

# Ex-vet loans laser to treat horses hurt in March fire



**Amy Bower Doucette**  
Equestrian

When a horrific barn fire killed 12 horses and injured several others at the South Florida Trotting Center in Lake Worth on March 16, the community rallied around owner Sam Stathis and the rest of the trainers and owners.

Mike Carter, one of the hosts of an online radio show about harness racing, called Post Time with Mike and Mike, started a gofundme page ([www.gofundme.com/SouthFL-TrainingCtr](http://www.gofundme.com/SouthFL-TrainingCtr)) which has raised over \$46,000 to help with recovery and veterinary expenses.

Local entrepreneur and retired veterinarian Dr. Bruce Coren donated the unlimited use of one of his high-powered Diowave IV Therapeutic lasers to treat the surviving horses. Laser therapy stimulates stem cell production and blood flow, helping burns heal much faster than they would on their own. Coren trained the staff at the SFTC how to use the laser, and will let them keep the \$43,000 piece of equipment as long as it takes for



Dr. Bruce Coren treats Celebrity Lover with a laser at the South Florida Trotting Center while Janus Marquis, the physiotherapist for the United States Show Jumping Team, looks on. The horse was one of 23 horses caught in a two-alarm fire March 16. Twelve horses were killed. The remaining 11 are being treated with Coren's Diowave IV Therapeutic laser free of charge. CONTRIBUTED

Coren said. "It stimulates blood flow and collagen production, which are necessary for wound healing and growth of new tissue. It opens up lymphatic channels so it reduces

energy penetrates the body similarly to X-rays or microwaves or the sun's rays."

Coren discovered the potential of laser therapy in 2001. He retired from

cal Medical Advancements LLC. Coren said most lasers are just 15 or 30 watts. His laser is 60 watts, allowing the beam of concentrated light to penetrate deeper into the tissue

got the first FDA clearance to bring a high-powered laser into human medicine in the United States. There are other companies that do what we do, but none with the higher power out-

iotherapist for the United States Show Jumping Team, uses lasers to treat the horses in her care. She called Coren after hearing about the two-alarm fire.

"She called me and asked what we could do to help," Coren said. "I suggested that we put a laser at the Trotting Center and train them how to use it. It took just a few minutes to train the staff. I set the parameters of how long and how much to treat each horse based on the size of the injury. The burns were pretty nasty, but the laser is definitely integral in the healing process and it will get the horses back faster."

Coren also treats professional athletes, military personnel and veterans with the laser. Typical treatments cost \$50 to \$100 per session for a small area. The extensive wounds suffered by the horses would have cost thousands to treat.

"I'm thinking they will need the laser for a couple more months," Coren said. "I go out there every once in awhile to see how they're doing. The laser can stay there as long as they need it."

Amy Bower Doucette writes about the equestrian communities for Neighborhood Post. Send mail to 2751 S. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach, FL 33405. Call 561-820-4763

ment as long as it takes for the horses to heal.

“The laser accelerates the body’s ability to heal,”

claims so it reduces swelling, suppresses pain receptors and activates stem cells. The laser

in 2001. He retired from his animal veterinary practice in West Palm Beach in 2003 to start Technologi-

eeper into the issue.

“I formed the laser company with a biomedical engineer,” he said. “We

with the highest power output and intensity of the lasers we market.”

Janus Marquis, the phys-

FL 33405. Call 561-629-7400, fax 561-837-8320 or email abdoucette@bellsouth.net. neighborhood@pbpost.com

## Parks

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children’s wading pool, four Major League baseball fields, parking  
**Managed by:** Palm Beach County

### MELEAR PARK

6684 Eastview Drive

**Size:** 1 acre

**Hours:** Dawn to dusk

**Facilities:** 200 feet of lake frontage and freshwater fishing

**Managed by:** Palm Beach County

### LAKE CHARLESTON PARK

7001 Charleston Shores Blvd.

**Size:** 9.5 acres

**Hours:** Dawn to dusk

**Facilities:** Two T-ball fields, two Little League baseball fields, children’s play area, restrooms, parking

**Managed by:** Palm Beach County

### Palm Springs

#### SAGO PARK

10th Avenue and Sago Road  
**Size:** 2.8 acres, surrounded by Sago Lake

**Hours:** Dawn to dusk

**Facilities:** Picnic pavilion, volleyball court, playground, picnic

areas and fishing dock

**Managed by:** Palm Springs

#### VILLAGE CENTRE ATHLETIC COMPLEX AND RECREATIONAL COMPLEX

226 Cypress Lane

**Size:** 19 acres

**Hours:** Dawn to dusk; lighted areas open until 10 p.m.

**Facilities:** Multipurpose baseball, softball, football and soccer fields; lighted tennis courts; lighted sand volleyball court; two playgrounds and two meeting halls

**Managed by:** Palm Springs