

HORSE Times

EGYPT'S OFFICIAL EQUESTRIAN MAGAZINE

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Issue # 20, June 2006

Dr. Nasr Marei

*Tips On How To Gauge
A Good TYPE Horse*

Ali Al Ameri

*Uncovering How
To Fix Your
Problem Horse*

*Ali Al Mimar
And His Fascination
With Horses*

Princess Haya...

The First Arab Female As President Of The FEI



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From the Chairman



Dear readers,

Congratulations to the Arab world: "Princess Haya of Jordan has been voted to be the new President of the International Equestrian Federation". Knowing her, I am sure there will be a lot of positive changes coming up.

Dr. Nasr Marei amazes us with his enormous scope regarding Arabian horses and tips on different judging methods.

Art and its inspirational impact on our lives especially when horses are the subject; Ali Al Mimar with his cover portrait is just breathtaking. Alicia Melo is another sensational artist when it comes to horses. And with more art... Shereen Reda.

Moreover, Gawdat Hamam, a great breeder with plenty of vision and a lot of will power portrays his achievements and dreams.

Finally, it all boils down to communication no matter who or where. Ali Al Amiri explains his talents and skills on how to be able to communicate with horses as well as solving their problems.

Lots of show jumping results regarding the National and International scenes.

Read on and enjoy.

Sincerely,
Khaled Assem

HORSE Times Issue# 20, June 2006

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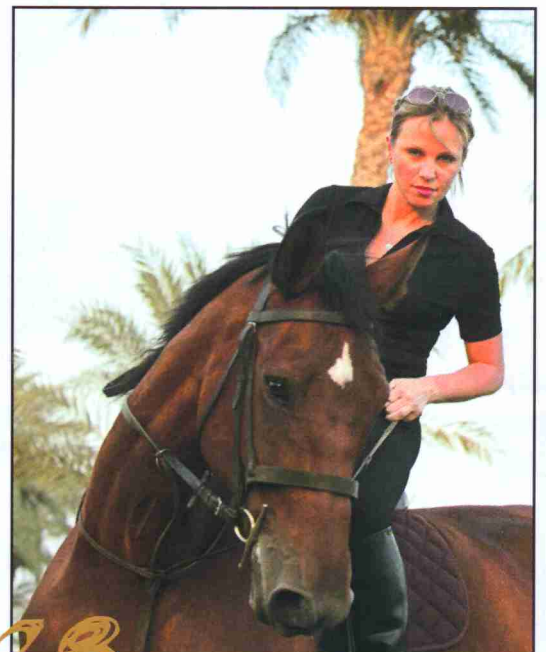
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of Jordan



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A mother, Actress and Horse Lover



A Passion for **Breeding**

By Khaled Assem

In 1987, an Egyptian business man started to take an interest in breeding Arabian horses. His hobbies were taken lightly at first, but as learning is an everlasting process, he is now determined & confident that the future of his stud farms lies promisingly in the palm of his hands. With a brief hold-up from his full-time activities & focus on breeding, **Mr. Gawdat Hamam** gives Horse Times his views on how successful breeding takes time, and how a passion for breeding largely helps in implementing that.

Mr. Hamam got hold of the idea of creating an Arabian stud farm in 1987. It all started with his being brought up in Semoha, Alexandria where horses were brought in for training. During his leisure summer time, he would spend his allowance on carrots to feed the horses, learn about them, and know their names. His passion simply grew every summer. In 1984, a friend of his called Sami Daboos bought him his first Arabian horse and that's when he started the process of breeding

Mr. Hamam states that a lot of people have influenced him, and that he has gained lots of experience from their good conducts, as well as their bad ones. At first, he spent a lot of money on buying and selling horses, and then discovered that it was not the right thing to do: "turns out I had the wrong guidance"! However, he fully expresses his utmost appreciation to Dr. Ibrahim Zaghoul and the wonderful Mrs. Wigdan Elbarbari who helped him greatly in

making some right decisions. Furthermore, Mr. Omar Sakr has also helped him in learning about the different lines of horses giving him an ideology that goes beyond the EAO (Egyptian Agricultural Organisation). From there, he started to understand the true meaning of breeding, and hence in 1996, he imported horses from America. He wanted to follow the footsteps of others who are leading the way. "Mr. Omar Sakr is one of them". Mr. Hamam has also worked with the late Sayed Marei and the Hamza family.

On the sensitive controversial issue of "importing horses from America" and how it would have had an impact on the development of the local breeding lines with the dispute that this step had to be implemented in order to further upgrade the lines, as opposed to the inbreeding that took place, Mr. Hamam answers Horse Times' question about why buyers would come and look for horses from Egypt if they could go to the source where Egypt bought from. He says that Egypt is a pioneer in Arabian breeding



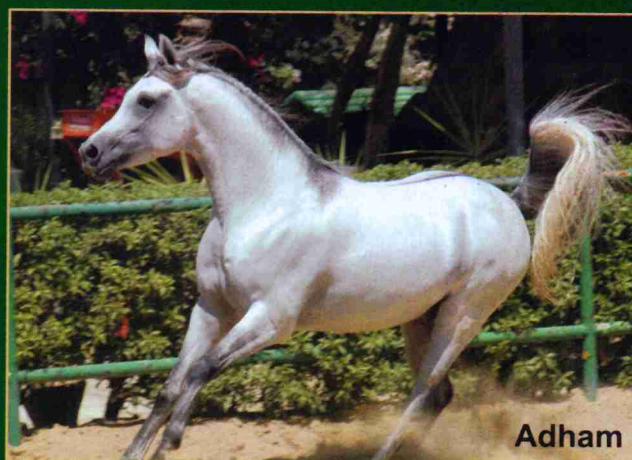
Noreen



Borhan



Abbass Pacha



Adham

“
The origin
was taken
and now we
are looking
for it”



programmes, and what happened was simply done with the purpose of going back to the source that was taken when there was a trend in the EAO's technical committee to export most of the excellent origins. "We have to expand our visions and way of thinking. Egyptians who want to be associated with the true meaning of breeding started to bring in the Egyptian Arabian lines that have left Egypt". Not so keen on being biased, Mr. Hamam still thinks that the level of breeding in Egypt has been raised with affirming that Dr. Nasr Marei's Albadeia, imported Simoen Sharav; a horse that is a champion. On the argumentative subject of Egypt exporting Murafik & Nazeer and thus losing a huge part of its great origins, and with others squabbling that it didn't, Mr. Hamam also disagrees by saying that the exportation of those horses was a huge mistake consequently leading to the build up of the origins of breeding Egyptian Arabians in America & Europe. "The origin was taken and now we are looking for it".

As a prominent and productive Arabian breeder, Mr. Hamam is very optimistic about his 5 year plan to make an achievement for the Gawdat Hamam breeding programme. He will be retiring from his other actives as to concentrate on his programme and 2 studs, 'Gawdat' and 'Al Huda'. He has 2 daughters and wishes that they would follow his footsteps. He looks forward to having better quality horses, feeling that a lot of his horses will have promising futures. "I will try hard to help accomplish this process and I will enjoy seeing some of my quality progeny being well presented and well taken care of". To gain experience as well as success and confidence on an international level, he will start his development process by participating in shows in Baden Baden: "I will send the best horses from Gawdat Stud and

“
We have to expand
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Egyptians who want
to be associated with
the true meaning of
breeding started to
bring in the Egyptian
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have left Egypt”



Aleam Gawdat

I hope God helps me in achieving what the likes of me have achieved. I am also starting a project soon, and that is to establish a modern hospital just for the care of horses. I will use the help of foreign experts to train the locals”.

“Egypt is a little bit behind on the issue of how to further develop, for example, the horse presenters are always foreign. Can this be changed?”

“Unfortunately foreigners are thought of as being better, and in order to compete, you have to get an efficient foreign horse presenter. However, just to test the truth of this, during the last show at Sakkara Country Club, I used an Egyptian to present my horses which received awards. One of the foreign judges asked the ring master, Rafik Mohsin, to tell the presenter that he was the best throughout the whole competition. A horse fell and he handled him very well immediately to complete the show. It was very touching to hear that the best presenter was Egyptian. I don’t mind if taking him abroad just to train more, eventually, he is Egyptian. So, one of my plans is to train as many Egyptians in that field”. ■





Mohamed Medhat Abdelkareem



Yehia Wagih Atallah

The Egyptian NATIONAL CUP

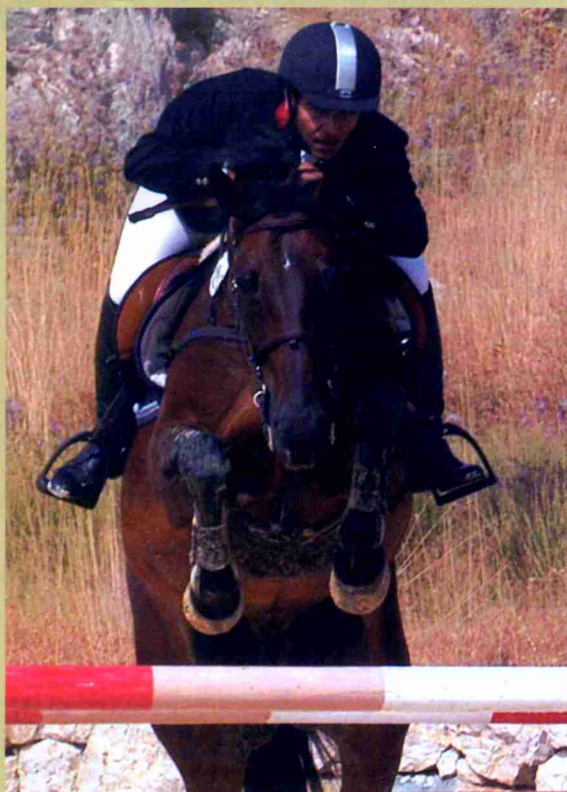
By Karim Habashi

The final round of the 'Egyptian Cup' was held at King's Ranch. It is the first time that we virtually have two National Champions, as another classification, based on points accumulated throughout the season were concluded the previous weekend. The 'Egyptian Cup' is perhaps closer in its format to most National Championships held in Europe, with the one controversial exception that is, in our finals a rider is allowed an unlimited number of horses.

This year our Points Champion for the A2 class is the very persistent Claudia El Nafarawy, followed by Mohamed El Boraei & 'Stylish', and Yehya Wagih & 'Lion Star'. As for the A1, the winner was Mohamed Sabry, better known as 'Dokdok', with 'Petite Donna', closely followed by Alaa Maysara & 'Carta'.

The 'Egyptian Cup' was held over 3 consecutive days with the main decisive factor being the faults carried till the end of the last round on day 3. Strong nerves were required as well as experience and fitness for both horse and rider. The A2 was won by Alaa Maysara & 'Casper'; certainly a great achievement for a horse that has had its share of problems. They were followed by Mohamed El Boraei & 'Stylish' and Yehya Wagih & 'Lion Star'.

As for the A1 class, the leading rider was Mohamed Medhat & 'Paraguay'



Alaa Maysara on Carta

for the last day of the show. Unfortunately they gathered 21 faults with exhaustion & pressure definitely taking their toll there. It was no surprise that the combination that came first on the three days of the Dubai International Show in January came again on top here. Boraei & Nirvana produced perfectly consistent rounds and definitely deserved their victory. Second only by a 1 fault difference was Alaa Maysara & 'Carta', and third came Islam Eid & 'Cupid' having an excellent end of competition after a difficult first day.

