

# Alexa Clayton

## *What age did you start riding and why?*

I started riding when I was around 7 years old. I had always loved horses and my parents had enrolled me in a summer camp. I went to the same camp for a couple years and when I was around 10 or 11 I convinced my parents to start me in lessons. I started with a 10-week program, went into semiprivate lessons, and in the fall of 2005 I found the love of my life Maximus (Max). We have been competing ever since!

## *Horse Stats?*

He is a Württemberg/Trakehner cross gelding and was born here in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Max is a big boy standing around 16.3 hands and is turning 12 on St. Patrick's Day. Max is a very gentle horse with very worried eyes. He has a great spirit, but can be questionable at times. He's a great friend and is so sweet, everyone who meets him loves him!

## *What is your training regime?*

Max and I train together about 4-5 times per week. Normally when I get there we play for a little bit then groom him before we ride. I am normally with him for around 2 hours every ride. We have two lessons each week depending on the weather. There are also some clinicians that come in usually 2-3 times a year.

## *Achievements?*

Max and I are going into our fifth show season together. We were the 2005 Show Hack Champions, were awarded a 2007 Bronze Award of Excellence, and have been working toward bigger accomplishments in the Dressage ring. Over the past five years Max and I have travelled to Pine Ridge Equestrian Centre, Birds Hill Park, and the Red River Exhibition grounds. We have had many ups and downs and challenges faced. Overall we have had many great successes and are greatly looking forward to the 2009 show season. I just celebrated my 19<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## *Goals and Aspirations?*

Max and I will be competing in the 2009 Dressage Winnipeg shows and hope to attend every one. Max and I hope to qualify to enter the Manitoba Provincial Dressage Championships in September of 2009. We would love to compete in the 2010 Regional Championships in Red Deer, Alberta, but can only do so if we find a sponsor to help us with the costs as I am a student at Red River College. We are currently training for First Level tests and preparing a Freestyle.

