

## Basic Dental Care for Horses

By Kentucky Equine Research Staff



The condition of a horse or pony's teeth often serves as a bellwether for its overall well-being. If an owner allocates time and money to dental care, she likely addresses other routine maintenance: timely vaccinations and deworming, regular hoof care by a competent farrier, and prompt veterinary attention when necessary.

Why then do well-kept horses often have neglected teeth? Owner uncertainty often precludes horses from getting the dental care they require. "Where do I find a competent equine dentist?" "What will a visit entail?" "How much will dental examination and correction cost?"

To find a dentist in your area, consult with your veterinarian. Legal requirements for equine dentistry can vary by country and state; in some areas, veterinarians may prefer not to perform dental procedures but will make recommendations. Once you've identified an experienced professional, reach out to him. Request references and check them. Never be too timid to ask about the prices of basic services, but it will come as no surprise that final cost likely depends on services rendered.

Basic dental services include:

- Examination. Most dentists will use a speculum to gently pry open the mouth so every structure in the mouth can be evaluated thoroughly. When properly fitted, the speculum in no way hurts the horse. Problematic teeth can injure cheeks, gums, and the tongue, so the entire oral cavity should be examined closely.
- Floating. Perhaps the most common dental procedure, floating smooths sharp points on cheek teeth, corrects misalignments and balances dental arcades. To accomplish this, dentists use either a handheld tool or a motorized instrument. Either method is acceptable so long as the practitioner is skilled.
- Age-dependent procedures. Age dictates the necessity for some procedures. Wolf teeth, for example, erupt near the first premolar and are sometimes removed because they can interfere with biting. Baby teeth, also called deciduous teeth, that do not shed properly and continue to sit on top of permanent teeth are called caps and must be removed.

(Continued on Page 3)

## Four Potential Horse Emergencies And How To Respond To Them

Dr. Jeff Hall, DVM, Senior Equine Technical Services, Zoetis



You love your horse more than anything and want to do what's right to help them live a healthy, happy life. But horses are accident-prone, and not even bubble wrap can prevent all emergencies. Recognizing common medical situations and knowing how to respond to them can help you fast-track your horse's road to recovery. Here are four common scenarios you may encounter and advice on what actions to take until your veterinarian arrives.

(Continued on Page 8)

2023

### DEC SHOW Dates

SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2023  
SATURDAY, SEPT. 9, 2023  
SUNDAY, OCT. 8, 2023\*  
\*RAIN DATE 10.15.23

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### President's Message

We begin 2023 with lots of exciting things to look forward to. We have a long list of speakers lined up for our monthly meetings with very informative topics for everyone.

The DEC Foundation is working hard to put together our best Scholarship Dinner yet including lots of great auction items to help fund that program.

After a successful 1st year for our Schooling Show Series, Joan, Neal and their crew are working to expand on the success of their first year.

We also have clinics in the works that will educate and inform our membership.

So, if you're not already a member, think about joining and helping to make 2023 a fabulous year.

**Ken Horeis, DEC President**

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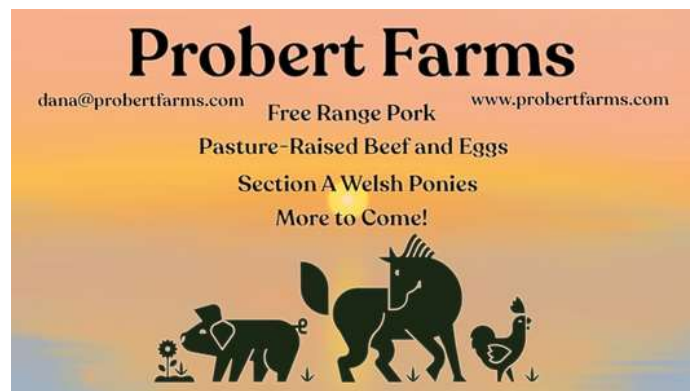
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## ★ Next DEC Meeting ★ Apex Stables Meeting Room