This year's finals were successful mainly because of the dedication of riders, owners and grooms. Too bad there was not many applauding the excellent performances in the ring. Is show jumping losing in popularity?! Probably not if you look at the increasing numbers of registered horses and riders. Ashraf Abdallah built well-designed and demanding courses with the same material that has been used for the last four years. We saw some very talented riders getting the most out of above-average horses with the huge success of the new Arab League and shows like the ones in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. Would it be possible we do more to be better prepared to face the challenge posed by our Arab neighbours? ■

“

The Egyptian Cup is perhaps closer in its format to most National Championships held in Europe

”



Mohamed Ragab Jr. on Milky; www.mohamedragabjr.com

Results

LEVEL A1

RIDER

Mohamed Sabry
Alaa Maysara
Mohamed Sabry
Ahmed Bassyoni
Islam Eid
Claudia El Nafarawy

HORSE

Petite Donna
Carta
Calendo
Temptation
Sphinx
Lucky Luke 2

CLUB

Ferousia/ARMY
Police Sports Union
Ferousia/ARMY
Ferousia/ARMY
Ferousia/GEZIRA
Sporting

LEVEL A2

RIDER

Claudia El Nafarawy
Mohamed El Boraei
Yehia Atallah
Mohamed El Boraei
Alaa Maysara
Mohamed Ragab

HORSE

Beybars
Stylish
Lion Star
Lillie
Casper
Cylinio

CLUB

Sporting
Ferousia/ARMY
Gezira Sporting
Ferousia/ARMY
Police Sports Union
Ferousia/ARMY

LEVEL B

RIDER

Claudia El Nafarawy
Hady Gabr
Kareem Asal
Sameh El Dahan
Kareem El Sobki
Yasir Asr

HORSE

Crepe Suzette
Cloudy Night
Covanto
Timid Heart
Return
Legatte

CLUB

Sporting
Sporting Association
Sporting Association
Police Sports Union
Ferousia/ARMY
Ferousia/ARMY

INA EL KOBIA



Ina El Kobbia

A selection of high class equestrian sport accompanied by a vivid composition of Eastern & Western Lifestyle:

The International Riders Festival Horses & Dreams at the Kasselmann Estate in Hagen opened Germany's outdoor riding season with delights of the finest Arabian tradition and culture highlighted by the Royal Cavalry of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Oman. In preparation of the World Equestrian Games in Aachen later this year, the Horses & Dreams Festival hosted Endurance Racing, Germany's National Dressage Championships, the European Nations' Cup of the Young Riders, and the JP Morgan Grand Prix Jumping with the world's top riders: Christian Ahlmann, Otto Becker, Ludger Beerbaum, Luciana Diniz, Marco Kutscher, and Franke Sloothak.

WHEN EAST MEETS West



Ullrich Kasselmann
the festival's wonderful host



German Henrike Konzag
European Nation's Cup



Insa Hansen, from Kasselmann Stables

At a time when Europe debates about cultural integration and the world treats the threat of terror, sports proves itself as an indispensable motor of goodwill and understanding. Equestrianism is an integral and vital part of both Arabia's and Europe's rich heritage.

At Kasselmann's beautiful estate it all came together: 40.000 visitors, 350 riders from 35 nations, 550 horses of the finest Arabian and European breeds joining and participating in endurance racing, dressage and jumping. The Festival was accompanied on each of the five days by the most spectacular shows of the Royal Cavalry of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos of Oman on the finest Arabian Horses. For 30 years the international horseman Ullrich Kasselmann has worked and been associated with the Sultanate of Oman and has had the honour of a distinct friendship with His Majesty Sultan Qaboos. It was only last year that Ullrich Kasselmann and his partner Paul Schockemoehle were appointed by His Majesty to organise the New Year's Equestrian & Camel Festival in Muscat with an amazing number of 1200 horses, 600 camels and 1530 musicians. For the first time ever this year, International Riders Festival Horses & Dreams presented endurance racing, a part of equestrianism in which the Arab World holds a very noble lead. The riders started from the Kasselmann Estate in Hagen on a 160 km path between the two sisters' cities of Osnabrueck and Muenster passing the heights of the 'Teutoburger Forest'. Amongst the participating riders was H.R.H. Sayed Loay bin Ghalib Al Saeed of Oman who took the lead, but was edged out with only a few seconds at the very end by Germany's best female endurance rider Ulrike Pottrick on her twelve year old gelding 'Encantader'. Egypt's acknowledged Gen. Samy Negm El Din was a member of the international committee of judges at the endurance racing event.

Another highlight of the five day Festival in Hagen was the renowned Nations' Cup in jumping for both the Junior (CSIOJ) and the Young Riders (CSIOY). The two competitions witnessed an exciting battle between Europe's strongest teams: The Netherlands and Germany. The qualified teams from Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany and the Netherlands had to overcome 15 efforts on a 1.40m/1.45 level. The Junior Nations Cup was won by the German team, whereas the Dutch Team won the Nations Cup of the Young Riders ahead of the German team. As for the individual rankings, Germany won both, the Individual Junior Riders Nations Cup with its best rider Tobias Meyer on 'Loriot S' and the Individual Young Riders Nation Cup with the winning rider Philipp Weishaupt on 'Conterno-Grande'.

Moreover, the JP Morgan 3 stars Grand Prix at the Horses & Dreams Festival witnessed a series of rides of top world class jumping riders. Whereby, Christian Ahlmann, member of the German Olympic team in Athens and double European champion, was the best of the best! He won the Grand Prix after a tie break and two clear rounds on his 9 year old gelding 'Perry Lee' ahead of German Felix Hassmann and Franke Sloothak. Marco Kutscher came in 5th place and Ludger Beerbaum ended with the 7th place. The best foreign rider was Dutch Gerald Geessink, who came in



National Dressage Championships for professionals in Hagen

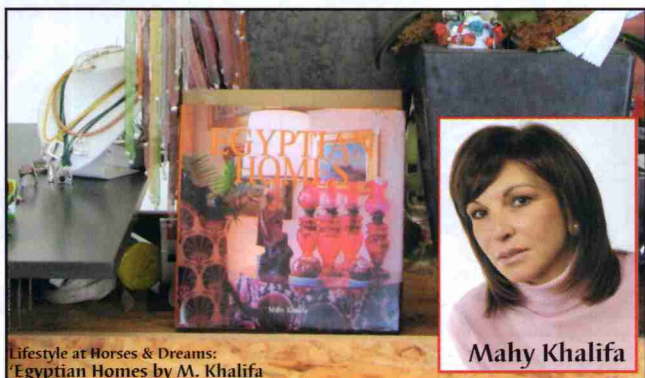
fourth. Amongst the participating riders were also the members of the Korean Olympic jumping team. Last year's show jumping stars in Hagen: the world's no.1 Marcus Ehning and the local matador Heinrich-Hermann Engemann were excused this time; both were competing at that time in the World Cup in Kuala Lumpur with the final outcome of happy Marcus Ehning being the winner of the world cup and Engemann was placed within the top ten!

The German Dressage Championships for Professionals is one of the most challenging and most elegant competitions at the Festival in Hagen. The rules for the championships start with two qualification rounds on Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special level. The best three competitors are permitted for the final round with the most difficult challenge of changing horses. The Championships end with two prizes, one for the best dressage rider and one for the best horse. This time the German Dressage Championships were won by Falk Rosenbauer and the best horse was also Rosenbauer's horse 'Jamiro Rosso', the eleven year old Holstein gelding.

Horses & Dreams has been developed and created as a concept that combines elite riding sport with equally elite lifestyle. Each year, a very well elaborated and exclusively arranged lifestyle exhibition forms part of the Festival. The lifestyle exhibition is all about finest garden architecture, latest trends for all around riding & hunting, a composition of Italian haute couture fashion trends from Prada to Cavalli and Ferragamo in addition to art exhibitions and an exquisite selection of interior decoration. Now for the first time ever a wonderful book named 'Egyptian Homes' by one of Egypt's leading interior designers 'Mahy Khalifa-Nosseir' was presented at this year's Horses & Dreams Festival. Mahy, whom I had the pleasure to meet earlier in December last year in Cairo, made this book a labour of love. Interior design has been her passion since her early youth and she has been one of the very few who ventured into the business of making furniture. Mahy who is herself a member of Egypt's most prominent society opened with her book the doors to Egypt's most exclusive homes. A very elegant series of breathtaking photography accompanied by a fine descriptive text allows the holder of this book to enjoy the unique richness of cultural styles that exist in Egyptian homes. A distinct example is Mahy Khalifa's & her husband Mohamed Nosseir's own new residence that Mahy oversaw herself which gives way to all the elegance and beauty you could find in Egypt. 'Egyptian Homes' by Mahy Khalifa-Nosseir was truly a wonderful ambassador of Egypt at the Horses & Dreams Festival! ■



The Royal Cavary of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Saeed of Oman at the Horses & Dreams Festival 2006



Lifestyle at Horses & Dreams: 'Egyptian Homes' by M. Khalifa

Mahy Khalifa



The impressive arena of the Herzlake festival.

For the first time... The International Equestrian Show Jumping Festival CSI of Herzlake!

By Ina El Kobbia, Germany

In the midst of a beautiful and endless green scenery in the region of Emsland in North Germany, the international show jumping event of Herzlake kicked off with fantastic sunny weather and an amazing number of international top class riders; starting with the world's no.1 Marcus Ehning to the world's best riders Rodrigo Pessoa, Jessica Kuerten, Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum, Sweden's Rolf-Goeran Bengtsson and Britain's Michael Whittaker. However, that was still not the end of list of the best competing at the Festival that took place on May 11th 2006 till the 14th. Germany's international course designer Frank Rothenberger, who will also be the course designer at the FEI World Equestrian Games in Aachen, designed the courses for all nine classes at the event. The extra highlight was the Grand Prix of Herzlake with prize money of 60.000 Euros. The Grand Prix ended on the last day of the Festival with a fantastic four horse jump off determining Franke Sloothaak and his horse 'Legurio' as the winners of the Grand Prix ahead of Rolf-Goran Bengtsson on 'Grandina' and Germany's Eva Bitter with her horse 'Argelith Stakkato'. American Christine McCrea and 'Promised Land' finished fourth with a four-point penalty. ■



The world's no. 1 Marcus Ehning competing at the Grand Prix



Sweden's top rider Rolf-Goeran Bengtsson



The winner of the 60.000 Euro Grand Prix Franke Sloothak

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DRESSAGE

By Emmadeldin Zaghloul



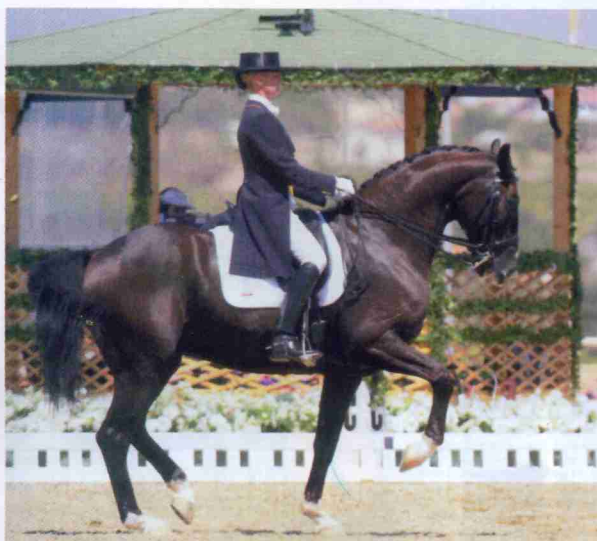
Jan Brink & Briar

In transitions,

the changes of pace and speed should be shown early at the prescribed marker. They should be made quickly, yet must be smooth and not abrupt. The cadence of a pace should be maintained up to the moment when the pace or the horse-halts are changed. The horse should remain light in hand, calm, as well as maintain a correct position. The same applies to transitions from one movement to another, for instance from passage to the piaffer and vice versa.

