

the SOURCE

RELEVANT TOPICS FOR THE EGYPTIAN ARABIAN COMMUNITY



VOLUME 6 | FALL, 2015 | WWW.PYRAMIDSOCIETY.ORG

Was R

the SOURCE

RELEVANT TOPICS FOR THE EGYPTIAN ARABIAN COMMUNITY

Welcome to the 2015 Fall Issue of **THE SOURCE**. We are so excited about this issue and we hope you will be also.

To kick off we have an in-depth look at the first breeder in “The Cornerstone Series”, Albadeia Stud, Egypt. Even if you thought you knew this fabled program, and Dr. Nasr Marei, we are sure you will still find something new in these articles.

On a practical level, we are concentrating on *Rhodococcus equi*; diagnosis, current treatments and a practical insight into how to manage it on a working stud farm.

Additionally, we are presenting a ground breaking discussion of our current Arabian show ring, and its impact on our beloved horses worldwide. Originally, these questions were posed by Dr. Marei on his Facebook page. There was so much interest, it was decided to compile a panel of distinguished breeders, trainers and judges, to give their input to this conversation. Their responses were so passionate, interesting and detailed, we have decided this article needs to be broken into 2 parts; questions 1 through 4 in this issue and 5 through 7 with conclusions in our next issue.

Finally, The Source has been so enthusiastically received, we have decided moving forward, to publish 5 times a year. This will allow us to spread out important articles for more in depth discussion, and to present The Source in a smaller, more manageable form. You will find links to the articles in upcoming issues of our monthly newsletter, The Chariot. Additionally, we will be including lots of interactive opportunities. Get ready to show us your Albadeia related horses and give your own answers to the questions posed in “Setting the Standard – The Breeder or The Show Ring” article.

The Source is your magazine and we look forward to feedback, and suggestions for articles you would like to see in up coming issues. We are really looking forward to our interaction with you, our readers, in the future.

Finally, an important change designed to make reading The Source even easier is now a reality! **ANY READER** may now download The Source right from your computer screen on ISSUU and on our website. And remember that we published the library-worthy historical content from Issues 1-4 in a beautiful anthology, available for purchase on our website.

[BUY THE SOURCE IN PRINT HERE](#)



TABLE OF CONTENTS

CORNERSTONE SERIES, PART 1: DR. NASR MAREI

37



HERITAGE HORSES, 7TH EDITION



58 NAGDIA



62 KAYED



67 KAMAR
ALBADEIA



71 FARID
ALBADEIA



76 ANHAR
ALBADEIA

theSOURCE

VOLUME 6
FALL, 2015

A PUBLICATION OF
The Pyramid Society
4067 Iron Works Parkway,
Suite 2, Lexington,
Kentucky, U.S.A. 40511
Phone +1 859.231.0771
Fax +1 859.255.4810
info@pyramidsociety.org
www.pyramidsociety.org



4 PERFORMANCE
HORSE AWARD
REVIEW



7 SETTING THE
STANDARD,
A PANEL
DISCUSSION



53 2015
MILESTONE
AWARD
ACCEPTANCE
SPEECH



83 THE ABLE
STABLE:
R.EQUI



ON THE COVER

Farid Albadeia

(Ameer Albadeia x Farida)

A Special Thank You to
Albadeia Std





The Egyptian Arabian PERFORMANCE HORSE Award Program



ABOVE: Top Straight Egyptian horse Bint Rasheeka Shabha

OPPOSITE: from left to right, Second Place Straight Egyptian horse Richters Finale, Top Egyptian Sired horse Famous Desperado, Honorable Merit winners, WWA Koukab Amerika and Kahlidah Kamar Rou++

The Pyramid Society's reinstated Performance Horse Award Program for 2014 culminated with a special awards ceremony at the 2015 Egyptian Event. Over 30 Straight Egyptian and Egyptian Sired horses owned by Pyramid Society members and non-members were enrolled with points accumulated throughout the 2014 competition year.

Bint Rasheeka Shabha (The Sequel x Rasheeka Shabha), owned & bred by Ken and Karen Shutts of Lone Star Arabians, received Top Honors as the: Top Straight Egyptian Horse owned by a Pyramid Society Member and Highest Scoring Horse owned by a Pyramid Society Member.

Other awards recipients included:

2nd Top Straight Egyptian Horse owned by a Pyramid Society Member; **Richters Finale** (Richters MH x Eagle Elegant) owned by Jan Alexander of Crooked Creek Arabians and bred by Billy and Teresa Phillips.

Top Egyptian Sired Horse; **Famous Desperado** (Thee Desperado x Fames Finale TF) owned & bred by Barbara Hughes.

Honorable Merit Awards were presented to the next two highest placing horses: **WWA Koukab Amerika** (WWA Kurafi x Hadaya Nile Tiara), owned by Nancy Rettschlag and Donald Gigante and Bred by Donald Gigante and **Kahlidah Kamar Rou++** (Serr Sotamm+ x Moulin Rouge Rou), owned & bred by Brittany and Lila Bartlett.

The 2015 Performance Horse Award Program builds on last year's great success, with expanded disciplines and even more awards!

Disciplines Include

- Flat Track Racing
- Endurance
- Competitive Trail
- Western Pleasure
- Hunter Pleasure
- Sidesaddle
- Country English Pleasure
- English Park
- English Pleasure
- English Show Hack
- Native Costume
- Carriage Driving
- Country Pleasure Driving
- Obstacle Driving
- Working Hunter
- Reining
- Cutting
- Working Cow
- Western Trail
- Jumping
- Sport Horse Under Saddle
- Sport Horse Show Hack
- Pony Club
- 4-H
- Dressage
- Western Dressage
- Driven Dressage
- Eventing
- Combined Driving

ENROLL TODAY!

WWW.RIDEEGYPTIANS.COM

Competition Season: January 1 - December 31, 2015

Entry Deadline: March 1, 2016

Recognition: at the 2016 Egyptian Event

June 7th - 11th 2016

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR 2015
EGYPTIAN ARABIAN PERFORMANCE HORSE AWARD PROGRAM SPONSORS!!



**WINNERS
RECEIVE:**

- Custom Embroidered Coolers
- Personalized Award Certificates
- Recognition at the 2016 Egyptian Event
- Features in International Publications
- Extensive Online Promotion!

ADDITIONAL \$

PRIZES \$

FOR MEMBERS!







SETTING THE STANDARD

A PANEL DISCUSSION ABOUT THE EGYPTIAN ARAIBAN HORSE - THE BREEDER OR THE SHOW RING?

SETTING THE STANDARD

The Breeder or the Show Ring?

By Dr. Nasr Marei

I was privileged to be born and raised in a family that loved animals and in particular, Arabian horses. I have photos of myself at 3 years old sitting on an Arabian mare that my grandfather had bought back in the early 40's. I guess my infatuation with the Arabians started then and has continued until the present day. My involvement with horses never ceased. The breeding program that my grandfather founded in 1935, was passed on to my father and then to me. This year we are celebrating the 80th Anniversary of Albadeia, where I have been breeding Egyptian Arabian horses all my life.

In addition, I have been actively judging in shows since 1990. A journey that has taken me to all 5 continents time and again. I sought judging to have more international exposure and to learn more about the Arabian horse. In

essence, judging was meant to be a continuation of my learning process, spurred by my love for the horse.

In travelling and judging shows, I have seen the best horses in the world as well as getting to know the best breeders. I have studied various breeding philosophies. I have seen training centers and trainers at all levels of the spectrum.

It has been a long journey as a breeder and as a judge, during which I have witnessed significant transformations which have taken place over the last four decades.

Many important breeders who have impacted the "industry" have vanished. Many new breeders came with new concepts. Some survived and are still breeding and others just bailed out.

Today, many breeders are breeding horses for not simply the love of the horse and to improve quality while preserving heritage and traditions,



but mostly their objective is to breed a horse that goes into the show ring and wins. Egotism and marketing have taken over.

The breeding standards that guide many breeders today are changing according to trends set by show wins. The judges bear a great responsibility by determining the qualities and the standards of the horse that the breeders are to follow.

Another issue presents itself here. The strong desire for breeders and horse owners to win in the ring has exerted a lot of pressure on trainers. They are expected to win with every horse they train and enter in the ring. They handle several horses belonging to several owners. Under such pressure, the methods of training so many horses in such a short time have become under attack. We hear now of ill treatment, abuse, conflict of interests, arrangements and deals.

We also hear of accusations against judges for making “favors” and “political judging”. We hear of show sponsors that dictate to the organizers who should be judging or not judging a show.

Shows have so many merits. It can be very educational to breeders if they want to learn. Shows are a meeting place for all breeders and enthusiasts to socialize and learn from the experiences of each other.

I sincerely hope that this concept remains so. However, I worry! From what I hear wherever I go, so do many others.



INTRODUCING OUR PANEL



HRH
PRINCESS
ALIA AL
HUSSEIN

Royal Stables
of Jordan

HRH Princess Alia
Al Hussein was
born in 1956
to King Hussein

and Queen Dina of Jordan. She is the President of the Jordanian Equestrian Federation and also works with charitable causes and organizations promoting intercultural dialogue and understanding. In 2009, she founded the Princess Alia Foundation to address issues relating to human and animal welfare and the environment. Additionally, Princess Alia oversees the breeding program at the Royal Stables of Jordan, hosts the Jordanian National Horse Show and the Middle East Championship Show. She is a judge and has been a long time member of ECAHO and a former member of its Disciplinary Committee.



BART VAN BUGGENHOUT

Aljassimya Farm, Satna Ynez, CA and Doha, Qatar

At age 13 Bart would work weekends at Jadem Arabians in Belgium. For the next decade he travelled and expanded his knowledge of the Arabian horse and by age 23 he won his first World Championship titles. Soon Bart was offered the opportunity to manage Al Rayyan Farm in Qatar where he remained for 14 years, bringing Al Rayyan Farm and Bart to the pinnacle of Straight Egyptian breeding. Currently he is in charge at Aljassimya Farm with farms in both the USA and Qatar. Additionally, Bart has been influential in both the Foal Festival, with ideas such as the Gelding Futurity, and The Santa Ynez Breeders' Challenge, as well as being a force for the ground breaking 2015 U.S. Open Championships in New York City.



SCOTT BENJAMIN

Benjamin Equine, Alberta, Canada

With a lifetime of animal industry experience, Scott has been active within the Arabian breed for almost 35 years. Having earned a Bachelors Degree in Animal Science from Michigan State University, specializing in Equine Management and Animal Breeding/Genetics, he has since been involved with Arabian events in the US, Canada, the Middle East, the Arabian Gulf, Australia, South America, Africa and most of Europe as director, judge, manager, trainer, steward, clinician, coach, author, speaker and auctioneer.



DR. NASR MAREI

Albadeia Stud, Cairo, Egypt

Dr. Marei has literally grown up with Egyptian Arabian horses. His world-famous Albadeia Stud, having been founded by his grandfather in 1935 and passed through the generations is celebrating 80 years in 2015. With his extensive knowledge, in 1990 he started actively judging horse shows. Since that time he has judged all over the world and at nearly every significant show. Additionally Dr. Marei is an author and an accomplished photographer.



RAYMOND MAZZEI

Furioso Farm, Temucula, CA

Raymond Mazzei has been a student of Arabian horses since 1966. During this time he has studied, and been associated with great horses spanning different Arabian bloodlines, all the while improving and honing his understanding of various successful breeding philosophies. His travels have taken him to most countries in Europe, including Poland and Russia as well as Israel. He is a highly respected judge, trainer and breeder who has owned the respected Furioso Farms for decades.



HENRY METZ

Silver Maple Farm, Santa Ynez, CA

With a successful business career already to his credit, Henry and his wife Christie entered the world of Straight Egyptian Arabian horses in 1989 - soon after they founded the renowned Silver Maple Farms. Early on Henry discovered the fun of showing his horses, winning multiple championships culminating in a U.S. National Championship. In 2015 Henry took his years of experience and judged at the Kuwait Egyptian Event.

Henry's contribution to the Arabian horse community is extensive: Director, Arabian Purebred Trust; Board member of the Arabian Horse Association; Board member, President and Trustee of The Pyramid Society.



JOHANNA ULLSTROM

Arctic Tern Training Center, Sint-Truiden, Belgium

Born in Sweden, Johanna has had a love affair with horses her entire life. An accomplished equestrian, Johanna opened Arctic Tern Training Center in Belgium in 1998. Johanna's love and deep-seated understanding of the Arabian horse have resulted in her unique show ring presence, which emphasizes the beauty and charisma of the individual horse. This caring training method has brought Johanna considerable success and enabled her to present three Triple Crown winners and gain worldwide recognition of her abilities. Additionally, Johanna has used her years of hands-on experience to become a respected breeder of Arabian horses.



JUDY SIRBASKU

Arabians Ltd., Waco, TX

Over 35 years ago Judy, and her late husband Jim Sirbasku, invested in a small number of horses. For Judy this was the beginning of a passion that led to the creation of one of the world's largest, and most successful Straight Egyptian Arabian breeding programs, Arabians Ltd. With a desire to share the captivating beauty of the horses with others, she has created a big family of clients to help others understand how to be a part of the horse business. Judy has been a long time supporter, sponsor and Life Member of The Pyramid Society and the Egyptian Event.

The following seven questions were originally posed by Dr. Marei on his facebook page. There was so much interest, it was decided to compile a panel of distinguished, breeders, trainers and judges, to give their input to this conversation. you will find the panelists' responses to questions 1 through 4 here and 5 through 7 with conclusions in our next issue.

1. Are shows as they are staged now good for the welfare of our Arabian horse?
2. How seriously do show results actually affect the future of the breed?
3. Are we really concerned about the horse and improving the breed? Or is it often a matter of winning, ego and beat-the-others attitude?
4. The qualities of the horses have significantly improved in the last few years and judging has become very difficult. Are current judging systems able to classify horses in order of best to less in a clear, definite and convincing way?
5. Is the constant and intensive use of certain bloodlines that prove superior in the show ring good or bad?
6. What can we do to improve judging? Come up with more efficient Systems? Better training and selection of Judges?
7. The pressure being exerted by the owners on trainers to win has affected training, handling and showing methods. In my opinion, certainly not to the best welfare of the horse. Can we change/stop that? Can we prevent the ill treatment of horses (at least) in the show ring?

In conclusion - please state a specific action, proposal or policy that could be undertaken by a Show Committee, or Breed Organization that might change things for the better.

The key word in this question is welfare. A keen awareness of and mindful diligence to welfare, in every aspect of the activities in which we engage with all horses, is critical... As modern-day stewards of this ancient and noble breed, it is our imperative duty as responsible horse people, to discover the best vocation for all our horses. This undoubtedly means not subjecting the majority of our Arabians to life in the show ring.

-Scott Benjamin

ARE SHOWS AS THEY ARE STAGED NOW, GOOD FOR THE WELFARE OF OUR ARABIAN HORSE?

HRH PRINCESS ALIA AL HUSSEIN

The shows now are not good for the horses ... originally the shows were country fairs that were primarily to promote the breed. The focus has changed and become much more artificial. They have become beauty pageants with horses that are uptight, stressed with popping eyes. The shows are now entertainment with music ... not serious about breeding and looking at the well being of the horse.

Kerry Thomas, a horse behavior specialist, recently visited an Arabian show and was shocked by the behavior of the handlers in the show ring. He commented about how the level of stress was very unhealthy for the horses.

Key physical attributes such as movement are not given adequate emphasis. Often show horses are not sound, nor capable of exhibiting the classic Arabian traits

BART VAN BUGGENHOUT

I believe, that as the world in general is confronted with ever growing new ideas, changes and further developments, we as Arabian horse lovers can't hold onto our fathers and



grandfathers' ideas of how things were done. We need to realize that the whole horse scene already has changed, and will continue to change in the future. I do believe some shows staged today serve the wrong and useless purpose for too few, and at too high a cost in resources, time and money.

SCOTT BENJAMIN The key word in this question is WELFARE. A keen awareness of and mindful diligence to welfare, in every aspect of the activities in which we engage with all horses, is critical to our long term and continued involvement with the breeds we love. There are many things that we do to horses, both at shows, and in preparation for shows that may not be perceived by the general public, and non horse people, as particularly kind. Continuing with any practice that is harmful physiologically and psychologically to our horses is something we should always question. Defending these practices with irrational statements such as "it is our tradition" or "that is the way it has always been done" or "non horse people just do not understand" is as baseless as defending slavery, or human sacrifice, both universally abhorrent practices once practiced "regularly" that could be defended (and most likely were) with such flimsy logic. We are, in most countries around the world,

still in charge of self policing welfare at horse shows and events. It will be up to us to create the best possible welfare situations for our horses, both publicly and privately, or rest assured, a governing authority with little regard for your horses, your profession, and your lifestyle, will enforce regulations that will make horse ownership and involvement difficult and unrewarding.