### Schedule of Meeting Speakers for 2023 3rd Monday of the Month

- February**-reserved for DEC Foundation planning
- March**-Vicky Trainor-Search & Rescue
- April**- Dr. Chris Baldt, Chiropractor- "Vetro-Laser"
- May**-Sherry Harris-Natural Horsemanship
- June**-No meeting
- July**- Dr. Nikki Scherrer, New Bolton Ophthalmologist, Omega Horse Rescue
- August**-Allison Meadows of the Mounted Police
- September**
- October**
- November**

If you or someone you know would like to present at a meeting, please contact a Board member



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## Basic Dental Care for Horses (Continued)

Other procedures are less common but may be just as important to the health of an individual horse: incisor adjustment, usually shortening or evening incisors so horses can grasp grass and chew more efficiently; addition of bit seats to the molars of performance horses; correction of overly long or sharp canine teeth; and tooth extraction. Extractions are most common in aged horses, those in their late teens and beyond, but horses of all ages can have diseased or fractured teeth that necessitate removal.

Many horses require the services of a dentist once a year, though young, old, and those with chronic conditions such as periodontal disease may need to be examined more frequently. Indicators of dental problems include:

- Dropping feed from mouth when chewing or chewing with obvious difficulty, sometimes raising or tilting the head;
- Tossing head, opening mouth excessively, lolling tongue, or chewing the bit excessively when bridled;
- Performing poorly, including pulling on the reins, becoming more difficult to turn or stop, or exhibiting uncharacteristic misbehavior, such as rearing or bucking.

Lapses in dental care can create health problems for horses: sharp points can cause ulcers or abscesses on tongue or cheek tissue; wolf teeth can be the source of pain and consequent behavioral problems; and crooked, loose, or painful teeth can keep horses from processing feedstuffs adequately to derive optimal nutrition from them.

"At times, managing horses may seem like an exercise in organization, scheduling one healthcare professional after another: veterinarian, nutritionist, farrier, dentist," said Catherine Whitehouse, M.S., a nutritionist at Kentucky Equine Research. "These specialists elevate the care that we can offer our horses, which only benefits them in the long run."

"I frequently ask horse owners to describe dental care. When faced with unexplained weight loss, this is one of the first things that comes to mind because poor dentition is often the reason for ribbiness, especially when the horse has sufficient forage and feed available to him," Whitehouse said. "I cannot overstate the value of regular and skillful dentistry to any horse's nutritional well-being."



**Debbie O'Brien**

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## Stereotypies in Horses: Feeding Management Among Likely Causes

By Kentucky Equine Research Staff



Have you ever watched in disbelief as a horse clamps his incisors on a fence board, arches his neck, and heaves back? Or wondered quizzically why your favorite brood matron, flea-bitten with

age, weaves frantically, her head swinging in time, when stress descends upon her? A group of researchers in Brazil recently set out to summarize the primary risk factors associated with the development of stereotypies in horses.

In order to do this, the researchers reviewed scientific literature. Though more than 100 studies were identified in the initial search, further screening reduced the final number used in the review to 19. Those studies were performed in eight countries and involved nearly 19,000 horses of various breeds and uses.

About 26% of horses had at least one stereotypy or abnormal behavior. In order of prevalence, the most common stereotypies identified in the studies were weaving, cribbing, stall walking, and windsucking. Others included pawing and stall-kicking. The most frequent abnormal behaviors reported in these studies were wood-chewing, manure-eating, and consumption of bedding.

As to the causes of stereotypies, the conditions most cited in the studies included:

- Feeding high levels of concentrates (19 studies),
- Reduced feeding time (18 studies),
- Confinement or insufficient time in a paddock or pasture (18 studies),
- Limited forage (18 studies), and
- Social isolation (14 studies).

Other factors thought to influence stereotypies or abnormal behaviors included stall design, exercise frequency, number of daily meals, weaning, proximity to other horses, boredom, frustration, and pain.

According to the review study, limited access to forage is the primary factor related to the development of stereotypies and abnormal behavior in horses, though multiple biological and environmental factors are likely at play in any given instance.

With this in mind, horse owners should be cognizant of the quality and quantity of forage they provide their charges. Because horses should be fed as individuals, these parameters can differ considerably depending on age, weight, work intensity, and metabolic status. With this in mind, every attempt should be made to mimic a horse's natural grazing behavior by affording access to forage whenever possible.

