

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 10th grade and a son in 7th 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.