

Jacqueline Bartol, DVM, DACVIM

New England Equine Medical & Surgical Center

by Kelly Welles

Growing up, most of us can't decide what we want to do with our lives. Our dreams change from wanting to be an astronaut to starting a band. It's not often that one has a clear idea of what she wants for the future, sticks to it and makes it a reality, as Dr. Jacqueline Bartol did.



Dr. Bartol competed in "A" rated jumper shows and eventing trials with her horse that she owned for close to 20 years.



Dr. Bartol is an internal medicine specialist at New England Equine Medical & Surgical Center.



Ultrasound of the chest and abdomen, as well as endoscopy and gastroscopy, are some of Dr. Bartol's specialties.

When she recognized her dream of becoming a veterinarian while still in elementary school ("It was like a calling," she says), Dr. Bartol never wavered. Now she is a partner in and co-owner of New England Equine Medical & Surgical Center (NEEMSC), a prestigious equine surgical and referral equine hospital in Dover, New Hampshire.

Dr. Bartol's involvement with horses also started at a young age, when she became "completely immersed" in all things equine. She began lessons at age five in hunt seat equitation before moving up to "A" rated jumper shows and competing in low-level eventing through Pony Club until age 18. During this time, she also participated in fox hunting and hunter paces. She got her first horse when she was just 10 years old (a special surprise after having her tonsils removed!), which she owned for almost 20 years.

She started her veterinary studies at Cornell University in 1992 in Ithaca, New York, where she received her DVM before going on to Rochester Equine Clinic in Rochester, New Hampshire, to complete a one-year equine veterinary internship in being in a university. I wanted more hands on experience," says Bartol.

After a year in New Hampshire, Dr. Bartol went back to Cornell for three years to complete her residency training in large animal internal medicine, in which she became board certified in 2000. "Cornell was definitely the best place to go for the rest of my training," reflects Dr. Bartol. "They train really good veterinarians. I'm still in contact with the vets there as friends, colleagues and mentors. I'm so grateful to them. It was a great experience being there."

In 2000, Dr. Bartol returned to Rochester Equine Clinic, where she began her work as an equine

veterinarian and internal medicine specialist. After nearly five years there, Dr. Michael Davis, a colleague who had noticed Dr. Bartol's talent and ambition, proposed an offer to Dr. Bartol to become a business partner in a new endeavor that would become New England Equine Medical & Surgical Center. "It was a major opportunity that people in internal medicine don't get offered very often," says Dr. Bartol. "I am fortunate to be at this position at this age. It's amazing how my career has gone. I've been really lucky."

But luck wasn't all that led to Dr. Bartol's success. She has always focused on her career, making it the primary goal in her life and working diligently to achieve it.

Today, Dr. Bartol is an internal medicine specialist at NEEMSC. All of the colic emergencies that the facility receives come to her first so that she can examine the horse and identify the possible cause of the colic. If the horse then needs to be transferred to surgery she provides the surgeon with a better idea of what to expect. She says that she loves working on colic cases and trying to find out specifically what the problem is and then waiting to see if she was correct. "It's challenging," says Dr. Bartol. "You don't always figure it out because there is only so much you can do to evaluate a horse from the outside. It definitely doesn't get boring. Every day we learn something."

Although colic cases are the first ones that Dr. Bartol sees, she also works with other cases throughout the day such as ophthalmology, respiratory, cardiology and potential contagious and infectious diseases. Her specialties are ultrasound of the chest and abdomen, as well as endoscopy and gastroscopy to look for stomach ulcers.

With the many emergencies the facility receives during the nights and weekends, as well as the day-to-day cases, Dr. Bartol admits it is challenging. "We're pretty much available all the time," she says.

Nonetheless, Dr. Bartol has been able to occasionally find free time for her hobbies and interests, like art and art history (which she studied as an undergraduate), running, biking, hiking and spending time at her favorite place, the coast. She's even had a little freedom to pursue two new interests – scuba diving and swing dancing. The extracurricular activities help keep her sharp and focused while she's at work, enabling her to confidently handle any challenges that arise.

"The other challenging part is dealing with those cases that once you figure out what the problem is there's really not a lot you can do," she says. "You can only make the horse more comfortable and comfort the client. Being a veterinarian is as much a part of taking care of the client as it is taking care of the animal."

Despite the challenges, Dr. Bartol is very happy with her place at NEEMSC. "I love working here, working with the people I work with," says Bartol. "Mike [Davis] is a terrific partner, friend, and a great veterinarian. The staff here knows how to deal with crisis. They are out for the care of the horse and are very teamwork oriented. That helps make things go really smoothly. We're like a little family."

Whatever the future holds for NEEMSC and Dr. Bartol, it is sure to be successful with her drive and forward-thinking focus. She never looked back through her rise to becoming a veterinarian, and it doesn't look like she will any time soon.