I am convinced that the happiest horses are those that do not have to attend shows, those that enjoy a backyard lifestyle with plenty of attention from their devoted owners, and the occasional undemanding trail ride. I find myself feeling empathy for the beautiful and talented horses, those that will be subjected to show after show, year in and year out, mostly in an attempt to satisfy an egotistical urge for show ring glory for the owner and/or trainer. There are plenty of horses, particularly Arabian horses, who do genuinely "love" to show, who seem to thrive with hard work and training, and come alive in the show ring. Seeing these horses in the show ring, exhibiting the best qualities of the authentic Arabian horse, whether in hand or under saddle, truly makeshows worthwhile. We must, however, be ever mindful that the percentage of horses who do thrive in the show ring will always be rather small, in comparison to the population



of the breed at large. Most experienced breeders understand this inevitability; I am not sure the same understanding is shared by show horse owners, and trainers. As modern day stewards of this ancient and noble breed, it is our imperative duty as responsible horse people, to discover the best vocation for all our horses. This undoubtedly means NOT subjecting the majority of our Arabians to life in the show ring.

I love a good horse show – I always have. It has been a privilege to attend, and be involved, as a professional, with some extraordinary events all over the world for most of my adult life. We must, however, continue to challenge ourselves, as the leaders and stewards of this generation, to ensure horse shows and exhibitions hold equine welfare in utmost regard. We owe it not only to the horses, to whom we have pledged our time, talents, and resources, but to the generations of horses, and people yet to come, for whom we must ensure a healthy, meaningful and sustainable legacy.

DR. NASR MAREI Shows are a good concept. It is the way they are being interpreted and perceived that needs to be reconsidered.

I believe that shows can be very educational for those who desire to breed better horses, and improve their

herd. Just by analyzing the reasons why a horse has won, or placed favorably over another horse, one can learn a lot. Unfortunately, most do not do that and they start blaming judges for being incompetent, or giving favors to other horse owners, or trainer/handlers.

Instead, I believe that owners should be very critical of their own horses and use logic and their head, rather than their heart, in evaluating the performance of their horse in the show ring.

So my answer to this question is, we should continue having shows, and horse owners and breeders have to be more subtle in accepting the outcome, and learn.

RAYMOND MAZZEI I don't think our shows currently are helping perpetuate interest from new horse people, but as we exist today, we need this venue to expose our stock and breeding ideas to others in the industry. Our presentation, however, needs to become more exhibitor friendly; we need to give these shows back to the breeder/exhibitor. Our shows need to have classes filled with exhibitors having fun, and competing against each other, not succumb to the trainer, training the breeder/owners to be insecure, and steal their fun. Give

our shows back to the breeders. They after all are paying for everything. Throw out the amateur classes and make the owners compete against each other. Make our judges accountable. Our show commission needs teeth dealing with these judges. They are hired by the show board and they need to be vetted, as to their honesty. Exhibitors need to feel confident that things are changing. Definitely we need shows and more of them, for our breeds survival and a good reason to keep breeding.

HENRY METZ I am not sure that shows, as they are staged today, are that helpful to the welfare of the horse. I believe too many view the show ring as the be all and end all of the breed. As far as I am concerned, it is part of the overall promotion of the breed. With fewer shows, and fewer horses being shown, it becomes less of an overall representation of the breed. Our gene pool shrinks, because people become more focused on breeding to what is currently winning in the show ring. I don't believe chasing ribbons is healthy to any breeding program. The more the show ring influences breeding decisions, then the less apt we are to celebrate all the different types and bloodlines within the Arabian horse breed.

*Our presentation...
needs to become
more exhibitor
friendly, we need
to give these shows
back to the breeder/
exhibitor. Our
shows need to have
classes filled with
exhibitors having
fun, and competing
against each other,
not succumb to the
trainer, training the
breeder/owners to
be insecure, and
steal their fun.*

-Raymond Mazzei



JUDY SIRBASKU I just got back from the Las Vegas World Cup. Shawn shared her thoughts with me on the show venue in Scottsdale and of course the Event. Except, possibly for the youngest yearlings that have not shown before, like Arabians horses do ... they like to show off! I did not see any horse stressed out. In the finals I did see a couple of handlers getting pretty intense, but then when they let down the horse would lick their lips and relax. It was easy to see the horse liked them. For the most part show horses are the most pampered, loved and cherished horses on the farm. On the venues, the smaller rings at Scottsdale and Las Vegas make it easier for the handlers to show off their horses. The spectators can actually get a great look at all the horses. The VIP tables at both shows are also a big plus!

JOHANNA ULLSTROM I think no sport on a high level that includes animals, is going to do any good for their welfare. In our eagerness to achieve results, we push the animals without limits, and as they are mostly silent, no complaints will come from their side. The horses going to shows, are in physical top condition, they get everything they need to eat, are perfectly muscled, athletic and beautiful. But, the Arabian breed is not known only for its incredible beauty. Equally important is their strength to run through the desert day after day; hooves hard as rock; dry, strong legs; and the willpower to continue forever. And, to me, what makes the beautiful outside of this breed become unequalled by any other breed, is their loyalty, their

...The Arabian breed is not known only for its incredible beauty. Equally important is their strength, to run through the desert day after day, hooves hard as rock, dry, strong legs and the willpower to continue forever. And, to me, what makes the beautiful outside of this breed, become unequalled by any other breed, is their loyalty, their intelligence and charisma.

-Johanna Ullstrom

intelligence and charisma. With only the first point fulfilled, the outside beauty, we have only a shell of this unique breed of a horse. If we ignore how willing, spirited and big hearted this horse is, and through rough handling make it into a show stance, indeed, we abuse the welfare of the Arabian horse! As it seems in recent years, we are going in the direction of forgetting how beautiful it is to see a horse full of itself, proud, and sparkling, enjoying a presentation as much as the handler. Instead, we see more and more frustrated, desperate horses, trying to find ways to look any other way than at the handler, but not daring to! And trotting next to the handler, tense and ready to get shanked into a stop, with no single stride in a relaxed manner. This is to me mental abuse on a rather high level. There is no excuse saying how “other breed trainers or owners abuse their horses” or “it’s only for the minutes while getting schooled” or “it’s just during a show season”. I don’t think any horses, and specifically yearlings, who need to be ready at the start of the year (meaning training will start pretty much the same time as they are weaned), need this treatment. And I don’t think handlers of this sensitive, willing horse, that can easily be controlled by holding the lead with two fingers, need to have wrist and shoulder problems from young horses that try to escape in panic, time after time. We see stallions turning aggressive with age, who can’t be shown any more, because they have started to attack people, and we see mares who just give up when a show halter is put on, who will not move, or try any more at all. We



see yearlings, not yet 12 months old, standing on their hind legs in front of the handler, ready to fly backwards, even flip over backwards, from just a little movement from the handler. Meanwhile, the crowds yell, applaud and show all kinds of appreciation. If this industry put more importance on the welfare of the horse, we would not see this behavior as much. We also often see stalls at shows that are unsafe, no warm water for washing, even when very cold, unloading areas on concrete, no real space to walk the horses, lights on all night, etc etc, while the VIP areas are fantastically beautiful with nothing else to wish for. After all, we are all there to see the horses, but they often get the least of attention when it comes to basic care.



HOW SERIOUSLY DO SHOW RESULTS ACTUALLY AFFECT THE FUTURE OF THE BREED?

HRH PRINCESS ALIA AL HUSSEIN

Horse shows should not be the basis for breeding programs.

The current shows are rewarding the extreme horses with exotic heads. Such extreme horses achieve celebrity status, and are overbred within narrow bloodlines. Many with exotic heads have poor conformation, or weak

backs, yet receive the ribbons, and continue to be bred on. The classic Arabian traits are being lost because of such practices.

The artificial standup should not be the basis for judging the horse. It is often used by handlers to hide faults. A horse should be judged as it moves.

BART VAN BUGGENHOUT

Originally, a show was meant to be a breed competition, and a showcase of the breed to the outside world, to attract people in. I think if shows are organized with such principles in the first place, yes they are still very effective. Breed security can only be maintained through correct judging, and further education of the participants. Equally important, is that a sensible marketing opportunity exists, so that breeders can market their horses in the right way, thus enabling them to direct their programs for the future wellbeing of the breed in general.

SCOTT BENJAMIN

There is little doubt in my mind that show results in the Arabian breed around the world have had a profound affect on Arabian breeding in the last 50 years. The development of nearly all the marketing subtypes – Straight Egyptian, Pure Polish, Straight Russian, Straight Spanish, Pure Crabbet, etc. –

have all been motivated, in large part, to gain advantage in the breeding barn and subsequently in the show ring. Most dramatically, the emphasis on showing, and marketing young horses, especially yearlings, in the last 25 years, has affected breeding decisions and the state of the Arabian breed on a global scale. While the intention of providing more opportunity to showcase the results of breeding stallions as quickly as possible, as well as creating a buoyant market for young show horses, helps to sustain a healthy “industry”, the outcome of “celebrating youth” has had as many negative effects as positive on the worldwide population of horses. More often than not, the young show horses, rewarded in the show ring at the highest level, are fast growing, overly mature looking youngsters, whose seemingly pleasing phenotype is the result of genetics that predispose them to a plethora of growth related conditions such as OCD, epiphysitis, and club feet. Moreover, the growing trend to produce horses that are taller than the traditionally sized Arabian (14 15 hh), has also resulted in the selection of horses with significantly longer cannons, and disturbingly more upright pasterns, and shoulders. When horses such as these are repeatedly awarded championships in the show ring, those breeders and decision makers, motivated by show ring wins,

Breeding horses is never a short-term investment. The results of the breeding decisions we make today, are not often fully understood for 10-20 years in the future...Selecting breeding horses for short-term gain, which oftentimes is what the modern show ring dictates, will always be a bad idea, and will ultimately lead to denigration of the breed. In many ways, it already has...

-Scott Benjamin

In my opinion, a breeder is like an artist. Breeders should establish their own vision of preferred type, and breed to achieve this ideal horse.

The artist uses brushes, or clay, while a breeder uses the genetic pool available to create their masterpiece of a horse. In other words, each breeder should have their identity and signature on the horses they breed.

-Dr. Nasr Marei

will seek out the genetics that created these “winners”. In a relatively short amount of time, this purposeful selection has resulted in an epidemic of growth problems, and limb/hoof abnormalities in the Arabian breed, that were rarely seen in the breed prior to the 1980’s. This is exactly the opposite of what the world would expect from a breed whose correctness of limbs, structural balance, and athletic soundness, was universally prized and envied by horseman for centuries, as the pinnacle amongst all equines. What happened to the Arabian that aged gracefully, to the horse that was more prized at 20 years of age for its dryness and refinement for its beauty and utility, than as a “young” horse under the age of 7? Where are those horses celebrated in the veteran classes of the UK, who at 25 plus years of age brought the crowd to their feet, tears to our eyes, and were unequivocally the highlight of the show, reminding us all so perfectly and poignantly, exactly why we fell in love with the Arabian horse in the first place? So many of the young horses winning the biggest show ring prizes around the world, are NEVER heard of again after the age of 3, yet people continue to breed to the sires of these winners, to achieve a quick turn around for show ring success. Breeding horses is NEVER a short term investment. The results of



the breeding decisions we make today, are not often fully understood for 10-20 years in the future. Wise breeders have always known this, most of them having learned these lessons the hard way. Selecting breeding horses for short term gain, which oftentimes is what the modern show ring dictates, will always be a bad idea, and will ultimately lead to denigration of the breed. In many ways, it already has. ...

It is imperative that we remember that the Arabian breed has had inherent value, and had significant impact upon our existence as humans, for over 5000 years. Subjecting these horses to the show ring has only been undertaken seriously in the last 75 years, and globally in the last 50 years. The Arabian horse had worth as an equine of the highest caliber, long before we ever subjected it to show ring evaluation. It will continue to do so long after horse shows are all but a distant memory. Let us ensure the Arabian horse we leave behind for the next generation, is worthy of the legacy that made this breed invaluable as the equine elite for over five millennia. It would be our greatest crime if we reduced the Arabian horse to nothing more than “show ring toy” that is simply a caricature of its most appealing attributes. ...

DR. NASR MAREI Unfortunately, show results affect the breed, in the sense that many breeders follow the trend, and try to breed the same horse type that is winning.

In my opinion, a breeder is like an artist. Breeders should establish their own vision of preferred type, and breed to achieve this ideal horse. The artist uses brushes, or clay, while a breeder uses the genetic pool available to create their masterpiece of a horse. In other words, each breeder should have their identity and signature on the horses they breed.

Because today, many breeders breed the horse that reflects the type that wins in the show ring, that without mentioning names, one or two bloodlines, tracing back to very few stallions, are used extensively. This has resulted in having all breeders producing the very same horse.

Variation in type is needed, and expanding the gene pool should be an objective.

Trends, or vogues come and go; Russian Arabians dominated the show ring at one point; The Golden Cross horses followed that; a new vogue ensued the Polish Arabians; which was followed by the Egyptians. Now, the “universal” horse is dominating the ring. Each of these vogues only



lasts a few years. To keep up with these trends breeders will have to change their strategy accordingly and will never have their own identity. All of these breeders will be breeding the same horse.

I am not saying that a breeder should stay static and not evolve. What I really mean is a breeder has to be dynamic and evolving after setting goals, and venture within certain parameters that will provide them with the horse of their dreams, regardless of show ring performance.

RAYMOND MAZZEI Show results are very important. If they are ridiculous for any reason, either bad or corrupt judging, this will send a message to exhibitors, that showing is only for a select few that can afford expensive mainstream trainers in order to win. Our shows really need to reward the breeder, not the few that buy a show horse and expect to win just because of who is showing it, again the judges. I do know that most of the time, the better trainers have better horses, so when this is true they need to win. The best horse needs to win, not the best handler. Show results are very important, they send a message to the breeders of what our breed should look like.

HENRY METZ It appears more, and more people are breeding their mare to the stallion that is winning most, with little, or no regard for pedigree, or even phenotype. As the influence of the show ring increases, the less people seem to want to educate themselves regarding breed standards and the influence of certain bloodlines. The flip side of the above mentioned, is the mare owners who just quit breeding, because the stallions that are dominating the show ring are not going to work with their mares and they begin to ask the question, “What’s the purpose?”

JUDY SIRBASKU Showing gives a horse or bloodline creditability. We believe you do not have to show your fillies or mares to add value. Their value is based on the ability to reproduce themselves, or better. Still for someone that has a filly they are really proud of, showing is their only way to share what they believe was a great mating ... so some show their fillies. Colts have to show and do well at top levels. Not every horse has to show every year. If enough of a family does show and does well, it definitely brings an overall respect for that group. And who wins does affect the future of the breed. That is why we need great judges for sure, as they have the ability to mold and affect the breed.

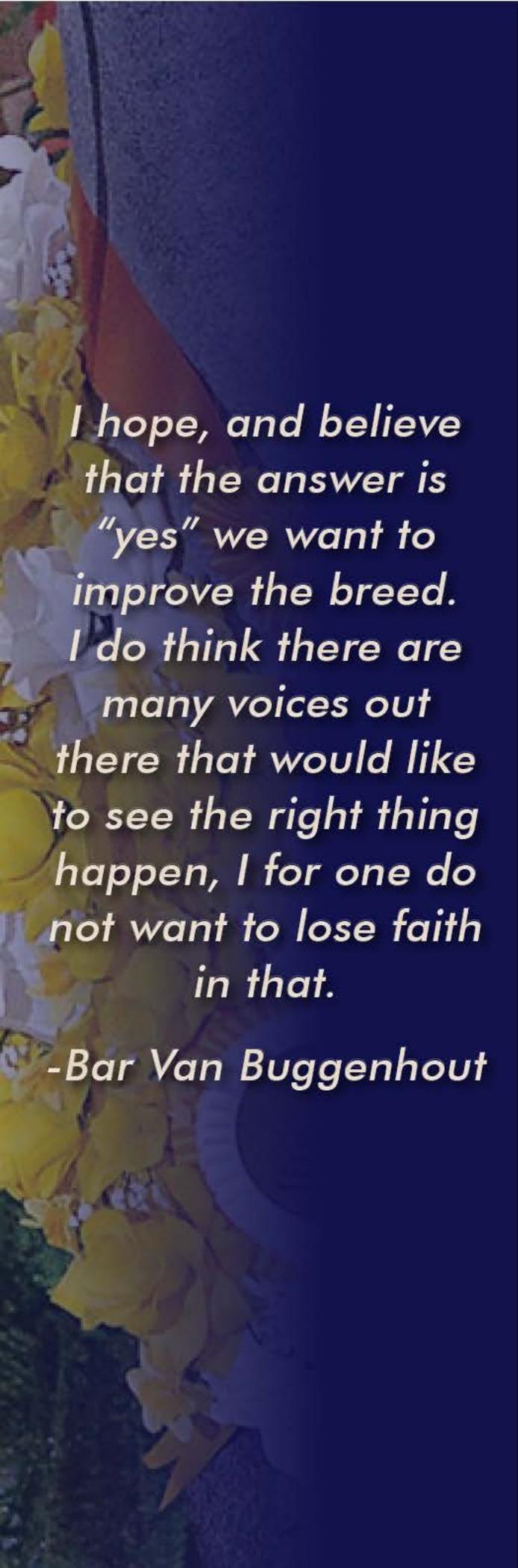
On showing, we have had some “high, highs” and some “low, lows” showing our favorite horses. When we first started showing our Egyptian horses on the National and Scottsdale level, we learned it is not for the faint of heart! Honestly ... I am sure we have had more disappointments, than magic moments. But the magic moments in the show ring are so rewarding, it gives one the incentive to continue, to achieve the goal. It is like watching your kids do something great! Not showing our horses, would be like raising fast Thoroughbreds and not taking them to the race track!

