



## Three-year-old male Animal Kingdom



**ANIMAL KINGDOM**  
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Age	Starts	2011 Race Record			Earnings
		Wins	2nd	3rd	
3	5	2	2	0	\$1,904,900

After three different horses won the Triple Crown races, it seemed the 2011 three-year-old male championship would be determined with important races in the summer and fall.

But summer and fall came and went with no three-year-old male taking command. In a year that no three-year-old male would win more than one Grade 1 race at distances of one mile or longer, Animal Kingdom's spring accomplishments stood out as the division's most impressive.

Victories in the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (G1) and Vinery Racing Spiral Stakes (G3), along with a close runner-up finish to Shackleford in the Preakness Stakes (G1), lifted Animal Kingdom to the Eclipse Award. An injury sustained in Animal Kingdom's sixth-place Belmont Stakes (G1) finish, where he was bumped early, forced him to miss the remainder of the season.

In September, trainer Graham Motion told THOROUGHBRED TIMES he thought Animal Kingdom had done enough to secure the championship.

"Ultimately, he won the classic race that everyone wants to win in what was his first start on the dirt," Motion said. "I think people have overlooked that. He came back in his second start ever on dirt and was just beaten in the Preakness, and then we all know what happened in the Belmont."

Animal Kingdom is the first Derby winner to take the 1¼-mile classic in his first start on dirt and is the first since Needles in 1956 to win the race off a six-week layoff.

He is the first U.S. champion for owner Team Valor International and the first champion for his sire, Leroidesanimaux (Brz).

Animal Kingdom is the first champion and first classic winner for trainer Motion, who previously was best known for scoring upset victories in the John Deere Breeders' Cup Turf (G1) with Better Talk Now and Emirates Airline Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf (G1) with Shared Account. —*Frank Angst*

### 1971-2011

Year	Horse	Year	Horse	Year	Horse
2011	Animal Kingdom	1997	Silver Charm	1983	Slew o' Gold
2010	Lookin At Lucky	1996	Skip Away	1982	Conquistador Cielo
2009	Summer Bird	1995	Thunder Gulch	1981	Pleasant Colony
2008	Big Brown	1994	Holy Bull	1980	Temperence Hill
2007	Curlin	1993	Prairie Bayou	1979	Spectacular Bid
2006	Bernardini	1992	A.P. Indy	1978	Affirmed
2005	Afleet Alex	1991	Hansel	1977	Seattle Slew
2004	Smarty Jones	1990	Unbridled	1976	Bold Forbes
2003	Funny Cide	1989	Sunday Silence	1975	Wajima
2002	War Emblem	1988	Risen Star	1974	Little Current
2001	Point Given	1987	Alysheba	1973	Secretariat
2000	Tiznow	1986	Snow Chief	1972	Key to the Mint
1999	Charismatic	1985	Spend a Buck	1971	Canonero II
1998	Real Quiet	1984	Swale		