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Maryland-Bred Foal, Coeur Dashian, Shows Promise for Dressage and Jumping En Route to Dressage at Devon 2012

Devon, PA (August 14, 2012) At the tender age of three months, Coeur Dashian, an Oldenburg filly at High Point Hanoverians farm in Chestertown, Maryland, has already had her first beauty treatments and impressed representatives from the Oldenburg Horse Breeder's Society with her athletic potential. When she's not in the spotlight, she's spending time with her mother in the field at night, taking it easy during the day in their stall, and becoming accustomed to being handled by the people who care for her.

On Wednesday, July 25, Coeur Dashian was one of nine foals evaluated at High Point Hanoverians by representatives of the Oldenburg Horse Breeder's Society, who assess Oldenburg foals before adding them to their registry, assuring they meet their breeding goals. In preparation for the inspection, Coeur Dashian's fuzzy foal coat was clipped off and her mane was braided, in order to unmask her natural beauty and show off the curve of her neck. As barn handlers buzzed over her with horse clippers, carefully created an intricate row of braids, and practically polished every inch of her body, Coeur Dashian behaved well, showing her readiness for the pampering that will probably become an integral part of her athletic career.

It was not only the foals who received beauty treatments. Their mothers and fathers were also prepped for the day because the judges wanted to see the quality of the horses that produced this year's offspring. So the day opened with six mares showing off their good looks, athletic builds and floating movements. Then it was time for the barn's stallions—Rosenthal, Sinatra Song, Coeur D'Amour and Furst Impression. After each took their turn before the judges, they were immediately followed by their progeny.

Like the other horses and foals, Coeur Dashian's handler initially stood her in front of the judges so that they could evaluate her build. Judges looked for clues from hip and shoulder angles, balanced proportions, and more to predict athletic prospects. Then, as

onlookers who had come to see Coeur Dashian's debut oohed and aahed, she moved around the indoor arena loose with Starling, her mother. She took this opportunity to jump a bush that until then had been purely decorative. Also, while most foals travel on the heels of their mother, Coeur Dashian charged ahead, showing uncommon bravery. Given her fearless nature and eager response to her encounter with the bush, it's not surprising that judges stated she has the makings of a good jumper. The society named Coeur Dashian a 'Premium Foal', an official designation which means her movements and build are better than average, and she has potential for dressage as well.

As a result of her moment in the spotlight, Coeur Dashian is now registered with the Oldenburg Horse Breeder's Society. Now it's time prepare for her first show, the Virginia Dressage Association (VADA)/Nova Summer Breeding Show on Saturday, August 11 and Sunday, August 12, which she will attend in the company of her mother. For this event it is, of course, important that she's easy to handle as she will be presented standing as well as moving on a leadline. Because, however, the stable hands work with Coeur Dashian every day, rubbing her down with towels until she shines, and leading her around, it's likely that she will take to her new job like a pro. Just in case, Larissa Barilar who co-manages breeding at High Point Hanoverians, says "we might practice leading Starling and Coeur Dashian around the ring together before the show." Convincing Coeur Dashian to walk onto a horse trailer, however, is not a concern since she's expected to follow her mother wherever she goes. Who knows—maybe she'll just lead the way.

This event will probably be the only time Coeur Dashian experiences the show ring before Dressage at Devon in September, where she will face competition from across North America. Reserved seating to see Coeur Dashian and 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 from 9/25/12 to 9/30/12.

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 hundreds of horses from around the world and thousands of spectators. Dressage at Devon is a 501© (3) PA non-profit organization, benefitting equine education.

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