JOHANNA ULLSTROM As we have many new breeders, often wealthy, but some lacking in experience, show results become very important to them. As a newcomer, without much knowledge, our shows are one of the very few ways they have to learn about our breed. To a breeder with many years of experience, and a long time passion for the breed, with knowledge about function, correctness, type and movement, results become less essential. As the influence of the many newcomers, most with no previous involvement with horses at all, grows, the show results, and the horses that are winning, will tell how the future is going to look!

Not every horse has to show, every year, if enough of a family does show, and do well, it definitely brings an overall respect for that group. And who wins does affect the future of the breed. That is why we need great judges for sure, as they have the ability to mold and affect the breed.

-Judy Sirbasku





I hope, and believe that the answer is "yes" we want to improve the breed. I do think there are many voices out there that would like to see the right thing happen, I for one do not want to lose faith in that.

-Bar Van Buggenhout

ARE WE REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE HORSE AND IMPROVING THE BREED? OR IS IT OFTEN A MATTER OF WINNING, EGO AND BEAT-THE-OTHERS ATTITUDE?

HRH PRINCESS ALIA AL HUSSEIN

Unfortunately, it is the latter ... too often it is about the competition and not about improving the breed.

BART VAN BUGGENHOUT

I hope and believe that the answer is "yes", we want to improve the breed. I do think there are many voices out there that would like to see the right thing happen, I for one do not want to lose faith in that.

Is it a matter of winning and ego? Whether it's a card game, a round of golf, or a horse show, any kind of competition needs to come with an attitude of thinking, wanting and working towards a win, on whatever level you play. We would not have had any world records if our athletes didn't have egos, attitude and the desire to beat another competitor. Breeding and showing ones own horses to the max, must come with the same attitude, otherwise it's all useless. The lives of horses have already changed for the better. They are now only used for sport and recreation, they no longer perform a job. Every sport needs



to come at a certain level with an attitude.

SCOTT BENJAMIN Fortunately, there are still serious and important breeding programs that are dedicated to creating high quality Arabian horses, regardless of their show ring appeal. There are far less of these programs than there were 20 or 30 years ago, but they still thankfully do exist. It is these programs that need to be emulated, more often than the many short lived programs focused primarily on creating successful show horses alone. We need to make a concerted effort as Arabian horse owners, professionals and breeders, to learn from these dedicated breeders, and to support their efforts in every way possible. Breeders have always been the heart and soul of the Arabian horse industry. If we lose those breeders, dedicated to the classic Arabian ideal of both beauty and utility, without maintaining the healthy environment to nurture and mentor others to whom the torch can be responsibly passed, we risk losing all that is precious and sacred to the Arabian horse.

DR. NASR MAREI We can still find many breeders that are concerned with the welfare of the horse, and work hard on improving and refining the breed. However, many of the

big breeders that are directing and impacting the scene, are driven by their own egos and strong desire to dominate the ring. In doing this, the horse's wellbeing may be overlooked.

RAYMOND MAZZEI Only one answer for me, humane horsemanship, and improving the breed, by example; by having the attitude that when you lose, you win, come back with a better horse and try harder. it's our job to educate exhibitors/breeders why they are losing.

HENRY METZ I think there is more emphasis on winning at all cost, and stroking the human ego, than what is best for the horse. You will often see horses, who have achieved major wins, return to the show ring to compete again, not necessarily the same shows and sometimes under new ownership, but you have to ask, "What is the purpose?" I believe shows who encourage horses to keep coming back, by having numerous championships based on age, also prevent people from participating, because the feeling, that the horse who already has won a championship will be picked again. A good friend once told me that the most exciting shows, are the ones where no one has any idea who the winner will be prior to the class.

JUDY SIRBASKU Sure there is ego



involved, but mostly I think it is the desire to show the babies one has produced and compare them to the highest standard. When you see your filly in a class of 30 of the best fillies in the country, and you think yours still looks good, you are on the right track! Showing is a barometer, not a perfect one for sure ... but it does give us an idea of how we are growing quality wise.

JOHANNA ULLSTROM Ego is indeed a big part of the show scene today, and as a consequence, shortcuts are taken to get faster results. Fewer breeders than before breed for the long term, as many want to sell a horse that can win early on. Fewer people breed to produce good broodmares, in favor of quick growing, exotic, potential show horses. A horse that wins early on will bring money and fame more quickly. It is hard also for small, serious breeders, or long term breeders and even State Studs, to consistently breed to improve the Arabian horse and sometimes sacrifice, for example, a pretty face in favor of movement for one generation, when so much money might wait around the corner for an extreme yearling sold to a wealthy “collector”. The collectors are competing to find horses around the world, to beat each other, having agents to search for them. Some, who started as collectors, just to win with

the latest purchase, have turned into skilled breeders, which is invaluable to the breed, but many just keep buying new horses each year, merely as ego competition tools.



THE QUALITIES OF THE HORSES HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED IN THE LAST FEW YEARS AND JUDGING HAS BECOME VERY DIFFICULT. ARE CURRENT JUDGING SYSTEMS ABLE TO CLASSIFY HORSES IN ORDER OF BEST TO LESS IN A CLEAR, DEFINITE AND CONVINCING WAY?

HRH PRINCESS ALIA AL HUSSEIN

Quality has NOT necessarily improved in the last few years. Leg faults are rampant and difficult to correct. One sees many more exotic horses and yes, many often appear to be clones of each other, which will complicate judging.

Another problem with judging is that some judges will select the top first, second and third horse and not give much attention to the remaining horses. One should give careful consideration to ranking the entire class, so breeders get appropriate feedback. Another problem, is that judges do not use the full numerical range. Especially with legs, judges should provide accurate scoring.

BART VAN BUGGENHOUT

I do not agree with the remark, "Qualities of the horses have significantly improved in the last few years." All that has happened, is that now the Arabian horse has been specialized, its versatility has been taken apart, and bred for the extremes. A halter horse has become the ultimate show horse, as we have now the ultimate endurance and the ultimate short distance racehorse. In the United States you even have the ultimate specialized Arabian performance horse: The English and Park Pleasure horse, the Western Pleasure horse. The all round Arabian horse, as it used to be, is chopped up and each has gone its different way! This change was brought about by introducing professionalism in each division of the sport in which the Arabian horse competes. We can't turn back the clock, but we can realize what's happening and further develop ourselves around it. As to horse shows specifically, I think the system of scoring doesn't matter as much as the competency and qualifications of the judges. Its very disappointing for any breeder, that's breeding for the long term with all the necessary investment of time, emotion and money, that he has to show his horses under a judging panel that has no proper credentials! I know for a fact, that my previous boss Sh Abdul Aziz Bin Khaled Al

I think there is more emphasis on winning at all cost, and stroking the human ego, than what is best for the horse. You will often see horses, who have achieved major wins, return to the show ring to compete again...but you have to ask," What is the purpose?" I believe shows who encourage horses to keep coming back, by having numerous championships based on age, also prevent people from participating,

-Henry Metz

Another problem with judging is that some judges will select the top first, second and third horse and not give much attention to the remaining horses. One should give careful consideration to ranking the entire class, so breeders get appropriate feedback.

*-HRH Princess Alia
Al Hussein*

Thani / Al Rayyan Farm, lost heart for showing, because of this reason, so I lived it and I believe in it. Judges still “direct the choir” and thus the future standard of the breed. Judge is not a title you need to desire for the prestige, but one you need to earn for what you have accomplished. Breeders – real breeders, whom have proven their worth need to be judges, not professional handlers, trainers, nor good theoretical students, who can only judge the extremes that are easy to recognize. I believe, looking over a career of going to shows for close to 30 years, yes some extremes have excelled, but basic structure and foundation have diminished and is totally overlooked. The breed for me is at a standstill, right in the middle, with more extremes on one side and lots of structural faults on the other side. Look at movement, legs and tail carriage! Where are the proper extended strides that cover ground? Rather than the straight shouldered bouncing around, forcing handlers to make 10 circles to get around a 60m by 30m arena! Where are the judges that mark legs for what they are rather than the average 16? Finally, where are the thick, unbendable, straight in the air tailbones rather than the curly short things we see today? Three huge foundational items of the Arabian horse that we are losing rapidly in the search for extremes.



With declining numbers of breeding carried out worldwide, how can it be the breed has developed forward? Every breeder knows very well the numbers, and you cannot, whatever you say, ignore the fact, that on average 1 in 10 colts and 3 in 10 fillies are a significant improvement! So better overall horses is mathematically just not possible!

But what we do have is, that we live in a global world, with global buyers, and global participants. Fifteen years ago you saw in Paris, at the World Championships, mainly only European bred horses from the Western European countries. That has changed, globalization has made it into a real World Championships, and turned these hundred Western European bred horses into a hundred Worldwide bred horses, and yes that has lead to the visual idea that the Arabian horse has improved as stated above! But if not for globalization, the Arabian horse in general, in many countries, excluding the Arabian peninsula and a few other countries, has not improved; on the contrary.

As for the current judging systems, if the point system is not used to its full scale, it has no value! Judges wanting to be popular by giving high scores, might favor the show organizers and the owners, but DO THEY FAVOR

THE BREED AS A WHOLE? Neither is it useful, or any good, to give undeserving judges the chance to judge using the comparative system, in which you allow them to favor their personal extremes even more! That's the ultimate disaster for the breed as a whole!

The Arabian horse of the past was the all round athlete, the breed improver to so many other breeds for centuries. It needs to be judged with this in mind. Shows are needed, but we must develop good structures for judging and judge selection. I think there are many good, sensible people out there, who know and understand that shows and the judging need to be overhauled, to be more fair and correct. Last, but not least, the judging needs to be more transparent, so the general public can understand and learn from the results. This the Arabian horse needs urgently, in order to grow and further develop.

SCOTT BENJAMIN I would disagree that judging has become more difficult recently. It is true that the quality of the horses at the highest level has improved, but evaluating elite quality horses has always been a straightforward and highly enjoyable experience. I would much rather judge five World Champion quality horses in a class, than dozens of below average individuals with



limited Arabian characteristics. If five World Champion quality horses are all having a spectacular day in the show ring, can I truly make a bad decision regarding placement and/or awarding of points if I am responsibly honest and aware? Separating high quality horses amongst each other, or low quality horses in the same manner, is far less important than ensuring the best horses are at the top of the class, the average horses ranked in the middle and the poorest quality horses at the end of the line.

Of all the judging methods currently utilized in the Arabian show ring, I prefer a points based system, that requires a judge, to responsibly assign an appropriate number of points, across a series of categories, reflecting a combination of physical attributes of the horse. I have had the privilege to utilize several different versions of the points based system around the world, at shows that have varied in both quality and quantity. In my experience, a point based evaluation system is still the fairest and most accountable method thus far devised. I am happy to be held accountable each and every time I assign a value to a horse in any category, as my evaluation provides an opportunity for education. With the exception of asking judges to give a clear, concise and constructive review of each class immediately post judging

(a method I HIGHLY recommend), the points based system is still the most transparent method we have thus far devised in evaluating breeding horses in the show ring.

Every judging system has both pros and cons with more emphasis placed in one area over another. Regardless of the system used, it is only ever as good as the judge assigning the points. Every system can be manipulated, both subtly, and obviously, by judges intent on altering final rankings. It is up to show organizers, as well as the regulatory bodies responsible for training and licensing judges, to ensure that judges who prove to manipulate the system, are not given the opportunity to continue in that capacity.

DR. NASR MAREI Judging has become extremely difficult and stressful. The quality of horses has risen. Many horses come from a limited gene pool, resulting in minimizing the differences between individual horses and posing a greater challenge to judges.

The current judging systems stop short of being the perfect way for judging. In my opinion they are good and adequate. It is the way that they are being used and applied that needs revision and modification.

RAYMOND MAZZEI Fortunately the best are much better, obvious when picking first place horses. The problem is in placing the rest, the worst again will be easy; always the winner will agree and be happy. The rest need to feel secure and at least have some explanation as to why they were placed that way.

HENRY METZ I believe that the current systems will allow correct placement of horses when it is used properly. I still think there is a tendency to place greater emphasis on Type and Head & Neck, which can cause more generous scoring on those 2 categories, and in return leads to less scrutiny, and sometimes less accuracy, in the scoring of the remaining categories. At the end of the day the best show horse may win, but that might not be the best breeding stock.

JUDY SIRBASKU When the quality goes up, and there are numerous exceptional horses for the judges to pick from, it does make it very difficult. Many times there are only two points between 1st and 4th. I do feel that the comparative system is fairer, with each judge placing the horses first through tenth. With the numbers system we have, the points pick the winners, not the judges. I loved watching Scottsdale the way

The Arabian horse of the past was the all round athlete, the breed improver to so many other breeds for centuries. It needs to be judged with this in mind...the judging needs to be more transparent, so the general public can understand and learn from the results. This the Arabian horse needs urgently, in order to grow and further develop.

-Bart Van Buggenhout

The quality of the horses has certainly improved in recent years in some areas. Horses are becoming more elegant, more refined, more extreme. What is getting harder and harder to find is, for example, a very good hip. A very good hip really stands out in a group today.

-Johanna Ullstrom

they have the handlers line up in front of each judge in their order of placing. Now that is definite accountability.

JOHANNA ULLSTROM The quality of the horses has certainly improved in recent years in SOME areas. Horses are becoming more elegant, more refined, more extreme. What is getting harder and harder to find is, for example, a very good hip. A very good hip really stands out in a group today. Or a very good shoulder, with free movement. Or really beautiful, well placed eyes. We also have many long necks that lack natural arch. With training, the horses learn to pose, and stand up in such a way that it all looks better, until the horse takes a single step again.

We also see many long cannon bones, small front knees, horses that are back at the knee, straight hind legs. We could always see horses that had faults in these areas, but in recent years, these faults are actually often getting REWARDED with great scores, if the horse belongs to an owner who, at this specific show, is considered important. So, we are teaching new breeders that this is OK, this is how the Arabian should look. A horse that has a bad hip and a poor shoulder, but who has learned to make an excellent standup, often receives an excellent body score. A horse with a poor

trot, but who has a flagged tail often receives a top score in movement! So, again, newcomers learn it is not necessary for an Arabian horse to move. A horse that moves really fantastically, but who is not important enough at the specific show, often receives the same, or even lower score as the “bad mover, but important horse”. On a positive note I would say, some parts of the Arabian horse have significantly improved in recent years, while others have gotten worse! So, when the judges are classifying the order of horses, they often look for the same plus points, and ignore the same minus points. Which means we are shaping the horse in the direction where the successful show results are pointing. The winner of the class/title is often not better than the second/third placed etc, and the whole scenario is not convincing at all to a spectator who has experience within our breed. 

[NAVIGATE BACK TO
THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

EXPAND THE DISCUSSION ON



FACEBOOK

We're interested in hearing your thoughts on this discussion. Click on the Facebook icon above or the questions, posed in this volume below and add your own thoughts and stories to our thread about THE SOURCE, Volume 6!