For more information on New England Equine Medical & Surgical Center, call 603-749-9111, or email Dr. Bartol at jbartol@newenglandequine.com. ■



New England Equine Medical & Surgical Center

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*Nobody Says It Better Than Our Clients,
But We Like To Call Them Family*



Chris Cassenti
*Chrislar Farm
Rowley, Massachusetts*

Dr. Bartol is absolutely awesome. We had a weanling that had arrived and shortly after developed a really bad fever, vets here taking blood work, running tests and monitoring her. She wasn't eating and she needed hydration. The vets said that even though they were capable of handling the situation, she really needed round the clock care. We shipped her to NEEMSC and Jackie was the veterinarian assigned to her.

I've known Jackie forever, and the one thing I can say about her is that she always takes the time to let you know what is going on. You don't have to call her. She will call you on her own. She will take the time out of her busy day to call you everyday and keep you informed.

The filly was there for a good two weeks and they were running all kinds of tests and we were concerned. They couldn't find what it was and as a last resort sent some more blood out. Through persistence and not willing to say I don't know what it was she came up with a diagnosis. It was a strange one that we would never have tested her for.

We couldn't be anymore happy. Jackie conducts herself as a true professional. She has a good bedside manner and that means more to people than you can imagine. It's good business practice and shows how much they care. It's really important particularly in today's worlds. Doctors rush you in and rush you out. The days of sitting with a patient are long gone. NEEMSC brings old time doctoring back where it belongs. Taking the time to do that is the one thing people will remember. Dr. Bartol gets a gold star and a thumbs up from Chris Cassenti of Chrislar Farm.

Elizabeth Latham
Sanbornton, New Hampshire

I've had numerous occasions when I've used New England Equine and Dr. Bartol. I've dealt with Dr. Bartol with emergencies and some good old fashion vet work. She has been nothing but professional. She has high energy, but is very focused and she shows empathy and compassion. It's really refreshing to have a vet so committed and so intense. She is very gregarious. We have been through some difficult and different situations and in everyone she has come through with flying colors.

When she does something she explains exactly what is going on. She says why and how and what the prospective results will be without being patronizing at all. It makes you feel better. She is cautiously positive. She methodically goes through all the steps to find out what's wrong and doesn't immediately expect the worst. She has a strong urge to make sure you understand exactly what's going on. In today's society you don't get that anymore. She's very comforting and very professional. That's quite a task.

I really like how the doctors interact with each other at NEEMSC. Everybody sees something differently and it's great having mechanics work that well. NEEMSC is not only beautiful and cutting edge, but they have the mind. It's quite an experience going there.

Sheryl MacLeod
Freemont, New Hampshire

Dr. Bartol treated my daughter, Devon's, pony twice for severe colic. Mystic Puddin is a wonderful pony who has won a lot of hunt seat and pony medal finals. The first time he had colic was in January 2005. He was very ill, but because he was 21 years old surgery wasn't an option. I felt he wouldn't have come through being that old. It was pretty dark for him for a while and he was at the facility for ten days. It ended up being an obstruction, which Dr. Bartol was able to clear.

Mystic Puddin got severe colic again in October and again we almost lost him. The second time we brought him to Dr. Bartol and she knew him and they all take such good care of him. Mr. Puddin has been wonderful since. We changed his diet and he has been on senior feed. This year my daughter has had a wonderful year with Mystic Puddin. They have been champion or reserve at every show we've been to. At the Cape Cod hunter show at Silver Oaks she was the champion. I don't think they lost a class.

Our overall experience at NEEMSC was fabulous, wonderful. Dr. Bartol is a wonderful lady. She answers all your questions and calls you back. She will talk to you morning noon and night. She's very caring and kind and the new facility is gorgeous. It's nicer than a lot of human hospitals. I would definitely recommend NEEMSC to others.

Sergeant Roland Morin
*Dover Police Department
Dover, New Hampshire*

We at the mounted police have known Dr. Bartol for a long time. We have three Percherons; two crosses and one registered, which we use to patrol the central business district in Dover. She takes care of all three and she's always made herself available to us. She's an integral part of our organization. She is so personable with you and she takes the time to explain things without making it too technical.

One of our horses, King Arthur, had a problem almost like narcolepsy. Dr. Bartol found that the problem is an inherited disease called PSSM, were the horse can't digest starches and sugars. She made it her project and we were able to keep him. Through changing his diet, he turned out to be one of our best horses. His health today is the result of Jackie Bartol's diligence in treating him.

Also, every other year she makes herself available to put on a first aid course for all volunteers and officers. On top of that NEEMSC provides a charitable donation for a lot of the medications and certain treatments for the horses, which has saved us a lot of money.

It's outstanding to have NEEMSC located in Dover. It is such an advantage to us because it's such a great facility and her staff is so pleasant. They make themselves available and go above and beyond what is expected.

Generally were not supposed to recommend places, but we don't have a problem recommending her and NEEMSC. They just have so much to offer.



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