

Delaware Equine News

Vol. 22 No.5

www.delawareequinecouncil.org

Dec 2023/Jan 2024

In Loving Memory of 'JR,' Our Beloved Police Mount



With a heavy heart, the Delaware State Police Mounted Patrol Unit (DSP MPU) announces the passing of our cherished police mount, 'JR.' He passed away on October 27, 2023. He was not just any horse but an integral and esteemed member of our team. 'JR,' whose namesake is Retired Delaware State Police Major John R. Evans, was an exceptional 19-year-old Percheron Draft horse, standing at an impressive 18.3 hands and weighing 1,945 lbs. He was generously donated to the DSP MPU in January 2014.

For nearly ten years, he dedicated himself to serving the citizens of Delaware with unwavering commitment and a gentle spirit, which made him an instant favorite in our communities and business districts.

His commanding presence and welcoming demeanor endeared him to our community. He was the go-to partner for crowd management duties, terrain searches for missing persons, evidence collection for criminal investigations, and providing security at large-scale events such as the Delaware State Fair,



NASCAR races, and Firefly Music Festival. He also stood tall as a symbol of respect and honor at too many funerals, paying tribute to our comrades and fallen law enforcement officers during National Police Week in Washington, D.C.



'JR' has left a permanent mark on our hearts and the communities he served. We extend our deepest gratitude for his loyal service. Rest easy, dear friend. You will be forever remembered for your dedication, commitment, and the joy you brought to us all.





President's Message

The 2023 year is drawing to a close. We've had a great year!

We had a successful local show series bringing many "newbies" and "oldies" to the show ring. Soon we will be receiving the Large Animal Rescue equipment, which will be donated to the Sussex County Tactical Response Team. The equipment was purchased with donations from you, our equine community throughout the state, and matched funds by your Delaware Equine Council. Hopefully you won't need it, but know that it's here in case of an emergency!

We'd like to announce our two new Directors to our Board: Brooke Baker and Jill Borowsky. Each bring to the table a wealth of knowledge and experience. Welcome!

We have many exciting events planned for 2024—the show series, which will be held at Origami Stables, a clinic, the DECF scholarship awards dinner and of course, our annual Member Appreciation ride/drive in the fall. Please plan to attend our monthly meetings held on the 3rd Monday of the month, so you can stay up on all the decisions and events we'll be planning.

Join us and be a part of something GREAT!

Ken Horeis, DEC President

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- Vice President, Neal Greenberg.....631-905-5799
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- Holly Vigilante.....973-462-286.....horseyofcoursey@gmail.com
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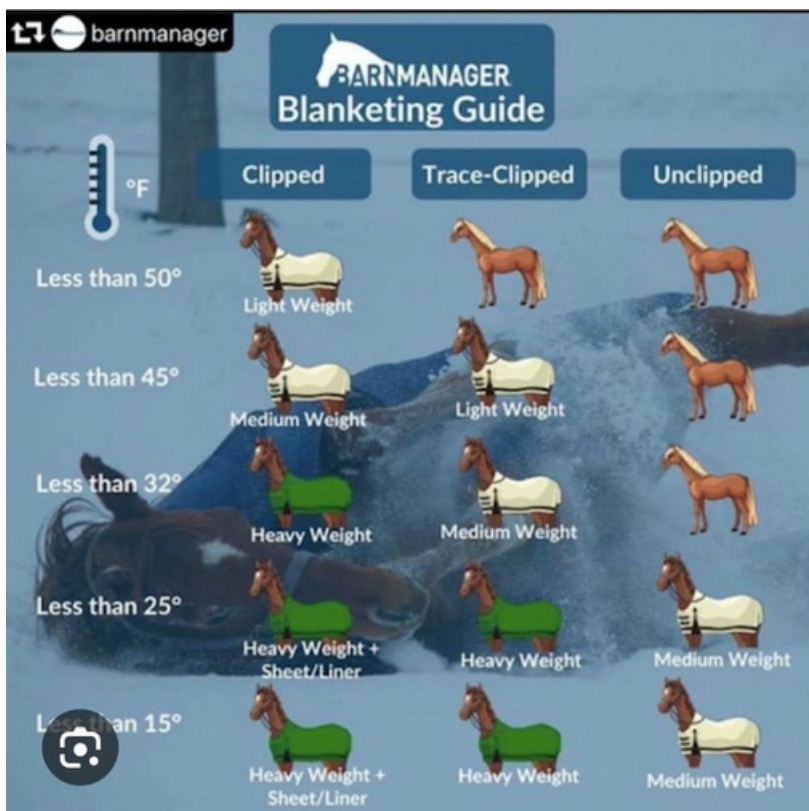
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Less than 32°	Heavy Weight	Medium Weight	
Less than 25°	Heavy Weight + Sheet/Liner	Heavy Weight	Medium Weight
Less than 15°	Heavy Weight + Sheet/Liner	Heavy Weight	Medium Weight

The youth showed up Sunday Oct. 8th with their parents and horses to have a great day at Delaware Equine Council third show of the season!



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**Do you have something interesting
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Send articles and information for the

Delaware Equine News to

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**2024
Delaware Equine Council
Show Series**




**Sunday April 28, 2024
Sunday May 12, 2024
Sunday Sept. 18, 2024
Sunday Oct. 6, 2024**

Rain or Shine (use of indoor in case of rain)
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2024



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Saddle Fit

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So, what is the point of this experiment? Many riders feel riding bareback is kinder to the horse, and in some ways when compared to a poorly fitting saddle, it can be.

