

DRESSAGE, Object and general principles

By EMAD EL-DIN ZAHLLOUL

Our late professor general Yossef Ghorab taught us that the art of riding is

"To let your horse perform what you ask him for, with pleasure"

1. The object of dressage is the harmonious development of the physique and ability of the horse. As a result it makes the horse calm, supple, loose and flexible but also confident attentive and keen thus achieving perfect understanding with the rider.

2. These qualities are revealed by:

2.1 The freedom and regularity of the paces.

2.2 The harmony, lightness and ease of the movements.

2.3 The lightness of the forehand and the engagement of the hind quarters, originating in a lively impulsion.

2.4 The acceptance of the bridle, with submissiveness throughout and without any tenseness or resistance.

3. The horse thus gives the impression of doing of his own accord what is required of him. Confident and attentive he submits generously to the control of his rider, remaining absolutely straight in any movement on a straight line and bending accordingly when moving on curved lines.

4. His walk is regular, free and unconstrained. His trot is free, supple, regular, sustained and active. His canter is united, light and cadenced. His quarters are never inactive or sluggish. He responds to the slightest indication of the rider and thereby gives life and spirit to all the rest of his body.

5. By virtue of a lively impulsion and the suppleness of his joints, free from the paralyzing effects of resistance, the horse obeys willingly and without hesitation and responds to the various aids calmly and with precision, displaying a natural and harmonious balance both physically and mentally.



6. In all his work, even at the halt, the horse must be "on the bit". A horse is said to be "on the bit" when the neck is more or less raised and arched according to the stage of training and the extension or collection of the pace, and he accepts the bridle with a light and soft contact and submissiveness throughout.

The head should remain in a steady position, as a rule slightly in front of the vertical, with a supple poll as the highest point of the neck, and no resistance should be offered to the rider.

7. Cadence is the result of the proper harmony that a horse shows when it moves with well marked regularity, impulsion and balance. The rhythm that a horse maintains in all his paces is an integral part of cadence. Cadence

must be maintained in all the different exercises and in the variations of each pace.



Sharkia Festival for Arabian Horses

The Governorate of Sharkia has hosted and organized on September 11th, 1999 the eighth festival for Arabian horses on its grounds. The festival has become more and more popular, not only for Egyptians but for foreign visitors as well.

The program included many interesting musical and dancing shows giving a flavor of the Egyptian Folkloric life. The festival was open to both professionals and amateurs. It included a showjumping event to

win a President Mubarak cup, that was won by Captain Amr Ahmed Magdy (Equestrian Army Club). Followed by what they call 'the popular horseman parade', an Arabian halter show, a Dressage event and a polo match between Gezira club and the Police Force with the Police winning the trophy.

The Sharkia festival turned out to be a real success and an interesting day not only for horse lovers, but for the big crowd that attended the show.

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