The half-halt

is a hardly visible, almost simultaneous, coordinated action of the seat, the legs and the hands of the rider. Its aim is to increase the attention and balance of the horse before the execution of several movements or transitions to lesser and higher paces. In shifting slightly more weight onto the horse's quarters, the engagement of the hind legs and the balance on the haunches are facilitated, hence being beneficial to the lightness of the forehand and the horse's balance as a whole. ■



Anky Van Grunsven & Gestion Salinero

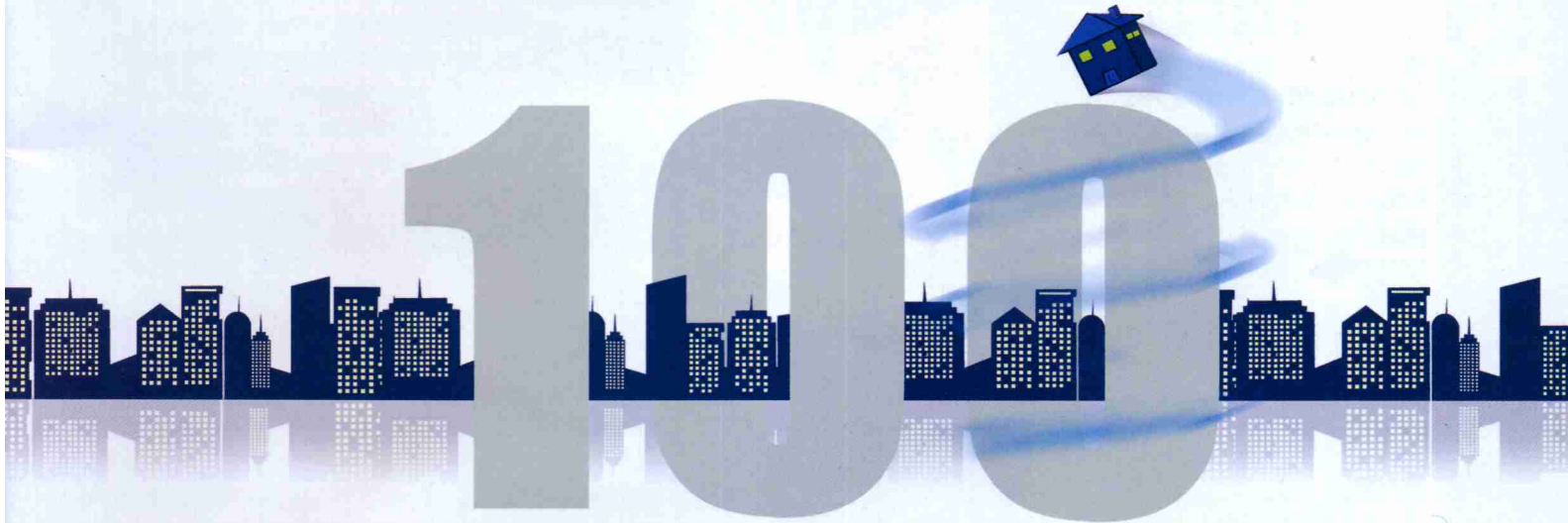


Olympic medalist Andreas Helgstrand & Cavan

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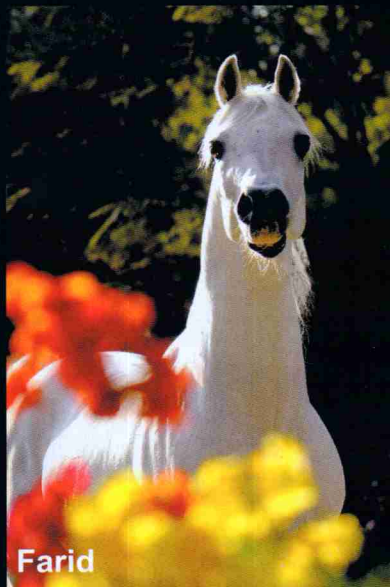


The Classic Arabian

International Arabian Horse Judge Dr. Nasr Marei;
Tips On How To Gauge A Good "TYPE" Horse.

By Khaled Assem

Another rewarding interview with Dr. Nasr Marei! Only it's on another concept and another principal; "International Judging". Dr. Marei has been an international judge for the past 14 years, and once again, he shares his views



with Horse Times. He broke down the fundamentals of judging an Arabian horse as well as defined the meaning of a "beautiful Arabian horse" from a stand point of his own personal views as well as the international perspectives.

How did you get the interest for being an international judge? And what kind of qualification is needed in order to become one?

It seemed to be a normal progression of my hobby and passion for horses. I have been breeding horses all my life and I was actually born within a breeding programme initiated by my father and grandfather. So, I am a 3rd generation breeder. The natural step forward seemed to me was to take my experience and continuous learning process to a new level by becoming an international judge. I started 14 years ago by developing an increased sense for the beauty and appreciation of the horses, studying their habits & qualities, attending more shows, seeing more horses, speaking to people & international judges. To be qualified, there are so many ways to do so, however here in Egypt, and the Middle East, we follow the ECAHO (European Commission For Arabian Horse Organisation) system. It is an organisation that is joined by national organisations all over the world and has established show rules, show conduct, judging systems and certified judges. ECAHO would agree to affiliate and supervise shows in any country of the world that complies with its regulation. To qualify, the organising committees need to furnish certain criterias that need to be implemented during a show and thus be able to get the affiliation. As a new judge I went through the whole qualification; tests, seminars and workshops until

I got to where I am now; I am an A-List judge. That is a very exclusive group of around 20 judges to judge all international shows. There is a B-List, a National-List, a Probationary-List, and one has to go through all these lists until he reaches the A-List. It takes years and it needs a certain degree of credibility and experience. It's not easy because the machinery of being a judge is monitored very closely by the ECAHO. If the requirements are fulfilled, one becomes a judge and joins the list, and if for any reason the judge's credibility or efficiency is in doubt by the ECAHO Show Commission, he/she will be dropped from the list. So, I am one of the lucky ones who are still in the A-list for the last 4 years doing a great deal of annual international judging from Australia to Brazil, South Africa to Sweden, all the Arab countries, the USA & Europe of course.

Did this have an impact on your local breeding programme? Definitely. I've been bragging that I have been breeding horses for the last 50 years, but believe me, it is a different experience every single time I see or judge a horse. It's an everlasting process of learning. It's an evolution. As a breeder you have to be truthful with yourself and be able to recognise the shortcomings in one's own programme and rectify it. Breeding should not be a static procedure. It has to be dynamic.



Horse Times would like to start with you a series of knowledge regarding judging. How would you indicate further to our readers what judging is about?

It will take a lot of time, paperwork and various resources to answer this question. However just to make it simple, I can distinguish between 2 types of judging; judging your own horses as a breeder and judging at the show ring. Judging your own horses within your breeding programme has to do much with the vision and the bloodlines the breeder has; his/her knowledge about the pedigrees and quality of the horse, the vision on what would be the best horse in the breeder's opinion. Breeding I think is an art and can be interpreted in different ways. You may breed a horse that you think is the best in the world, and I may breed a different type of a horse and believe that he is a better horse. Both are considered superb Arabians, but for expert eyes, they can be different. So, in this case, the breeder judging his own horse is a very open category. It has to do a lot with the individual's preferences.

Judging in the show ring is a little bit different. In the ring there are horses from different breeding lines. You can have a show were you are judging Egyptian Arabians versus Polish, Russian, American, Spanish or mixtures of any of these bloodlines. Arabians for example, the judge in this case has to judge with an open mind and look for the correctness and

the best individuals that really reflect the type and characteristics of the Arabian. The judge's special preference to certain lines should be put in mind. The origin of the horse and his portrayal of a certain type should not be used by the judge against this individual horse. They are all Arabians. Judges are entitled to their own taste but there are certain parameters that no one can deviate from. This is one of the main reasons why in most of the shows, the horses are judged by 3 to 7 judges to eliminate the possibility of any prejudice decisions.

Does this mean that during a show, you may have an Egyptian Arabian compete with a Russian Arabian or would each be in a separate class?

The ECAHO does not differentiate between bloodlines. It's open for all Arabians approved by the WAHO (World Arabian Horse Organisation). So all the horses can compete with each other as long as they are certified Arabians. I'm an Egyptian breeder, and of course I would have a tendency to love the Egyptian line. But as I said earlier, in the show ring, you have to be fair and see the correctness of the horse, and how faithful the appearance of the horse is to his breed. And in many cases, I would, as a judge, prefer a non-straight Egyptian Arabian over a pure Egyptian because it is more correct. The secret here is 'comparison', which is better than the other in a particular

category whether it's female or male, fillies, colts or yearlings. Then you apply your knowledge and criteria in order to select the best one of the 20 horses that maybe in one class. As long as you agree that it is a comparative system, you have to develop a certain mechanism in order to apply the comparison itself. So, the ECAHO has several systems; the what is called the 'British system' where there is one judge on the ring judging all the horses by lining them all in each individual category according to the judges discretion, yet the most popular system is the '20 point system'. Here, the horse's quality is divided into 5 different categories where each category is out of 20 points total score, and when all added up will be out of 100 points. The judging panel is formed of 3 to 5 judges in this case to judge the whole show. On the other hand, in the World Championships or the Nations Cup and other Title Shows there are 7 judges in the panel. The advantage in my opinion of this system versus the 'British system' would be that you have several judges (with variable taste) on the ring and each of the horses (no matter what its bloodline is) exhibited have equal chances. The organising committee would usually pick judges with different tastes and inclinations. The second advantage in my opinion is educational. The owners, breeders and spectators follow the scores (that are announced on the spot). Whoever is interested why a particular horse has won, lost or how it scored, can study the score of the judges (which are announced for each judge individually) and knows exactly what are the good and the bad points of this horse. It is an educational advantage that answers the questions of many of the spectators and breeders. In the comparative 'British system' there are no scores neither given nor announced and there is only one judge in the ring.

What are the different basics of judging in this comparative system?

The 5 categories are type, head & neck, body & top line, legs, and finally movement. In each category the points are out of 20.

Will we start with TYPE for this series?

Yes. However it is not necessarily the first category that the judge will give his score according to. Some of the judges prefer to put the score for the type at the end of the presentation of the horse in order to evaluate behaviour, personality and movement.

Isn't TYPE one of the most difficult categories to judge? Because, in a head, you may see an outline, or a default or an exaggeration like a Roman nose. But in TYPE, what do you judge exactly?

It's the most subjective category of them all. As you say, and rightfully so, body, head, neck and legs in particular are also difficult to judge but there are many dimensions, proportions and references that can be employed for assessment. When it

comes to type, it's more about the judge's feelings on the horse's personality and charisma. That is when the judge really evaluates the horse's general and global characteristics and how these qualities project the Arabian, as well as how they should. Now the question is how does one judge charisma or any of the other subjective parameters imposing themselves? The Arabian horse is one of the most beautiful creatures that have ever evolved because it is so agile, pretty, balanced in its proportions, and has charisma, presence and movement. This breed is known to be the most intelligent among all the equines. They are gentle yet strong and enduring. It is an old and noble breed that was subject to literally thousands of poems, painting, sculptures and legends. When you judge an Arabian, you have to put all this into consideration. The bloodlines trace back to thousands of years and are well-documented. And if you look into the strains you will discover that they are thousands of years old and are still being maintained and preserved as tradition, history and wrapped with love and admiration. It is like owning a piece of history or an object of living art. Old Arabic literature such as pre-Islamic poems and manuscripts describe the horses and the love of the Bedouins for them. Their horses were mounts in wars and raids as warriors, and even considered to be family members who share their tent and travels during times of peace. The Arabian horse was a major contribution factor in the Islamic conquering of Northern Africa and Spain.

Thus, there is a lot of history revolving around the Arabian horse that makes it extra special.

There are 5 different strains or descendants of Arabian horses. Would a strain be the main subject whilst judging type?

Strains are common in all these groups of horses (Spanish, Polish, Egyptians, etc.) because they are all descendants from the same strains. The Polish breeders had a certain vision and they bred their horses to interpret this vision. The Egyptians, in my opinion and many peers' and scholars', kept the classic Arabian look. The Crabbet bred a stronger different looking horse than the desert like type, such as the ones you can see in the UK and Australia. The American-bred Arabians have another look. However they all go back to the same main ancient strains. But if you look at them critically, members of each of these main strains in each group of bloodlines have deviated not only from each other, but also from the original depiction of the same strain as known classically. In my opinion, which is believed to be not quite right by many breeders and scholars, the subject of belonging to a certain strain or emphasising it in the breeding programmes has become less important and vague than in the past. It has become of academic and historical value only. And so, to sum this all up, I would look for the following in TYPE:

1. How much does that particular horse presents his breed. In other words, HOW Arabian is he according to the established



parameters and characteristics.

2. How do all parts of the horse fall together into a balanced horse. You can have a horse with a 20/20 head & neck, 19/20 body line, good legs, but still the horse does not fall together into a pretty and balanced horse. The harmony is missing!!

3. The presence and the charisma of the horse; it should project its charisma; is it confident? Is it scared? Is it proud of itself? This represents the personality.

Again in judging TYPE we have to recognise the certain criteria that applies to males and to females. A female has to look like a female; some of them develop more of a stallion look. This is a minus. The stallion could be very pretty to a boyish extent; not macho not flamboyant. This also reflects on the type. Also the age of the horse dictates certain measures to be considered in judging type

We all know that a horse is a genetic pool; on the other hand, a horse is what a breeder makes it, such as providing good treatment and a healthy programme. Is there any sort of influence from the breeder or people who look after the horse on how it would present itself?

You have to differentiate between type and condition. Type is all the above, however, if the condition of the horse is not so good, then this will defiantly and naturally affect the score on type. Nevertheless, it's seldom in a show a ring, especially big international shows, that you see a bad conditioned horse entering the ring. Owners spend loads of money on their

horses, and are shown by professionals who are very keen on keeping their reputation by representing a horse that is 100 % in full condition and has a fair chance of winning. Having mentioned that, there is a genetic pool that is responsible for the appearance of a certain horse. This is referred to as the genetic makeup or the genotype. The phenotype on the other hand is the way that the horse looks. The phenotype is the final result of the interaction between the genetic make-up and the environment. The environment is not only weather conditions like temperature, humidity and photo period, but also other factors like the nutrition, veterinarian care, hygiene, training, exercising, pest parasites and micro flora management, etc. All these factors do interact with the genetic make-up. The end result of that interaction is the phenotype of a horse...the way he looks. If you give the genetic make-up its full potential by providing the optimal environment possible, these genes will fully express themselves.

