

12yo, Warmblood Gelding, Hunter

Recalcitrant Lower Hock Arthritis

History

A 3'6" Hunter was drifting to the right when jumping over fences. The gelding had performed well as a hunter for over 5 years and this was his same rider for the last several years. Thus, no training issues were felt to be part of this new problem. As time went on, a short hind end canter led to a subtle right hind lameness of unknown origin.

Initial Treatment and Outcome

On the veterinary exam, muscular soreness over the croup and mildly positive hock flexions were noted on the physical exam. The horse also "fell out behind" at the canter on a lunge line. Lower hock arthritis was present on radiographs, but the arthritis was not considered severe. Nonetheless, it had become a more persistent condition affecting his performance.

The horse had been routinely injected for mild lower hock arthritis, approximately every 6 months. Over time, hyaluronic acid/steroids and combination of IRAP, PRP and other biologic therapies had failed to reliably manage this condition. At this point he was being treated approximately every 3 months with variability as to when the injections wore off and there had to be breaks in his training.

Treatment with Noltrex® Vet

Noltrex® Vet was added to the treatment protocol. At this point the horse receives one treatment of Noltrex® Vet once per year and one other treatment of a hyaluronic acid/steroid combination part way through the show season. The horse has not had any down time due to the lower hock arthritis since this was started over two years prior.