Lack of forage is a common cause of gastric ulcers, which leads to discomfort and the possible development of stereotypies. If a horse is suspected of having gastric ulcers, a gastroscopy should be performed by a veterinarian to verify the diagnosis. Once gastric ulcers are cleared through the use of omeprazole, susceptible horses should be offered a research-proven supplement designed specifically to prevent formation of new ulcers.

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## Four Potential Horse Emergencies (Continued)

### 1. Colic

Colic is every horse owner's worst nightmare because this severe belly ache can require immediate veterinary care or surgery. Colic can be caused by many things including gas, an impaction (blockage) or a displaced piece of intestine.

**What to look for:** Signs of discomfort in horses, including pawing, repeatedly lying down and getting back up, biting at their sides, hanging their head low, lack of manure production, loss of appetite, increased respiratory rate or sweating on the neck or flanks.

**How to respond:** You know your horse's every move and can detect even the most subtle change in their behavior. When your intuition tells you something is wrong, call your veterinarian right away to explain what you're seeing. They will offer guidance on next steps, which may include:

- Removing hay, feed and sometimes water. Restrict or do not allow grazing until your veterinarian arrives to limit the buildup of feed and fluid in the stomach.
- Keeping the horse in a calm environment near a buddy if possible.
- Keeping the horse up and calmly walking if it's safe to do so.
- Watching out for your own safety! Be sure to choose a space with plenty of room so you stay safe too.

Also, note that pregnant mares may be more at-risk for colic the closer they get to foaling and after the foal is born, so be extra-observant of new mamas in your herd and communicate with your veterinarian proactively.

### 2. Wounds or lacerations

Horses are curious, and they seem to quickly find any and all sharp objects in a stall or pasture. Also, their legs have very little soft tissue covering for protection, so lower limb wounds can potentially infect a joint or tendon sheath, which could be life-threatening.

Most often, a wound or laceration emergency is due to a protruding object piercing a horse's sensitive skin or a horse stepping on a sharp object such as a nail. The edges of a water bucket handle and double-sided clips can also tear eyelids and nostrils. Horses turned out in a herd can also be injured while kicking and playing.

**Pro-Tip:** Walk around your horse's stall, paddock, and pasture areas regularly to look for potential hazards that may cause injuries.

**What to look for:** An injury with associated swelling and pain when touched as well as severe or non-weight-bearing lameness in one of the legs. In some cases, a scrape, patch of missing hair, or puncture wound may be the only sign of an injury. In other cases, active bleeding or dried blood may be readily apparent.

- Assess the location and severity of the wound. Sometimes a small puncture wound with minimal bleeding at a joint or a nail sticking out of the bottom of a hoof can be more severe with a worse prognosis than a large flap of bleeding skin hanging off the chest region.

- Superficial head wounds can bleed a lot, but they heal relatively quickly because there's a good blood supply to the area.

Contact your veterinarian anytime a wound is bigger than a minor cut or scrape, a wound is located near a joint or there's swelling or lameness. What may seem like a minor surface or puncture wound could be more serious. Allowing a small injury to heal on its own may lead to an issue that requires prolonged downtime and additional treatment.

#### How to respond:

- If your horse is actively bleeding, apply a pressure wrap to stop the flow of blood with a polo or standing wrap.
- If your horse isn't bleeding, cold-hose the area to remove any visible dirt, gravel or shavings from the wound site.
- Use an antiseptic solution to clean the wound which will help reduce bacterial infections. It is recommended to wear clean, disposable gloves during wound care. Avoid applying antibiotic sprays or ointments without prior veterinary approval.

Always ask for advice before administering medication. Giving the wrong type, dosage or duration might create secondary side effects. Finally, if a foreign object (e.g., a nail or piece of wood) is present, keep the horse still and calm and don't remove it until your veterinarian arrives.

### 3. Fever

A horse's normal temperature varies, but an acceptable range is generally between 99.0-101.5 degrees Fahrenheit. Exercise, especially in excessive heat and humidity, is likely to raise any horse's temperature, but healthy horses quickly return to normal levels after a period of rest. A prolonged increase in temperature or a reading that's more than a few degrees above average can suggest an issue.

