

Pocono Downs vet conducts equine surgery practice in Dallas



Dr. John Shaskas & Janet Roe

by Joan Kingsbury
If you own a horse, where would you take it for surgery? Before July of this year, area horse owners would have had to travel for three hours if their animal required an operation. Fortunately, our area now has its own equine veterinarian, Dr. John Shaskas, who is in the process of renovating the riding center on Machell Avenue in Dallas.

A native of Hanover Township, Shaskas is the son of John and Arlene Shaskas. He received his undergraduate degree at Wilkes College, his master's and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Degree from Purdue University in Indiana. Before establishing his Dallas practice on July 15, Shaskas was associated with the veterinary firm of Dr. Farleigh and Dr. Hyssong in Hazleton for one year.

The decision to enter the world of veterinary medicine occurred when Shaskas was a junior at Wilkes College. During that year Shaskas, formerly a medical student, spent a large amount of time caring for research animals, thus sparking his interest in veterinary medicine. While studying at Purdue, Shaskas worked with a vet who had strictly an equine practice, which proved to be a most interesting field for him.

Shaskas spent this summer working at Pocono Downs caring for the race horses. Sometimes working 16 hours a day, he had the opportunity to learn a lot about lameness and over-worked muscles. Shaskas says that most race horse owners take excellent care of their animals. Although rumors of

rigging races by the use of drugs often run rampant, Shaskas says that for the most part this is strictly not so. Horses are given medication for high blood pressure, sore muscles, vitamins and hormones but not drugs to improve racing ability.

The equine center, is equipped with a standing surgery which is used to perform operations under local anesthesia such as gelding, cutting jack cords, stitching lacerations and suturing. By next year, Shaskas hopes to have installed a hydraulic operating table. A hydraulic table is used to operate on broken legs, remove bone chips, repair birth defects in colts and other operable problems.

Renovations to the equine center include installation of concrete floors and stalls and enclosing one end that eventually may be used as a small animal clinic. Shaskas is in the process of helping the ACMI Company develop a flexible fiberoptic scope which is used to find internal bleeding or lumps in the throat. By February he hopes to have a scope and an x-ray machine at the clinic.

The center provides an area for private boarding. Currently, 17 horses are residents there. For exercising an indoor arena is available. The center staff includes barn manager Janet Roe and helpers, Terri Hislop and Kathy Lostreowski.

According to Shaskas, horses receive around the clock attention at the clinic. He remarked, "This is a clinic for very sick horses, those who are badly cut up and those requiring frequent medication". One recent patient, Billy S. Under,

came into the clinic with a badly lacerated leg with some cut tendons. This is usually a very serious situation, sometimes requiring destruction of the horse. However after putting 18 stitches in the wound and observing and caring for Billy S. Under

for five days at the clinic, the leg is now healing nicely, kicking almost as good as ever.

Shaskas owns two horses of his own, Tuffy and Cookie. A horseback riding enthusiast, he started riding 10 years ago after purchasing

Tuffy. Shaskas enjoys trail riding and has done some show riding. An outdoorsman, he enjoys fishing, hunting, hiking and skiing. A beagle named Charlie and Chip, a springer spaniel, are Shaskas frequent clinic companions.

According to Dr. Shaskas, visitors are welcome to view operations and procedures. Anyone interested in veterinary medicine who would like to visit can do so by making prior arrangements by phone.

Orpheus to present Christmas concert at UM

Alderson United Methodist Church will sponsor a concert by the Orpheus Choral Society on Sunday, December 2nd, 7:30 p.m. at the church.

This will be the first in a series of Christmas concerts to be given by Orpheus, in the area, during December. Director is Gordon Evans and accompanist is Carol Evans.

Back Mountain people singing with the group are: William Clewell, Marie Troxel, Margaret Rowett, Arline Klinger, Martha Dilly, Dorothy Adams, Betty Meeker, Mildred Smith, Susan Lauer and Eleanor Vojtko.

Tickets will be available from Official Board and Choir members and at the door the night of the concert.

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Back Mt. Kiwanis Club honors clergy

The weekly meeting of the Back Mt. Kiwanis Club was held Saturday Nov. 17th at the Mark II Restaurant, Dallas.

Club President Bill Coburn presided. Honored guests attending the meeting were members of the clergy from the Back Mt. Area. Other visitors attending the meeting were: George McCutcheon Lt. Governor of Division 15, members of the Dallas Kiwanis, and also members of the Wilkes-Barre Kiwanis. On Dec. 8th members of the Back Mt. Kiwanis Club will hold their bi-

monthly paper drive. The drive will be held in the rear of the Offset Paperback Company, Dallas. It will begin at 9 a.m. and it will conclude at noon. During the past week guests of the Dallas Motel were treated to a Bingo Party by members of the Back Mt. Kiwanis. This is a weekly affair sponsored by the Back Mt. Kiwanis. Also on Sunday, Nov. 18th, a special board of directors meeting was held by the Back Mt. Kiwanis Club at the Mark II Restaurant, Dallas.