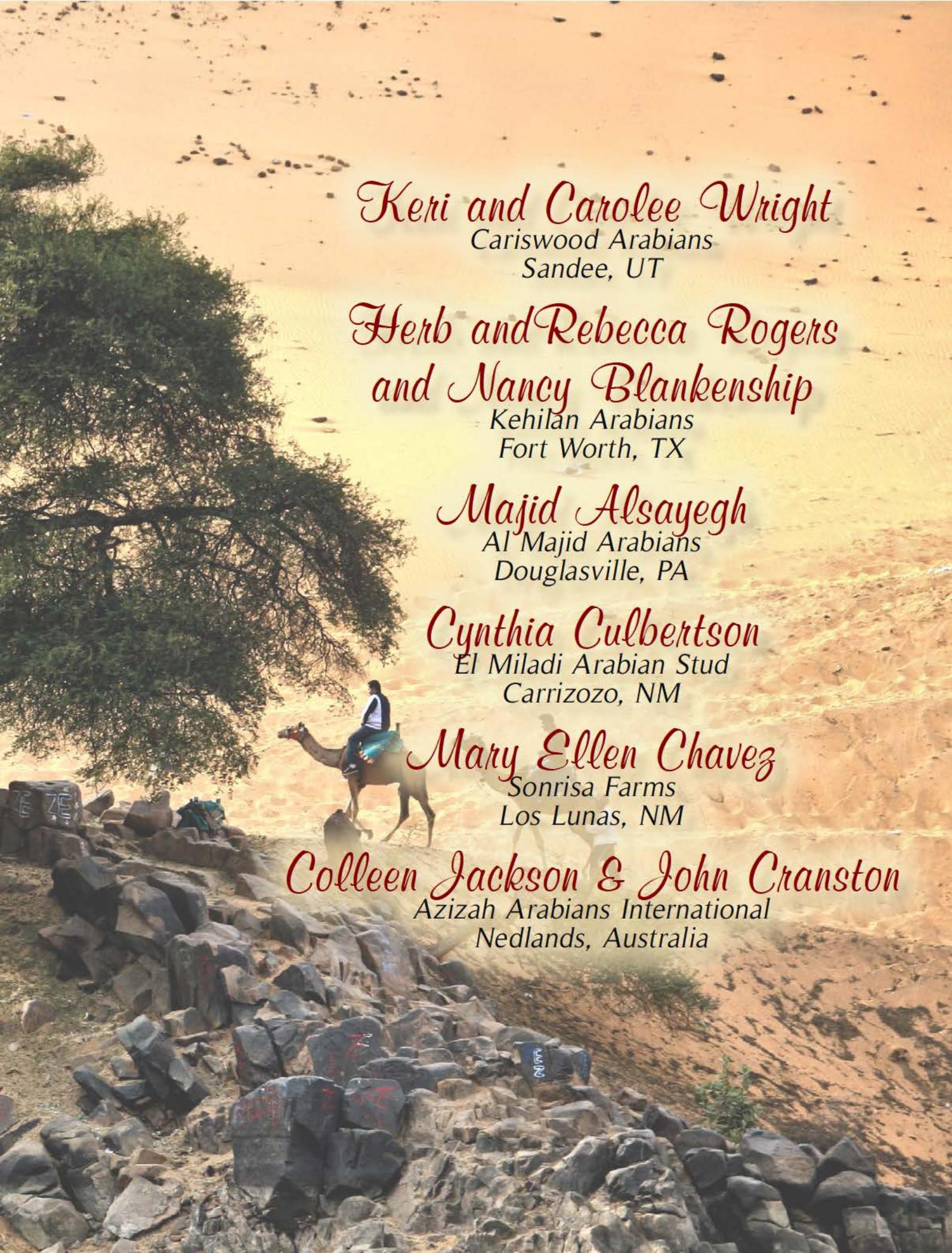
1. Are shows as they are staged now good for the welfare of our Arabian horse?
2. How seriously do show results actually effect the future of the breed?
3. Are we really concerned about the horse and improving the breed? Or is it often a matter of winning, ego and beat-the-others attitude?
4. The qualities of the horses have significantly improved in the last few years and judging has become very difficult. Are current judging systems able to classify horses in order of best to less in a clear, definite and convincing way?



*A Special Thanks to our
Sponsors*

*Friends of Dr. Nasr Marei
and Albadeia Stud*

Nasr



Keri and Carolee Wright
Cariswood Arabians
Sandee, UT

*Herb and Rebecca Rogers
and Nancy Blankenship*
Kehilan Arabians
Fort Worth, TX

Majid Alsayegh
Al Majid Arabians
Douglasville, PA

Cynthia Culbertson
El Miladi Arabian Stud
Carrizozo, NM

Mary Ellen Chavez
Sonrisa Farms
Los Lunas, NM

Colleen Jackson & John Cranston
Azizah Arabians International
Nedlands, Australia



FROM WEBSTER

cornerstone

noun cor·ner·stone \-,stōn\

: a stone that forms part of a corner in the outside wall of a building and that often shows the date when the building was built

: something of basic importance

The Cornerstone Series:

BUILDERS OF THE BREED

We hope you have enjoyed The Founder Series: Architects of The Pyramid Society that was featured in Issues 1-4 of The Source. Continuing our quest for knowledge about those farms and individuals that had a profound influence on the breeding of the Straight Egyptian Arabian, we are pleased to present our sequel – The Cornerstone Series: Builders of the Breed. Expanding on those illustrious breeders featured in our Founders series, we will now take a look at Breeders who had an Egyptian Arabian program in existence prior to the 1969 founding of The Pyramid Society. Today we find horses from these programs in the pedigrees of most modern Egyptian Arabian horses. Once again we hope to provide a true understanding and a close connection to these remarkable breeders.

We start the series with an in depth look at the Marei family of Albadeia Stud, who in 2015 are celebrating 80 long years of continuously breeding the Straight Egyptian Arabian horse! A multi-generational effort, the Albadeia program has enjoyed tremendous success both showing and breeding. They have produced global winners as well as bloodstock found in pedigrees worldwide.

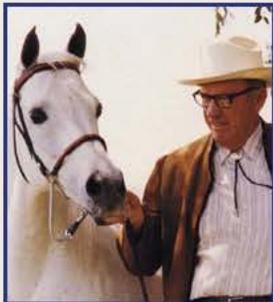
If you missed the first series: Click below to read the The Founder Series: Architects of The Pyramid Society

READ THE ENTIRE SERIES IN VOLUMES 1-4 OF the SOURCE



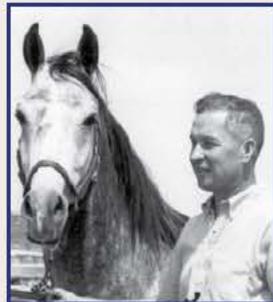
Part 1

**DOUGLAS B. &
MARGARET CULLEN
MARSHALL**



Part 2

**JAMES M.
KLINE**



Part 3

**WILLIS H.
FLICK**



Part 4

**BRADFORD
HECK**



Part 5

**JUDITH
FORBIS**



The Cornerstone Series

Dr. Nasr Marei, Albadeia Stud by Keri Wright



photo credit: Gabriele Boiselle

There are those who come into our lives at just the right season – lifting, building and inspiring us in wonderful ways we have not yet known or experienced. Such was the case in November of 2011 when my wife Carolee and I first met Dr. Nasr Marei. We had planned a trip to the Middle East, touring many sites of religious and historical significance to Jews, Muslims and Christians alike, and seeing beautiful Arabian horses in each of the countries along the way. We began our trip in Israel, then on to Jordan, back to Israel and finally to Egypt where it was our privilege to be welcomed by Dr. Marei



of the world renowned Albadeia Stud. Here we were, completely unknown to each other, never having met before, only having been introduced a few short weeks prior to that through our mutual friend, Majid Alsayegh, and yet, in an instant we felt ourselves drawn in by the warmth and genuineness of this great man. Of course we shared a great love and passion for the Egyptian Arabian horse, but there was much more than that. Here he was, an icon of the global Arabian horse community the Marei name and that of Albadeia Stud being the stuff of legend. We felt honored, even humbled, by his willingness to host us while there in Egypt, making arrangements for

We were initially completely undone by his many kindnesses...this was no act, but rather a mere extension of his very being.

us to visit the Egyptian Agricultural Organization and travelling with us to see some of the private breeders there. We were initially completely undone by his many kindnesses and courtesies, but as the days rolled on we soon began to realize that this was

no act, but rather a mere extension of his very being. In short order we, like thousands before us, quickly came to recognize the high degree of consistency among the horses bred by Albadeia.

Over the years, the history of the stud and its horses has been fittingly and amply chronicled in various trade journals and publication. Perhaps the best of which was an article by Joe Ferriss, recently published in Desert Heritage Magazine, and one I highly recommend to our readers. Additionally, in this, Albadeia's 80th year, The Pyramid Society recognized Dr. Marei and Albadeia Stud for their significant achievements and historic contributions to the Egyptian Arabian horse. He was made the inaugural recipient of the newly formed Milestone Award. It was an emotion filled evening as we gathered to honor the man so many of us have grown to love and admire. Not feeling there was a lot I could add to that which has already been written about the horses and history of Albadeia, I decided to approach things from a different perspective. Since that first introduction those many years ago, having had the privilege of welcoming him for a photo safari in some of Southern Utah's world class national parks and seeing him again at various gatherings around the world, it is my desire that others might also be granted a glimpse into the heart of this man among men. It was the



Greek philosopher, Aristotle, who said: “Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but we rather have those because we have acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.” The words themselves are beautiful and bring awareness to concepts we already know, almost innately, but even more beautiful are those who

“...We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.”

personify them, thus giving life to the beauty of excellence. Dr. Marei is such a man. My hope is that now counting him as a dear friend, I will somehow be able to share the inner beauty of the man and what it was about Albadeia that made this man, and what it was about this man that made Albadeia.

Nothing comes from nothing, for nothing ever could, and so it was with the beginning of Albadeia. It started with a family; the family of Sheikh Al Arab, Nasr Ibrahim Nasr, who migrated along with his tribe



ABOVE: AHMED MAREI, FOUNDER, FRONT ROW FAR LEFT; MATERNAL GRANDFATHER FAR RIGHT; SAYED MAREI, THIRD ROW TO THE FAR LEFT; AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY

from the Nejd region of the Arabian Peninsula to the town of Minya Al Qamh in the Sharkia province of the Egyptian Nile Delta in the beginning of the eighteenth century. The Marei family traces their ancestry to a separate lineage within the Nasr tribe to Marei Ibrahim Nasr who was born in



1798 at the time of the Napoleonic invasion of Egypt. A successful wood merchant, he had the means to buy agricultural land in the nearby village, Aziziah, where he then turned his hand to farming, and that land has continued in the family to the present time. It is interesting to note that the Tahawy and Abaza tribes also migrated from the Arabian Peninsula and settled in the province of Sharkia. All of them figure prominently in modern Egyptian society and have been quite influential in many areas including art, politics and finance.

Thus were the beginnings of the Marei family in Egypt, and so they progressed down to the times of Ahmed Marei, the grandfather of Nasr Marei. Speaking of his grandfather, Nasr noted that he “became interested in horses in the mid to late 1930s. At the time there were regional and national agriculture shows. Proud farmers would show their agricultural and livestock products. Awards were given for the best produce in all areas. High political and royal persons would attend and sometimes the King himself. My grandfather, a self taught farmer (I still have books that belonged to him in English, with his handwritten notes on the side of some pages or the Arabic translations of some words that he searched) decided to buy horses to show in these agricultural fairs and actually won honors, medals and citations.” Among his early acquisitions were the two Ibn Rabdan daughters from the Royal Agricultural Society: Bint Magboura (x Magboura, a half sister to Samiha), and Bint Bint



Bint Riyala (x Bint Bint Riyala [Gamil Manial x the Blunt mare, Bint Riyala]). While neither of these two mares bred forward into modern pedigrees, there are many representatives of the two mare families who produced them. Bint Magboura was of the same female family as Nazeer, and Bint Bint Bint



LEFT:
SAYEDMAREI
WITH SISTER IN
LAW AND HER
AUNT IN
1943

Riyala was a half sister to Malaka (Kheir x Bint Bint Riyala) who founded a wonderful family through her three daughters by Nazeer: Samia (dam of Noha [x Mashhour] and Hekmat [x Anter]), Mamlouka (dam of Fawkia [x Sameh]) and Nazeera (dam of Romanaa II & Omayma [both by Sameh]).

Ahmed Marei bought a large parcel of agricultural land in the small village of Kafr Al Arbaeen. It was only 10 km away from where the Marei family had first settled, but was in Qalyoubia province which lies approximately 50 km north of Cairo, along the Damietta branch of the Nile River,

TOP: NASR'S
LATE
SISTER AMINA



MIDDLE: 2
YEAR OLD NASR
MAREI, 1944



RIGHT: NASR
MAREI
WITH HIS
MOTHER,
SOAD, OCT
1942



not far from modern Banha. One of the homes on the farm is now almost 300 years old and still in use today.

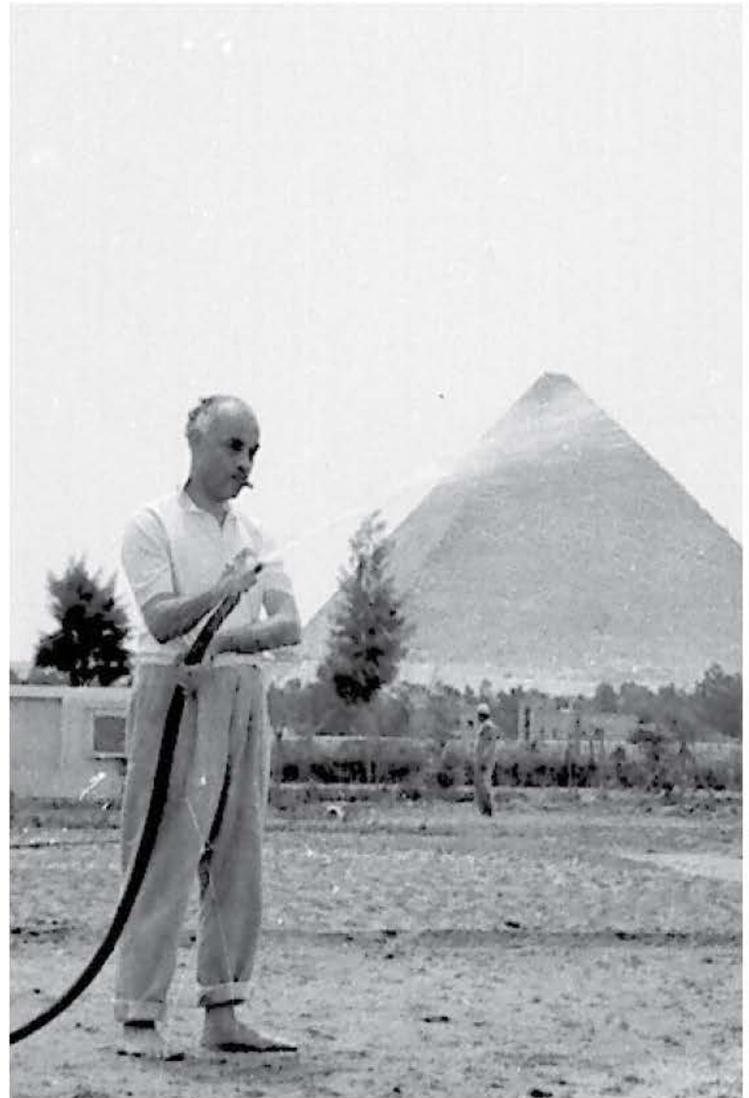
After the passing of his grandfather in 1941, his own father, Sayed Marei, took over and started a more ambitious breeding program under the name of Marei Stables. It was in those early years, there in the village of Kafr Al Arbaeen, a young boy was born. It seems his mother was to have travelled to the hospital in Cairo in preparation for his impending birth, but as is frequently the case with babies, human or equine, they don't necessarily come "on time" or "as scheduled." So it was that on December 31, 1941, a





handsome baby boy was born to Sayed and Soad Marei: his name, Nasr Marei.

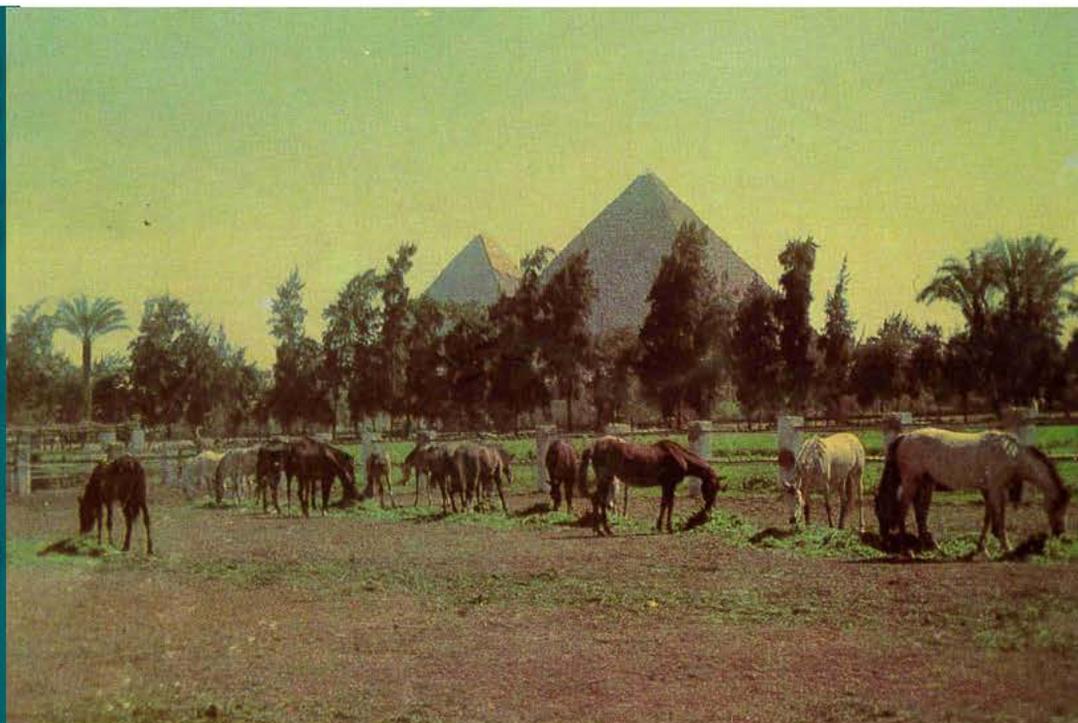
Whether we're talking horses or humans, great sons come from great mothers. Nasr recalls, "My mother used to tell me that she could see that I was fascinated with horses at the age of three. She used to send my lunch to the stables with my nanny to feed me. We were still living in the village most of the time. We had, of course, our own home in Cairo, but since I was still young and did not go to school yet, most of the time we were at the farm. So I grew up loving the horses and my passion grew stronger with time, but I really couldn't tell you all of the reasons why. My late sister, Amina, two years after my birth, also joined the family. She also loved horses



TOP RIGHT: SAYED MAREI
WATERING HIS NEWLY
ACQUIRED PROPERTY
KNOWN NOW AS
ALBADEIA, EARLY 1950S

RIGHT: MARES AT
ALBADEIA IN THE EARLY
YEARS

ACROSS: MAREI FAMILY,
(LEFT TO RIGHT), SOAD,
AMINA, SAYED AND NASR





Das R

ABOVE AND BELOW: THE GROUNDS AND STABLES AT ALBADEIA



Das R



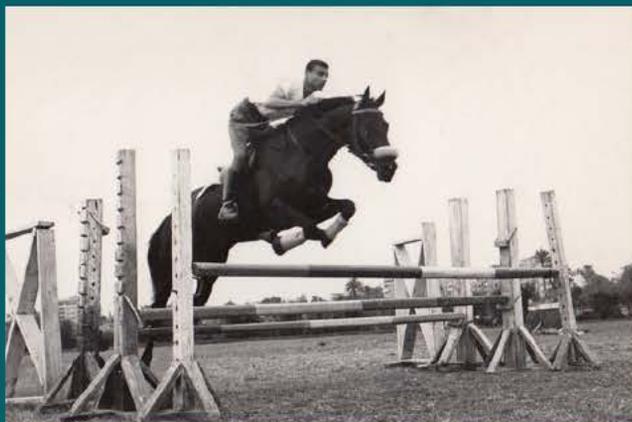
Photo Credit: Janice Bush

ABOVE: FARID ALBADEIA IN HIS STALL AT ALBADEIA STUD

tremendously and was a great rider.

