

# KDCTA HOOFBEATS

## MEET A MEMBER: Claire van Ogtrop

**Hello, Claire!**

**How long have you been a member of KDCTA?**

Only a month!

**What were some of the reasons you decided to join?**

For several years I have been a casual rider and unclear what direction I wanted to go. Recently I have found that dressage is my calling and that prompted me to join.

**How long have you had horses?**

I bought my first horse 8 years ago.

**Where did you grow up?**

Newark, DE, very close to Fair Hill. My family would go to the races held there.

**What jobs have you worked at in the past and what do you currently do to support your horse life?**

I am a licensed clinical social worker and have my own private practice, which I started in 2006.

**What is your personal life like? Are you married, have children?**

I am married to a husband who loves to garden and farm. We have three children, a daughter who is now a freshman in college at the University of Wisconsin, a son in 10<sup>th</sup> grade and a son in 7<sup>th</sup> grade.



**Tell us about the horses you have in your life and what you do with them.**

My first horse was a Thoroughbred and the second was an appendix Quarter Horse that my daughter used in Pony Club. I currently have Percy, a 11-year-old Thoroughbred that I've had for almost 6 years. We have done trail, cross country schooling and low-level dressage.

**What other type of furry members of the family do you have?**

We have 3 cats, 2 dogs and 2 goats.

**What are some other hobbies you enjoy besides the horses?**

I like to jog, I'm interested in interior design, antiques, refinishing and decorating. I enjoy flower gardening and am passionate about doing batik artwork.

**What could you tell us about yourself that might surprise some people?**

I ran in the NY Marathon. I've also lived in many places. Since I've been married, we have lived in 5 different states!

**What do you think is your strongest asset?**

Compassion. And I can get along with just about anyone.

**What horse trainer do you most admire?**

Locally I would have to say Carla Tussey Peno. She has taught me to be a horsewoman and not just a rider. She explains concepts and why we are doing something. On a national level I would say I admire Tik Maynard for his basic horsemanship and foundational work. I also like Amelia Newcomb as she gives clear instruction that makes sense.

**What is one of your goals for 2022?**

To do a low-level dressage test. And become a better rider.

**What are some of your favorite books?**

I am strictly a nonfiction reader, mostly horse books but also some clinical professional reading. Two of my favorites are *Beyond the Track*, by Anna Morgan Ford, about retraining racehorses, and *40 Fundamentals of English Riding* by Hollie McNeil.

**What is the one thing you can't live without?**

Music and being outside. My music tastes are diverse: country rock, alternative punk, 70's soul funk (think Earth Wind and Fire), Indie music.

**What is on your bucket list?**

I want to own a Morgan sport horse one day. I also want to visit Montana, and my husband and I have talked about one day moving to New England and living by a lake.

**If you could describe yourself in one word, what would it be?**

Sensitive.

**What is one of your earliest memories of loving horses?**

When I was a little girl, my babysitter was a photographer and friends with someone who was competing at Fair Hill. She took us there and took a picture of me with a grey horse. I still have that picture.

**What is your phone's lock screen picture?**

My daughter when she left for the University of Wisconsin.

**What is the best part of your typical day?**

Three things: coffee, lying in bed and having "me" time, and going out to see Percy and being with him.