**What to look for:** A fever may indicate a localized or systemic infection. When a horse has a fever, it can have an increased respiratory and/or heart rate, go off-feed and water, and have patchy areas of sweat over its neck or flanks. Typically, they'll also act dull and depressed and may exhibit droopy eyelids or helicopter ears.

**How to respond:** How your horse feels influences the next steps. For example, if your horse's temperature is only one or two degrees higher and they're eating and drinking normally, your veterinarian may not opt for a treatment. Instead, they may recommend taking your horse's temperature for a few days.

If a fever persists or your horse's temperature continues to increase, it's a warning sign. Your veterinarian will likely want to evaluate your horse to determine the underlying cause in order to decide on a treatment plan.

Getting into the habit of checking your horse's temperature once or twice a month helps establish a baseline so that you can quickly identify a problem when you notice a behavior change, and your horse will have become accustomed to having their temperature taken.

(Continued on Page 9)



## Four Potential Horse Emergencies (Continued)

### 4. Injury to or near the eyes

The eye is made up of sensitive tissues and can be the site of numerous injuries. Horses scratching their face on a fence, poking their face with a piece of hay or tall grass, or playing with a herd mate can be culprits. Eyelid lacerations or corneal ulcers are some of the most common eye injuries and are always considered an emergency.

**What to look for:** Excessive tearing or swelling of the eyelid. A horse may likely also squint or hold their eye shut. When looking at your horse head-on, the eyelashes of both eyes should point in the same direction, about 45 degrees downward. If the eyelashes point downward more on one side, that's likely the side that's injured.

**How to respond:** Any injury to the eye is considered an emergency, and you should call your veterinarian right away. Prevent the horse from rubbing its face on its leg, stall wall, or handler until your veterinarian arrives to assess the situation. You may need to put a clean fly mask on the horse to help protect the area.

### Plan ahead

Chances are you have a first aid kit for your family. Since your horses are your family too, having a kit for the barn or stable is an important part of proactive planning and responsible horse ownership. When you have the necessary supplies and knowledge of common emergencies, you can respond faster and increase your horse's chances of a full recovery. These are the basic supplies we recommend having on hand to respond to emergencies:

- Thermometer
- Lubricants for the thermometer, such as petroleum jelly
- Stethoscope
- Latex or nitrile disposable gloves
- 4" x 4" gauze pads
- Standing bandage pad material or roll cotton
- Elastic tape
- Dormosedan Gel® (detomidine hydrochloride), is a convenient solution when horses need a mild, standing sedative prior to certain stressful, nonpainful situations or husbandry procedures such as bandage changes or clipping
- Bandage scissors
- Duct tape
- Antiseptic solution

Simple wounds can develop severe complications if left untreated or treated inappropriately. Ensuring that your veterinarian administers your horse's annual core disease vaccinations can help prevent severe, life-threatening diseases like rabies or tetanus caused by bacteria living in the soil.




**BAD ASH ACRES**

Registered Romney, Polled Dorset Ewes & Boer Goats  
Laurel, Delaware  
BadAshAcres@gmail.com  
<https://badashacres.wixsite.com/mysite>  
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302-462-7250



**Maile's Holistic Hoof Care**

302-272-2683

maileholistichoofcare@gmail.com



**2nd Annual Tuckahoe Equestrian Center OFFERS Scholarships**

*Tuckahoe Equestrian Center is pleased to be offering scholarships to students pursuing their education in equine studies, vet/vet tech, or agricultural studies. This year, High School seniors, who are about to attend college in these areas, will also be eligible.*

*Three scholarships of \$1500 each will be awarded*

*Applications must be submitted by June 1, 2023 with results announced by July 1, 2023*

*Scholarship application, criteria, and FEC membership application can be found on the FEC website: TuckahoeEquestrianCenter.com, or call Stacy Frank at 516-901-4979.*




