

2013 Daniel Marks, VMD



For 24 years, Dr. Daniel Marks served as the Team veterinarian for the USET and U.S. Olympic Teams in Jumping and Dressage and was an integral part of their medal winning successes. Highly respected around the world, Dr. Marks was a consultant to over a dozen foreign jumping and dressage teams, and was the Team veterinarian for the Canadian team at the Olympics and World Championships, as well as for teams from Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Japan, Virgin Islands, and the Bahamas.

Prior to becoming a veterinarian, Dr. Marks was a professional horseman, competitive rider, and trainer. He began as a hot walker, groom, and exercise rider at the New York racetracks. He was one of the few U.S. riders to be accepted into the Spanish Riding School of Vienna at the time, and then turned his talents to competing jumpers and hunters at major national horse shows. After graduating from veterinary school, he tried his hand at riding timber races including the Maryland Hunt Cup. He still rides regularly.

Graduating Summa Cum Laude, and first in his class, from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Marks became a founding partner of the Delaware Equine Center which grew into one of the largest private equine clinics in the world. He has had many principal equine veterinary contributions, and credits the majority of those developed with his decades-long partner and friend, Dr. Matthew MacKay-Smith.

He coined the term "Pre-Purchase" Exam and established many of the presently accepted guidelines, eliminating 'pass-fail' and encouraging the practice of taking radiographs as part of the exam, which at the time was controversial but has now become the worldwide standard. Dr. Marks was the first to devise Laryngoplasty surgery for Laryngeal Hemiplegia, which continues to this day as the surgery of choice, and was the first to devise interspinous back injections for diagnosis and treatment of dorsal spinous impingement ("kissing spines"). He was also the first to recognize and describe Proximal Suspensory Desmitis (High Suspensory Disease). Dr. Marks has had over 40 articles featured in professional publications, and continues his consulting equine practice.

