

## Message from the President



**Michael Erskine,  
DVM, DABVP**

I hope you are all enjoying a wonderful summer. Summer is when we look forward to sharing some time with our families and friends. It is also a time when we find ourselves very busy; summer camps, family vacations, the show season in full swing. I find it is a time we live in the present because there's not much time to reflect on the past or to plan for the future. But I try.

July 1 marked the start of the new fiscal year for the Maryland Horse Council. As you know by now, the MHC enjoyed a great last year. And we are looking forward to an even better year to come. This year will be about expanding our reach and enhancing our impact. We have laid a solid foundation on which to build. Now we will begin to see the MHC, and its new capabilities, take form.

We will be increasing the visibility of the MHC this year. This will start with our members and friends. You will continue to see our appreciation of your support of the MHC.

*(continued on page 2)*

## State Horse Council Advisory Committee Meeting

Kate Masterton

I attended the Welcome Reception of the State Horse Council Advisory Committee at the American Horse Council Meeting June 17-19, 2007, and much of the meeting the following day.

Monday's sessions were very interesting and enjoyable. The lobbyist for the AHC, and various other representatives, gave comprehensive reports on developments in the areas of legislation, regulations, health, the Equine Species Working Group, and the Unwanted Horse Coalition. Beverly submitted her report for the MHC, which accorded comprehensively with the monthly reports as read in *The Equiry*. Perhaps the most useful item to emerge from the day was distribution of the AHC's summary publication, "Federal Issues Affecting the U.S. Horse Industry." Its material could be readily adapted to grassroots lobbying of the MHC constituency on selected issues. There was significant debate on approaches to immigration reform, characterized by both a recognition of the critical role of illegal immigrants in the horse industry and a reluctance to "reward" people for illegal entry by ultimately allowing them to gain legal status. One of many illustrations of the diverse views on industry issues!

The attendees then broke out into various "issues groups" to review past recommendations to the AHC, progress or lack thereof in achieving them, and make new recommendations. As it turned out, Beverly, Kim and I all participated in the "legislative issues" group (what would you expect from two lawyers and the State stable inspector?) A lively discussion ensued (I took the minutes for the committee chair, Jean Ligon of Michigan, and given the animated debate it was quite a chore!) out of which we culled six areas of consensus for recommendation to the AHC. Unfortunately, since we were doing this all by hand and I gave all my notes to Jean, I have no copies and can't tell you the specific recommendations.

Dr. Steve Halstead gave a report on efforts of the veterinary profession to study the incidence of equine infectious anemia and better approaches to its control, given a consensus that too much testing is required. The proposal most favored at present is organizing the country into risk zones based on incidence of the disease and have zone-specific testing protocols.

*(continued on page 3)*

**President** *(continued from page 1)*

Members can look forward again to significant discounts at the Business Seminar and Health Seminar. And our friends will receive unprecedented value for their sponsorship of us. We truly view the Maryland Horse Council members and friends as partners with a common purpose.

The MHC will continue its efforts to reach more people, increase our membership, and make new friends. You can help with this. Each one of you has a story to tell. Share the story of the MHC; an organization that's on the move, an organization that works for the benefit of Maryland's horse industry (no matter what sector), an organization that communicates, educates,

and promotes the interests of the entire horse community.

Join us at our September 2007 Maryland Horse Council Picnic. Bring your family and friends. Let them see our enthusiasm for the horse. Let them see the face of the MHC and share in our appreciation of our members and friends. This will be a wonderful time to just relax and enjoy a Saturday afternoon.

And then we will once again turn our attention to the important work of the MHC. Preparations are already underway for the upcoming legislative session. We are very lucky to have, Kate Masterton, Jane Seigler and Kathleen

Tabor (among others) working on our legislative priorities. One only needs to look to see that support for the horse industry cannot be assumed in Annapolis. There are many other interests and initiatives in Annapolis that can significantly affect what we do with our horses, where we ride, the land we own, the businesses we operate. So if you have any interest in contributing or supporting their efforts, I encourage you to contact them.

