
Maryland Equine Transition Service

Annual Report

2018



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Maryland Equine Transition Service

*From Program Director
Brittney Vallot:*



During its inaugural year of 2018, the Maryland Equine Transition Service (METS) accomplished great things, including complete program development with a full launch in August, receiving 112 calls from owners, assessing 28 horses, and 11 horses transitioned. Given that the program was only fully launched with only 25% of the year left to go, these numbers are astounding and I am happy to say that we still exceeded our 12-month goals!

Over the upcoming year, I am even more excited to see what kinds of impacts METS continues to make for horses and owners throughout Maryland. We continue to work toward growing our collaborations with as many professionals and businesses throughout the equine industry as we can; vets, farriers, dentists, trainers, feed stores, tack stores, etc. We will continue to promote METS horses to both professional and casual owners alike, in the hopes of successfully transitioning as many horses as possible. Finally, we will also be looking at new and innovative ways to further assist the horses in our program and enable them to be more easily placed, by offering various new assistance options and programs. This is a long list of goals that we cannot meet alone.

Maryland's equine industry is vast and strong, thanks to people like you who love horses and want to see their legacy continue in our state. People like you are the ones who enable programs like METS to continue and prosper. I encourage and invite you to consider getting involved in the mission of METS in 2019. The great thing about this program is that there are so many ways for one to support. I am happy to discuss with you the countless ways in which we can work together in a mutually beneficial way that will ultimately come down to helping as many horses as possible in this great state of Maryland.



About METS

The Maryland Equine Transition Service (METS) is a statewide equine safety net initiative of the Maryland Horse Council that provides safe alternatives for horses needing homes by helping owners identify and select the best transition options for their horses.

METS is a mobile service that provides individualized services for horses in need of transition, including equine assessment, marketing assistance, end of life support, and facilitation of horses to new homes.

Program Director Brittney Vallot travels on-site to visit horses in need of transition and gives a comprehensive behavioral, health and soundness assessment. From there, the horse can be placed on the METS website and all inquiries are evaluated by METS staff before the inquirer's information is passed along to the owner.

In certain situations, humane euthanasia may be the best and most reasonable option. METS staff are prepared to assist owners with making and carrying out the decision to euthanize their horse. This is often an extremely difficult and emotional decision for owners and METS is always prepared to offer emotional support to help the owner find peace of mind.

ABOUT THE NETWORK

METS strives to bring together individuals in the equine industry with the common goal of providing safe transitions to horses that need it. These partners of METS serve as advocates of horses and the program by working directly with horses in need of transition and encouraging other industry members to participate. Growing our Network to include equine professionals all across Maryland

In 2018, a number of veterinarians joined the METS Network and agreed to offer euthanasia at a discounted rate to horse owners who may need that service. In 2019, one of METS goals is to increase the services provided to include vaccinations, hoof and teeth maintenance as well. METS is also planning to incorporate an incentive program for trainers in order to help make the horses listed with METS more marketable.



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2018 was an exceptional first year for the METS Program and we are off to a great start. Much of the first half of the year was spent in program development and the full program was launched in August. During the final months of 2018, METS met or exceeded all of our 3-month goals and we have even already hit some of our 12-month goals. This clearly shows that the need is great and our hard work is paying off!

As of December 31, 2018, METS received 112 incoming calls since March. Starting on August 1st, when the program fully launched with assessments, METS visited with 28 owners and assessed a total of 53 horses. Wow! METS rounded out the year with 11 total transitions with 8 horses placed and 3 horses euthanized.

Program Director Brittney Vallot traveled all over Maryland presenting METS to professionals and enthusiasts throughout the equine industry. We hosted 6 "Meet METS" sessions and spoke to over 100 people about the METS program and mission. In an attempt to get more industry professionals involved in METS, Brittney also visited the New Bolton Center in Pennsylvania and the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center in Virginia to discuss how METS could work with veterinarians to provide assistance. METS also visited with the Carroll County Agri-Business Breakfast Club, the Horse Marketing Leadership Group, a group of 30 animal control officers, and Maryland Horse Council members at two of their Quarterly Meetings.



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Magic, now known as Casino, would be great for a rider who wants to dabble in multiple disciplines.



Understanding enjoying some pats during an unplanned stop at The Hill School (Middleburg, Va.).

SUCCESS STORIES

We rehomed eight horses in 2018. Two of our stand-out success stories are Magic and Understanding.

Magic was a green 10-year-old Appaloosa Cross whose owner had a tight deadline to rehome her due to life changes. Days End Farm Horse Rescue took her in and changed her name to Cordilia's Charmed Casino. Casino is now in a training program at DEFHR and is up for adoption! Her personality was evident from the start, but her potential quickly started to emerge and she's now a favorite at DEFHR. Casino is dabbling in a variety of disciplines including trail riding, eventing, dressage, and drill team. She even won her division at Loch Moy Farm's (Adamstown, Md.) Donation Derby in December!

Understanding is an eight-year-old Thoroughbred mare who transitioned along with four other Thoroughbreds after her owner had passed away. Michelle Craig of West Wind Farms (Upperville, Va.) saw Understanding on the Retired Racehorse Project Facebook page and immediately jumped at the opportunity to rehome the gorgeous mare. On the way home from picking up Understanding, Craig got stuck in rush hour traffic and had to pick up her daughter from school, horse trailer still in tow. Understanding took it all in stride and said hello to the whole kindergarten class. Since being with Craig, Understanding has been learning the ins and outs of sidesaddle!

We can't wait to see what Magic (aka Casino) and Understanding accomplish in 2019!



112

NUMBER OF INCOMING CALLS

METS received a total of 112 incoming calls during 2018, surpassing the 12-month minimum goal of 105 calls.

516

NUMBER OF FACEBOOK LIKES

Between launching the Facebook page in August and the end of 2018, METS gained 516 page likes and is still steadily rising.

Our Statistics: At a Glance



28

ASSESSMENT VISITS

METS performed 28 assessment visits in 2018 with a total of 53 horses assessed.

16

VETERINARIANS

Veterinarians serve a key role in the METS program by providing services at a discounted rate and serving as program advocates.

11

COMPLETED TRANSITIONS

METS assisted with 11 transitions, 8 of which were placements in a new home.

38

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS

Out of the 38 total volunteers, 24 of those individuals were trained in 2018.

40

TRANSITION SITES

The core of the METS Network consists of Members who are willing to take complete ownership of a horse in need of transition

15

NETWORK ASSOCIATES

Network Associates include anyone interested in helping METS in some way. The possibilities are endless and METS encourages discussion to determine how each individual can contribute in some way.

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