“My father began his political career in the early to mid 1950s which necessitated him spending more and more time in Cairo. As a result, the supervision of the Kafr Al Arbaeen property passed to my uncle. But my father simply could not stay away from his horses so he bought a piece of property

in Giza with wonderful views of the Great Pyramids and built a small house, with a beautiful garden and a stable that housed 12 horses with paddocks. He selected a few mares and renamed his breeding program Albadeia, and this is where we stayed. It is the place where I grew to adulthood and where I would spend the rest of my life. It is where I learned to



TOP: NASR MAREI SCHOOLING HIS WARBLOOD MARE.

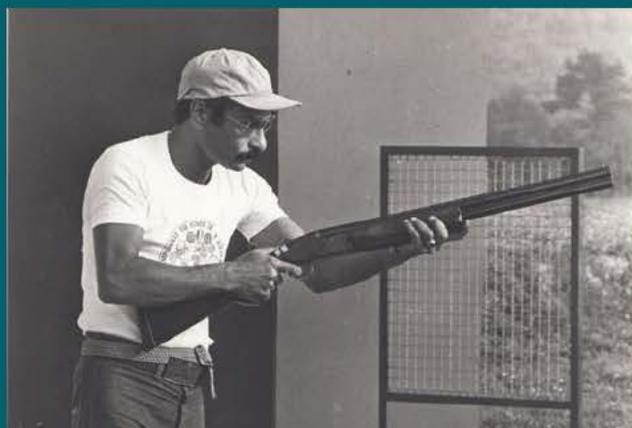


TOP MIDDLE: YOUNG NASR MAREI IN 1960 ON HIS FIRST MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE, CAMERA IN HAND.

BOTTOM MIDDLE: NASR MAREI AT AGE 8, EXPLORING HIS PASSION FOR MARKSMANSHIP.



BOTTOM: DR. NASR MAREI'S FIRST WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION IN 1977, SKEET SHOOTING IN FRANCE, AT 35 YEARS OLD.



love and to understand the horse. Gone are the green fields on one side and the desert with the views of the glorious pyramids on the other. We're surrounded now by a concrete jungle."

As I thought about this description of Albadeia, my mind immediately recalled the times I have been there. Notwithstanding the hustle and bustle of the encroaching city, I find a quiet peace and serenity envelop me as I pass through the gates. Once inside I drink in the spirit of Albadeia and am hardly aware of the outside world. It is a life force that is truly palpable.

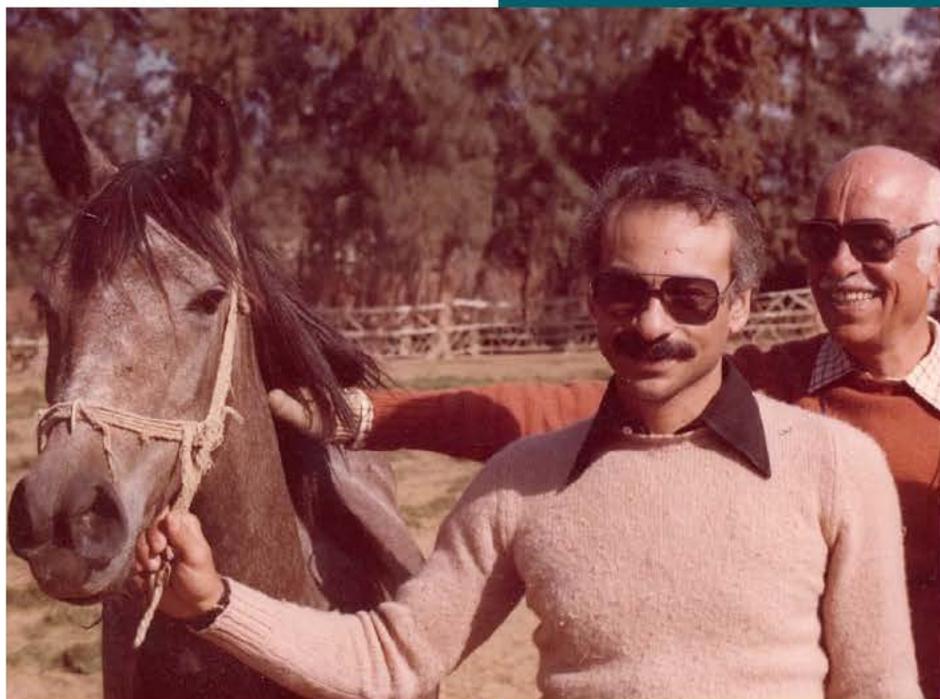
Meanwhile back on the ranch with the young Nasr, he continues, "I became an accomplished show jumping rider and had won dozens of competitions both in dressage and jumping in national eventing. My father, to encourage me, had purchased

two German Hanoverian warmblood mares that I schooled there myself. I used to ride every day for hours at a time. I even won the National Champion title one year competing against the Egyptian Olympic team in the 1960s.”

While I did not know this about Dr. Marei, I was not at all surprised. In conversation with many breeders that I know and respect, most of them were first good horsemen. They were drawn in through their experience with the horses themselves, in one discipline or another, and then later decided to become involved as breeders.

In addition to his interest in all things equestrian he also developed keen interest and talent in photography and as a marksman, garnering many national and international awards. His photography is well known. Most are

familiar with the book, “The Arabian Horse of Egypt”, which features his work with horses. Those present during the 2012 Egyptian Event were privileged to see his work on display along with that of another famous photographer, Richard T. Bryant. It was entitled “The Colors of Egypt” and featured captivating works from both of them. Personally, I was in awe of the photos of the feluccas along the Nile, their beautiful sails, and the studies of the faces of the crewmen. During his visit with us in Utah, I watched the alluring features of Zion,



TOP: NASR MAREI,
PH.D AT U.C. DAVIS

BOTTOM: NASR AND
SAYED MAREI AT
ALBADEIA, CIRCA 1977



Arches and Canyon Lands National Parks come to life through his lens. The perfect blend of hard work and native, raw talent; he is a true master.

His formal education took him away from the farm for a brief period of time to pursue his Bachelor's and Master's degrees, then finally his PhD at UC Davis in California. After returning he began, in earnest, to become more and more involved in the breeding end of things. By 1990 Nasr was given full control of the day to day operations, breeding decisions and direction of Albadeia. His father could not have done so had it not been for Nasr's passion, his years of hard work, study and preparation as well as the strong desire he had to carry on the family legacy. In short, he had paid his dues, the time was right, and the promotion well earned.



I asked Dr. Marei about his father, Sayed Marei. While many of us know



TOP: NASR MAREI AT TWELVE, LISTENING TO HIS FATHER. HE WAS FREQUENTLY INVITED TO HIS MEETINGS.

MIDDLE: NASR AND SAYED MAREI, CIRCA 1960

BOTTOM: NASR (RIGHT), WITH HIS FATHER, MOTHER, YOUNGER SISTER, AMINA, AND YOUNGER BROTHER, HASSAN, CIRCA 1960



who he is and are aware of the pivotal role he played in quite literally saving the Egyptian Arabian horse from extinction, I wanted to know more about him as a person and as a family man. Nasr responded, “He was a great gentleman, a charmer, had amazing charisma, was both loving and lovable, and extremely bright. He was also very kind, generous and a great father and family man. I respected him like anyone who would meet him. He would overwhelm you with his charm and smile. He was the best of fathers that anyone could have. He taught me to respect and how to be respected.

“He had a brilliant political career and worked closely with Presidents Nasser and Sadat. He had a large group of friends and was well known in the international community as well. He was the co creator of the UN World



TOP: NASR'S MOTHER, SOAD MAREI, CIRCA 1940

BOTTOM: NASR IN BACKGROUND WITH HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, CIRCA 1948





Food Program and its first boss. As the farm in Giza grew, we had trees, citrus groves, flowers, lawn and our new playground for all the family including cousins, uncles, aunts and so forth. It was a meeting place for all. Many events and gatherings of different sorts were held here. President Sadat was a close family friend and he visited frequently. Foreign dignitaries and movie stars also came: Kirk Douglas, Frank Sinatra, and Omar Sherif as well as journalists, famous entertainers and many others. Every Friday we all gathered for a big lunch that we enjoyed as kids among the family grown ups.



ABOVE: NASR'S MOTHER AT HOME. SHE LOVED HANDWORK.

RIGHT: YOUNG NASR WITH HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, CIRCA 1964



We kept old traditions and were like a little tribe or clan! This continued right on up until my father's passing in 1993. While we tried to maintain the same traditions, as the second generation we found it very difficult to carry on with the loss of the senior members of the family. It just wasn't the same without them. We truly miss those days."



I don't know all of the reasons why, but in my interactions with Nasr, and in my observations of him in a multitude of settings, both at home and abroad, with horses and with people, I've always had the sense that his mother had played a very formative role in who he is as a person and what he has become in the various aspects of his life. I asked him if he wouldn't mind relating some things about her and the relationship they enjoyed. Looking back on those early years, he shared some insights, "My mother, Soad Marei, is the greatest thing that happened to me. My family on both sides were all highly educated...and [the role women played] is not [at all] like many [might] think. Women in Egypt at that time and still today have their own rights in our society. My mother was educated in one of the best French schools in Egypt, Sacre Coeur. She had mastered French, English, Arabic and Italian. She travelled the world and was an Egyptian art connoisseur and collector. She frequented operas and concerts and many other cultural activities.



ABOVE: NASR WITH
HIS PARENTS IN
CANADA, CIRCA 1966

She was also a great charity activist and philanthropist. She would take me with my sister [Amina] to cultural events: ballet, art exhibitions. ...”

It is what he said next that was the thing that endeared her most to me, “at the same time, when she was in the village, she would turn into a simple farm lady who would bake bread and cakes for us and receive visits from the women of the village, hear their simple stories ... and all of the local chit chat. She was inspirational!” As I listened to him telling stories of his mother, in my minds eye I could hear her saying the following as if speaking prophetically of her own son

If you can talk with crowds and keep
your virtue,
or walk with Kings – nor lose
the common touch,

If neither foes nor loving friends can
hurt you,
If all men count with you, but
none too much;

If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds’ worth of
distance run,

Your is the Earth and everything that’s
in it,
And – which is more – you’ll be
a Man, my son!

“If” by Rudyard Kipling

Acclaimed author and proponent of principle centered leadership, Stephen R. Covey, once said, “There are certain things that are fundamental to human fulfillment. The essence of these needs is captured in the phrase ‘to live, to love, to learn, to leave a legacy’. The need to live is our physical need for such things as food, clothing, shelter, economical well being, health. The need to love is our social need to relate to other people, to belong, to love and to be loved. The need to learn is our mental need to develop and to grow. And the need to leave a legacy is our spiritual need to have a sense of meaning, purpose, personal congruence, and contribution.”

In my estimation Albadeia and Dr. Nasr Marei are prime illustrations of what it means to live, to love, to learn and to leave a legacy. Because of them the world and the community of the Arabian horse is a better place. Is it Albadeia that made the man? Or is it the man who made Albadeia? Or have they become so wonderfully intertwined in the pursuit of excellence as to defy such inquiries? Regardless of what the answer may be, somehow I just know that those who went before in laying the foundations of the Albadeia we know today, are surely smiling down upon this man as if to say: “Well done, my Son, so very well done!” 

2015 Egyptian Event Milestone Award

***GIVEN TO DR. NASR MAREI AND ALBADIEA STUD TO COMMEMORATE
80 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN EGYPTIAN ARABIAN BREEDING***

Introduction

by Kory Wilcox

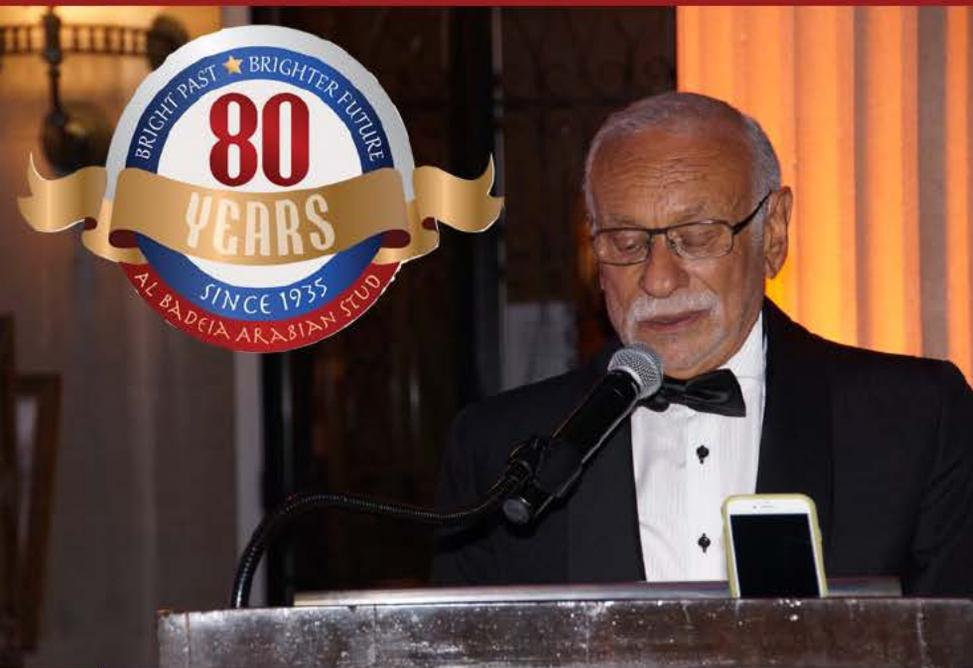
Over the past four decades, Pyramid Society members have gathered together often – and with noble expectations. They have convened to share their wisdom, experience and knowledge. They have traveled across the world to meet like-minded breeders and fuel one another's passion. And year upon year, they have met in Lexington, Kentucky, to write and recite the Straight Egyptian Arabian story at their own breeders' showcase called The Egyptian Event.

This year, The Pyramid Society celebrated its 35th annual Egyptian Event (a milestone of its own, to be certain). For many, the most defining moments of this particular gathering of Egyptian Arabian breeders took place a few miles away from the competition ... on the back porch of a historic Kentucky mansion, in the calm afterglow of successes and lessons learned in the show ring, and amid the very best of company.

It was in this beautiful setting, after

sharing a meal with his friends and fellow breeders, that Dr. Nasr Marei (Albadeia Stud, Egypt) graciously accepted The Pyramid Society's inaugural Milestone Breeder Award, commemorating 80 consecutive years of excellence in Egyptian Arabian breeding for Albadeia Stud. Likewise, it was here that a delighted and attentive crowd of Pyramid Society members and guests were treated to Dr. Marei's acceptance speech – timeless words that we have transcribed for you on the pages that follow.

Perhaps you were present for these special moments and have already been reflecting on Nasr's words of wisdom. Perhaps you were only present in spirit, following the Event on social media as you were tending to your own beloved herd. Nevertheless, Dr. Marei's words represent a gift to Egyptian Arabian breeders near and far. We encourage you now to read them once again and to share these pages of THE SOURCE with your peers. May the clarity and discernment of those who have gone before us inspire us when and wherever we gather next.



LEFT: DR. NASR MAREI GIVING HIS ACCEPTANCE SPEECH FOR THE INAGURAL MILESTONE AWARD FOR 80 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN BREEDING THE STRAIGHT EGYPTIAN ARABIAN, AT THE 35TH ANNUAL EGYPTIAN EVENT GALA.

Milestone Award Acceptance Speech

by Nasr Marei

Distinguished Guests, Board and Officers of the Pyramid Society, Members of the Pyramid Society, Fellow Breeders and Horse lovers, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you with great humility for one of the crowning moments of my life. Any honor or recognition, which comes from one's peers is always deeply moving and humbling.

My original love for horses began in my early childhood because they were always a part of our lives.