Enjoy your summer. I hope to see you in September at the MHC Picnic. I thank those of you who were active in the MHC last year. And I encourage those who were not to choose this year to become an active member of the Maryland Horse Council. E

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**We welcome the following organizations and individuals to The Maryland Horse Council membership.**

**Association Members**

MD Assoc. of Wildlife Conservation – Patty Sasscer  
Pasadena Horse and Pony Association – Gail Varnedoe

**Business Members**

Everything Equestrian, Ltd. – Andrew Smith  
Hunter Hills Farm – Joshua Sines  
The Blacksmith – Adam Daneker

**Farm Members**

Glenn Ridge Farm – Ben Guanciale  
Paradise Stables – Elizabeth Winters  
Pleasant Prospect – Dale Proctor  
Stone's Throw Farm – Tracy Griffin  
Terra Firma Farm – Tessa Pagones  
Wellington Park Farm – Carol Kaye-Garcia

**Individual Members**

Carrie Capuco  
Joan Castner  
Courtney Cromwell  
Jenny Day  
Haley Kostinas  
Ron Macnab  
Ellen R. Miller  
Monika Munn  
Katherine Pratt  
Mary J. Rieck  
Susan Robertson  
Mardee Rochelle  
Anne C. Sieling  
Helen Thomas  
Joan Watt  
Regina Welsh

*(new members from January – July 2007)*

## Advisory Committee Meeting

(continued from page1)

After lunch, a joint meeting of the SHC Advisory Committee and the Recreational Committee heard a terrific presentation on a scientific study that found that use of horses on park trails does not contribute in a statistically significant way to the introduction of non-native invasive plants in the Eastern U.S. Several parks/forest service reps then spoke, demonstrating a much friendlier approach to trail riding than I have seen demonstrated in certain situations. They requested feedback from anyone who has been denied park use for horseback riding, as did a representative of Senator Crapo, who is re-introducing the Right to Ride bill. I plan to follow up with these individuals concerning a situation where a client of mine has been denied the continued use of certain trails in the C & O National Park that have been used by horses for many decades. If MHC members have any documented instances (not just anecdotal), of trail use denial, I can give you the contact information where to send the information so that it can do the most good. E

*Kate Masterton, Esquire*  
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**Maryland Horse Council  
Executive Committee  
2007 – 2008**  
[www.mdhorsecouncil.org](http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org)

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For the latest News Bulletins, Maryland Bills and Legislation,  
Asset Protection, Horse Ownership and more, visit our website at  
[mdhorsecouncil.org](http://mdhorsecouncil.org)

# Death and Disposal

by Dr. Amy Burk, PhD, University of Maryland

## *State Cremation Fee Increases, the Possibility of the Permanent Closure of Slaughter Plants, and the Impact on Carcass Disposal*

*With the recent increase in state lab cremation fees, the Maryland Horse Council received numerous inquiries from our members, as many stable owners reexamined their options for the disposal of euthanized horses, either their own or those of their clients that reside at their farm. Indeed, for individual horse owners who do not have the option of burying their own horse on their own land, the disposal situation can be even more vexing.*

*With efforts to permanently shutter the slaughter houses gaining momentum, MHC's Equine Welfare Committee has repeatedly warned our membership that every state is going to see an uptick in the number of abandoned, unwanted horses, and there is going to be an increased need for more disposal options.*

*Therefore, MHC Executive Committee member, Dr. Amy Burk, PhD, investigated the carcass disposal option in Maryland on behalf of MHC members.*

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Disposing of a deceased horse either on an individual basis or on a large scale basis (i.e. barn fire) can be very complicated in Maryland given that there have been no clear guidelines set forth by the state. Under state law, disposal of a deceased animal must be

done in a manner that does not spread disease or endanger the public health (Maryland Code-Agriculture § 3-108). The approved manner that the code refers to, however, has yet to be specifically characterized. To make it more difficult on horse owners, some counties have regulations on animal carcass disposal, but some do not. Horse owners should research their county's code before disposing of an animal's body either by calling the entity responsible for solid waste disposal or by reviewing the county's codes online at [www.generalcode.com](http://www.generalcode.com).

Despite not having a clear method as dictated by state law, horse owners have several options to consider when disposing of deceased animals. Deceased animal carcasses can be a hazard to the environment, so minimizing soil and water contamination is of utmost importance.

The most common methods of disposal are removal by a licensed deadstock collector (i.e. renderer) or burying the deceased animal on your farm in a proper animal disposal pit. Those two practices and some additional alternatives are detailed below:

- **Render.** There are a few companies that will come and remove a euthanized horse for a fee that is usually around \$250. The carcass is removed to a facility that "recycles" them with

other carcasses into by-products, so that the proteins, fats and other elements can be used elsewhere. Make sure to limit the access of the deadstock collector and his vehicle to areas well away from other animals, their feed and water supply, and grazing areas. The number of rendering companies has been steadily declining over the last decade. To find a render in MD, you can visit the National Renderers Association site at <http://www.renderers.org/>. One of the few companies left that serves Maryland is Valley Proteins, Inc. [www.valleyproteins.com](http://www.valleyproteins.com), (410-355-4800).

