



In Practice

How my horse recovered from severe COPD with Equine Breathing

Ceri is a 32 year old hairdresser with her own business in Wales. She has owned horse for over 20 years and has had Jake since he was 2 years old.

Jake (Jacob Madean Snapdragon) is a 15hh 15 year old black welsh part bred. He is a very lively chap with bags of character.

In January 2006 Jake became very lethargic and quiet. He also developed a cough and his breathing was very fast. His respiration rate was 24 breaths per minute which is about double the normal rate. I took Jake to the vet for an endoscope.

The vet diagnosed severe COPD and prescribed ventipulmin. When he was 2 years old Jake was diagnosed with unconfirmed COPD but it had never caused him real problems. Now I had to stop competing and even riding Jake at all because his breathing was so bad.

After a month on ventipulmin Jake had not improved at all so the vet put him on steroids as well as ventipulmin. The steroids lowered Jake's immune system (the vet later informed me) and he developed a chest infection for which the vet prescribed antibiotics. A day after starting these, Jake got colic.

My poor horse was in a right state and was not improving at all. At this point I was distraught and considered putting Jake to sleep. But then I felt really guilty for even thinking that. I quickly put it out of my head.

By April he had improved a bit and I was able to ride him quietly, but no competing (we do dressage, showjumping and cross country). He was still on a full dose of ventipulmin. He was not really improving and my vet said there was nothing more to do but keep him on a full dose of ventipulmin for life.

In May a friend of mine told me about Equine Breathing. I thought I would give it a go as I was at the end of my tether. I started with 6 weeks of 1N.

Within a week Jake's respiratory rate had dropped to normal – 10 to 12 bpm. He was still coughing a lot though. In the middle of June I started using the Equine Breather. Jake had improved a fair bit by then just with the 1N and I had reduced his ventipulmin by half and had started riding a lot more. He was still coughing but not a lot, nothing like he had been.

In July Jake started coughing a lot again, probably more than before though it was a different kind of cough, but his breathing stayed normal and he remained well in himself and not distressed. This went into August then at the end of August the coughing more or less stopped. I started working him harder and harder and reduced the ventipulmin to a quarter dose, which he is still on to date.

We have started having lessons again, both flat and jumping. My instructor has not seen Jake for nearly a year and said that he was moving much more freely in his shoulders and quarters now and was impressed with how much he had bodied up.

Jake and I are both looking forward to competing again. In a few weeks time we have our first competition for almost a year. I am so, so pleased to have my lively, cheeky horse back. It is amazing and I do believe Equine Breathing has done this.

Jake still coughs from time to time but its more of a splutter than a cough. I am still using the Equine Breather on about 5 days a week. My vet is very pleased and says to keep on doing what I am doing.

Jake has had sarcoids for 6 years but the other day one dropped off which has never happened before.

Though he has super amounts of energy now, Jake has become calmer to ride. He was quite difficult at times before doing Equine Breathing, and tended to spook and spin round out on hacks. I was amazed the other day. We met a road sweeper in the dark in a tunnel and I expected him to spin round and take off, but he looked at it, gained about two hands in height and then calmly went past it!

If Jake gets anxious now I just do 1N and within seconds he calms down and his breathing recovers. The other day he saw the trailer for the first time in months and started to get wound up but immediately recovered with a few seconds of 1N and then walked easily into the trailer.

Thanks for listening. I hope this case study will help other people like me who were having a really rough time of it. I found a light at the end of the tunnel. If anyone would like to talk to me about this I would be very pleased to hear from them via the Equine Breathing website.

Ceri
South Wales
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Update 3 December 06;

Ceri reported that she had competed in their first competition for a year. She was delighted to be out competing again after the despair she went through when Jake was so ill. Jake put icing on the cake by gained a 3rd and a 4th place in two dressage tests. She also said that another sarcoid had dropped off. Jake is now in quite strenuous work with a 45 minute uphill trot most days and he hasn't been heard to cough for two weeks. Ceri is gradually reducing the remaining ventipulmin dose.



Ceri and Jake back in competition again