Located in the heart of Virginia horse country, Virginia Tech’s Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center (EMC) is a premier, full-service equine hospital and one of the three hospitals under the umbrella of the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. Offering advanced specialty care, 24-hour emergency treatment, and diagnostic services for all ages and breeds of horses, the center’s team of equine specialists in internal medicine, reproduction, sports medicine, rehabilitation, and surgery is committed to providing exceptional treatment for patients, superior service to clients, and cutting-edge research to the equine industry.

Created in 1984, the center was one of the first university veterinary hospitals in the eastern United States to concentrate exclusively on equine medicine and research. Located in Leesburg, Virginia, just a short drive from the major stables, courses, and tracks in both Virginia and Maryland, the hospital now sees more than 2,500 patients annually. The center serves the region’s private practitioners by working collaboratively to diagnose and treat cases and to provide opportunities for advanced continuing education. The center also provides specialized training for residents, interns, and veterinary students to ensure the continued growth of knowledge for the next generation of veterinary professionals.

“Tremendous generosity from our community has resulted in an even more impactful vision for the future of comprehensive performance horse evaluation at the Equine Medical Center.”

Dr. Michael Erskine, Director of the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center
Plan for New Horizons and Beyond

In order to ensure a sustainable future and align with the growing needs of the clientele, EMC’s “New Horizons” operational plan—released in 2014—has taken the center to new heights. This plan aims to differentiate EMC from other private and public practices by focusing on the diagnosis and treatment of lameness, with an emphasis on advanced diagnostic imaging technologies, orthopedic surgery, therapeutic podiatry, and regenerative medicine.

With the help of philanthropic partners, EMC has made huge strides to move the “New Horizons” plan forward with some incredible new installments:

- The “Just Java” Neurological Stall—created by combining two stalls in the isolation unit—allows us to provide comprehensive care for neurologic patients that often require special facilities, such as a padded stall and an overhead sling.
- The Youngkin Equine Soundness Clinic expands the center’s capacity to provide cutting-edge diagnostics and treatment for lameness and other conditions that prevent equine athletes from performing at optimal potential.
- The Jane and Stephen Hale Indoor Arena—connected to the Youngkin Equine Soundness Clinic by a breezeway—will have three different surfaces under one roof, allowing a complete evaluation to accurately diagnose conditions that can adversely affect performance.

The center’s new plan, “Beyond Horizons”—launched in 2020 to commemorate EMC’s 35th year—lays the groundwork for EMC to continue its progress towards becoming the premier equine medical center on the Eastern Seaboard.

About VA-MD College of Veterinary Medicine

The Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine is a leading biomedical teaching and research center and the in-state veterinary college for residents of Virginia and Maryland. The college is focused on the development and delivery of a One Health education, integrating multidisciplinary research and educational opportunities that provide health care solutions for animals, people, and communities. Locations include the main campus in Blacksburg, Virginia; the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center in Leesburg, Virginia; the Gudelsky Veterinary Center in College Park, Maryland; and the Animal Cancer Care and Research Center in Roanoke, Virginia. The college offers a four-year, full-time, professional Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program, a graduate degree program in Biomedical and Veterinary Sciences, a master of public health, and a bachelor of science in public health.

Supporting Emergency and Critical Care

Continuing high-level emergency care, while at the same time being mindful of expectations levied on all our clinical staff, has garnered much debate.

Philanthropic support was sought to cover three-year bridge funding to launch a dedicated Emergency and Critical Care Team. Drs. Schaefer and Dukti, both emergency-focused and highly trained clinicians, will be on-call day and night to cover emergency and critical care services.

The introduction of this dedicated service will allow our clinicians to focus on outpatient appointments and elective surgeries, mitigating sometimes lengthy wait times.

A generous and committed supporter of the EMC shared her desire for all equine-focused veterinarians to have a sustainable work-life balance, committing support for initial three-year bridge funding of $1.5 million to stand up the service, which is expected to be self-sustaining by the end of the three-year term.

Join us.