



Dr. Clara Ann Mason, DVM

September 30, 1960 - March 5, 2026

Dr. Clara Ann Mason, DVM, passed away peacefully on March 5, 2026, at University of Maryland Shore Medical Center in Chestertown, Maryland, following an extended illness. She was 65 years old.

Born on September 30, 1960, in Baltimore City, Maryland, Clara Ann moved in 1964 to her father's ancestral home in Easton, where she grew up and attended Talbot County Public Schools. A 1978 graduate of Easton High School, she excelled academically as a member of the National Honor Society and proudly played in the band.

She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science from the University of Maryland, College Park, where she was an enthusiastic member of the Maryland Terrapin Marching Band and Delta Gamma sorority. Clara Ann then received her Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from Mississippi State University.

She dedicated her 40-year career to large animal mobile veterinary practice, specializing in equine medicine across West Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky. A respected expert in her field, she co-authored numerous textbook chapters on equine medicine, presented frequently at professional conferences, served as a consultant on equine animal welfare, and maintained a close professional relationship with The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Clara Ann was predeceased by her parents, Frank E. Mason Jr. and Mary S. Mason; her grandparents, Dr. Frank E. Mason and Edna M. Mason, and Carmine Serrano and Maria Serrano.

She is survived by her brothers, Frank E. Mason III and Matthew S. Mason (and his wife, Kerry); three nieces, Bonnie, Catherine, and Caroline; two great-nephews, Mason and Bennett; and one great-niece, Francesca. A lifelong member of Christ Episcopal Church in Easton, where she was baptized as an infant, Clara Ann's services will be private.

Tribute Wall

SD

“ Sandi D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Clara Ann Mason, DVM.

Sandi D. - May 11 at 01:50 AM

JW

“ I am so sorry that we have lost Clara. We became friends when we both attended the AVMA Fly-in in Washington DC to learn how to advocate in Congress in support of equine issues. I greatly admired her for her welfare work and her passion for horses.

Julia Wilson - April 01 at 10:58 AM

JD

“ Clara was a great friend and colleague. I had the pleasure of working with her on numerous cases through the years. She was a talented and caring equine practitioner. She will be missed.
Jack Easley DVM

Jack Easley DVM - March 31 at 07:28 PM

RM

“ Rebecca C. Mullins lit a candle in memory of Dr. Clara Ann Mason, DVM



Rebecca C. Mullins - March 20 at 09:32 PM

MN

“ Marie Nuthall lit a candle in memory of Dr. Clara Ann Mason, DVM



Marie Nuthall - March 17 at 11:26 AM

RM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Rustin M Moore - March 14 at 11:38 PM

“ *In Memory of Dr. Clara Ann Mason: A Life of Courage, Compassion, and Unwavering Advocacy for Animals — Dr. Rustin M. Moore*

As I was putting the finishing touches on Restoring the Bond, a message arrived that stopped me in place. On March 5, 2026, my dear friend and colleague, Dr. Clara Ann Mason, passed away after a lengthy illness.

Clara devoted her life to defending animals who could not defend themselves and reminding the world that compassion must be stronger than neglect.

I first met Clara in January 2009 at the American Association of Equine Practitioners Winter Resort Meeting on Australia’s Gold Coast. She was traveling with her classmate and close friend Leslie. What began as a chance introduction soon became a lasting friendship.

Over the years she visited James and me whenever her travels brought her through Ohio or West Virginia. When she treated horses near Spencer, she often stopped to check on my father—always texting first: “Is it okay if I stop by and see your pops on my way out of town?”

One summer she joined us at my parents’ home for a shrimp and crab boil that James prepared, laughing easily among neighbors who already knew her through the horses she cared for. In those small Appalachian circles, Clara felt immediately at home. She was never simply a guest—she became part of our extended family.

Although Clara had an entire circle of people—family, clients, colleagues, and more—who adored her, including her best friend, Leslie, I suspect she might have referred to Drs. Harry Werner, Bill Moyer, and me as her own version of the Three Musketeers—friends she trusted to stand beside her, speak honestly, and defend her and the animals she loved.

When my mother passed away in 2019, Clara attended the Celebration of Life without announcement or expectation of recognition. That quiet gesture revealed the heart she carried into every relationship.

Clara trusted the Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center deeply, bringing her own horses and dogs for care and referring her clients and patients to us for advanced diagnostics or treatment.

Clara endured hardships few could imagine. While still in veterinary school, Clara was diagnosed with ovarian cancer that had spread throughout her abdomen. She faced the diagnosis with remarkable resolve and continued forward with the determination that defined her life. Later, she survived domestic violence and rebuilt her life with quiet strength.

