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Shilhouette Brings Home the Ribbons En Route to Dressage at Devon

Devon, PA (August 12, 2011) “She’s more beautiful...spectacularly beautiful,” gushed Mo Swanson when asked how Shilhouette, her Oldenburg filly, had changed over the last month. Shilhouette was bred by Swanson at Rolling Stone Farm in Slatington, Pennsylvania. At just three months she is dazzling the judges. On July 29 the Oldenburg Horse Breeders Society evaluated her build, breeding, movement, and overall impression. The next day she was off on her first road trip to the Dressage Sport Horse Breed Show at Bucks County Horse Park. This was followed shortly by an appearance at the Maplewood Warmbloods Dressage Sport Horse Breed Show on August 5. Now she’s back to doing what foals do best, eating and playing, until she enters the Breed Division at Dressage at Devon. Dressage at Devon takes place from September 27-October 2, 2011 at the Devon Horse Show Grounds, located on US Route 30, in Devon, PA.

It appears as if judges agree with Swanson’s glowing evaluation of Shilhouette. “The Oldenburg Horse Breeders Society sent an American and German judge to our farm. They looked at twenty nine foals including twenty four of ours. They checked out her lineage, by taking a sample of hair from her tail and doing a DNA analysis, and they registered her. Then they looked at how she’s built, and watched her walking and trotting in outdoor ring with Fhlora, her mother,” said Swanson. Swanson was hoping that Shilhouette would qualify as a ‘Premium Foal,’ which means she’s built and moves better than the average foal. She was not only named a ‘Premium Foal,’ but also a ‘Foal of Distinction,’ indicating the inspectors believe that she’s outstanding. And after evaluating all 29 foals, they pronounced Shilhouette ‘Champion Filly’ of the day.

At the Dressage and Sport Horse Breed Show the next day Shilhouette continued to impress. After getting a new hairdo, braids with white rubber bands to accent her dark mane, she promptly walked onto the trailer with Fhlora as if she were a seasoned traveler. Since one of Swanson’s helpers, her husband Jim, had been diverted to fix a break in the fence, Shilhouette’s cooperation was appreciated. From then on Shilhouette was on and off the trailer, and in and out of the show

ring all day long. Even though Shilhouette and Fhlora were competing in different classes, they went everywhere together. Their success in each class meant they had to keep going back into the ring to climb to the next level.



Shilhouette competed and won in the Fillies of 2011 class which qualified her to compete in the Filly Championship. Her win in this class qualified her to compete in the Great American USDF Breeders Championship at Dressage at Devon. She also competed with her half brother, Shwatch, in the 'Get of Sire' class, where two foals from the same sire show off their lineage. They won. Fhlora won the Brood Mares 4 and Older, Mare Championship, the Mature Horse Championship and the Grand Championship. While Shilhouette behaved like an angel for the first six classes, the Grand Championship pushed her past her breaking point. Unable to hold herself together anymore, she decided it was time to buck and play. Luckily, the focus was on Fhlora and the judge paid no attention to the antics in the background.

Shilhouette repeated her successes at the Maplewood Warmbloods Dressage Sport Horse Breed Show on August 5, winning the Fillies 2011 class, the Filly Championship and, along with her brother, the Get of Sire class. After a long, hot, successful day that started at 4 a.m. Shilhouette and Fhlora were ready to come back home, relax and do what foals and horses do.

Shilhouette is now spending most her time in the field chasing and jumping on her foal friends. Halter games are also part of her repertoire. Of course, she catches up with Mom for a drink of milk and spends evenings with Fhlora in her stall.

Late in September Shilhouette will face competition from across North America when she is presented at Dressage at Devon. Reserved seating to see Shilhouette, the Breed and Performance Show at Dressage at Devon is available at <http://dressageatdevon.org/shop/> and general admission tickets will be available at the show grounds only from 9/25/11 to 10/2/11.

About Dressage at Devon

Dressage at Devon (www.dressageatdevon.org) has been the premier North American Equestrian event since its founding by the Delaware Valley Combined Training Association in 1975, and became a separate organization in 2006. 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 more than 700 horses and 35,000 spectators each year.

Dressage at Devon, a 501(c) (3) PA non-profit organization, benefits Thorncroft Therapeutic Horseback Riding Inc., the oldest and largest therapeutic riding program in the nation. Since 1991, Dressage at Devon has raised in excess of \$1,000,000 for Thorncroft.

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