- **Bury.** Burying a horse is a common practice since many horse owners regard their horse as a family member and want to give it a proper burial. Most counties allow animal owners to bury the animals on their property; however it must be done in an environmentally accepted manner. A generally recommended procedure is to bury the animal more than 100 ft from property lines, more than 300 ft from water sources, put lime on the top of the carcass, and use at least 3 ft of topsoil over the top of the carcass, preferably mounded to reduce water collection. It's important to bury a deceased horse well away from water sources so as to avoid contamination of the water. Also, the lime is believed to help reduce the chances of wild animals from disrupting the site. Under state law, if an animal has died

of a contagious or infectious disease, it can be buried to a depth of at least 3 ft within three hours before sunset of the day following the discovery of the animal (Maryland Code-Agriculture § 3-109). To build a disposal site large enough for a horse, earth moving equipment, like a tractor with a backhoe, must be used to excavate a hole or trench large enough. Horses will usually require a trench that's 7 ft wide and 9 ft deep.

- **Pet Cemetery.** Another option is to have the horse buried in a pet cemetery. There are several burial options including headstones and graveside funerals, which vary in cost from hundreds to thousands of dollars. Be sure to check out the International Association of Pet Cemeteries and Crematories at [www.iaopc.com](http://www.iaopc.com) to find a pet cemetery in Maryland.
- **Cremation.** Cremation of a horse involves transporting the deceased body to a facility with an incinerator and it is a very effective means of disposing of a deceased horse that has died of an infectious disease. Maryland's State Diagnostic Labs will cremate your in-state horse for a fee of \$0.50/lb or about \$550 for an average 1100 lb horse. The cost for this service is high because of the cost of the fuel for the incinerator and because deceased horse disposal is not subsidized by government funds as it is for food animals. If you're located on the

outskirts of Maryland, it may be more cost effective to ship the horse to a nearby state for cremation. For example, the New Bolton Equine Hospital in Pennsylvania charges a maximum of \$125 to cremate a horse. Keep in mind that you would need to discuss having the ashes returned to you if that's your wish because that may not be a normal procedure within the charge. There are also private crematories that you may want to look into.

- **Compost.** Composting involves the complete burying of a horse above ground in a mound of carbon rich compost material like shredded hay or stall waste and then allowed to decay. The tissues of the carcass are broken down by microbes and pathogens are killed due to the high temperatures in the pile. For large animal carcasses, it's recommended to turn the pile after 6 months has passed. Also, proper composting requires the pile reach high temperature (> 130 °F) and stay relatively moist. Composting is an economical method of carcass disposal in that it costs about \$40 per carcass, but it is not without its drawbacks. Large equipment would be needed to move the horse to the compost location. It often requires a large (20-30 ton) compost pile for successful composting, which would be unlikely on a small horse operation. The initial setup and labor can be quite expensive.

With the reduction of renderers in MD, a large animal compost facility could become an excellent market.

- **Burn.** Under state law, if the animal has died of a contagious or infectious disease, it can be burned within three hours before sunset of the day following the discovery of the animal (Maryland Code-Agriculture § 3-109). However, open air burning of deceased animals is not recommended due to the fact that it pollutes the air and gives off a bad odor. Maryland has a ban on open air burning from June 1 to September 1 of each year in most counties.

- **Landfill.** Most counties do not permit disposal of a deceased animal at a landfill. Make sure to call your local landfill first before moving the animal carcass to the landfill.

Before you decide on the method of disposal for your deceased horse, think about your emotional and financial needs as well as the regulatory and environmental considerations. It's wise of all horse owners to consider their options for disposing of their horses before they die so that they can make difficult decisions during an emotional time. If you need guidance when making a decision, contact the Maryland State Veterinarian's Office (410-841-5810). E



# MARYLAND HORSE COUNCIL FIRST ANNUAL BBQ-PICNIC!

**Open to All Maryland Horse People**  
**Saturday, September 8, 2007 • 4 p.m. - 9 p.m.**

hosted by  
**Paradise Stables**

**6250 Detrick Road • Mt Airy, MD 21771**  
**For directions, please mapquest address**

**Music - Legislative Guests - Networking - Fun**  
**Bring the Family! Bring the Barn!**  
**Featuring Celebrity Guest Chef Dr. Mike Erskine!**