Another challenge followed when a bite from a Lone Star tick triggered alpha-gal syndrome, leaving painful wounds on both legs that never fully healed. Physicians across several medical centers searched for answers, but little eased her suffering. Clara knew what it felt like when the systems meant to help people falter at the moments they are needed most.

Even so, she carried forward with the same determination she had always shown for animals who depended on her. Nearly everyone who knew Clara admired and cared deeply for her, yet there were moments when the support she deserved did not fully arrive—something she endured with the same quiet strength that defined her life.

Through it all, Clara never stopped fighting for animals who had no voice.

Clara became nationally respected for confronting equine neglect and abuse. Investigators, prosecutors, and veterinarians sought her expertise because she brought both scientific precision and moral clarity to difficult cases. When horses suffered, Clara refused to look away.

Clara understood that cruelty fractures the fragile trust between people and animals, and she devoted her life to repairing that fracture wherever it appeared.

(continued)

Rustin M Moore - March 14 at 08:32 PM

RM

Her courage was perhaps best reflected in the case of a filly named Sansa, who survived severe neglect and cruelty because Clara refused to surrender her life. Clara documented the injuries with clinical precision, testified without hesitation, and pursued justice—not only for that horse, but for every animal who might suffer the same fate.

In 2019, the American Association of Equine Practitioners Foundation honored Clara with the Good Works for Horses Award for advancing equine welfare and strengthening animal-cruelty laws in West Virginia. I had the privilege of standing beside her at the AAEP Annual Convention when she received that recognition.

True to her character, Clara accepted the award with humility—and unbeknownst to me until that moment, quietly donated the monetary award, even matching it, to the Roane County Shelter in my hometown of Spencer, West Virginia.

Clara grew up in Easton, Maryland, where riding hunter-jumper horses first sparked the passion that would guide her life. She studied Animal Science at the University of Maryland, pursued graduate work at Johns Hopkins University, and earned her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Mississippi State University in 1992. She later practiced in West Virginia with skill, compassion, and unwavering dedication.

Animals sensed her kindness instinctively—often before people did. Horses that arrived tense and trembling often softened under her hands, lowering their heads as if they recognized something rare: a human who had come only to help. Dogs leaned quietly against her legs as if they had known her forever.

Her home in Winfield reflected that same heart. She shared it with her dogs—Paisley and later Avery—three horses, a rescue cat named Fiona, and a rescued parrot named Louie who had been with her since veterinary school.

They were there for a simple reason: Clara believed every animal deserved dignity, safety, and love—and she made sure they received it. Her commitment was more than a belief; it was a way of living. Each day, through the choices she made and the courage she showed in difficult moments, Clara embodied the very bond she worked to restore between people and the animals who depend on them.

*Clara's life reminds us that restoring the bond is not an abstract idea—it is lived through courage, sacrifice, and the refusal to ignore suffering when others look away.
My life was richer for having Clara Ann Mason in it.*

Clara believed the work of a veterinarian extended far beyond treatment rooms and barn aisles. It meant standing beside the vulnerable and refusing to accept suffering as inevitable. Though her voice is now quiet, her legacy continues—in every veterinarian who refuses to look away, and in every life made safer because Clara Ann Mason once stood in its defense.

Now, at last, she has found the peace—and freedom from pain—that eluded her for so long.

The animals whose lives she protected will carry her legacy forward.

Rest well, my dear friend. You earned it.

Clara Ann Mason will never be forgotten. Her courage, her compassion, and her unwavering defense of animals will continue to guide those who believe that protecting the vulnerable is among the highest callings of our profession—and our humanity.

And I will do everything I can to honor Clara's memory and the creatures she spent her life protecting.

Rustin M Moore - March 14 at 08:34 PM



So very well said, Dr. Moore. I just learned of Clara's passing and it saddened me greatly. She was a bright spot I was lucky enough to encounter. We often talked, exchanged ideas, antiqued and had lunch...I'll miss that.

Sandi Daniel - May 11 at 01:27 AM

FH

“*Mike and I were very sorry to read of Clara's passing. Our sympathy and prayers to the entire Mason family. Love, Mike & Flo Hemming*

Flo Hemming - March 14 at 08:20 PM

JS

“ *Jamie Shaub lit a candle in memory of Dr. Clara Ann Mason, DVM*



Jamie Shaub - March 12 at 05:52 PM

BA

“ *Barb lit a candle in memory of Dr. Clara Ann Mason, DVM*



Barb - March 12 at 02:55 PM

BS

I spent years in band with Clara, and she spoke even then about becoming a veterinarian. She had a beautiful career and changed the lives of so many. My deepest condolences to the Mason family.