My father, Sayed Marei was the first to introduce me to the enchantment of the horse.

His father had begun back in 1935

one of the earliest Arabian breeding farms in Egypt. I am privileged to state that I represent the third generation in my family to carry the program and its traditions onward with more than 11 generations of horses to our credit.

Although, it was my grandfather who made the first step in founding our program, it was my father, in fact, that took it to a level that was not imagined back at the start.

He had vision and enough motivation and dedication to create the base on which our present horse was founded. It took him a considerable number of years to collect and refine bloodlines to establish a gene pool to create what was to become an internationally recognized and respected program.

My job was and is to pursue the dynamic nature of the breeding program and

apply new concepts and visions. My across-the-borders exposure and experience enabled me to take it even further into the future.

I should also stress the fact that my mother, Soad, opened my eyes to the world of beauty and harmony in arts and in life. This allowed me to develop my own eye and appreciation of everything that is beautiful including the Arabian horse.

The lessons I learned from both of my parents are with me every day of my life.

In my opinion, in order to be a true breeder, one must know the horse. One must understand and appreciate conformation, movement, function, balance, harmony, coordination as well as the character of horses. It is also paramount to study and learn from preceding and established breeders before you can form a well-considered approach to your own program.

I have certainly learned a great deal from pioneer breeders of Egyptian horses

After all the decades I spent breeding, the learning process still continues. There is always something new to learn. I follow closely what present successful breeders are doing.

The Pyramid Society has established

the modern standards and the definition of the Egyptian horse. It has promoted, preserved and safeguarded the cause and welfare of the Egyptian horse when other Arabian horses faced enormous challenges in the USA and worldwide. Its message and objectives have crossed borders and affected the breeders of the Egyptian horses globally. Breeders around the world followed. The Pyramid Society among many others certainly guided me.

I wish to thank the Pyramid Society and its members for their invaluable generous contribution to the world of the Egyptian Arabian horse



ABOVE: DR. NASR MAREI AFTER ACCEPTING THE MILESTONE AWARD WITH PYRAMID SOCIETY PRESIDENT, BOB MIARS..



ABOVE: DR. NASR MAREI PICTURED WITH THE MILESTONE BREEDER AWARD.

Since we are dealing with living beings, breeding is a constantly evolving world. There are traditions to which we hold as well as evolutionary steps we combine to create what we feel is worthwhile. We combine science and art wrapped with love and dedication to reach what we wish to create and hopefully will be a horse of value at many levels.

I have been most fortunate in that my life has allowed me to travel throughout the world meeting breeders and judging in international shows. By seeing many horses and farm programs, I have been able to appreciate varying views and approaches to breeding.

I gave a great part of my life to the horse and the horse has opened my world.

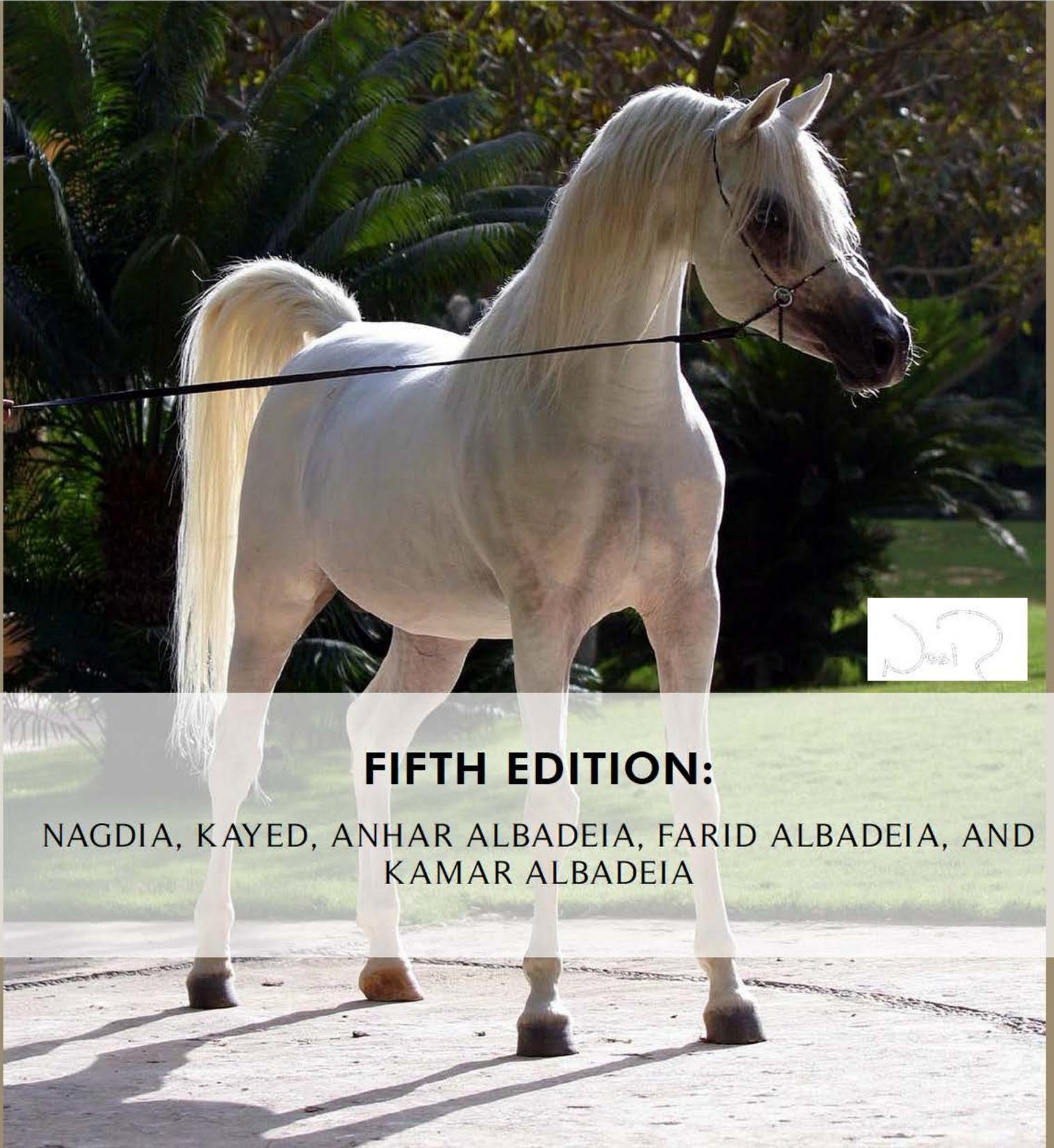
I wish to thank the Pyramid Society, its Board, Officers and all of its members for this great honor bestowed on me today.

I also wish to honor and thank all of those who have preceded and inspired me through the years.

To all of you and the great pioneers who have brought the Egyptian Arabian horse to the level where it is today, my heartfelt thanks and great respect. 

[NAVIGATE BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

Heritage Horses



FIFTH EDITION:

**NAGDIA, KAYED, ANHAR ALBADEIA, FARID ALBADEIA, AND
KAMAR ALBADEIA**



Nagdia

The mare Nagdia, a Nazeer daughter out of Zahia, was one of three mares (the other two mares were *Ansata Bint Nazeer and *Binte El Bataa) who were the oldest living Nazeer daughters at one time in the world. She was bred by the EAO and foaled in November of 1959, a big year in Egypt, as ill health saw the retirement of General Von Szandtner and the promotion of Dr. Mohamed El Marsafi to Director of the El Zahraa Arabian Stud Farm. Nagdia and her dam Zahia were significant post war foundation mares

for Albadeia, establishing a family who would prove influential over the course of time. Sayed Marei was also a fan of a Nazeer son named Fayek, whom the world would eventually know as *Ramses Fayek. He believed so much in this horse that he sent his best mares, like Nagdia, to this stallion, to produce a beautiful mare like Farida, who would eventually foal a stallion of the caliber required to become a prominent and leading sire for the farm. That is how a horse like Farid Albadeia came to be.

NAME

Nagdia

COLOR & GENDER

Grey Mare

FOALED

November 1, 1959

SIRE

Nazeer

DAM

Zahia

BREEDER

EAO (Egyptian Agricultural Organization)

STRAIN

Hadban

OWNER

Albadeia Stud

Dam of 11 foals, 82% used for breeding



Nagdia was a pure in strain Hadban Enzahi, as both her sire and dam trace to Venus in their tail female lines. Nagdia's dam Zahia was by Sid Abouhom. Sid Abouhom's dam is the beautiful mare Layla, an Ibn Rabdan daughter. In Nagdia's pedigree, we see the formula that General Von

Szandtner practiced while director of El Zahraa: Mansour crossed with Ibn Rabdan. Some of the finest and most influential horses in Egypt resulted from this cross.

Nagdia was a well built, substantial mare, close coupled with a well sprung barrel, strong back and while her neck



ABOVE: NAGDIA AT ALBADEIA STUD



resembled her sire's in length; it was of a nice shape, conveying grace and elegance in its gently curving arch. She had a beautiful face, with larger sized jowls and a prominent facial crest bone, to confirm the authenticity of her provenance. She had smaller sized ears for a mare and beautifully shaped, expansive nostrils. Her eyes were large, black and lustrous, set lower on a shorter and broad head; an attribute that she passed on to her progeny, like *Malekat El Gamal and grand progeny like Ameer Albadeia and his son, Farid Albadeia.

If all Nagdia had produced was the stallion Ameer Albadeia, her

position in history would remain significant. However, the truth is; she was a highly valued broodmare for Albadeia and prolific, as she was bred to the Nazeer son, Waseem, the Nazeer grandson, Kayed and the Nazeer great grandsons: Akhtal and Asil Albadeia, to concentrate the blood of this important stallion. It is important to note that eight of her offspring (five daughters & three sons) were imported to the United States, which includes the mare, *Malekat El Gamal, as well as her full sister, the chestnut *Sawraa and her half siblings: *Baaraka, *Shagaret El Dorr and *Garat Albadeia. Her daughter by *Ramses Fayek, Malekat El Wadi, when bred to Ameer Albadeia produced a mare by the name of Halawat, who in turn, when bred to Badran, produced one of the most decorated mares to ever grace the Egyptian show ring, Ibtehag Albadeia, a four time national champion mare of Egypt and four time Champion Mare at the Egyptian Breeders Association Annual Show. Malekat El Wadi also produced a similarly named mare, Halawa, by Kayed. This mare provides an interesting lesson of how far into the future the influence of Albadeia foundation horses is felt. Halawa was bred to the Kayed son, Ameer Albadeia, to produce the mare



ABOVE: IBTEHAG ALBADIA, 4 TIME, EGYPTIAN NATIONAL CHAMPION AND EGYPTIAN BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION SHOW GOLD CHAMPION. IMPORTANT BROODMARE FOR SIMEON STUD, AUSTRALIA

LEFT: AMMER ALBADEIA, GRANDSON TO NAGDIA, AN PRODUCER OF TWO WORLD CHAMPIONS, AL ADEED SHAQAB AND GELGELAH ALBADEIA

RIGHT: MAGD ALBADEIA, WAS ON LEASE TO AL SHAQAB, OWNED NOW BY AL WAAB, WHERE HE IS A PART OF THEIR BREEDING PROGRAM



Hasanat Albadeia. Keep in mind, that this mare is double Kayed and double Nagdia. Bred to the stallion, Makhsous, who also traces in his tail female line to Venus, Hasanat produced Bint Makhsous, who when bred to the EAO stallion, Rashdan, foaled Magd Albadeia. At first glance, Rashdan, who traces to the elegant Dahmah Shahwaniyah, Bukra, appears to be a total outcross but when you look further, you will notice that Aybac, the sire of Rashdan traces to Venus, through Bint Samiha, a mare who figures prominently in the Albadeia program. Magd, a contemporary Albadeia stallion was leased by Al Shaqab for 2011 and now is owned by Al Waab as part of their breeding program.

Nagdia died in 1988, at the age of twenty nine. It had been years since her last foal was delivered but her influence remains strong at Albadeia through the many horses who carry her name and influence in their pedigree.



Kayed

Sayed Marei believed the EAO mare Kaydahom (Azmi x Om El Saad) to be one of the best mares at El Zahraa. He wanted her for his own program but unfortunately, she was not for sale. However, in those days, the EAO wanted to encourage private breeders and would offer their most promising colts exclusively to them. When Kaydahom's *Morafic sired colt was offered, Sayed Marei jumped at the chance to purchase this 2 year old colt in 1968. Long legged and scopey, Kayed combined charm, great quality, type and electrifying movement. He was a living representation of Von Szandtner's successful breeding formula: the cross of

Mansour on Ibn Rabdan daughters.

Much has been written about the stallion *Morafic, who was exported to America by Douglas Marshall in 1965. He was a hugely influential stallion in Egypt, as he would prove to eventually be, all over the world. The significance of a *Morafic sired colt like Kayed, in Egypt, is that he was a result of *Morafic's last foal crop in his home country. There would be no more *Morafic get available and Sayed Marei understood that significance. With Kayed, there is an interesting twist to his pedigree which may help us to better understand how one horse could exert so

NAME

Kayed

COLOR & GENDER

Grey Stallion

FOALED

February 5, 1966

SIRE

Morafic

DAM

Kaydahom

BREEDER

EAO (Egyptian Agricultural Organization)

STRAIN

Kohailan

OWNER

Albadeia Stud

Sire of 72 foals, 80% used for breeding



ABOVE: KAYED AT ALBADEIA STUD

much influence on an established breeding program. The sire of his dam, Kaydahom, was a horse named Azmi, a son of Sid Abouhom and the Kuhaylah Rodaniyah mare, Malaka. In 1958, he was sold to Russia, where he was renamed Nahr Al Nil and known thereafter as “Nil”. He was considered to be one, if not the best Egyptian stallion imported to Russia, even with the adulation paid to the legendary Aswan. Great horses like Plakat, Naina, Naslednik all carry his name in their pedigrees. The influence of Nil is even felt in Poland, through Palas, a son of the Nil daughter, Panel. With this strong genetic background, it becomes easier to understand how Kayed ushered a new era at Al Badeia. For the Marei family, who had been breeding Arabian horses since 1935, Kayed transformed the breeding program and took it in a completely different direction! Kayed would ultimately sire 72 foals for the farm, including his son, Ameer Albadeia, who would take over his sire’s role, when Kayed met an untimely death from colic in 1982. For almost 25 years, Kayed was at the center of the Albadeia program. Kayed sired an amazing group of daughters like Kamar Albadeia and Halawa, who, like their sire, would profoundly impact Albadeia, however, their Kayed influence would be felt from an entirely different position, from



**LEFT: AL LAHAB,
SON OF THE VISION
HG BY LAHEEB**

**BELOW: BAHAA,
OUT OF A DAUGHTER
OF THE VISION HG**

**MIDDLE LEFT: AL
ADEED AL SHAQAB A
SUNDAR ALISAYYAH
GRANDSON**

**BOTTOM LEFT:
*HADBAN AL SHAQAB
A SUNDAR ALISAYYAH
GRANDSON**



the dam side of the pedigree.

Outside of Albadeia, the global influence of Kayed cannot be denied. At the world famous Ariela Arabians in Israel, the premier broodmare of this program, The Vision HG, is a great grand daughter of Hasna Albadeia, a Kayed daughter. The Vision HG has founded a dynasty all of her own. Her sons, Al Maraam (Imperial Imdal x) a very successful show horse, stood at the prestigious Michalow Stud in



Poland and is a sire of multiple champions worldwide. Al Lahab (Laheeb x) is one of the most dominant show horses in history; Dubai Gold Champion, Egyptian Event U.S. Champion, All Nations Cup Champion and World Champion to select but a few of his titles. The full brothers by Laheeb, Al Hadiyah and Al Raheeb are both multi international champions and Egyptian Event winners. A son by Al Ayad, Al Ayal AA is a multi champion and is currently creating his own place in history. As if her sons were not enough to secure her legacy, The Vision's daughters have also proved to be stellar and have spread the influence of Kayed far and wide. Al Baraqai by Baahir is a champion and dam of multiple champions and granddam of the latest phenom in this family Baha AA (Al Ayad x Baraaqa AA) a multi champion and producer of champions.

In Qatar, the breeding program at Al Shaqab has also been influenced by Kayed, via his daughter, Imperial Sayyah, who also happens to be the full sister of the historically significant Albadeia sire, Ameer Albadeia. Sayyah imported in utero by Imperial Egyptian Stud was bred to Ruminaja Ali, to produce the three time Egyptian Event halter winner and fabulous broodmare, Sundar Alisayyah, the foundress of a unique and dynamic family of ethereal, show champion Straight Egyptian horses. It was this mare who would help take the legacy of Kayed and redefine it forever. Her daughter, Kamasayyah (Imperial Al

Kamar x), was a Middle East Supreme Champion Mare, as well as the Qatar International Champion mare. Other daughters were equally successful in the show ring, like the Israeli National Champion mare, Imperial Kittana, who is also the dam of the Israeli Reserve Junior Champion filly, IK Kamilla. However, it would be her sons, who would bring the most acclaim to her name. When bred to Ansata Halim Shah, Sundar Alisayyah gave the world one of the most decorated and beloved horses, the World Champion, Al Adeed Al Shaqab. Not to be outdone, her son (Ashhal Al Rayyan x), *Hadban Al Shaqab earned the titles of Egyptian Event Gold Champion Stallion and the United States National Reserve Champion Stallion. Another son, also sired by Ashhal Al Rayyan, Al Asi Al Shaqab, was named a Qatar Junior Champion colt. This year the influence of Kayed comes full circle, as Bariq Al Shaqab, a son of Al Adeed Al Shaqab ,returns the influence of Kayed back to where it all started, at Albadeia. He will be an important part of Albadeia's breeding program for the next two breeding seasons. It is only when one considers the rich, full and vibrant impact that this family of horses has had on the global Straight Egyptian horse, that the impact of Sayed Marei's love affair with the Egyptian horse and in particular, with the mare who charmed him, Kaydahom, is fully revealed.



