

START OF A STRESS FRACTURE DETECTED IN ANIMAL KINGDOM'S ILIUM DERBY WINNER SHOULD BE ABLE TO RESUME FULL TRAINING IN 90 DAYS NO SURGERY REQUIRED FOR TEAM VALOR INTERNATIONAL'S CHAMPION

A nuclear scan has pinpointed the start of a stress fracture in Animal Kingdom's hind end that will not require surgery.

The Kentucky Derby winner underwent a scan on Tuesday at the Palm Beach Equine clinic, where the beginning of a stress fracture was detected in the ilium, unrelated to his hock fracture from last summer in the left hind leg. Dr. Dean Richardson of the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center confirmed the injury, which is expected to heal with 30 days of stall rest and 60 days of handwalking.



Richardson, the veterinary surgeon who performed the hock operation on Animal Kingdom last year after the Belmont Stakes, said "If anything was going to happen to this horse, this would be about as good a result as one could hope for."

Animal Kingdom is expected to be ready to resume training in 90 days.

Team Valor CEO Barry Irwin said, "The horse will stay in his stall for a month and be grazed every day, after which time he'll be transferred to Team Valor's barn at Fair Hill Training Center, where for the next couple of months he will have limited activity. Then he will return to full training. Team Valor's interest is to run the horse for another year. We will make a decision about whether we want to do that by September, so that if the horse is going to be retired, he'll have plenty of chance to be promoted by the start of breeding season. We should have a good enough idea by September of whether or not he is the same horse in his training. If he is, we prefer to run him another year and target the Dubai World Cup.

"If not, we will then begin talking with farms at home and abroad. We have received interest from multiple parties in Japan and the United States, as well as a serious breeder in England, but we have told all of them that we would not talk about it until the fall."

Animal Kingdom developed lameness after working 5 furlongs on March 10, which prompted his connections to withdraw him from the Dubai World Cup on March 31. He won an allowance race in sharp fashion on the turf at Gulfstream Park on February 18.