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# EVENTS

- Feb. 25**-Delmarva Driving Club's Beginners Driving Clinic at Stan Vonasek's indoor arena in Ellendale
- Mar. 18**-CBHSA Jumper Show at Bohemia Creek Stables, Warwick, MD
- Mar. 19**- Delaware Appaloosa Tack Swap: Caroline County 4H Park, Denton MD 302-526-6944
- Mar. 25-DECF Scholarship Awards Dinner**, Moose Lodge, Harrington, \$35/pp or \$260 for a table of 8. Contact any board member
- Apr. 1**-CBHSA Jumper Show at Pairadice Equestrian Center, Milton
- Apr. 8**-Paper Chase at Fairhill benefitting Equine Rescue Ambulance, contact: joann.bashore@gmail.com
- Apr. 15**-CBHSA Horseshow at Glendale Riding School, Easton
- Apr. 16**-Wicomico Hunt/Mt. Harmon 2nd Annual Point to Point Steeplechase Event at Mount Harmon, Earlville, MD
- Apr. 29**-CBHSA Horseshow at Pairadice Equestrian Center, Milton
- Apr. 29**-Obstacle Training Clinic at Fairhill benefitting Equine Rescue Ambulance, Contact: Joann.bashore@gmail.com
- Apr. 29**-Making Strides Hunter Jumper Series at Breezy Run Farm, Church Hill, MD, Victoria Meyer 410-570-4742
- Apr. 29-30- BRENDAN WISE Clinic** at Apex Stables, registration/payment at [www.delawareequinecouncil.org](http://www.delawareequinecouncil.org) . contact: Julie Warrington at [warrington\\_girls@yahoo.com](mailto:warrington_girls@yahoo.com)
- May 6**-Southern Delaware Therapeutic Riding KENTUCKY DERBY Day EVENT fundraiser, \$50/pp, Dinner/auction/fun

Delaware Appaloosa Horse Association  
**March 19, 2023**  
**Tack Swap**  
 Caroline County  
 4H Youth Park  
 8230 Detour Road  
 Denton, MD. 21629  
 From 8am to 1pm  
 Table Rental is \$35.00 per table  
 All tables will be provided

Got tack laying around and collecting dust? Bring it to the swap. Need new tack & supplies for the upcoming season? Come check out the vendors at the swap. There's something for everyone at the swap. From everyday work tack to show tack in all disciplines. Open to ALL Equine Enthusiast.

To reserve a spot contact  
 Tammy at [dahashow@gmail.com](mailto:dahashow@gmail.com) or 302-526-6944



## OBSTACLE TRAINING CLINIC

April 29, 2023



**Benefit Equine Rescue Ambulance Fair Hill**

**Foxcatcher Arena, Fair Hill NRMA  
 4640 Telegraph Road Elkton, MD 21921**

Are you interested in training your horse to face their fear of strange obstacles? Come and practice with the same obstacles that the Fair Hill Mounted Patrol uses to train their horses to qualify for mounted patrol work. Examples of obstacles to be worked are:

Balloons	Balls	Flags	Mattress	Inflatables	Water Box
Bridge	Trash	Umbrellas	Push poles	Tarps	Pedestal

Clinic times April 22 A 9:00am – 10:15 am B 10:30 am – 11:45 am  
 C 12:30pm – 1:45 pm D 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm

Cost per clinic session for each horse and rider is \$40. Pre-registration by 4/22/23 is required with a copy of a negative coggins. **Helmets are required on all mounted riders.** Clinic is limited to 12 participants per session so be sure to register early. For more info call 443-553-6184 or email [joann.bashore@gmail.com](mailto:joann.bashore@gmail.com)

## Emergency Equine Assistance Program

DEC Emergency Equine Assistance Program is a payment program designed to assist horse/equine owners who demonstrate financial need with the cost of hay, feed, or veterinary services for their equines. Payments will be to the feed/hay suppliers or veterinarians to cover actual, documented out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the horse/equine owner. **Visit <https://delawareequinecouncil.org/eeap.php>** Our on-line application forms are the fastest way to get help. Please use the link to access the forms. Fill them out completely and accurately. When complete, they will be e-mailed directly to the committee.