Barb Seese - March 12 at 03:04 PM

JC

“ *JASCO Corporation purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Dr. Clara Ann Mason, DVM.*



JASCO Corporation - March 11 at 07:22 PM

JC

“ JASCO Corporation planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Clara Ann Mason, DVM.

JASCO Corporation - March 11 at 07:22 PM

FA

“ From Brad Amos and Bronya Redden Amos purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dr. Clara Ann Mason, DVM.



From Brad Amos and Bronya Redden Amos - March 11 at 10:34 AM

FA

“ From Brad Amos and Bronya Redden Amos planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Clara Ann Mason, DVM.

From Brad Amos and Bronya Redden Amos - March 11 at 10:34 AM

MC

“ Clara managed to make one of the worst days of my life into the best it could possibly be given the heartbreaking circumstances. I am eternally grateful for her kindness and compassion. She will be missed by all of the people and fur babies who were fortunate enough to know her. My deepest sympathy to her family and friends. Rest easy my friend.



Melissa Carte - March 11 at 08:40 AM

MW

“ *My deepest condolences. Rest peacefully.*

Margaret Egerson Williams



Margaret Williams - March 10 at 04:38 PM

RS

“ *Robin Shehan purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. Clara Ann Mason, DVM.*



Robin Shehan - March 10 at 03:16 PM

RS

“ *Robin Shehan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Clara Ann Mason, DVM.*

Robin Shehan - March 10 at 03:16 PM

RS

“ *Regina Serrano lit a candle in memory of Dr. Clara Ann Mason, DVM*



Regina Serrano - March 10 at 12:29 PM

RS

I am Clara Ann's cousin and live in WA state. We had lost touch a few years ago. My heart is broken. I am so so sad to learn of her death. I pray for her family. I love you Clara Ann.

Regina Serrano - March 10 at 12:33 PM

PF

“ *Phil Foster lit a candle in memory of Dr. Clara Ann Mason, DVM*



Phil Foster - March 10 at 01:38 AM

LL

“ *Clara was always such a great friend all through school. She had such a wonderful smile & could always make us laugh. We may have lost a great person and a great friend but heaven has gained an amazing angel! Sending our deepest sympathy to Frank, Matt and the entire Mason family. Rest in peace Clara. You will be missed!*



Linda and Robin Lyons

Linda Lyons - March 09 at 10:04 PM

SR

“ *Dr. Mason provided excellent veterinary services to my horses since 1994. I considered her a good friend. I will miss her gorgeous smile and her sense of humor. Sherri Reveal*

Sherri Goodman Reveal - March 09 at 08:11 PM

MC

“ *Compassionate, dedicated, heartwarming, kind and loving... all words that portray Clara. Our longtime friend and neighbor, Clara was never without a smile, a sweet animal story, and kind words to those she cherished. She is missed greatly.*

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Mason family and her loyal and abundant friends.

*Melissa & Jerry Cole
Winfield, WV*

Melissa Cole - March 09 at 01:34 PM

KD

Clara spent many years caring for my three horses. She will be forever missed. Clara was my friend as well as my veterinarian.

Karen Denbigh - March 09 at 06:14 PM

JB

“ *Clara was always kind, and made those around her feel welcome. So sorry to hear of Clara's passing.*



June Forrest Bowman - March 09 at 12:21 PM

LA

“ *Linda & Terry Adams lit a candle in memory of Dr. Clara Ann Mason, DVM*



Linda & Terry Adams - March 09 at 12:04 PM

TD

“ Clara was a dear friend of me for almost 30 years. She was an excellent vet and took great care of her clients. I will fondly remember all the good times that we had. I miss the daily calls and all the inside jokes that we had. My prayers go out to Frank Mason and Matthew Mason and the entire Mason family. God bless you all.



Terry Dunn - March 09 at 11:54 AM

MM

“ Dave and I will truly miss our good friend Clara Ann. We cherish the past 35+ years we had with her. Lots of wonderful memories. Love, hugs and prayers to family and friends during this difficult time.

Marge and Dave McCutcheon - March 09 at 11:53 AM

BA

Clara was a wonderful friend and college. You build some unbreakable bonds going through Vet school with your classmates and she was one of my closest and dearest friends. I am going to miss hearing your voice on the phone dear friend. My selfishness wants you to still be here but my heart knows you are in a better place without pain. Love you.

Bronya Redden Amos - March 10 at 07:18 AM

VW

“ Valerie Wheatley lit a candle in memory of Dr. Clara Ann Mason, DVM



Valerie Wheatley - March 09 at 10:39 AM