

ANIMAL KINGDOM RETURNS TO THE WORK TAB SATURDAY IN MARYLAND KENTUCKY DERBY WINNER GOES THREE-EIGHTHS ON DIRT AT FAIR HILL TEAM VALOR EYES \$10 MILLION DUBAI WORLD CUP ON MARCH 31 IN UAE

Team Valor International's Kentucky Derby winner Animal Kingdom had his first workout on the comeback trail for trainer Graham Motion under a bright blue sky on a crisp Saturday morning over the main dirt track at the Fair Hill training center near Elkton, Maryland.

Going in company, Animal Kingdom breezed around the far turn on the one-mile oval and was timed in 38 seconds.

"It was like an open gallop for him," said English-born Motion from his training base. "The track was in great shape today. He went in company just to keep his mind on business. I thought he handled it well."



Animal Kingdom leading workmate to Fair Hill's dirt oval this a. m.

The chestnut colt has as his initial goal in 2012 the March 31 renewal of the \$10-million World Cup in Dubai. Motion plans to give the son of Leroidesanimaux a prep, either in Florida in February or a bit later at Meydan race course in Dubai.

"It's all up to the colt and how quickly he gets himself into shape," Motion said. "He is a big horse and he grew during his layoff. Ideally, I'd like to be able to run him in a race like the Gulfstream Park Handicap on February 11, but if he fails to make that race, we always have the option of sending him over to Dubai early and giving him a race over there."

Motion is undecided about when he will transfer Animal Kingdom to Palm Meadows training center near Boynton Beach, Florida. "The weather has been holding up well and he likes it here," Motion said. "I wouldn't mind breezing him here a few more times, as long as the dirt and Tapeta stay as good as they are right now."

Animal Kingdom won the Kentucky Derby, finished second in the Preakness Stakes and was injured at the start of the Belmont Stakes in a chain-reaction bumping incident that led to a suspension for the rider that initiated it.

The strapping Kentucky-bred underwent surgery to stabilize a non-displaced hairline fracture of a hind leg.