

## Sprechen ze Duetsche?

It is a safe bet this is not a question posed everyday to 15 year-old Haley Stradling. But for this Langley, B.C. teenager it might become a re-occurring theme in the next several months. Why, you may ask?

The effervescent red-head has earned a coveted spot on Canada's team for the 2012 AQHA Youth World Cup, being held in Kreuth, Germany, July 21 – 29. A biennial event the AQHA Youth World Cup came to life in 1986 in the land down-under as a vehicle to promote education, camaraderie as well as competition. Since its inauguration in Australia, the event has traveled the globe and flourished. This year will see 16 countries each putting together a team of ten individuals, consisting of five riders plus two alternates and three coaches/managers.

Being a multi-faceted rider no doubt went a long way in securing Haley a position on the team. It is not uncommon to see the young horsewomen saddle up her sparkling little cutting horse, Boogie's Dual Rey, then hack around on pony club mount Lizard (Hickory's Eclipse, a former cutting horse, is the epitome of the AQHA's mantra - versatility). Then to change things up a notch or three, there's Rominka and Walter, the hunter/jumper giants Haley campaigns with zeal. Talent, hard work and definitely dedication have rewarded Haley with a truly rare and unique opportunity.

Since the host country has the formidable task of supplying all the horses for the team members to ride it might be a good idea for Haley to learn a few key phrases in German.

*Vielen Dank, mein Pferd war super!*

