white blaze.

He has been competing nationally in small breed, M&M WHP, 13hh WHP and SHP classes achieving many first places and championships in that time. He is cheeky and loving but is a worrier and thrives on his trust in his owner. He has impeccable manners and is a pleasure to handle.

As I didn't have a suitable jockey for the working hunter classes, I let him go to a good friend to be competed. He was there for nearly two years, but just before he was due to come back to me in May 2004, they ran out of haylage and fed all the ponies some hay that was dusty.

All the ponies coughed slightly, but stopped when they went back on haylage, apart from Marinello. Although he was still ridden lightly, he had a persistent dry cough. After about 3 weeks, he started to cough up phlegm when stabled over night. The vet was called out in June 2004, and he was diagnosed with COPD, given antibiotics and Ventipulmin and advised 24/7 turnout. This seemed to help. The coughing reduced even though it didn't disappear.

At the end of July although the symptoms were slight, I had not yet brought him back into work and decided to get the vet out again. His chest was still rattling and this time he was given antibiotics and Sputilosin and told to continue with the 24/7 turn out. At the end of August he had to be stabled over night as his 2 friends were away and he wouldn't settle. After 4 nights there was phlegm on the floor in the morning again.

I realised that I had a decision to make. Either call the vet out again to go through the same treatment as before with the possible addition of steroids and scoping, or try the Equine Breather. Not much of a decision really!!!!!!!

In the middle of September I started Marinello on the 1N. Initially he was reluctant to relax and go with it. I found that he could manage one nostril, but then got restless about the second one, with lots of snorting and trying to remove my hand. After a week, he started to enjoy the sessions.

After 2-3 weeks I started with the Equine Breather. He again was initially unimpressed and spent much of the first 5 minutes snorting and trying to rub it off, but then settled and relaxed for the rest of the session.

By this time there was no sign of the phlegm although he was stabled at night.

Unfortunately our turn out became reduced due to the bad weather, so I moved him to another yard, where he could remain out each day and then be in a much airier stable at night.

By November I never heard him cough and started a gentle work

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Marinello – back on top form

regime. Still no coughing. Harder work, still no coughing.

Over Christmas and New Year there was little time to organise using the Equine Breather, and he was heard to cough once or twice on two separate mornings. Back to using the breather on a regular basis, but I decided it was time to get the vet out for a progress report to see if he really was improving. ***On the 11th of January this year he was given a completely clean bill of health.***

I find this totally amazing for a pony that had such problems in the middle of summer living out and on medication, to being stabled over night in winter and still recovering totally.

I now use the Equine Breather most days, but I don't worry if I miss a few days here and there, and he is happy and relaxed with it on.

Marinello needs to go to a home that can realise his potential as a Wembly WHP. I am small enough to ride him, but really he is wasted with me as I don't jump and that is his favourite occupation and he has so much talent. He is shoeless and rugless and needs a quiet loving like minded home.

I also now use a Equine Breather on my PBA. He has separation anxiety, huge adrenalin rushes and very sensitive skin to mention just a few!

After 4 days, he already seems calmer. Like Marinello, he fusses as the breather goes on, snorting and rubbing, but quickly settles and becomes relaxed and sleepy. His son is a very anxious man, with separation anxiety as well, so he is my next task.

The Equine Breather is much easier to use than the 1N as jobs can still be done at the same time and in this day and age we are all short of time.

I genuinely believe that the breather healed my pony, when medication was unable to help, and after learning more about the Equine Breather I will try using it for my other ponies behavioural problems as well as for physical ailments.

If any one knows of a good home for Marinello, please contact Wendi on 01772 613295 or WNOY@aol.com

In short

First Equine Breathing Workshop

Students on Cathy Tindall's Equine Behaviour course made a wonderful audience for the first ever Equine Breathing Workshop in January at the Pitsford Centre near Northampton; the new base for Cathy's Holistic Horse Care and Equitation Centre.

The attentive and dedicated class of 15 resourceful women revelled in the physiology of the theory, flung themselves into the 'games' and finally got to have a go themselves on Moulton College horses.

Many have started using Equine Breathing which is great news for horses.



games provide first hand experience of the effect of changing the breathing pattern

Equine Breathing is not a substitute for veterinary care. Consult your vet before using Equine Breathing.