

# NEWS & VIEWS

You Can Use

## METS Receives Grant from Gentle Giants

(edited press release)

The Maryland Horse Council Foundation, Inc., is pleased to announce that it has received a generous grant from Gentle Giants Draft Horse Rescue (Gentle Giants) to fund the Maryland Equine Transition Service (METS) program. Gentle Giants will be the primary financial supporter of METS while the grant is in effect.

METS is a central component of the equine aftercare network in Maryland. It is a re-homing program that works on behalf of horses in need and matches the right owner to the right horse. METS advises owners on transition options, assesses horses for re-homing suitability, and distributes information about the horses in need through its expansive equestrian network. It has been in operation for three years and, in that time, has re-homed over 200 horses in need.

"We are all so proud of what the METS team have been able to accomplish in three short years but even more excited to see where we as a community can take the program in the future with support of great organizations like

Gentle Giants," said Erica Lancaster, President of the Maryland Horse Council Foundation.

Similarly, Gentle Giants is a key member of the Maryland equine rescue community – and understands how important the work METS does is to Maryland horses and horse owners. Gentle Giants rescues draft horses from auction to save them from slaughter, rehabilitates them physically and emotionally, and re-homes them to suitable adoptive homes.

"Gentle Giants is honored to help support the vital services that METS offers to the Maryland equine community. Maryland has become a national leader in equine welfare, and we are proud to a part of that movement," says Christine Hajek, President and Founder of Gentle Giants Draft Horse Rescue.

The Maryland Horse Council Foundation, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) public foundation. Its mission is "to perform charitable and educational activities associated with the horse industry in Maryland, and to help create and nurture deep ties between Maryland residents and the Maryland equine community." The Maryland

Horse Council Foundation was conceived by the Maryland Horse Council, which is the 501(c)(6) trade association that represents the Maryland horse community at the state and local level. See [www.md-horsecouncil.org](http://www.md-horsecouncil.org).

Learn more about METS at [www.mdequinetransition.org](http://www.mdequinetransition.org) and for Gentle Giants at [www.gentlegiantsdrafthorsescue.org](http://www.gentlegiantsdrafthorsescue.org).

## USEF Changes Masks Rule

As of May 17, the USEF has updated its protocols regarding facemasks at all USEF-licensed competitions due to updated CDC recommendations. The change states that those who are fully vaccinated no longer need to wear facemasks at USEF-licensed competitions when outdoors and at least six feet away from other individuals (except those within the same immediate household). USEF also states that if individuals enter an area that is fully or partially indoors, masks must be worn and social distance is required. In addition, USEF reminds all participants that local COVID-19 rules still apply, thus if a state or county still requires facemasks, then the competition must do so as well.

Here in Maryland, as of May 15, the



It was a beautiful spring day in May when the Greenwell Foundation in St. Mary's County welcomed over 100 young and young-at-heart members of the community to its May Open Barn celebrating Unicorns.

Costumes abounded, many photos were taken, and everyone enjoyed themselves safely, maintaining state and local guidelines as we emerge from the pandemic. Executive Director Jolanda Campbell was particularly pleased with the behavior of the farm's two newest members-goats Billy and Taco. "They had a great time meeting everyone, and all our visitors loved them!" Campbell said.

executive order for facemasks when outdoors has been lifted. However, some counties may choose to keep the facemask rule in effect. *The Equiry* reminds its readers to check with county COVID-19 sites as well as facility rules before choosing to take off a facemask.

## NAL National Finals Return Cap Challenge

The North American League's National Finals will be held at the Capital Challenge Horse Show this October. "Last year, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we moved the National Finals to the Capital Challenge for the first time and the move was very well received by our participants," stated Annette Longenecker of Ryegate Show Services, which

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Congratulations to Yvette Harris of Woodbine who won the USEF Intermediate Pair Pony Horse Combined Driving National Championship at the Katydid CDE in North Carolina last month. Harris was the lone competitor in the division with her ponies Morwell Amber (Welsh) and Suki (Welsh cross). They finished the competition with a double clean cones round and a final score of 155.81 penalty points. This was the second consecutive year Harris has won this title.

Another Marylander also earned National Championship honors at the Katydid CDE. To read about Riley Wiltson's win, see page 15 of this issue.