A poorly fitted saddle has absolutely no give, and oftentimes the gullet plate will pinch or crush the withers while also impeding the shoulders. The reason a horse may seem better bareback is because that restriction has been removed. That said, it doesn't mean the horse goes well automatically, it just means the areas that were affected by the saddle are no longer - so freer shoulder and withers. However, what you have also taken away is the supportive structure of the tree, which is designed for the sole purpose of distributing rider weight to the areas that can handle it, while staying away from the nerves, bony protrusions and reflex points.

That feeling in your fingers when you sat on then, are what the horse feels against his spinal nerves that come out on either side of the vertebrae. The horse has, when looking downward, the spine which is made up of vertebrae which has both spinous processes (upwards pointing protrusions) and articulating ribs that connect on either side. There is also a thin muscle that runs parallel to the spine on either side called the multifidus, this is a stabilizing muscle and not meant to carry weight. In addition, as mentioned, the spinal nerves come out on either side to the area in which the seat bones of the rider would be perched. When you sit on your horse bareback, these are the structures your pointy, unforgiving seat bones are connecting with.

Some of you may say that you use a pad, but if you step on a pillow with a stiletto heel, you will still feel that heel poking through on the other side. Rigidity and structure are what protect the horse - soft pads or cushioning provide relief for US, but very little for the horse, especially during any pace faster than a walk.

Winter Water Consumption

By Tom R. Lenz, DVM, MS, DACT

We all know that colic is the number one non-infectious health risk for horses. There are a number of types of colic but the one we see the most in winter is impaction colic.



Impaction colic is essentially constipation and most often includes the accumulation of hard, dry fecal material in the colon. The usual signs of impending impaction colic are depression, a decreased appetite and decreased production and dryness of manure. Although poor hay quality, lack of exercise, internal parasites and dental problems are all predisposing factors for impaction colic, decreased water consumption is thought to be the primary predisposing factor for the condition, especially in the winter when most horses drink less water.

We've always advised our clients to provide warm water during winter months, as we've thought it increased the amount of water horses would drink. This is true, but the issue is a bit more complicated that it might appear at first glance.

Back in the mid-90's, researchers at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine conducted a series of studies to determine whether horses would drink more water during cold weather if it was heated.

In the first study, researchers provided one group of horses with water that was near freezing (32-38 degrees Fahrenheit) and the other group with water that was heated (66 degrees Fahrenheit).

What they found was that during cold weather, horses drank 40 percent more water when the water was heated. But only if that was the only source of water available. If there was icy water available, they drank almost exclusively from the icy water and drank less volume than if they had only warm water available. So the important conclusion is that your horses will drink more water during cold weather if it is heated but no other source of water should be available.

In the study, the researchers also observed some interesting aspects of horse drinking behavior. For example, horses in the stalls that are fed hay and grain will do most of their drinking within a few minutes after eating the grain and within an hour or so after they are given hay, regardless of water temperature.

They also noted that in all horses, whether or not they were stalled, 82 percent of the drinks took place within three hours after feeding. So, if we are using buckets that need to

Continued on page 10

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Winter Water Consumption (continued)

be refilled, it's important that we refill them at or just after feeding twice a day. Remember, that the average 1,200 – pound horse will drink seven to 10 gallons of water a day, so a five-gallon bucket of water twice a day is adequate in most cases unless the horse is exercising and sweating heavily. The study demonstrated there was no difference in water consumption between heated water buckets filled twice daily and water continuously available in a heated stick tank.

Following the winter study, the researchers wondered whether providing cold water rather than ambient warm water would increase water consumption in the summer so they conducted a second study during the summer when barn temperatures ranged from 60-85 degrees Fahrenheit. During that study, researchers provided water at barn temperature in five-gallon buckets that were refilled twice a day (8am and 5pm) vs. water that was cooled with ice and averaged around 34 degrees Fahrenheit, just a bit above freezing. What they found was that like the cold-weather study, most drinking occurred two to three hours after feeding. However, the study revealed that horses drank similar amounts of warm water and cold water during hot summer weather, so there was no advantage in providing cold water.

Unfortunately, horses were not provided both warm and cold water, like they were in the winter study, so it was not determined whether horses had a preference.

The bottom line is to increase water consumption and decrease the likelihood of an impaction colic, provide warm water in the winter and prevent access to cold water. If you have any questions about preventing colic in your horse, your local AAEP-member veterinarian is always your best source of information.



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/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/eeap_all_docs.pdf](https://delawareequinecouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/eeap_all_docs.pdf) 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.

2023 Delmarva AMBA Trail Ride



Wicomico Hunt's Fun Fall



Delaware Deer Hunting Seasons

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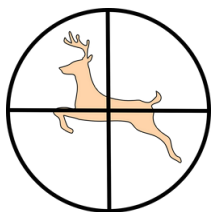
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Handgun 1

Statewide
Jan 6

Handgun 2

Statewide
Jan 8 -Jan 12



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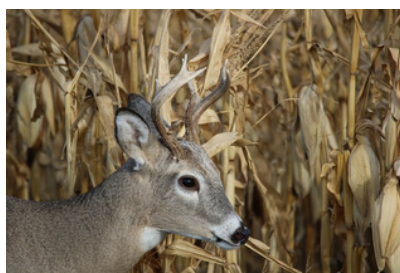
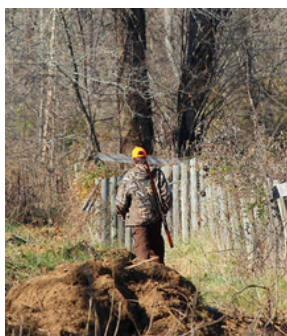
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