## Raffle Drawing



### 6 Person Boat Cruise on the Choptank

Choose from  
Fishing trip, Dinner cruise or Nature tour

Drawing Friday, April 7, 2023  
American Legion Post 28 Millsboro, DE  
(Attendance not required to win)

Proceeds to Benefit

### Sea Bridge Equine Rescue

**\$10.00 Per Ticket, 3 for \$25 or 7 for \$50.00**

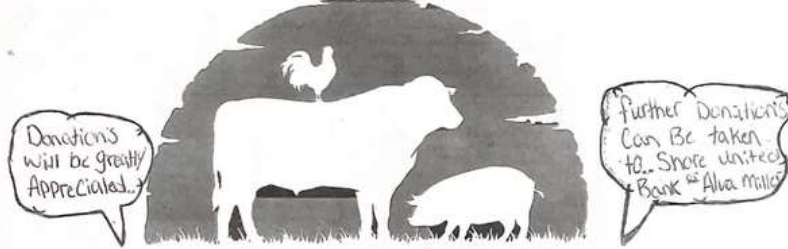
Tickets purchased at:  
American Legion Post 28 Millsboro or  
Patty Gilmore-302-747-0554

Some restrictions apply:

- Mates tip **not** included in winning, please remit personally
- Dates picked will be subject to Captain's availability
- Cannot be used on a Tournament, Holiday or opening day
  - Trip must be taken during 2023

## Benefit Raffle

Drawing will be.. April 1ST 2023  
FOR WAYNE MILLER'S CANCER FUND



6 Chances for \$100.00

6 Winners Will Be Drawn

1ST & 2ND winner~ hind quarter angus beef  
3RD & 4TH winner ~ front quarter angus beef

5TH & 6TH Winner ~ whole hog's  
custom cuts and ready for your freezer!

Done by Miller's Butcher Shop!  
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cut on dotted line  
and send with payment



## FAIR HILL SPRING PAPER CHASE Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 TO BENEFIT Equine Rescue Ambulance

**Location: Fair Hill NRMA,  
North Appleton Lot  
2941 Appleton Road, Elkton, MD 21921**  
Pre-Registration required.  
\$40 per rider includes lunch.  
Course is approx. 8 miles,  
Start Times 830a-1p



**ALL Riders Must be on course no later than 1p!**  
Divisions – Single, Pairs, Group, Barn, Fastest  
Awards for Oldest and Youngest Rider, Oldest Horse

Registration Forms will be available March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023!  
For more information contact Jo Ann 443-553-6184  
Or E-mail: [fairhillera@gmail.com](mailto:fairhillera@gmail.com)

**In the Event of Weather Cancellation all entry fees are considered a  
Donation to ERA Fair Hill! NO REFUNDS!**

Proceeds will go to support the **Equine Rescue Ambulance Inc, Fair Hill Division** (501c3) that provides emergency rescue, stabilization, and transportation services for downed and injured large animals.

**Equine Rescue Ambulance Inc, Fair Hill Division** is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that provides a humane and dignified approach to large animal rescue in the Tri-State Area. Our volunteers receive extensive training in technical large animal emergency rescue. **Equine Rescue Ambulance Inc, Fair Hill Division** is committed to expanding training and education. Our goal is to develop and participate in a coordinated network of technical large animal emergency responders for the area.

Tax deductible donations can be mailed to:

ERA Fair Hill Division, 71 Elk Mills Road, Elkton, MD 21921

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual First State Horse & Pony

Benefit Auction and Stallion Presentation  
(Coggins and Health Certificate Required)

**\*Saturday, March 25, 2023\***

Held at Ervin Yoder Residence: 2674 Judith Rd, Hartly, DE 19953

**Sale Schedule:**

7:00am – Driving of Stallions followed by Ponies & Horses  
10:00am - Stallion Presentation  
Sale begins after Stallion Presentation

Breakfast & Lunch Available



## Now Taking Consignments

Until March 15, 2023

-Contacts-

Atlee Miller (302)922-2984

Melvin Miller (302)505-2859

Menno Ray Hershberger (302)242-6729

Rudy Yoder (302)382-1793

Send Consignment Forms to:

Menno Ray Hershberger, 4327 Forrest Ave, Dover, DE 19904

# Delaware Equine Council Foundation, Inc.

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## 2023 SCHOLARSHIP DINNER & FUNDRAISER



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HARRINGTON MOOSE LODGE



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Table of 8 \$260

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Dancing  
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