



For Immediate Release

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**The Largest Open Breed Show (under the sun!)
Continues at Dressage at Devon:
Day 3 – From Andalusians and Arabians to Friesians and
Thoroughbreds**

September 28, 2017 (Devon, PA) – Day 3 of Dressage at Devon featured more than 20 individual breed classes including the Alkal-Teke, Hanoverians (2 and under and 3 and older), Haflinger, Andalusian Horse, Dales Pony, Oldenburg (GOV), Paint Horse, Friesian, Danish Warmblood, Knabstrupper, Iberian Horse, ISR Oldenburg, Appaloosa, Irish Draught, Purebred Arabian, Half Arabian, Lusitano, KWPN NA, Drum Horse, Thoroughbred, American Saddlebred, Lipizzan, Georgian Grande, and PRE. Many of these breeds have shown at Devon for a number of years but, new this year, were the Dales Ponies, sponsored by the Dressage at Devon committee.

The Dales Pony offers a combination of good conformation with energy and ability making them excellent for riding, driving and draft. They are unbeatable at a walk and have the stamina and determination to keep going over long distances according to the Dales Pony Society of America, Inc. Being willing and very clever jumpers, they compete very successfully in Cross Country Trials and performance classes. These ponies are very good at competition driving classes and can do well in dressage.

Kathy Kiesel, Vice President of Facilities for Dressage at Devon, imported Bickerdike Cracker Jack (Canandale Great Expectation x Canadale Black Magic), the winner of the class, from Alberta, Canada in 2002 when he was one of only 60 Dales in North America. He was taught to drive, was her daughter's mount in lead line, was a therapeutic pony for five years at Quest Therapeutics and, more recently, has been showing at first level and is schooling to third level. Kathy also owns Mighty Max (Raspotnik Conner x Bickerdike

Midnight Jazz), the red ribbon winner in the class. She's a big fan of these sturdy and reliable ponies. Robbie Kankus, CEO of Dressage at Devon, is now the owner of Bickerdike Midnight Jazz who was also entered in the class.

Christine Smith (Wildest Expectations Farm, Stephens City, VA) who handled Jack, Max and Jazz in the class, is now a fan of the breed. "I had a ball," said Christine, who typically handles horses. "I came out giggling and happy. They had loads of personality but were not aggressive. They were like a toy stuffed animal with personality. I just wanted to hop on them and go for a ride."

The Dales Pony has been placed on the critically endangered list in Britain but Britain's royalty is on board with the Queen often riding a Dales and HRH the Prince of Wales is a Patron.

The Performance Division began on Thursday afternoon. Highlights included: USEF Fourth Level Test of Choice Open GAIG/USDF Q – The blue ribbon went to Silva Martin on Jada W, a 16.1 Warmblood mare, with a score of 69.797. Jada W was bred and is owned by Windurra USA (Unionville, PA).

The last class of the day was the USEF Fourth Level Test of Choice Open GAIG/USDF Q was won by Meagan Davis on Damocles HLF (Diamond Stud x High Society), owned by Meagan Davis.

Complete results can be found at www.dressageatdevon.org.

The Performance Division continues Friday, Saturday, and Sunday with classes including Intermediaire tests, the FEI Prix St. George, Grand Prix Qualifiers, and Grand Prix Musical Freestyles. Plus, on Sunday, Dressage at Devon's unique Dressage Explorers program will take place and include a selfie scavenger hunt, equine jeopardy, make your own stick horse and a stick horse competition in the Dixon Oval. Plus, Explorers will have a chance to meet Silva Martin and learn the ins and outs of dressage competition.

The sun is out and the forecast is great. Join us!

Dressage at Devon takes place September 26 – October 1 at the Devon Horse Show Grounds in Devon, PA. General admission tickets are \$10 for ages 13 and above; Kids ages 3-12 are \$5, and children under 3 are admitted free. Reserved seating is \$26 on Friday, \$37 on Saturday and \$10 on Sunday. Grand Prix 3-Day reserved seat ticket package is \$66 and reserves an assigned seat for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. (Seat location may be different each day.) Reserved tickets are available online at www.dressageatdevon.org. General admission is available at the door.

About Dressage at Devon

Dressage at Devon (www.dressageatdevon.org) has been a premier North American Equestrian event since its founding in 1975. It combines world-class dressage competition and the world's largest open breed show with the international Fall Festival

show and special activities for the entire family. The six-day event attracts hundreds of riders from around the world and thousands of spectators. Dressage at Devon is a 501(c) (3) PA non-profit organization, benefitting equine education.

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