ABOVE: KAMAR ALBADEIA (CENTER)



Kamar Albadeia

Kamar Albadeia is a 1978 grey mare, a daughter of the great Albadeia sire, Kayed and out of Naeema, a Tifla daughter, sired by Fayek, before he was purchased by Martin Loeber for his Plum Grove Farm and known forever to the world as *Ramses Fayek. Tifla, is out of Elwya, a daughter of Zareefa by Sid Abouhom. Tifla was one of Albadeia's post war foundation mares, who established a long running family of horses who are a significant part of the 80 year history of Albadeia. In America, Tifla was equally prolific

and is represented by beautiful horses, like the chestnut Nabel daughter, RA Aneesa and World Champion, Hadidi, the son of the charismatic Hebet Allah. The tail female line through Zareefa traces to Bint el Bahreyn, a mare foaled in 1898, bred by Rais Issa Ibn Khalifah of Bahrain. In 1903, she was one of two horses selected as gifts for Khedive Abbas II, the older brother of Prince Mohamed Aly Tewfik and Egypt's Khedive until 1914. Four years later, in 1907, Lady Anne Blunt had purchased the mare from

NAME

Kamar Albadeia

COLOR & GENDER

Grey Mare

FOALED

March 20, 1978

SIRE

Kayed

DAM

Naeema

BREEDER

Albadeia Stud

STRAIN

Dahman

OWNER

Albadeia Stud

Dam of 17 foals, 65% used for breeding



Khedive Abbas II for her Sheykh Obeyd Stud. Lady Anne Blunt was familiar with both Bahraini mares and considered Bint el Bahreyn the better horse of the two. She bred the mare to her stallion Jamil, a Saqlawi Jedran of Abbas Pasha breeding. In 1910, Bint el Bahreyn foaled a Jamil filly, whom Lady Anne Blunt named Dalal Al Hamra. Lady Anne Blunt was delighted with this filly and had recorded that she had “a beautiful, gazelle like head”. Interestingly, Dalal Al Hamra is the only source to Bint el Bahreyn; there are no other branches to her. Dalal Al Hamra was bred to a desert bred Abeyyan stallion named Saadoun, whom Lady Anne Blunt had purchased from Shaikh Mishari Ibn Sa’dun of the Muntafiq in 1911. Like Jamil, she brought this stallion to Sheykh Obeyd Stud to use in her program. From the union of Saadoun x Dalal Al Hamra was born Durra, a 1917 mare, who when bred to Kazmeen, gave the world of Straight Egyptian breeding the mare Zareefa, the dam of El Sareei (by Shahloul). Zareefa is the great great grand dam of Kamar AlBadeia. The story of Bint el Bahreyn very powerfully illustrates the rich and vibrant desert heritage of horses like Kamar

AlBadeia and is reminiscent of what Cynthia Culbertson said, “What we can say about the Straight Egyptian Arabian, very reliably, is that they are so close to that desert source... The only way one could get closer is with a desert bred that stayed in the homeland.” Almost half of Zareefa’s ancestral elements are desert bred horses, bred by different tribes of Bedouin people.

Like most of the Albadeia mares, Kamar is a pretty mare, close coupled, with a substantial body. She has a strong topline, powerful shoulders and a muscled, rounded hindquarter. Her neck is set higher on her body, creating a wonderfully flowing, uninterrupted line from her tail to her poll. Her longer forearms are well muscled and in proportion to shorter cannon bones. Her face is short in length, broad across the forehead with lustrous black eyes, placed lower in her head. The quality of her skin is excellent, which allows for a dramatic prominence of bone in her face. Overall, she exudes an abundance of Arabian horse type in a pleasing and very balanced look.

Kamar Albadeia was a spectacular broodmare for Nasr Marei, producing 17 foals in her lifetime; 11 of these



**ABOVE: ISAAD ALBADEIA (GAAFAR ALBADEIA X ZAGHROUDT ALBADEIA).
CHAMPION SHOW MARE.**

**BELOW LEFT: KAMARIAN ALBADEIA (INSHALLAH ALBADEIA X KAMAR
ALBADEIA), THE LAST FOAL OUT OF KAMAR**

**BELOW RIGHT: ZAGHROUDAT ALBADIEA (ADL X KAMAR ALBADEIA) (AN
IKHNATOON SON)**





foals were female, so she produced a very high percentage of daughters, as compared to sons. She was bred to a variety of stallions, 13 to be exact. She had multiple foals with Ameer Albadeia and produced a son named Omar in 1989 and 2 daughters: Rihanat in 1981 and Shahirat in 1982. Shahirat remained in the Albadeia program and produced a daughter named Nawarat by the El Araby son, Emad. 2 years later, a son named Lail Albadeia was produced by breeding Shahirat with a son of Emad (out of the Shaarawi daughter, Baheera) named El Walid. Kamar herself would be bred to this stallion, producing a bay daughter named Sodfat Albadeia, who produced 7 foals, before being sold to Ajmal Stud. The combination of Ameer Albadeia with Kamar is tried again, with a slightly different twist, this time using a son named Mansour Albadeia, resulting in a son named Ibn Kamar in 1991 and a daughter, Zomoradat in 1997. Kamar was bred to the EAO stallion, Adl, an Ikhnaton son out of the Adaweya daughter, Enayah. Kamar produced a daughter named Zaghroudat in 1994, who is part of the Albadeia breeding program, producing 4 daughters and 2 sons, which includes one of the

most cherished show mares, Isaad Albadeia, a 2 time Junior Champion Filly of Egypt and the Senior Champion Mare at the 2005 Egyptian National Championships, as well as a Dutch National Champion and one of the Top Ten mares at the World Championships in Paris. Bred to a variety of outside stallions, Isaad is also producing well for Albadeia, giving birth to 2 daughters: Ghandoura Albadeia by Al Rayyan and Zahda by Laheeb and one son by Al Adeed Al Shaqab, Saad. A son named Sonbol, who like Zaghroudat, is sired by Ad, was born from Kamar in 1996. In 2001, Kamar foaled one of her last foals, a filly by the Farid son, Inshallah Albadeia (out of Ibtehag) named Kamarain. In 2014, at the AHO Breeders Championships, this very exquisite filly, a former Junior National Champion Filly of Egypt, matured into one of the most beautiful mares and was named a Top Ten, together with "cousin", Isaad, at this prestigious show. Kamarain produced a wonderful filly and future broodmare prospect by Magd Albadeia, named Amooraa. What an impressive production record for this mare named Kamar Albadeia.



Farid Albadeia

Farid Albadeia was a son of Ameer Albadeia, which also made him a paternal grandson of *Malekat El Gamal. An absolutely beautiful grey mare, *Malekat El Gamal, foaled in 1968, was bred by Sayed Marei. Sired by the Nazeer son, Waseem and out of the Nazeer daughter, Nagdia; *Malekat El Gamal, by virtue of her pedigree, was 50 percent Nazeer, which is the equivalent of having Nazeer as a sire, even though the horse had died eight years earlier. *Malekat El Gamal had a most soulful expression and her eyes

were enchanting. Perhaps this is where Farid inherited his most beautiful eyes because if there was one attribute that more people remembered Farid for, it was his large, lustrous, black eyes. They were like windows that allowed an earthly world to gaze into his kind, gentle and heavenly soul.

The concentration of Nazeer in Farid's pedigree is as intense as we found it to be in *Malekat El Gamal. Farid carries five lines to Nazeer or, 43.75 percent of the

NAME

Farid Albadeia

COLOR & GENDER

Grey Stallion

FOALED

January 2, 1984

SIRE

Ameer Albadeia

DAM

Farida

BREEDER

Albadeia Stud

STRAIN

Hadban

OWNER

Albadeia Stud

Sire of 32 foals, 41% used for breeding



Nesl 2



**LEFT: FARID
ALBADIEA AT
THE BEAUTIFUL
ALBADEIA STUD**



Nasir



Nasir

pedigree reflects this influential horse. What's even more interesting, is the concentration to the mare, Bint Samiha, the dam of Nazeer. Farid traces to her through Nazeer plus an additional two lines through Zahia, which boosts the percentage of her influence to approximately 26.56 percent of his pedigree. Not only is Farid a pure in the strain Hadban Enzahi, his dam, Farida and *Malekat El Gamal, the dam of his sire, were sisters, as both mares are offspring of Nagdia, which makes the influence of a few individuals in Farid's pedigree, that much more intense. For example, the difference between the sisters comes down to two individuals, the stallions *Ramses Fayek, who brings in the influence of Farida; while on the sire side, it is Waseem and

**LEFT AND
INSET: ITLALAH
ALBADEIA, A
CHAMPION MARE
OUT OF THE
FARID DAUGHTER
SONDOS
ALBADEIA**

**RIGHT: FARHA
ALBADEIA, FARID
DAUGHTER
OUT OF WORLD
CHAMPION
MARE GELGELAH
ALBADEIA**



the Kuhaylan Rodan influence through Malaka. The multiple sources of the Hadban Enzahi strain, together with three crosses to the Kuhaylan Rodan strain, plus an equal number of crosses to the Dahman Sid Abouhom, explain the strong, compact, masculine and muscled physique we see in Farid. He was impressively built, like a “Horseman’s Horse”.

Farid was more than a correct stallion. His essence recalled another time and place and Farid looked like an old time stallion, depicted in the classical paintings of old, with a delightfully curvey body, comprised of circular lines, strong and smooth. He really looked like he had stepped out of a Vernet painting. His overall balance and harmony conveyed a picture of overwhelming beauty. There are very few horses who can compare to the level of quality that Farid possessed in abundance. His neck was powerful, gracefully arched, with the most impressive crest that I have



**ABOVE: NAGHAM ALBADEIA,
A SON OF FARID OUT OF
DANDANAH ALBADEIA, THE
CURRENT BREEDING STALLION
AT ALBADEIA STUD**

seen on an Arabian stallion and was set higher on his chest, anchored by powerful shoulders. Well muscled and substantial, he exhibited the strength that most of us expect to see in a stallion. Like most horses with ties to the mare, Farida, Farid had a deep and powerful hip, flowing into a strong croup and loin. His hind end was full, rounded and was smooth, strong and powerful, balancing an equal amount of power on his massive front end. Yet for all of this powerful energy radiating from his body, he was an elegant horse who also had some of the finest features like his very black, very round, very expressive eye. His head was oh so short and wide with larger size jowls, smaller ears and large, elastic nostrils. Looking at Farid, he gave you goosebumps, even if he was relaxing, not moving or doing anything.

Farid was bred twice to the most beautiful Egyptian Arabian mare of recent times, the world champion mare Gelgelah Albadeia, to produce two beautiful fillies: Farha



Albadeia in 2000 and Bashooshah Albadeia in 2002. Both Farha and Bashoosha are part of the breeding herd at Al Badeia and each mare, bred to Majd Al Rayyan (Safir x Ansata Nawarra), produced fillies (Kenooz is Farha's filly, while Tasaheel was produced by Bashoosha), who have also been incorporated into the breeding herd. While Gelgelah was purchased by Halsdon Stud in England, her full sister, Galagel Albadeia, was also bred to Farid twice and produced Shakawa and Sonbolat Albadiea. Galagel is out of Anhar Albadeia, a daughter of Ameer Albadeia, the sire of Farid, therefore, the doubling of the blood of *Malekat El Gamal. Farid also sired Sondos Albadeia, a beautiful bay mare out of Mahasen Albadeia (Mansour Albadeia x Naeema), a top mare in the Albadeia breeding program. Sondos produced Itlalah, another exciting show mare who was named multi champion in Europe, including Supreme Champion in The European Egyptian Championships held in Baden Baden, Germany. One of the most successful show mares of Egypt and the queen of the show ring, Ibtehag Albadeia (Badran Albadeia x Halawat Albadeia) was bred to Farid and produced a son named Inshallah

Albadeia. This stallion, at 2 years of age, won National Junior Champion in his first show ever! He was gifted by a gentleman from the Gulf to HRH Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz, then crown prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Inshallah Albadeia resided at the Prince's private stud farm, Al Janaderia, in Riyadh. The Prince became the King of KSA and Inshallah Albadeia remained at Al Janadeia for years. The influence of Farid, from the sire side, is currently represented in the Albadeia program by his sons: Nagham Albadeia (out of Dnadanah Albadeia), Dahoom Albadeia (out of Simeon Safir) and Burhan Sakr (out of Alidarra).

Farid was loved by many people and was the living representation of the ideal Arabian stallion. His beauty was legendary, as Farid was named six times National Champion Stallion of Egypt. SIX TIMES! He was elegant and in many ways, Farid fit comfortably within the ideal that most people carry in their mind, when thinking of an Arabian horse. Farid was like the national treasure of Egypt and to this day, people lament his loss, because horses like Farid bring comfort to the soul, merely by their presence.



Anhar Albadeia

The Venus family of Hadban Enzahi horses are a vibrant and extremely influential family in not only Straight Egyptian breeding but also at Albadeia, especially the tail female line through Yosreia, who demonstrates the success of the Mansour/Ibn Rabdan cross. Yosreia's sire, Sheikh El Arab is a Mansour son. Yosreia's dam, Hind, is an Ibn Rabdan daughter. Some of the most beautiful Egyptian Arabian horses have resulted from this almost magical cross of bloodlines. The

cross of Spanish and Egyptian lines have been called "golden" but in this particular cross of Mansour on Ibn Rabdan, the cross far surpasses gold, with eyes set on platinum. Yosreia was a prolific broodmare, having produced horses like Aswan, who was a powerful and significant sire in Russia, Farasha who produced the exotic stallion *Farazdac and Mohga, who produced the influential sire Ibn Galal (Magdi), to name a few of the illustrious horses of this line.

Anhar is a radiant white daughter of

NAME

Anhar Albadeia

COLOR & GENDER

Chestnut Mare

FOALED

November 11, 1987

SIRE

Ameer Albadeia

DAM

Bint Bint Yosreia

BREEDER

Albadeia

STRAIN

Hadban

OWNER

Albadeia Stud

Dam of 6 foals, 50% used for breeding



**ABOVE: ANHAR ALBADEIA AT ALBADEIA
STUD**

Bint Bint Yosreia (Yakout x Bint Yosreia) by Ameer Albadeia. Her maternal grand dam, Bint Yosreia is a full sister to Aswan, the horse who revolutionized Arabian horse breeding in Russia. She is an ethereal daughter of the desert, as her sparkling white coat is enhanced by heavily pigmented dark skin. Her body is a celebration of curves and circles, which together create a voluptuous beauty. Elegance oozes from every pore in her body. She is a magnificent, pure in the strain Hadbah Enzahiyah. Her sire, Ameer Albadeia is also Hadban Enzahi, tracing in tail female through the Nagdia daughter, *Malekat El Gamal to Hadba, a daughter of Venus.

The breeder of Ameer Albadeia, Nasr Marei, said, "Ameer Albadeia is considered a milestone in the breeding program of Albadeia. His sire, Kayed (son of Morafic) has started a new era at Albadeia and Ameer just took it several laps further. Most of my current mares and stallions are his get or grand [get]. His grand daughter out of Anhar Albadeia is Gelgelah Albadeia won several championships in Egypt and in Europe and last year won the European and the World Champion mare titles, So



NEXT PAGE:

**GELGELAH
ALBADEIA,
AN ANHAR
DAUGHTER
BY IMPERIAL
MADORI, WORLD
CHAMPION
AND EUROPEAN
CHAMPION
MARE.**

**ABOVE: HAYTHAM ALBADEIA,
OUT OF A DAUGHTER OF ANHAR
ALBADIYA, GALAGEL ALBADEIA, AN
EGYPTIAN NATIONAL RESERVE JUNIOR
CHAMPION AND EGYPTIAN EVENT
EUROPE GOLD CHAMPION STALLION.**

Ameer produced at least two World Champions Al Adeed Al Shaqab and Gelgelah Albadeia. To me he was and is more valuable than any horse I ever had.”