**Special Guest: Senator David Brinkley**

*Live Music Provided by:* **Cold Hard Cash**

(a Johnny Cash tribute band)

**\$25 per adult • \$15 for kids 7 - 17 • Children under 7: free**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm or Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ x\$25 = \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Children, ages 7-17: \_\_\_\_\_ x\$15 = \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

Payment may be made with  or  or check made payable to the Maryland Horse Council

No: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM  
BY SEPTEMBER 4.**

**Fax it to: 410-489-7828**

**Or mail it to:**

**Maryland Horse Council  
P.O. Box 233 • Lisbon, MD 21765**

**Or e-mail us at**

**secretary@mdhorsecouncil.org**

**Questions? Please contact Carolyn at  
410-489-7826 x18**

## Maryland Horse Council Meeting of the Board of Directors May 15, 2007 Prince George's Equestrian Center

### Directors Present

Darryll Ann	Buschling	Briarpatch and Director-at-Large, Youth
Beverly A.	Raymond	Dir. At Large for Individual Members
Amy	Burk	Dir. At Large for Individual Members
Michael D.	Erskine, DVM	Maryland Assn. of Equine Practitioners
Patty	Sasscer	Maryland Assoc. of Wildlife Conservation
Dorothy	Troutman	Maryland Equestrian Foundation/ Rosaryville Conservancy
Felicia	Hilleary	Maryland Standardbred Breeders Assn.
Terry	Christensen	Maryland State Quarter Horse Assn.
Crystal	Kimball	Maryland Steeplechase Association
Keith	Wills	MidAtlantic Farm Credit
Guillermo	Warley	New Market Middletown Valley Hounds
Monica	Breland	Potomac Hunt Club
Mardee	Rochelle	Potomac Valley Dressage Association
Elizabeth	Yewell	Prince George's Equestrian Center, Show Place Arena, Equestrian Event Manager
Jane	Seigler	Reddemeade Farm, Inc.
Crystal	Kimball	The Equiery
Priscilla	Huffman	TROT - Trail Riders of Today
Royce	Herman	Tuckahoe Equestrian Center

### Directors Absent

Joseph	Zentgraf	Carroll County Equestrian Council
Sharon	Roberts	Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners Association
Kathleen	Schwartz	Days End Farm Horse Rescue, Inc.
Vicki	O'Hara	Dir. At Large for Individual Members
Steuart	Pittman	Dodon Farm
Albert J.A. (Jay)	Young Elkridge	Harford Hunt
Debbie	Rollins Frank	Equine Rescue and Rehabilitation, Inc.
Charlie	Colgan	Fair Hill International, Inc.
Holly	Hamilton	Goshen Hounds
Jim	McDonald	Graham Equestrian Center, Inc.
Mary Anne	Steele	Howard County Horse Shows Association
Gayle	Curtiss	Howard County Iron Bridge Hounds
Nicky	Ratliff	Humane Society of Carroll County
Kathy	Dobson	League of Maryland Horsemen
Christy	Clagett	Marlborough Hounds
Judy	Strohmaier	Maryland Combined Training Association
Jacqueline	Harrington	Maryland 4-H Foundation
Margaret	Wilterdink	Maryland Dressage Association
Tim	Streaker	Maryland Farrier's Association
Michelle	Jennings	Maryland Feed Company
Cricket	Goodall	Maryland Horse Breeders Assoc.
Alan	Lohman	Maryland Horse Shows Assoc.
Deloise	Noble-Strong	Maryland Horse Shows Assoc. Rep
Carrie	Everly	Maryland Jockey Club
Christine	Bricker	Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Inc.
David	Turner	Mid-Atlantic Saddlebred Assoc
Gayle	Miller	Plantation Walking Horses of MD
Gretchen	Mobberley	Summer Hill Farm
Ann	Corcoran	The Ranger Foundation, Inc.
Susie	Webb	Washington International Horse Show
Cindy	Wood	Wicomico Hunt



P.O. Box 233  
Lisbon, MD  
21765

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## U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

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**August 21, 2007**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

All Members Welcome  
Meet and Greet Reception 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
Frederick Fair Grounds, Building 12

**September 8**

**First Annual MHC BBQ Picnic**

Time: 4:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
Paradise Stables, Mt. Airy

**November 13**

**Annual General Membership Meeting**

Meet and Greet Reception 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.  
Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
Miller Senate Office Building, Annapolis