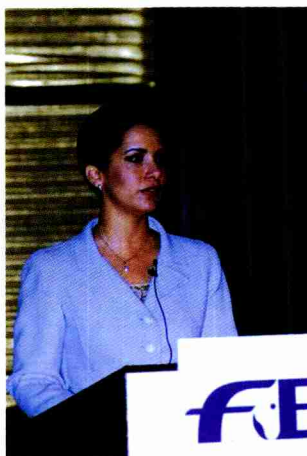
It should always be very interesting for breeders to know these details because a simple point such as human interaction with the horse could give it confidence or none at all. It all reflects on the breeders.

Absolutely, but I think important breeders, local or foreign realise these points, and provide the best care possible. Sometimes we lack experience in the proper feeding process or the proper vet care or dealing with some threatening conditions. It is sometimes difficult to implement all of these measures. ■

Princess Haya bnt Al Hussein

Wins the Hearts & Minds of the Equestrian World to the Presidency of the FEI

By Gen. Samy Negm El Din



HRH Princess Haya

For the first time in the history of the 'Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI)' or any international sport federation, an Arab lady presides.

Three candidates were selected for this position;

HRH Princess Benedikte of Denmark

Mr. Freddy Serpieri - from Greece (The FEI 1st vice president for the last 9 years)

HRH Princess Haya Bnt Al Hussein of Jordan

Each of the three candidates had a different approach in preparation of their campaign which reflected their personal background, education, culture, and personal profile.

They started their campaigns long before the FEI General Assembly meetings in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia which was held at the 'Sunway Lagoon Resort' from April 26th till May 2nd 2006.

A lot of communications went on with each candidate trying hard to figure out what were their chances and possibilities, what approaches could be more attracting and how to present their future programmes for better performances, sport progress and effective management of the FEI. Moreover, try to guarantee votes from the National Federations with the help of personal contacts and all other possible resources.



HRH Princess Haya, new FEI President with Gen. Samy & Mr. Al Fairuze, President of the Omani Equestrian Federation

As a rational observer, analytical Virgo, a retired Police General, I was asked to give my opinion to different parties. I found myself amid the election battle field trying to observe, listen, and evaluate all available facts and information to form an opinion. All of the three candidates sent their printed profiles to the voters by mail. Printed materials of HRH Princess Benedikte of Denmark were very elegant as herself, modern and professionally done, with a touch of a Princess from the Royal Danish Family introducing herself to her Danish citizens.

The simplest of all was the one given by Mr. Serpieri which depended mainly on the mere facts of his long services to the International Equestrian Community and some photographs of those activities along the years. However, it lacked the final touch of the modern publications which to him was not of much importance as of his achievements which were known to everybody.

HRH Princess Haya bnt Al Hussein of Jordan presented the profile which she named 'Manifesto' which proved to be the most professional. Starting with programmes, ideas, and different visions for the campaign which were very elegantly presented, full of possible achievements and ending with an implementation plan.

Two days before the Election Day, the lobbies of the Sunway Lagoon Resort witnessed side meetings for each candidate and their supporting teams to finalise, polish and fine tune the last minutes of their campaign. HRH Princess Benedikte of Denmark was the first to mingle with everybody, move between tables and groups to introduce

herself to the voters. To some of them she was a total stranger and to others she was known as a Royal Princess who had never been around and close before that. Elegantly and royally presenting herself, she relied the most on her Royal Status to gain Western & European votes. Mr. Serpieri was casually moving mainly between standing groups and individuals trying to sense what were the opinions and directions of the voters. I felt his worries and sensed his fear of losing some votes especially from the FEI Bureau. Nonetheless he held himself gracefully with the support of his beloved Mrs. Serpieri who was by his side most of the time. HRH Princess Haya bnt Al Hussein of Jordan was the last to show at the lobby. Her supporting team paved the lobby for the first day and along with all representatives of the FEI Group VII (Arab National Federations) who acted as her personal representatives. She was so simple, elegant and confident... as if she was sending a message to everybody noting that the matter is finished, I'm here to thank you for choosing me. The only moment that I felt her being tense was on the evening before the Presentations and Debate when she attended the Official dinner of the Asian Equestrian Federation. She feared a late end to it, which might affect her personal plans to get herself prepared for the coming final cavalcade of the campaign next day. To me, that was a very most appreciated sense of responsibility.

The final chapter of this unique FEI Presidential Election was held in the big conference room where each of the three candidates were given 15 minutes to present their presentations and the order was determined according to



With HRH Princess Infanta Duna Pillar, FEI former President

a draw to be followed by questions from the voters to the Candidates. Again Mr. Serpieri presented himself as Freddy who has been and always will be Freddy for everybody. He explained his previously presented printed profile and emphasised on his leading role for the development programmes of the FEI during the last four years. He promised to continue on doing so and keep the same three FEI disciplines in the Olympic Games. HRH Princess Benedikte of Denmark acted, more or less, in the same way as Mr. Freddy. She added a personal touch by telling the audiences about her son & daughter and their career in the Equestrian field which she supported as a mother. As for HRH Princess Haya bnt Al Hussein of Jordan, she gave a summary of what was presented in her 'Manifesto' which was to prove her goodwill of enhancing the capabilities and performance of the FEI. She surprised the audiences with a very generous contribution of 20 million euros presented to the FEI. To me, this contribution was of no relevant importance at all to the voting results, which to my estimation, was decided long before those moments even before the presentation and the to be followed debates and questions.

When the debates & questions from the attendees started to the three candidates, again, HRH Princess Haya was the most prepared in answering back and giving proper and fully detailed answers which again showed how professionally her campaign was organised.

On the voting session, the results of the first round were as follows:

HRH Princess Bnt Al Hussein of Jordan – 68 votes

Freddy Serpieri – 52 votes

HRH Princess Benedikte of Denmark – 16 votes

Consequently, HRH Princess Benedikte was eliminated. As neither of the candidates had received a 2/3 majority as required by the FEI Statutes, the voting continued with a second round.

The results of the second round were as follows:

HRH Princess Haya Bnt Al Hussein of Jordan – 82 votes

Freddy Serpieri – 52 votes

A 2/3 majority was also required for the second round, which neither of the two candidates obtained (according to the number of valid ballots, the 2/3 majority consisted of 89 votes). However, Freddy Serpieri chose to withdraw and congratulate HRH Princess Haya who was declared the winning candidate.

This result was an honour to the Arab World that indicates the start of a new era to the FEI mainly depending on new blood, professional marketing and strategic planning as well as a lot of hopes for development & improvement. On the FEI General Assembly official dinner, everybody celebrated the birthday of the new FEI President. ■

A remarkable birthday for a remarkable President

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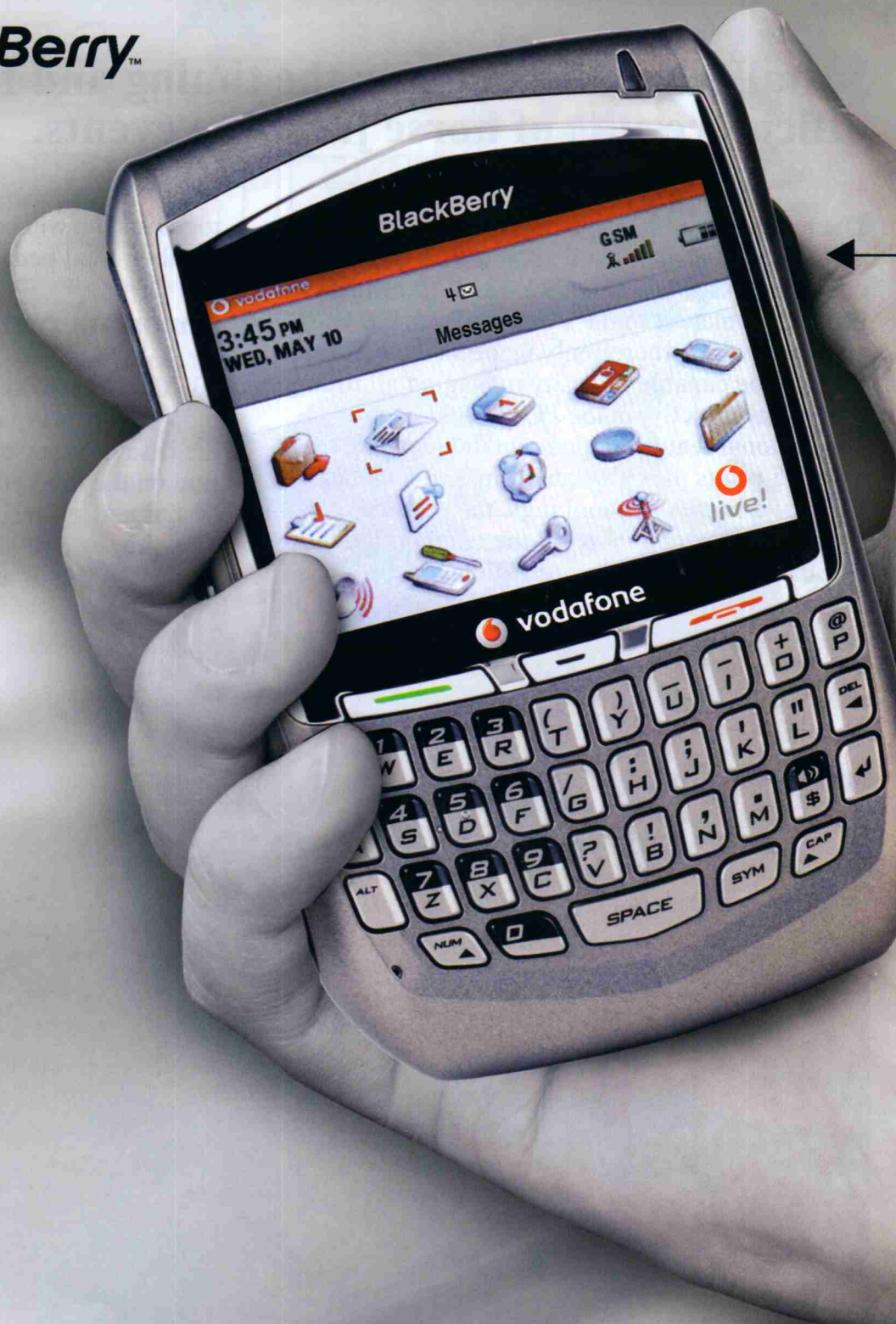


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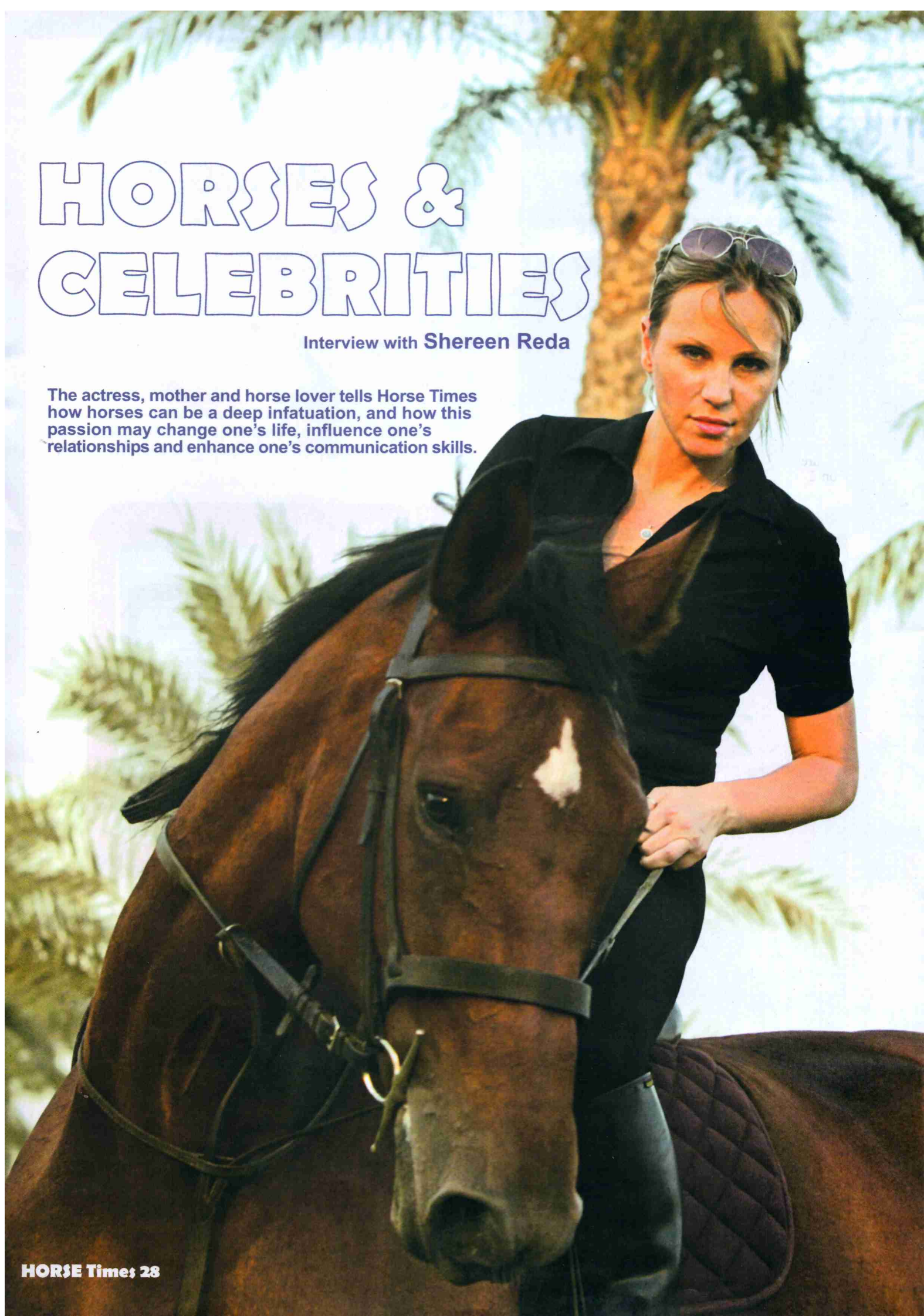