Aux. working on candles

The Dallas Fire and Ambulance Auxiliary, with the help of the men,

are now working each Wednesday night at the Library Barn to fill orders for the Vigil candles.

Each kit contains candles, white bags and sand to sturdy the bags. Candles can be purchased for \$2 a dozen. One half dozen can also be purchased.

Members of the auxiliary are contacting each street, but if residents are missed, please come to the barn on Wednesday evening and orders will be filled. Anyone can come and buy the kits.

Lets make this another beautiful Christmas Eve. The saying is that these vigil candles light the way for the coming of the Christ Child.

Jadush ill

George Jadush Sr. of Birch St., Swyersville is a medical patient at the Nesbitt Hospital, his family friends and neighbors wish him a speedy recovery and hope to see him up and around soon. George is the supervisor of erecting garages for Brocca Construction Co. of Swyersville.

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Tips on terrible turkey troubles

Thanksgiving is nearly here and the Department of Environmental Resources has a few tips for sage preparation of the traditional Thanksgiving turkey.

"Turkey is a potentially hazardous food that is capable of supporting bacterial growth which can cause foodborne illness when improperly handled," said Duain B. Shaw, acting chief, division of food and water protection. Shaw's suggestions include:

-Turkeys should be kept frozen at 0 degrees Fahrenheit or below until the thawing or cooking process begins.

-Thawing can be done in the refrigerator, in the original wrapper, allowing two to three days for birds 18 pounds and over. They may be partially thawed and placed under cold running water, 70 degrees Fahrenheit or below, until completely thawed.

-Turkeys should never be thawed at room temperature or in warm water.

-As soon as the turkey is thawed, remove the giblets, wash the bird thoroughly inside and out, and begin the cooking process which should be completed at one time - not started one day and completed the next.

-Stuffings should be baked separately, not roasted in the turkey. (Although cooking the turkey and stuffing separately is not a common practice, it can reduce the risk of bacteria and their toxins collecting in the stuffing.)

-If the turkey is cooked the day before serving, it should be cooled promptly and refrigerated.

-Leftover meat, stuffing, broth and gravy should be refrigerated and used within two days.

-Proper utensils should be used when preparing turkey dishes, not hands, which can be a source of infection that can cause food poisoning.

-Leftover turkey that was cooked and refrigerated should be rapidly reheated to 165 degrees Fahrenheit or higher before served. (Bacteria multiply rapidly between 45 and 140 degrees Fahrenheit and reducing exposure time at these critical temperatures reduces the possibility of foodborne illness in potentially hazardous foods.)

Altar & Rosary Society plans Christmas party

The Altar and Rosary Society of Gate of Heaven Church, Dallas, will hold their Christmas party on Dec. 6th at the Knights of Columbus, Main St., in Luzerne. The evening will begin with punch at 6:30 p.m.

Entertainment will be by "Harmony", the girls'

Folk Group from King's College. Door prizes will be awarded.

Gifts or donations for the nursing homes will be accepted that night. Gifts should be tagged telling what they contain. For reservations call Ruth Farris, 675-1703 or Nancy Parsons, 675-4486.

Placeks celebrate 18

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Placek of Mount Zion will observe their 18th wedding anniversary on Friday, November 23. They were married on November 23, 1961, in St. Mary's R.C. Church, Duryea, by Rev. Stanley Schuman, pastor.

Mrs. Placek is the former Miss Barbara Swankowski, daughter of Mrs. Celestine Swankowski and the late Chester Swankowski of Duryea. She is a graduate of the Nurses Training School at Robert Packer Memorial Hospital at Sayre, Pa., and received a bachelor of science degree in psychology from Wilkes College, Wilkes-Barre. She is completing studies for a master's degree in health services administration at Marywood College, Scranton.

Placek is a 1957 graduate of West Pittston High School. He received his bachelor of science degree in science education from Wilkes College, Wilkes-Barre, and a master's degree in education from Penn State University. He is the son of Mrs. Mary Placek and the late Walter Placek of Dupont and is an assistant professor of physics at Wilkes College in Wilkes-Barre. He also is a member of the

Wyoming Area School Board. Mr. and Mrs. Placek are parents of three children: Allison, David, and Adrienne.

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