

November 4, 2011

PLUCK RESTING AFTER EMERGENCY SURGERY FOR TWISTED COLON JUVENILE TURF HERO WAS RUSHED TO CLINIC ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON COLT WAS STRICKEN HOURS BEFORE HIS SCHEDULED COMEBACK RACE

Pluck, last year's Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf winner, underwent successful surgery on Thursday night at Hagyard Equine Medical Institute in Lexington, where he was rushed after exhibiting signs of colic a few hours before his scheduled return in the Grade 3 Commonwealth Turf Stakes at Churchill Downs.



Pluck had been training impressively and was in with a big chance Thursday on a course he proved to love last November in the Breeders' Cup.

Surgeons found that Pluck was suffering from a torsion, or full twist, of the large colon.

"They were able to get it untwisted, and he came out of the surgery and anesthesia well and is resting now," said Barry Irwin, president of Team Valor International, which races Pluck with The Vinery. "He had a very painful experience, and he's going to be feeling bad for another 3 or 4 days, but thankfully it looks like he's going to be OK."

"Eventually he will be sent to Goldmark Farm in Florida, and as he

recovers, we'll decide with The Vinery whether or not to try to bring him back to race again."

Pluck had been away from the races since early April, when a nuclear scan revealed bruising on both of his hind cannon bones. He was cleared to resume exercise at the end of June and trained well leading up to the Commonwealth Turf under the care of trainer Graham Motion.

From the same home-bred crop that produced Team Valor's Kentucky Derby winner Animal Kingdom, Pluck achieved Churchill Downs glory almost exactly a year ago, when he rallied from last to capture the Juvenile Turf from the outside post position.

Pluck also won the Grade 3 Summer Stakes at Woodbine. He has 3 wins in 7 career starts and \$727,290 in earnings.

Last December, Vinery's Australian division purchased a major share in the More Than Ready colt as a racing and stallion prospect.