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HORSES & CELEBRITIES

Interview with **Shereen Reda**

The actress, mother and horse lover tells Horse Times how horses can be a deep infatuation, and how this passion may change one's life, influence one's relationships and enhance one's communication skills.



“The experience of being around a horse is what teaches us how horses feel. It’s simply a deep worthwhile feeling”



By Nada H. Abdelmoneim
Photos by Cris Bouroncle

How did your passion for horses start?

It all started through my father actually. He loved photography and he would take me to the Gezira Club for photo sessions. He would take pictures of everything including me on a horse or a pony. From there on, I started to ride and I never stopped.

Did your passion develop into serious riding or was it a hobby?

It was never about competition because I never liked competition! It was all about passion. I tried however to make a business out of it by breeding just for the sake of the joy of owning a horse, although I didn’t invest much time in this course. I had a foal that died and it was very disappointing and heart breaking for me and I couldn’t handle the pressure after that.

Does your daughter ride?

I used to take her to the club since she was 2 and had her wonder around the tracks just to get a basic idea. When she was old enough to start riding, I made the mistake of coaching her myself, wanting to teach her everything too soon, so she hated it. I’m not so sure what I completely did wrong, but it was a “no” for her.

Are you carrying out any movie roles that are related to horses?

No not really. But at the moment I’m doing a role where I’m supposed to be a cop (smiling), so in this movie I’ll be riding. It’s very hectic, but it’s so much fun.

How do you feel about local film productions with horses in them?

Sadly they are a bit disappointing. If someone will take on a huge production then they might as well do it right. For example, I am not going to pretend that I am a painter, so why not get someone else to do it. It really looks bad on the screen when someone is riding and you can tell that they don’t know how to ride. And the qualities of the horses used are bad, because they just do not know what lies beyond bad. It can be done abroad with the tip-top actors where they spend years training. Tom Cruise moved to Japan 2 years before he started filming ‘The Last Samurai’ in order to learn the language and see how the Samurai lived. So, much training is

required in order to produce something that is rewarding for the audience.

What about Syrian productions with horses? Aren’t they good?

They put a huge effort into making extraordinary series that would be something to watch. The actors don’t seem like expert riders, but they chose their horses well and I wish this can be done here.

Do you have a favourite horse?

Yes I did, I had a beautiful white horse called ‘Waleed’ that I took from a friend of mine. He was neglected so much so I took care of him and groomed him well. He was so beautiful I can’t even describe his beauty! I kept him for a long time then all of sudden he died, and I watched him die; it was tragic!

Would you like to be more involved with horses?

I’d love to, but I can’t press on that because like I said, horses are a passion. Nobody should get involved with horses because they think they can ride or win a trophy. On the other hand, I just have 2 horses and I will not sell them unless I know the buyer very well. It’s all about the love of breeding, which is even better than competition.

Has your passion for horses had any kind of influence in you?

Yes. I have a 20 year old horse, ‘Adham’ who is so mischievous! He bites me! This is why I bought him though. I was looking for a beautiful horse to buy and I saw this beautiful mare, but I didn’t like her character. ‘Adham’ was naughty, and I liked that. The first time I tried to ride him he knocked me off in the air. But I still liked him so I decided to literally live with him in the stables for 3 days. After that, this devil would do nothing but rub his face on mine. Horses feel us, and they know what’s going on. The experience of being around a horse is what teaches us how horses feel. It’s simply a deep worthwhile feeling. ■



How to be a TRAINER

Part 2

Dr. Mohamed Elsherbini

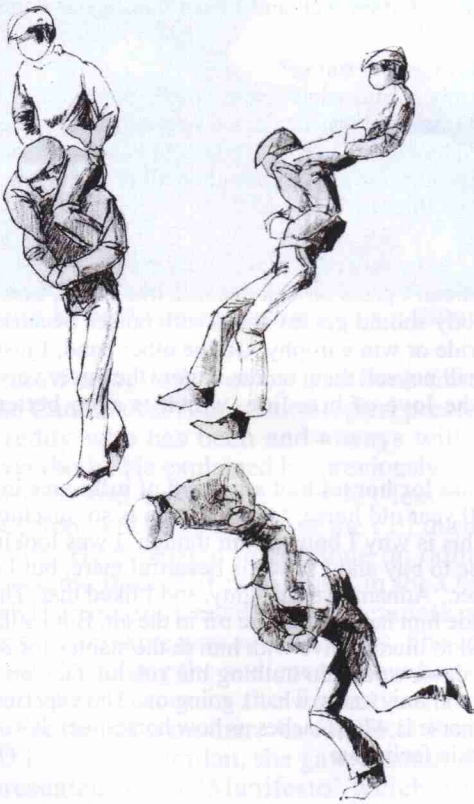


Fig. 1:
The rider's position affects
the horse's balance

Riding is not something that the rider does in isolation; it is a joint effort of 2 living creatures, the rider & the horse. In order for them to function as one, it is necessary for them to work together with as little friction as possible. It is important to know the suitable conformation and temperament of the horse for the sport. There is no point in forcing a huge cold-blooded horse with bad conformation to jump! As a trainer, you have to know about the equine nature of the horse; muscles, skeleton, circulation, respiration, digestion, senses and reflexes. In addition, a horse's training schedule must be compatible with his general health and fitness. This is important for the safety of both the rider & horse, together with success in your work as a trainer.

The horse is a herd animal. The herd unit offers it protection and security. No horse likes to be alone. This could be used in training by putting an older, more experienced horse in the lead. Horses have a strict 'pecking order', or herd hierarchy. Even in horse/man relationships, horses need to establish a pecking order. Only a rider who consistently acts in a calm, firm and logical manner will be accepted by the horse as a higher ranked being. Also remember that horses are creatures of escape; if a horse is startled for example, he will run.

The Horse's Brain:

The horse's brain can be compared to a computer that receives and stores information. Fear and pain are the most important records in the horse's memory. Try to avoid leaving an incurable bad memory scar in your training. Genetic traits (characteristics) may be inherited in off-springs like in sires of jumpers, racing or dressage horses.

Sense of Balance:

This mainly controls the position of the body and change of direction and pace. One very important piece of advice to give your students is: 'don't disturb your horse's natural balance by riding all over the horse'. (Fig. 1)

Sense of Touch:

A 'muscle memory' is built up by the horse through routine and experience. It is not often that a horse repeats a mistake. For example, knocking down a fence is a painful experience that will not be repeated again by the horse. The rider uses the horse's sense of touch to communicate with legs and hands. Riders should not over use the nervous system by sustained pressure; it dulls the impulses and the reaction of the horse later on.

Sense of Hearing:

It is far superior to that of human beings; clicking of the tongue, and terms like 'good', & 'halt' could be useful in training.

Sense of Vision:

It is not true, as was previously thought, that horses see only black & white. It has been proven that horses can see yellow & green easier than blue & red. Focusing is difficult for the horse; it has to change the position of its head to get the best image on its retina. Horses seem to judge the height of a fence better than its width. If the horse stands still, there is a dark unseen area from below its nose to the ground and underneath its body. That is why you have to accept the horse lowering its head when passing over cavaletti. (Fig. 2 & 3)

Reflexes:

The head & the neck are the balancing equipment of the horse. Raising the head will lower the forelegs, while lowering the head & stretching the neck during jumping will invite the forelegs to bend. This adds to the success of jumping mechanisms (Fig.4). ■

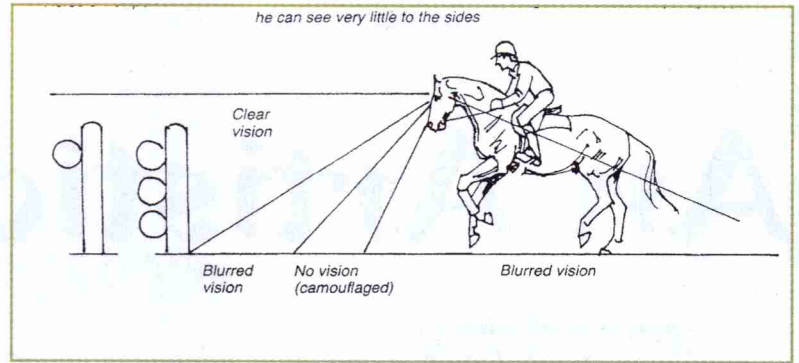


Fig. 2

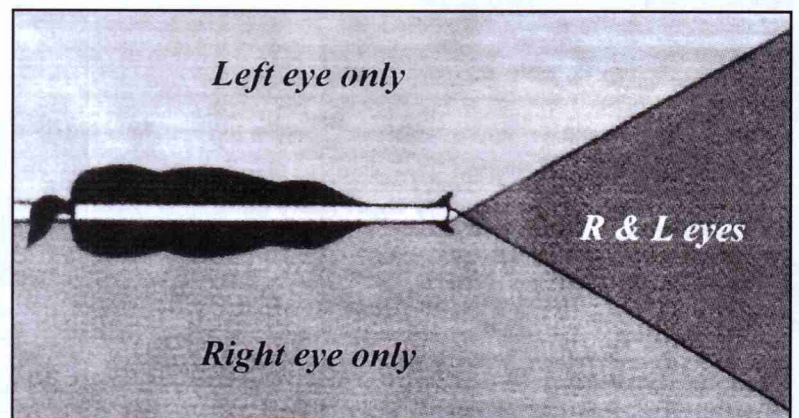


Fig. 3: Black area not seen by the horse

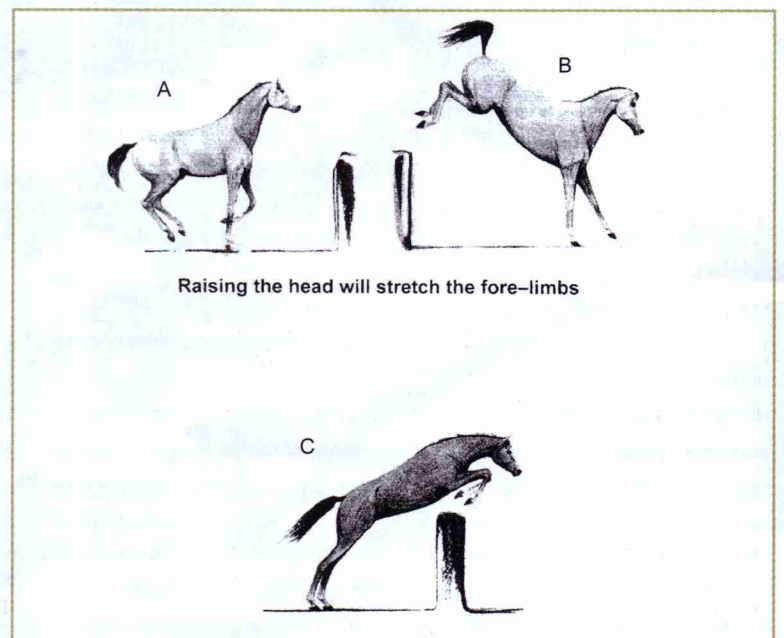
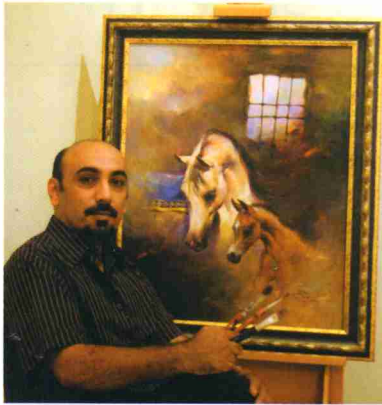


Fig. 4: Lowering the head will fold the fore-limbs

Ali Al Mimar...