Anhar has been a wonderful broodmare for Albadeia. If she had only produced the World Champion Mare, Gelgelah, her place in Egyptian Arabian history would be secure with just this one horse. But the fact is, that Anhar contributed far more significant horses than just Gelgelah. She produced two sons: Ghofran by

Hosam Albadeia in 1994 and Attalah by AK El Sennari in 2000. However, it is through her daughters that Anhar would exert her greatest influence. She produced the full sisters by Imperial Madori: Gelgelah in 1995 and Galagel in 1996. While Gelgelah Albadeia sold to Halsdon Stud in England, her two daughters by Farid Albadeia, Farha and Bashooshah, remained in the Albadeia program. Both mares produced fillies by Magd Al Rayyan, Kenooz and Tasaheel, who like their dams, are promising broodmares,



also retained by Albadeia. Galagel Albadeia also joined the broodmare band and her Simeon Sharav daughter, Ghalia Albadeia, is also part of the program and has produced the next generation, a filly, Nefisa Albadeia by Saad Albadeia, while her son, also by Sharav, Haytham, is an exciting young stallion, as correct as Sharav, while retaining the beauty of his dam. Haytham is also a decorated show stallion, earning a Reserve Champion Colt at the Egyptian Nationals, Reserve Champion Stallion in Frankfurt and a Champion Stallion at the Lanaken Egyptian Event. With the *Ansata Ibn Halima son, Bar Sama Halim, Anhar produced a daughter named Hozouz in 1997. The stallion Magd

Albadeia sired her 2003 filly named Maymoona. The successful union of Anhar's daughter Galagel with Simeon Sharav, was enough proof for Nasr to try the cross, of Sharav with Anhar herself. The wisdom and soundness of Nasr's decision resulted in a gorgeous 2005 filly which he named Tawasol.

Anhar Albadeia provided her breeder with a mare that Nasr Marei feels is his most excellent horse Gelgela Albadeia. While it is extremely challenging to pick any one horse as "favorite" at Albadeia, Anhar comes the closest to being just that, a sweet, kind and generous mare with the genetic makeup for producing horses who are world champions, wherever they go in the world. 



EXPAND THE DISCUSSION ON FACEBOOK

We're interested in hearing how you're connected to these legends of the breed. Click on the Facebook icon above or the horse photos below and add your own photos and stories to our thread about THE SOURCE, Volume 6!

NAGDIA



KAYED



KAMAR ALBADEIA



FARID ALBADEIA



ANHAR ALBADEIA



A special thanks to : Dr. Nasr Marei, Rebecca Rogers, Ralph Suarez, Bridgette Orwig and Keri Wright.



CLICK TO PURCHASE

"THE ARABIAN HORSE OF EGYPT"

by Dr. Nasr Marei



THE ABLE STABLE

YOUR DIGITAL HORSE HEALTH NOTEBOOK, Volume 3: *Rhodococcus equi*.

Rhodococcus equi is one of the major diseases causing Pneumonia in foals. Volume three of The Able Stable brings you a look into what you can do if you find yourself fighting this infection on your farm.

Dr. Alicia Foley provides timely veterinary information about *Rhodococcus* (located in the text boxes) while Becky Rogers offers a farm manager's perspective.



RHODOCOCCLUS EQUI PNEUMONIA

Rhodococcal pneumonia manifests as a severe and sometimes fatal chronic suppurative bronchopneumonia. The hallmark of the disease is abscess formation within lung tissue. Foals that are affected typically have decreased appetite, lethargy, fever, and increased rate and effort of breathing.

Early diagnosis can be challenging, leading to the presence of severe infection before clinical signs are evident in the affected foal



Rhodococcus: A Farm Manager's Solution

By Becky Rogers

In 1986 we had our first case of Rhodococcus Equi pneumonia. At that time it was called Corynebacteria and the veterinary world was struggling with a treatment protocol. Many farms such as ours had never heard of this insidious disease. Unfortunately, we lost that first foal, due to a late diagnoses and an ineffective antibiotic regime. A hard lesson learned and one not to be repeated. In the ensuing few years as our farm gained in numbers of horses and the mare and foal density climbed, so too did our number of cases of Rhodococcus pneumonia. At its peak we were faced with an endemic situation where we could

MANAGEMENT

Decreased incidence of disease has been observed on farms that foal at pasture and with decreased numbers of mare and foal pairs. However, no singular change in management has been associated with decreased incidence of the disease. Mares and foals both have been shown to shed virulent R.equi in their feces. Keeping areas clean and decreasing dust exposure may help to decrease foal exposure.

PREVENTION

Vaccination, prophylactic antibiotic administration, and hyperimmune plasma have all been investigated for prevention of development of the disease associated with R.equi infection. Despite efforts to develop an adequate vaccine; neither pre-foaling vaccination of mares nor foal vaccination have been effective at disease prevention. Prophylactic antibiotic administration showed mixed efficacy and contributes to the development of resistant bacterial populations and is not recommended. Hyperimmune plasma administration after birth and at 14 days of age is the only treatment which may decrease the incidence of disease. However, it is not universally effective.

expect roughly $\frac{3}{4}$ of the foal crop of 20+ foals to become ill each year. By this time we were identifying the foals early and successfully treating them with an erythromycin/rifampin combination. Some of the most acutely ill foals we even fashioned a nebulizer (this was prior to foal nebulizers being commonly sold) from a milk jug and an asthma machine and nebulized the worst foals with bronchodilators and antibiotics. Then, Beverly Sziraky, of Imperial Egyptian Stud, told me of a pilot program they were involved in that was testing plasma administration to the foals for this horrid disease. I quickly had my vet obtain some of the same plasma and thus began what turned out to



be lifesaver for our farm.

I want to share a few of the changes we made to our management protocol that may potentially help another farm struggling with the disease. There have been a few new developments since the time when we first made these changes ourselves. We have seen new drugs like Azithromycin which offer a convenient once-daily dosage replace erythromycin. Many farms with endemic disease do a trans-tracheal wash and culture the organism for sensitivity to various antibiotics due to the rise in resistance worldwide. Some changes that have been instituted have then been discontinued, such as the prophylactic Azithromycin protocol in the first weeks of the foal's life, which has widely fallen out of favor due to developing drug resistance from this practice. But many of the changes and management practices we instituted at our farm are still in use today and I believe they have contributed to the successful management of this disease on our property. It is a rare sight to have a foal sick with *Rhodococcus* here these days (knocking on wood as I write this!). And for the once in a blue moon case we occasionally see, the response to the protocol is swift as the case is caught very early.

In hopes that any or all of these management protocols will help another farm I list the changes we made for your review:

DIAGNOSIS

Definitive diagnosis requires culture of tracheal secretions. However presence of abscessation identified with ultrasound or radiograph in conjunction with clinical signs can lead to a presumptive diagnosis, especially on effected farms

TREATMENT

Treatment with macrolide antibiotics in combinations with rifampin is necessary for clearance of the organism. The length of treatment depends upon the severity of the disease and response to treatment and can range from 3-6 weeks. Repeated evaluations, normally at weekly intervals, are necessary to determine when it is safe to stop treatment. If you suspect that your foal maybe affected by *Rhodococcus* please contact your veterinarian.



PHOTO CREDIT, ANNE M. EBERHARDT



1 The single most important step we started and continue to this day is to temp ALL foals TWICE daily with a chart. At a glance we know the “normal” range for that

Vigilant monitoring of foals is required to identify affected foals early so adequate treatment can occur. Simple screening tools can be used to identify foals that are at risk of developing disease.

Temperature: Taking the temperature of foals at least once daily will help to identify if further evaluation is necessary.

Foals with temperatures greater than 102F should be further examined.

Complete Blood Count: Foals with increased temperatures should have physical examinations as well as complete blood counts performed. The Presence of leukocytosis and hyperfibrinogenemia and/or an elevated SAA in foals should prompt further evaluation via ultrasound and or radiographs

foal and if the daily temperature creeps up a little – we do further investigation with other tests. Yes, this is Texas and in the dog

days of summer – the foals will be a little higher in the afternoon – often above the 102 F “ceiling” we have set. Common sense dictates a retake of the temp a bit later when cooler to see if the reading drops. And I must stress you are looking at a “trend” here as *Rhodococcus* often begins (in the early stages) with just slight elevations in temperature and not a raging fever. If normal for that foal is near 101 F in the mornings – then suddenly readings for 2 days in a row of 102 F is a change and thus an “alarm” for us to investigate. At our farm the first steps taken consist of a vet to listen to the lungs, CBC and SAA testing, and ultrasound of the lungs. We do not wait for a foal to appear “sick” and droopy or not nursing. Once foals show those signs they are often severely ill and much more difficult to treat and potentially at risk of death.

2 At the time we temp the foal we also do a visual exam of the foal and their breathing patterns. We are on alert for subtle signs such as flaring of the nostrils with each breath (while calm and not excited) and/or abdominal “tucking” with each breath. Of course any coughing is cause for concern as well but



that is usually a more advanced disease and we strive to detect changes well before coughing would occur. Snotty noses are not usually a sign of rhodococcus for our farm – we mostly look elsewhere as a cause for a snotty nose.

3 Nearly as important for us was to move the foals out of dusty conditions and on to grass where possible. Grass pasture all day and night is best. However, due to various reasons it is not always possible to house foals outside at night. We used to house foals in paddocks that were often dry lots if they could not go into pasture. Now we have a few designated “foal paddocks” that we try to keep at least some grass in for those occasions when they cannot go out on to the larger grass pasture. Dirt and dust are the enemy!

4 For those that are stalled at night (most if not all of ours)- during the hot and most risky part of the year which here in Texas is mid May – September, we pick the mare/foal stalls twice daily. Feces removal is the key. Reducing the the exposure to feces is always the goal as the organism is shed in feces.

5 Cleaning the paddocks. We now daily clean manure out

of the outside paddocks just as we would from a stall. Extra work but all about reducing the exposure to feces.

6 Reducing the mare/foal density. We try to house only small groups of mares/foals together on one pasture and in paddocks only one pair per paddock. Once again this is about reducing exposure to feces.

RHODOCOCCLUS EQUI is a significant cause of both pneumonia and extra-pulmonary disease in foals aged 3 weeks to 5 months. Rhodococcus is ubiquitous in the environment and can be found in the soil on all equine farms.

7 HyperImmune Plasma administration to every foal within 24-36 hours of birth. Our plasma also contains much more than Rhodococcus antibodies. We test the IGG on each foal at 18 hours old to ensure adequate antibody transfer which helps the foal fight off more than Rhodococcus. Foals testing over 800 mg/dl will receive one liter of plasma. Foals testing under that will have a second IGG test run after the first liter of plasma is administered. If required we will administer a second bag



of plasma depending on the results of the second IGG test. Note: We used to administer the plasma at 24 hours old and then a follow up liter at one month old. However, as our infection rate became controlled we dropped the second plasma administration. We did not see a difference in doing so and the only reactions we have ever had

COMMON MANAGEMENT practices do not decrease incidence of disease. It is unclear why some foals on a farm become affected and others do not. No 100% affective prophylactic treatment has been identified.

OVERALL SURVIVAL of foals with Rhodococcal infections have been shown to be 88%. However, this rate decreases to 59-72% when infection is severe. Survival of foals on farms with screening programs in place are nearly 100%.

to the plasma were always on the second bag as the risk is higher at that time due to several factors. This is something that should be tailored to every individual farm situation.

8 We also run a CBC and SAA test on every foal that is drawn at the time of the first plasma administration. This allows us to assess the status of that foal and prophylactically administer antibiotics if warranted by the test results until that foal has a normal CBC and SAA. The SAA test (Serum Amyloid A) is a relatively new test that has replaced the fibrinogen test for us. We used the fibrinogen test for years in the same manner. Fibrinogen elevates in response to inflammation (which can be from many causes) while the SAA test is more specific to infection. We feel it provides a more specific tool in our evaluation.



9 Any outside mares and foals arriving for breeding do not go into our herd. We have a special area for those to be housed separately.

10 And last but not least we try to reduce the stress on the mares and foals. This is not always an easy task!! But we believe stress contributes to illness and therefore we try to keep their routine, housing and herdmates stable.

Prognosis for future performance of foals with uncomplicated Rhodococcal infection is excellent.

11 In the event we have a very rare case of Rhodococcus, we have been lucky in that early detection has led to a very favorable response to Azithromycin and Rifampin treatment. We isolate that foal/mare pair and monitor closely with ultrasound and repeat blood tests. The treatment length has depended on the response based on ultrasound and CBC/SAA results. However, I have always treated for a minimum of 30 days to avoid relapse. Please

note that foals on Azithromycin (or any macrolide antibiotic) must be protected from the heat and sun. They often have a thermoregulation issue during treatment. Your veterinarian will be your partner in devising the best protocol for your farm situation on specific treatments.

As always the above may have to be tailored to a specific farm as housing and circumstances vary. However, for our farm we have been blessed with a dramatic change in the number of cases since we made all these changes. Thankfully, what was once a yearly nightmare is now a very rare occurrence.



Becky Rogers of Kehilan Arabians, Forth Worth, TX, has nearly 35 years of experience breeding Straight Egyptian Arabian horses, at one time offering a full service breeding facility and standing the syndicated stallion Nabel. A veterinary technician with a background in Biomedical Science from Texas A&M, Becky has worked closely with several specialists on subfertile mares. She offers her insight based on this experience and encourages everyone to broaden their own knowledge through study and to work closely with a qualified veterinarian.



Rhodococcus Equi: A Veterinarian's Take

by Dr. Alicia Foley DVM

As a young veterinarian the first cases one is exposed to often leave the most lasting impressions and shape the course of investigative work, research and practice. Entering an internship at a busy practice in Texas in July of 2008, I was exposed to large numbers of foals affected by a terrible bacterial disease that while it did not have a high mortality rate, had an insidious course of disease. At times it seemed to linger for months and its sudden demise of a handful of seemingly healthy foals left a lasting impression on my practice of veterinary medicine. The bacterial infection that I had such an abrupt introduction to is *Rhodococcus equi* (R.equi).

Rhodococcus is a soil loving bacteria that is ubiquitous in the environment and is the cause of foal pneumonia and a myriad of other extra-pulmonary diseases in foals 3 weeks to 5 months of age. Despite decades of research zeroing in on the bacteria the veterinary community still has no single preventative that is efficacious. *Rhodococcus equi* takes advantage of the relatively immature immune system of the foal. This combined with its ability to evade killing by the portions of the immune system that normally combat bacteria make it a formidable pathogen of the young equine. The key to early diagnosis and treatment is actively monitoring foals for signs of disease and closely working with your veterinarian to develop the best course of action and preventative measure that will work best on your farm. 

[NAVIGATE BACK TO
THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)



Dr. Alicia Foley is the internal medicine specialist at Hartman Equine Reproduction Center in Whitesboro, TX. In 2009, Dr. Foley earned her DVM degree at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. She then completed a rotating equine internship at Equine Sports Medicine and Surgery in Weatherford, Texas. She completed her residency in Equine Internal Medicine in 2013 at the Marion DuPont Scott Equine Medical Center in Leesburg, VA and became a Diplomate of the ACVIM in 2014. Her professional interests include perinatology, neurology, and gastrointestinal disease.

THE STRAIGHT EGYPTIAN ARABIAN HORSE

/streyt ih-jip-shuh n uh-rey-bee-uh n hawrs/

(noun)

1. A **"BREED WITHIN A BREED,"** internationally defined* and upheld by The Pyramid Society (established in 1969 to safeguard and carry forward rare Egyptian bloodlines)
2. The best source of the **CLASSIC ARABIAN TYPE** needed for *your* modern breeding program
3. A **WELLSPRING OF PURITY** influencing the pedigrees of world-famous Arabians (Egyptian or not!) [e.g. *Shael Dream Desert, QR Marc, Pinga, Marwan Al Shaqab, Magnum Psyche, WH Justice, DA Valentino, Ali Jamaal, and every Salon du Cheval Gold Champion of the last decade.*]

ORIGIN

In relative isolation, in the merciless terrain of their homeland, the Bedouin tribes of the Arabian Peninsula selected and bred the oldest and purest breed of horse known to man. These horses and their descendants were gathered from the desert by the ruling families of Egypt in the early 19th century and brought to the land of the Nile and the Pyramids. It is there that the story of modern Egyptian Arabian breeding begins. *How the legend lives on is up to you...*

*Visit The Pyramid Society website to see the official definition of the Straight Egyptian Arabian Horse observed by breeders worldwide

ANSATA HEJAZI, PHOTO BY GIGI GRASSO



WWW.STRAIGHTEGYPTIANHORSE.COM

theSOURCE

RELEVANT TOPICS FOR THE EGYPTIAN ARABIAN COMMUNITY

VOLUME 6: FALL, 2015
TABLE OF CONTENTS

ALL READERS:
DOWNLOAD THIS ISSUE

JOIN THE CONVERSATION
ON FACEBOOK

SETTING THE STANDARD:
A PANEL DISCUSSION

THE CORNERSTONE
SERIES: DR. NASR MAREI

HERITAGE HORSE
PROFILES:
NAGDIA

HERITAGE HORSE
PROFILES:
KAYED

HERITAGE HORSE
PROFILES:
KAMAR ALBADEIA

HERITAGE HORSE
PROFILES:
FARID ALBADEIA

HERITAGE HORSE
PROFILES:
ANHAR ALBADEIA

ASK US A QUESTION OR
JOIN OUR E-MAIL LIST

BUY ARABIAN HORSE
BOOKS & RESOURCES

READ MORE EGYPTIAN
ARABIAN NEWS

FIND EGYPTIAN ARABIAN
HORSES FOR SALE &
STALLIONS AT STUD

FIND EGYPTIAN BREEDERS
IN YOUR AREA

www.PyramidSociety.org