

AL SHARBATLY STUD

# A LABOUR OF LOVE

By Bridget McArdle McKinney

OFF THE ALEXANDRIA DESERT ROAD, AWAY FROM THE NOISE AND COMMOTION, AL SHARBATLY STUD IS AN OASIS OF CALM AND BEAUTY. ENTERING THE GATES AND DRIVING DOWN A TUNNEL OF SHADE TREES, YOU SEE THE HUGE STRAW BEDDED PADDOCKS FILLED WITH FOALS AND MARES. BIG HAPPY DOGS WAG UP TO GREET. WE STARTED WANDERING AROUND. AT THE FENCE WE STOP AND WAIT WHILE A GROUP OF HORSES SLOWLY MAKES ITS WAY OVER TO US, NOT FEARFUL, NOT PARTICULARLY CURIOUS, JUST FRIENDLY AND USED TO FRIENDLINESS.



*Nasr al Sharbatly (Simeon Sharav x Zizi)*

Established in 1998 Sultan Al Sharbatly and partner Nicki Knoth realised a dream of preserving what is called Straight Egyptian Arabian horses. According to The Pyramid Society, one of the most highly-regarded Arabian horse breeders' organisations in the world, in order to be considered 'Straight Egyptian' a horse must trace in every line of its pedigree to purebred Arabian horses born in the Arabian Peninsula. Sultan and Nicki have developed a stud which represents and preserves the purity and beauty of this breed. Proving the success of their dedication and effort, they have won several national and international titles.

Their breeding philosophy is to breed a well balanced horse that can win in a beauty show but still remain a functional horse with good fundamentals, strong bodies, refined movement and, last but not least, strong showy attitude, which is one of their main focal points. The stallions are exceptionally friendly and, as we are told, are not just used for stud, but are ridden.

In the Arabian breed, family line is traced from the mare and at Al Sharbatly Stud the mares are descended from three of the elite

strains: Dahman, Obayan and Saqklawi, and each of them has created a dynasty of her own.

The foundation mares were Straight Egyptian Arabians mainly imported from Germany. In the past the stud used outside stallions, carefully choosing the right pick for each mare. The first significant stallion in the stud was imported from Germany, Sheikh Mahboub (Sheikh el Araby x Bint Mahboub) who sired all the mares over two years in the stud. From this breeding came the new star of the stud, Salman Al Sharbatly (Sheikh Mahboub x Djidani el Dahab), a young very promising stallion who just proved himself in his first breeding season. Of Salman, a pleased and proud Sultan says, "He exceeded our expectations and you will be hearing a lot about him and his offspring."

The second significant stallion was home-grown, Nasr Al Sharbatly (Simeon Sharav x Zizi) who has already proven himself in the show ring by taking National Champion Colt of Egypt, not once, but twice. And even his offspring have already won several of titles.

The third stallion of Al Sharbatly Stud is Hafid Ali el Dahab (MA Alisha x

KEN Alia). He is a well-known winner of several championships in Egypt and Europe. For the past two years he has been shown and has been standing at a stud in Europe.

Al Sharbatly Stud is all about breeding the best of the lines and that involves showing and winning in breeders' championships, but as Nicki says, "The success in the beauty shows is great fun but it is not only about winning in the shows, it's about seeing the success of your distinctive breeding programme in producing beauty and purity in the breed."

Sultan and Nicki are passionate about their dream and passionate about Egyptian Arabians. And it's obvious why they like Egypt so well. "Egypt is the mother country of the straight Egyptian horses", says Nicki. Sultan adds, "Egypt is a perfect country for breeding Arabian horses due to good weather conditions plus people here love and respect the Arabian breed as this is one of the treasures of Egypt." 🇪🇬

*You can learn more about Al Sharbatly Stud by visiting their website: [www.alsharbatlystud.com](http://www.alsharbatlystud.com)*

