

For Immediate Release

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It's All About the Babies!
Day One: Dressage at Devon 2014

September 23, 2014 (Devon, PA) – Dressage at Devon opened to bright sunshine and colts and fillies galore. Like their human counterparts, they sometimes behaved and sometimes didn't! But they all are promising – and adorable. Most were born in a careful breeding program with doting moms. Others had a tougher road.

Take three-month old Westbrook for example. Born in June to a mare who became too sick to care for him, Westbrook had a difficult time ahead of him. Both were in the neonatal ICU for two weeks. For three days, New Bolton Staff hand milked the mare and put it in a baby's feeding tube. They switched to a bucket after mom rejected her foal.

Susan began to work with Robert Croteau, a nutritionist from Stoltzfus Feed and Supply and Don Kapper from Progressive Nutrition who developed a feed mixture that Susan fed him four times a day. With the help of Caitlin Rothecker, VMD from University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Field Services, who continues to make weekly visits, the effort worked. He's still showing some of the after-effects but he's gaining weight and strength.

Horses are not loners and Westbrook (named after Eagle football player Brian Westbrook) needed a friend in addition to Susan, his surrogate mother. Enter Petie, a miniature donkey who stood in as "dad." (see the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A6-I9PsSWPE>) Although, says Jackman, if something scares him, his real friends are the trees he hides behind.

Sadly, mom did not fare as well and despite valiant efforts, had to be put down. Jackman was left with the baby and huge veterinary bills. Ann Hill, daughter of Jane MacElree, owner of Hilltop Farm, came forward to pick up the bills for the mare. "Susan has done a lot for us, and I believe in paying it forward," said Hill.

Thanks to the care of his owner and the team, Westbrook made it to the breed show at Dressage at Devon, the largest open breed show in the world. Though he came in eleventh, he had a score of 77 – pretty good for a "bucket baby."

We'll see Westbrook tomorrow too in the Amateur Handler class (Susan is the handler) and the ISR Oldenburg class on Thursday. (We'll let you know the results in our daily updates) and, Susan is already looking ahead to the yearling class at Dressage at Devon 2015.

Other Highlights

The Filly Championship – Great American/USDFBC Q was won by Dansuse MF (Don Principe x EM Fuerst Dancer MF), a black Hanovarian filly bred and owned by Maryanna Haymon.

Imperata (UB40 x Beatrice VDL), a dark bay KWPN-NA gelding took the honors in the Colt/Gelding Championship – Great American/USDFBC Q. Imperata was bred by Pieter A. Ruig and is owned by Alicia Alecxih.

The Foal Championship – Great American /USDFBC Q was led by Figawi 121, an Oldenburg bay stallion, owned and bred by Cara Kettenbach.

It was a great night for breeder Maryanna Hamon, owner of Sao Tomae MF ((Sir Donnerhall 1 x Diora), who won the Young Horse Championship and was presented with The President's Cup. A Hanovarian, Sao Tomai MF is a bay gelding and was handled by Brendan Curtis. Haymon also found herself in the ring with her filly, Dansuse MF, the Reserve Champion.

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

The breed show continues on Wednesday (which promises to be another beautiful day) with 4 – and 5 – year olds and championship classes throughout the afternoon and evening.

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(Editor's note: additional pictures of the winners and Westbrook are available and we would be happy to work with you on a more complete Westbrook story.)