2017 Lucas Oil NCHA SUPER STAKES CLASSIC
OPEN CHAMPION
Metallic Rebel
O: Thomas L. Guinn
R: Beau Galyean

2017 Lucas Oil NCHA SUPER STAKES CLASSIC
NON-PRO CHAMPION
Blakley Colgrove
Riding: Paradox Cat
I have taken horses to a higher level of competition with the use of Extracorporeal Shock Wave Therapy (ESWT). After owning a ProPulse VersaTron for one year, I have seen an increase in performance and a shortened duration of healing in a number of the cutting horses I treat.

ESWT is one of the most innovative, non-invasive therapies on the market. ESWT has been documented to have various effects on bone and soft tissue. It has multi-modal effects as it induces a transient and incomplete analgesia all while promoting healing. It’s thought to increase blood supply, decrease pain, manipulate inflammatory processes, stimulate cells to rebuild injured tissue in a linear pattern of healing in tendons and ligaments, and promote healing of chronic injuries.

The VersaTron shock wave has more than a decade of clinical veterinary research validating its effect in the equine athlete. Its results are proven to be effective so most insurance companies cover treatment costs. The VersaTron has 4 ‘trodes’ that can reach up to 110mm in depth allowing customized treatment depth penetration. Treatment protocols can be tailored to suspensory injuries, osteoarthritis, back pain/kissing spine, wounds, tendons/strains, bone fractures, OCD cyst lesions, navicular syndrome, and sore joints.

**The Suspensory Ligament**

If you own or show a cutting horse, I’m sure you’re familiar with the word “sus-pensory”. The suspensory ligament runs down the back of the horse’s cannon bone. It originates off the back of the cannon bone just below the knee, splits into two branches that run along the fetlock, and insert on the sesamoid bones.

Suspensory ligament injuries are common in the athletic cutting horse. If not treated aggressively, suspensory injuries can become chronic and lead to poor performance. With the advent of shockwave, I have seen increased recovery of cutting horses from suspensory injuries and a decrease in the number of suspensory injuries that become chronic issues. The high energy shock waves reduce healing times and promote linear alignment of the tendon fibers. The healing properties of the shock wave in suspensory injuries are the most superior non-invasive therapy on the market.
Last fall, a cutting horse presented to me with a dropped fetlock due to a complete tear of the suspensory ligament in a hind leg. With the application of stem cells and shock wave therapy, the suspensory ligament was completely healed at 5 months. At 6 months, the horse was back to showing in the major aged events. The shock wave was a crucial tool that allowed this horse to come back into competition and only miss a small amount of her career in the aged events.

Athletically we demand a lot from cutting horses; the repetitive motion of tracking a cow can be very taxing not only on their distal limbs but their axial skeleton as well (neck, back, sacroiliac joint/SI). Axial skeleton pain often goes undiagnosed as it does not result in an overt lameness; however, it is a major cause of poor performance. The quick sweeping moves of the cutting horse result in copious amounts of strain on their neck and lower back with every turn. Injections of the neck, back and SI are commonly performed in the cutting horse, however shock wave is another modality that can help alleviate this pain. Shock wave helps stop the wind-up pain associated with the repetitive motions. The noninvasive nature of shock wave allows us to do it the night before or even at a show without requiring any rest or time off. Its effects are immediate and have an additive effect that helps heal and reduce inflammation. So, if you’re looking for something to put you at the top of your class, I highly recommend having your horse’s axial skeleton evaluated and shock waved.

**BIO:** Dr. Molly Bellefeuille  
**Doctor of Veterinary Medicine**  
Owner/Veterinarian of Northern Star Equine Veterinary Services  
Weatherford, TX

Dr. Bellefeuille graduated from Washington State College of Veterinary Medicine in 2011. She then went on to complete a one-year internship and three-year surgical residency at Equine Sports Medicine under the guidance of Dr. Chris Ray. Her interests are equine sports medicine/locomotion and surgery, with a focus on the equine axial skeleton (Neck/Back/Sacroiliac joint). She started Northern Star Equine as an ambulatory service focusing on the cutting horse and their lameness needs. Outside of veterinary medicine, she is a gourmet chef and enjoys the great outdoors. As a native from the Pacific Northwest, she loves water activities such as skiing, boating, and fishing.
“Learning about the various uses of PulseVet shock wave with Dr. Molly J. Bellefeuille DVM, has totally changed my program. I have had speedy recoveries, and increased flexibility in backs, necks and shoulders. Using PulseVet gives me the assurance that I can get the job done in the show pen.”

MICHAEL COOPER

- NCHA Hall of Fame member
- 3x Abilene Champion
- AQHA World Champion
- Career earnings over $2.8M
- 2016 Cotton Stakes Open Reserve Champion
- 8x NCHA Futurity Finalist, 2009 Reserve Champion

Studied More. Proven Effective.

- Trusted noninvasive technology for maintaining the performance horse and cutting healing time in half following an injury.
- PulseVet shock wave therapy is covered by equine medical insurance.
- Not all shock wave devices are created equal. Demand only the best for your champions and ask your vet for PulseVet shock wave therapy!