

ANIMAL KINGDOM IS BACK GALLOPING FOR RETURN TO RACING DERBY WINNER JOGGED FOR A MONTH AFTER 60 DAYS ON SIDELINES WENT THE DAY WELL READY TO RESUME WORK, POINTING TO JIM DANDY

Animal Kingdom resumed galloping on Thursday morning at Fair Hill Training Center in Northern Maryland as he moves toward another comeback this fall.



Animal Kingdom and exercise rider David Nava returning to the Team Valor barn at Fair Hill last weekend. Photo by Maggie Kimmitt

The 2011 Kentucky Derby winner missed 60 days of training to recover from a hairline fracture of the ilium, a part of the pelvis. The injury required no surgery but was discovered only a week before Animal Kingdom was scheduled to depart for the Dubai World Cup at Meydan racecourse. He scored an impressive win on turf at Gulfstream Park in his lone start this year.

“What happened to him was really just a blip on the radar, not a serious injury at all, the timing was just horrible,” said Barry Irwin, chief executive officer of the 4-year-old colt’s owner and breeder, Team Valor International. “We’re excited to get him back. We have a goal in mind for him at the end of the year, but we don’t want to say what it is just yet.”

Since late May, Graham Motion had been sending Animal Kingdom to a grass field at Fair Hill for long jogs. The first week, the son of Leroidesanimaux trained alongside Went the

Day Well, who finished a gritty fourth for Team Valor in this year’s Derby and matched his elder by winning the Grade 3 Vinery Racing Spiral Stakes at Turfway Park.

Went the Day Well received a bit of down time following a disappointing tenth-place finish in the Preakness Stakes. Although a puzzling performance, nothing was amiss with the Proud Citizen colt afterward. He is scheduled to turn in his first workout since the race on Saturday.

“He just didn’t bring his game,” Barry Irwin said. “It’s certainly not like him to throw in the towel—look what he did in the Derby when he faced all kinds of trouble—so he must have just been knocked out more from that race than anyone could have known.

“We’ve given him some time to recover and will get him ready now for Saratoga.”

Went the Day Well’s first step will be the Grade 2 Jim Dandy Stakes at the fabled Spa on July 28, the main local prep for the Grade 1 Travers Stakes on August 25.

Video by Megan Jones of Animal Kingdom and Went the Day Well training together at Fair Hill on May 31 is available [here](#).