An Artistic Passion

By Rania Badr El Din



أمة تراثنا العربي
 الحصان العربي
 عبة السحرية على المعمار
 السكون الحصان العربي
 الصهيل الصامت الحصان
 قيم العدالة والحق
 أنا أرسمة الأصاله والفروسية
 في زمن فقدت فيه كل معاني
 المعاني والقيم النبيلة الفروسية
 تراثنا العربي
 على المعمار
 الصهيل ال
 التصيل ال
 الحصان

حصان البحر
 في العمالي
 برسوا الحصان العربي
 الشكل الجمالي لصنا
 الضامن الذي يعنى في تراثنا العربي الضئير من المعاني والقيم النبيلة و
 اللامتناهية فكانت لوحتي عبارة عن أجزاء من قصص إنسانية في أجواء درامية الصهيل
 مليئة بالانفعال أحيانا والسكون أحيانا أخرى فهي تعيش تحت إدارة أضية بخشية المصريح
 وفي تفرات أخرى كانت الواقعية السحرية المشبعة بعالم الأسطورة تطغى أحيانا أخرى كل
 هذا كان يدور في تلك الإنسان الذي هو ما عنبة دائما في لوحاتي سواء كانت واقعية
 أو رمزية أو تعبيرية مجردة فكانت معاني الصبر والباء والألم الأنساني والصهيل الصامت مجسدة
 في معظم تلك الأعمال وأنا مستمر في طرح و تناول هذه المفردة التي بدأت تتعد عن
 المفهوم المباشر الى فضاء أبت من الحرية في التعبير بواسطة اللون
 مضممة وهي التي ستكون محور عمالي في المستقبل والتي لها
 في بعض الأعمال السابقة وهي سقوط الحصان ومنها حاولان أجد
 الإنسان الذي يبحث عن قيم العدالة والحق
 وما يرمز اليه
 التي تعنى
 الرمزية
 تراثنا.
 ثقافته
 المصحة
 في العالم
 النبيلة
 العربي
 الصهيل
 العمان
 نبيلة
 القيم
 معاني
 قيم
 صامت

التي
 أو التعبيرية
 الامعاء سقوط
 والمعاني
 بالبطان
 لاجدي
 عيل
 بيعة
 حق
 لقيده
 فيها
 الخيال
 لقيه

التي
 متطور
 الصامية
 نهضة
 الفاعل
 جاني
 يبي
 نالة
 باقع
 تريم
 خدي
 بعضا
 الصه

والتحريك وهناك قضية
 امتداد
 رابطا بين
 العالم
 فيه

Words from the artist:

In my work, I have always tried to reach beyond the physical beauty of the Arabian horse with all that it symbolises of infinite nobility and manners in our Arabian heritage & culture.

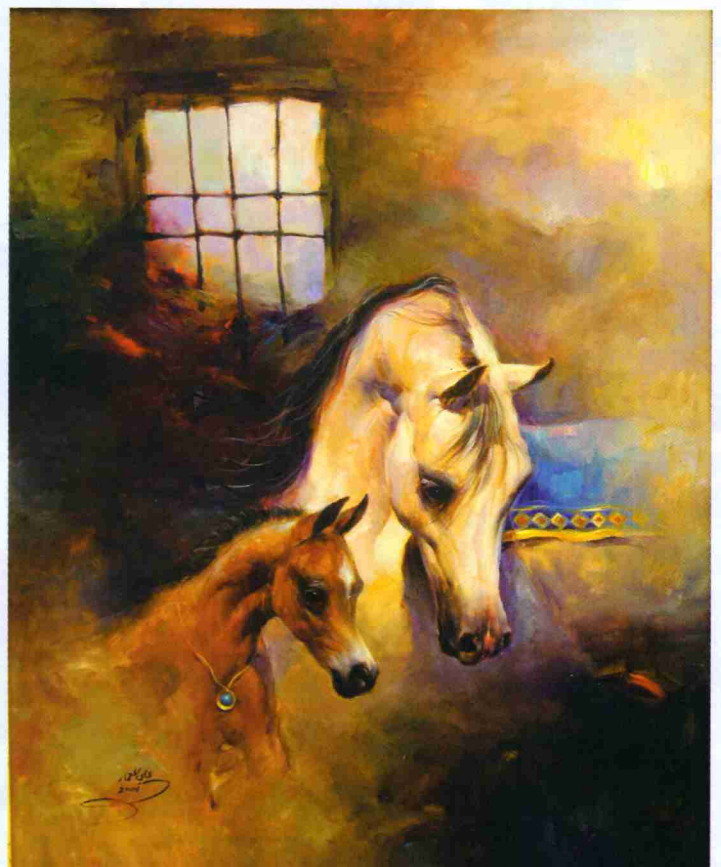
My paintings show excerpts of human life in a dramatic atmosphere, filled sometimes with excitement and other times with tranquility, illuminated as to look more like a theater or a stage. The subject matter of my paintings is humanity expressed in classical, symbolic or abstract ways. Most of my pieces contain meanings of pride or pain.

try to find a link between man, who is searching for values of fairness and justice in this world, and what the falling of a horse symbolises in our culture. It contains a lot of symbolic meanings such as the continual falling of ethical values and good manners (of the noble knight) displayed by the horse (as a symbol) in our material world.

“My paintings show excerpts of human life in a dramatic atmosphere, filled sometimes with excitement and other times with tranquility”

Featuring Nobility

Ali Al Mimar is a 21st century artist who portrays the Arabian horse in such a way where any passionate Arabian lover would visualise the soul of an Arabian horse. His work is innovative because he believes that art is about more than just imitating what the eye sees of the world at any given moment. Ali's art uses forms of perception that are theoretical and personal such as manners, emotions and experience. ■



A TOUCH OF PAINT

Alicia Etcheverry Melo

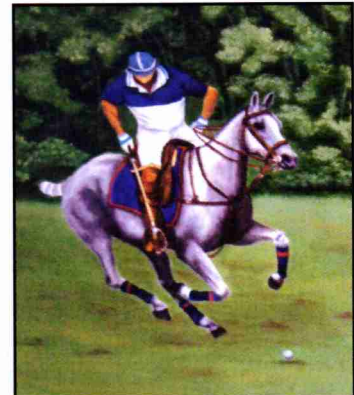
Alicia Etcheverry Melo is an Argentinean painter who lives in Tandil, Buenos Aires. She studied painting with different artists. She graduated as an architect, but instead of devoting herself to architecture, she devoted herself to horses.

Since her teen years, Alicia has participated in various horse-related activities, however she is currently dedicating her time to jumping and dressage. Regarding the latter, she rides her own Arabian stallion 'Stroller', with whom she spends long hours, especially to observe his elegance develop during training.

As a horse lover, Alicia especially carries Arabian horse blood in her veins; she is fully devoted to the painting of different horses, but above all, Arabian horses.

According to the horse and its environment, different techniques are used: oil, watercolours, pastels, and mixed techniques (carbon and watercolours).

"I have always loved horses, but my favourite are Arabian horses, because of their intelligence, beauty, harmony, perfect bodies, vivacity, as well as for their reciprocal love". ■



"My favourite are Arabian horses"

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Sinan and his wife Muna at the 2004 Athens Olympics

A JORDANIAN Idol

Sinan Nashashibi started riding at the age of 12 at his family's stables. In 1993 he became a regular member of the **Jordanian National Team** and competed in 50 international **Grand Prix** in both the Arab region and Europe (England, Germany, Holland and Turkey). He has also represented Jordan in the 1997 **Asian Games** at Seoul, South Korea, as well as riding some **endurance races**.

By Nada H. Abdelmoniem



“
Sports serve society
by providing vivid examples of
excellence
”



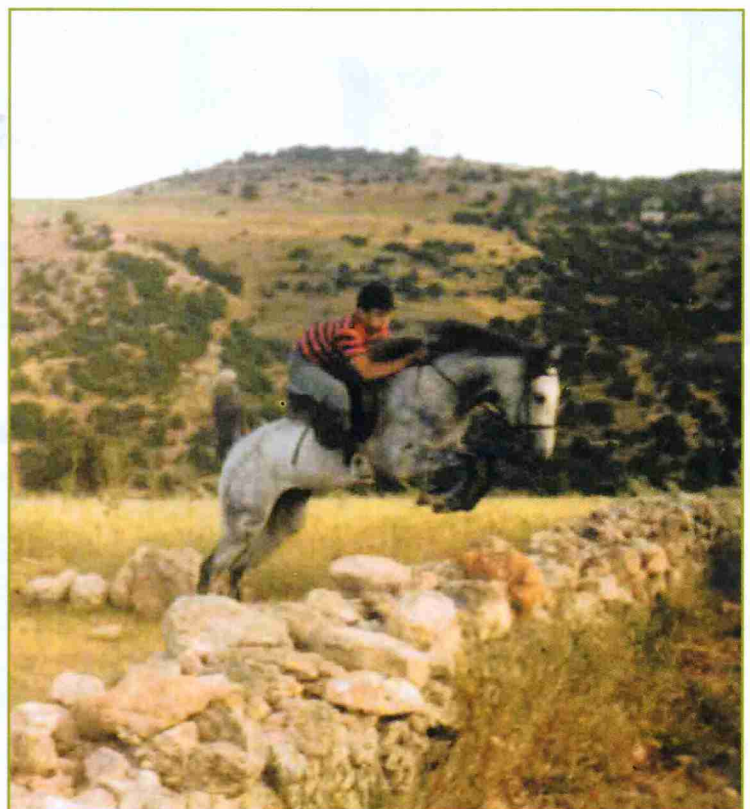
He was a senior member of the National team until 2001, riding in the 1998 Nations Cup at The World Military Championships and the 7th Pan Arab Championships in 1997 where he came in 11th place on the individual level.

After semi-retirement from international competitions in 2001, he was appointed as the Royal Jordanian Equestrian Federation Media Consultant. With his continuous passionate efforts, he became a Board Member and the head of the show jumping department at the Royal Jordanian Equestrian Federation in 2004, as well as being appointed the Director of the Green Country Equestrian Centre.

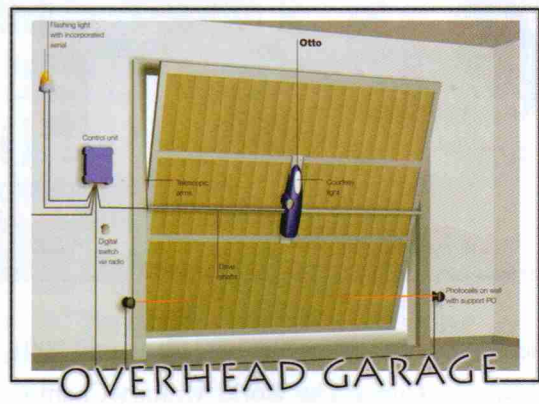
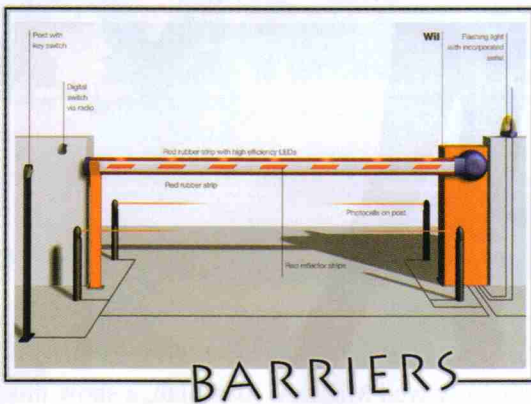
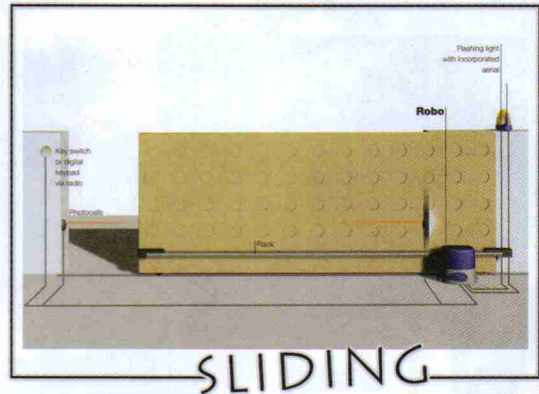
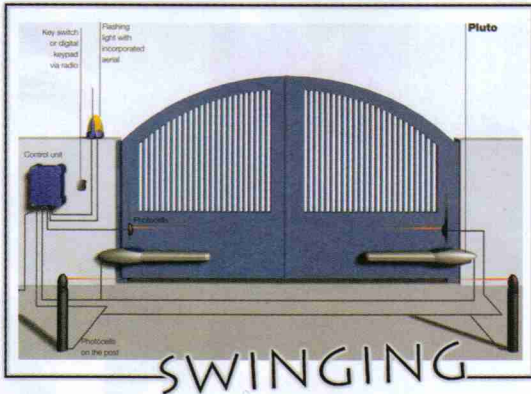
His equestrian experiences included training at the CHF - Children World Cup final in Spruce Meadows, Canada, as well as being a regular writer for BCM international publications (L'Annee Hippique and Horse International), Horse Times, and various local newspapers. He was a member of the Royal Jordanian Equestrian Federation Official Delegation at the 2002 World Equestrian Games, Jerez, Spain and the 2004 Athens Olympics.

Sinan is not only a horse lover and rider, he is a Political Science

and Public Administration graduate from Jordan University. He recently wed Muna Al Awamlah, a show jumping rider and horse lover. ■



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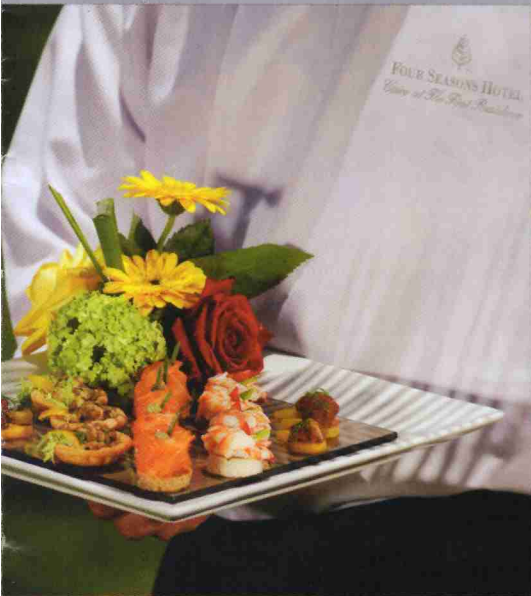
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A HORSE THERAPIST

By Nada H. Abdelmoniem



Ali Al Ameri is probably best known outside the UAE for his problem solving and staggering techniques with horses. He has worked mainly in the UK, France, Australia, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Chile with all types of horses. Those who have seen him on television will recognise his ability to train a horse to be remarkably obedient. Horse Times interviewed Ali on how he manages to carry out this extraordinary job.

HT: Ali, you have an amazing talent; when did it all start?

When I was 18, I would just sit and watch horses; watch their moves, watch their reactions and their activities. I watched their body language, and I grew to understand them.

HT: Can you provide an example?

A horse in the wild is completely untamed. I don't hit him, I convince him. The trick is to be able to convince him as if you are trying to convince a human brain. For instance, if you use a whip with a horse, trying to get him to lift his feet up off the ground, the horse is actually attacking this whip. He doesn't want the whip, so I convince him to act without the use of a whip.

HT: What pulls you towards horses?

They are by a long way more intriguing and sincere than most people.

HT: How long does it take you to sort out a horse?

From 30 minutes to an hour, at the most.

HT: From a performance point of view, if a show jumping horse has a problem with jumping, how do you think you can help?

A lot of horses are very intimidating, and there are areas where I can't help much. Let's say, I can make them jump, but not jump high. But what you must try to understand is that some horses have eye sight problems, and not everyone is aware of that. The horse knows something is there, but can't really see it. Once it's closer, he will see it; however, it would be too late to jump. Now I can't fix *that* (smiling).

HT: Have you worked with anyone who had a performance horse with a problem that you were able to make better?

All the time. In 30 minutes, I would fix the problem, with any horse and at any location. I'll break your horse, and in half an hour you ride him. Stallions, geldings, mares, you name it. You will feel as if your horse was untouched. The breaking of a horse should take 6 weeks; I don't have that time.

HT: How do you work with a horse?

I make the horse use his own power against himself. The horse is a very predictable animal, and the use of force will not help much. People know that, but unfortunately, many continue to use it.

HT: What TV channels will people have seen you on?

On the Discovery Channel, Dubai TV, Abu Dhabi TV, and South Africa TV. Arabian Knights was a documentary that followed my training of a horse that I had bought for 1,000 AUSS; no one else wanted him or could train him, and at the end, he was winning endurance races. He became a champion after I fixed his problems with kicking and biting. However, it's not about breaking the spirit of the horse, when I train problem horses they always keep their spirit.



HT: In your opinion, what is the most common problem with getting horses into trailers? What do people do wrong?

The biggest problem with loading is that people don't teach their horses to lead properly. Most horses lead the person, but can easily drag him off in the opposite direction because they are so powerful. Some people will try to push, shove, or even carry a horse into a trailer!

HT: If a horse has a problem of some sort and you are able to fix it, will the horse then trust you only?

My fee is big. Why would I charge so much money if the whole process is just getting the horse to work for me only? I would fix the horse, and the owner would know how to continue from there, and if it doesn't work, then I simply shouldn't get paid. ■

It's not about breaking the spirit of the horse. When I train problem horses they always keep their spirit



A Chat with...

Christine Stibi-Krapf



Ask people about one of the most impressive and innovative horse show organisers at the UAE show jumping events and chances are that they will name German-born Christine Krapf.

The former wife of show jumper Thilo Krapf, who recently resumed her maiden name of Stibi, had been based in Abu Dhabi and Ajman for several years. She is well known for her personal touch in the organising committees for professional international top class jumping events, as well as for her ability to recruit attractive sponsors and for presenting sponsors from Europe for UAE shows. Due to Christine's presence and permanent residence in Abu Dhabi and Ajman, it was a logical step for her to open an office for German-UAE relations, which she did in the summer of 2005. This office is located in down town Wiesbaden, just 20 minutes from Frankfurt Airport.

"She is well known for her personal touch in the organising committees"

"Mostly they don't know whom to trust, where to go, or whom to contact first"

Christine explains that the new office for German-UAE relations was established after she was able to implement a few changes in the UAE after a few years stay. More and more UAE residents would like to know more about her part of Germany for business or private reasons, or to establish more contacts within the Rhine-Main area. Mostly they don't know whom to trust, where to go, or whom to contact first. What they are doing is helping people from the UAE and other countries like Bahrain, Qatar, Egypt, Oman, and Kuwait to establish business contacts in general, or to promote their companies, their activities and their projects in Germany. She individually works out promotion concepts in sports or culture for companies with the aim of achieving more publicity and establishing a better image in Germany.

Christine has also been directly involved in a lot of organising committees for shows jumping events for a while, and the nicest she remembers is her first international show jumping event in 1998; the CSI Abu Dhabi, under the patronage of HE Sheikh Mansoor bin Zayed Al Nayan. Together with director Adnan Sultan Al Nuaimi and Majed Shaheen Al Awani, they put together a highly respected show. A remarkable but different kind of work was for the Sharjah equestrian club, for the chairman HE Sheikh Abdullah bin Majed Al Qassimi and General Manager Sultan Khalifa, when she acted as a point of contact and brought an international bank to the Arabian horse show as a presenting sponsor in December 2004. After the success of the Ajman championship in 2004, the international show in January 2005 was directly crowned as one of the 2 official World Cup Qualifiers for the World Cup final in Las Vegas. She is happy that they have come to appreciate her work, her European sponsors, and her innovative ideas through the years.

"A remarkable but different kind of work was for the Sharjah equestrian club"

"Planning to spread out her activities in regards to show jumping events"

Christine is planning to spread out her activities in regards to show jumping events in the Middle East depending on her office activities and time schedule. She says that it is a pleasure for her to come back to this part of the world to see people again and again. At the moment, she feels the task and the need to have to start networking activities in business, sports, culture, medicine and leisure to put Rhine-Main area more and more in the mind and on the map of destinations for foreign travelers from the UAE and other Gulf countries. She states that they have a lot to offer in Rhine-Main area and is sure that nobody will have any regrets once they go there for a visit. ■

Office for German-UAE Relations Christine Stibi:

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The Jordanian National Championship

By Sinan Nashashibi

Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Alia bnt Al Hussein the Royal Jordanian Equestrian Federation President, the National Jordanian Championship for show jumping took place on May 13th 2006 at the Green Country equestrian centre.



Sinan Nashashibi, Adnan Awamli and the Italian Ambassador

This event is the official competition for the Show Jumping season 2006 in Jordan. All Jordanian & a few international riders (Dutch, Lebanese & Iraqi) participated in the competition. Prominent figures attended the show such as HRH Prince Assem bin Nayef the Vice President of the Royal Jordanian Equestrian Federation, His Excellency the Italian ambassador, horse lovers, & sport fans. The competition consisted of 4 major classes with almost 50 entries. the smallest class is the D Class 0.90 M for beginners & new comers, the C class 1.10 M is for Novice riders, the B Class 1.25 M for senior riders & the Major class A 1.40 M for senior & international riders who are preparing for the Arab League 2006-2007 season.

It was a very nice day for the Jordanian show jumping riders & fans who enjoyed the nice setup at the show ground & also tackled the challenging courses built by the Jordanian based Dutch expert Berthil Bansema. The A class witnessed the huge improvement of the Jordanian riders & horses with 15 riders starting the class bringing 7 to the jump off. Ghassan Qassar & the KWPN Othello won the A class by having 2 clear rounds followed by the improving Oudaee Abu Hamdan & the German Bred Lorenzo. 3rd place went to Nasouh Kayalli & KWPN Pirage. Equestrian experts noticed the improvement of the young talented rider Ahmad Mansour who is at 14 year of age competing at Class A displaying with fine style & confidence. ■



Berthil Bansema



Ahmed Mansour

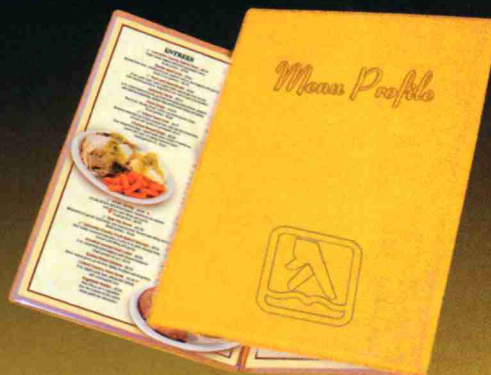
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SPLINTS

By Garry Kaufman

How serious are they? Four case studies reveal common misunderstandings about this leg injury.

When a horse develops a lump on the leg just below the knee (carpus) or hock, most horse men refer to it as a splint. But in reality, it can be any one of a number of conditions involving the cannon bone area, and it is impossible to tell at first glance exactly what the problem is, or how serious it is. It could be a temporary, absolutely insignificant finding, or a very serious, potentially crippling condition.

The term 'splint' comes from splint bone, one of two rather small, almost non-supporting bones, one of which lies on either side of the cannon bone. Each a mirror image of the other; they are long, slender, wedge-shaped bones, finger-sized at the top just below the knee (carpal joints), and tapering to a beaded point about two-thirds of the way down the cannon bone. Each is held closely to the cannon bone by a tough, thin ligament that extends nearly its entire length. Because one is located on the inside back corner of the cannon bone and the other on the outside back corner, together they form a protective trough for the suspensory ligament and, in part, the deep flexor tendon of both the front and rear leg.

Here are several case histories that show just how varied the actual problem can be. In each case, the owner described the problem as a splint because it appeared as a peanut-sized lump on the inside of the cannon bone on a front leg; but in reality, only one case turned out to be an actual splint. (Keep in mind that similar cases could involve the outside splint bone of either the front or hind leg since the arrangement anatomy is basically the same.)

Case 1:

A yearling Quarter Horse filly was found in her exercise paddock showing severe left forelimb lameness, and with an obvious swelling in the splint area. The owners expressed particular concern not only because of the filly's value, but also because they had owned a previous horse whose show career had been cut short by a fractured splint bone that had healed poorly. They wondered if this splint was going to cause a permanently thickened leg like the one the horse they had developed. This filly, however, was able to walk normally, and even though the lump was getting larger by the minute, the swelling was soft and fluctuant. Thumb pressure produced a pitted area which would again fill when the thumb was removed. This involved area was not over the splint bone, but rather an area just under the skin (subcutaneous) and slightly behind the splint bone. Summary: the filly had been playing, and had bumped the leg and ruptured a subcutaneous blood vessel. She did not have a splint, and the injury healed, leaving no blemish. The owners' concern, however, was understandable. Although the permanent thickness of a splint is a blemish rather than unsoundness, it can be devastating to a show career in halter competition where a clean-legged appearance is essential.

Case 2:

A yearling Thoroughbred colt was brought in from pasture with what looked like a splint on the left front leg. Although no lameness was present, thumb pressure applied to the lump caused obvious pain. The swelling was located exactly in the groove between the cannon bone and the splint bone, indicating involvement of the ligament holding the splint bone to the cannon bone. Closer explanation was then made by holding the leg up, thereby taking tension off the suspensory ligament and deep

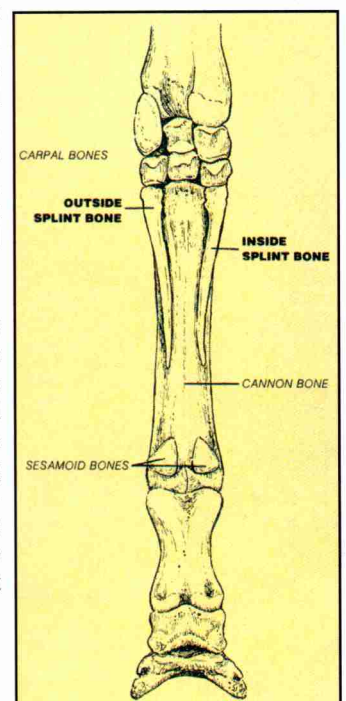
flexor tendon. In this case, no further swelling could be found by tracing with the finger tips the inside border of the splint bone as it lies along the suspensory ligament and deep flexor tendon. Summary: this colt did have a splint. But its underlying cause was more important than the fact he did, indeed, have a splint that would be a blemish, and that he was temporarily lame.

Usually, splints don't merely happen. Several factors can contribute to them, such as soft, growing bones and immature ligaments. But, all too often improper conformation of the knee (carpus) and cannon bone is the real underlying reason. In this Thoroughbred colt, an examination of the entire leg revealed a rather severe, offset (crooked) knee conformation. This was present in both front legs, but more pronounced in the left. He had 'popped the splint' because stress had been placed in an abnormal location. The lump that resulted was nature's way of reinforcing this area. In this case, the stress line drawn from the shoulder down the limb will run through the knee and quite often through the swelling of the splint. This type of splint will often reoccur as further stresses are added to the limb during training, and might be represented by several lumps along the groove between the splint bone and the cannon bone. This case was treated with therapeutic cautery (firing) to increase circulation to the area for more complete healing, because of the likelihood of reoccurrence.

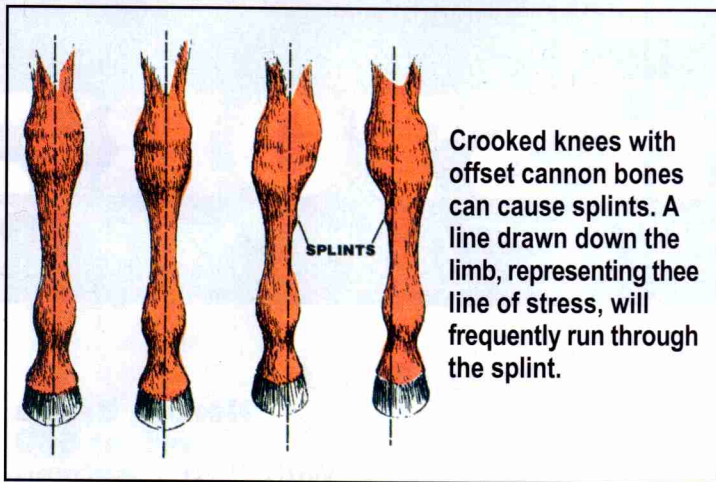
Case 3:

A 2 year old Quarter Horse colt was found in his stall with what looked like a splint on his right front leg. The colt had been exercised daily for several weeks and had been apparently normal the day before the examination. No lameness was present when he was trotted in a straight line, but the lameness became apparent when he was trotted in a small circle to the left.

Closer examination showed the lump to be on the cannon bone itself, just slightly in front of the groove between the cannon and splint bone. Local anesthetic placed in and around the swelling eliminated the lameness. Follow-up X rays confirmed the presence of a small, saucer-shaped fracture in the cannon bone. The splint



Rear view of the left front leg



Crooked knees with offset cannon bones can cause splints. A line drawn down the limb, representing the line of stress, will frequently run through the splint.

bone was not involved, and, of course, a splint was not present. Summary: this case is a good example of why most fractures occur in the inside surface of the cannon bone, as well as in the rather fragile splint bone. A discussion with the trainer concerning the exercise programme was revealing. The colt was exercised on a 20-foot lunge line once a day for 20-30 minutes. No other exercise was available to him. He naturally looked forward to the chance to get out of the stall, and when released would charge to the end of the line, bucking, kicking, and circling at a dead run. Because he was led to the exercise ring from the left (near) side, he was circled to the left first, then to the right for the second half of the exercise period. He was allowed to exercise out of control; and the momentum of the circling had carried the inside edge of his left hoof into the tight cannon bone, and a rather serious injury had resulted.

Whether exercised on a line or turned loose to run and play, horses kept in stalls use absolutely no common sense when they exercise. Too often this recklessness ends in serious, sometimes fatal, injury. While exercise is a very important part of the daily routine, it must be controlled exercise.

Case 4:

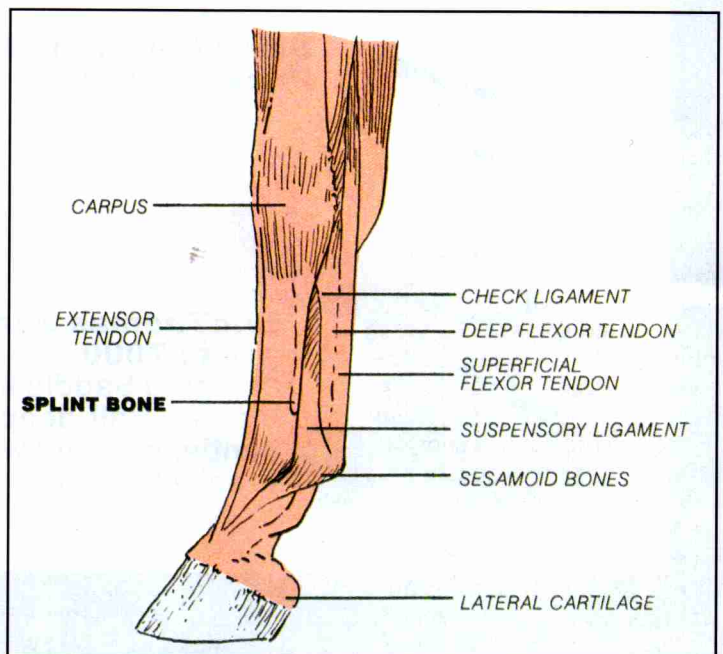
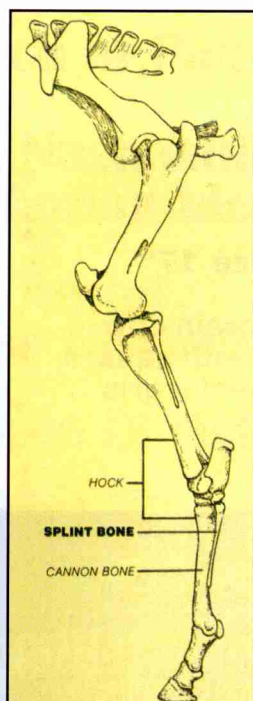
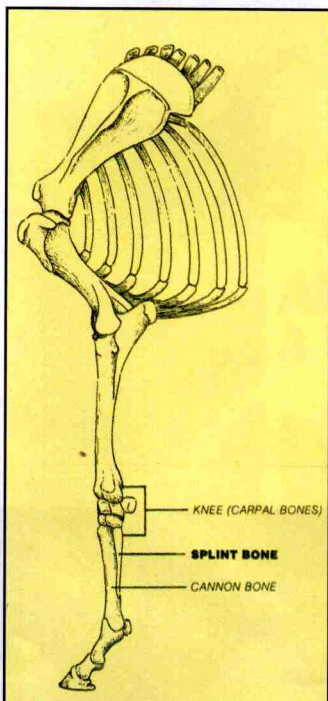
A 5 year old Arabian stallion was submitted for examination of a lump on the right forelimb; the trainer suspected a splint. The stud was in park horse training and had exhibited an occasional lameness in the right front since the appearance of a lump several weeks prior examination. However, for the most

part, he was moving sound in both training sessions and in the show ring.

The trainer had elected to continue training and showing, using special leg protectors to pad the splint bone area. It was only when the lump started increasing in size and lameness persisted for more than a few steps during a training session that a closer examination was required.

Finger tip examination with the knee (carpal joints) in a flexed position and the leg held up revealed an extension of the swelling along the inner (tendon) border of the splint bone, as well as the obvious outside swelling. Thumb pressure on the splint bone below the lump as well as over the swelling itself cause pain. Pressure applied to the swelling on the inner border also elicited a pain response. Because no lameness was present during the examination, no nerve blocking was performed. Follow-up X rays showed a fracture line extending diagonally through the splint bone, not a splint. Summary: the stallion required surgery to correct the lameness. The real area of concern was the swelling that couldn't be seen. The callus and the tissue buildup bridging the fracture line on the deep (tendon) side of the splint bone was causing ever-increasing irritation along the suspensory ligament and deep flexor tendon. The pain that resulted was alleviated by removing the callus, scar tissue buildup, and entire portion of the splint bone below the fracture line. Surgery required a general anesthetic and a 14-week recovery period.

How serious are lumps that look like splints? It depends on what the problem really is. Learn what structures are involved. The anatomy in this area is clear-cut and simple. The anatomy of the hind limb is the same below the hock in the front. It is below the carpus in the front. It is the same on the inside of the leg as it is on the outside. Yet the condition causing the lump can vary dramatically, and each treatment must fit the particular situation. If the lump is a genuine splint, it might cause no lameness whatsoever, and all but the most serious problems involving splints are temporary. But this doesn't take away from the loss suffered if the problem arises at a critical time in training, showing, or racing. Splints are costly and damaging to a career whenever the horse's ability to function, even if lameness is temporary. ■



The splint bones lie on either side of the suspensory ligament and deep flexor tendon and form a protective trough. Splints can occur anywhere along this area.

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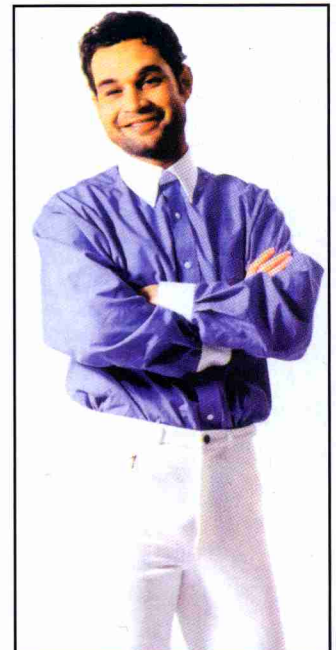
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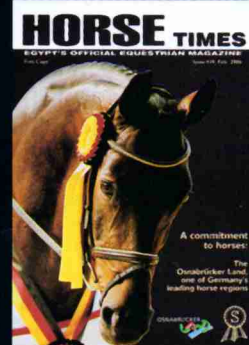
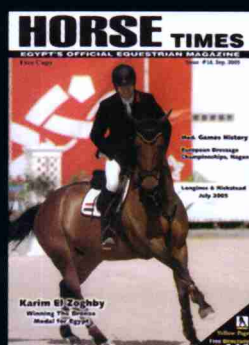
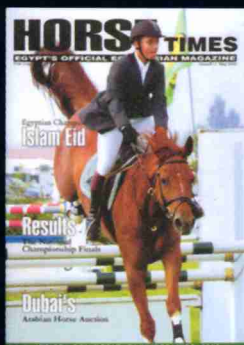
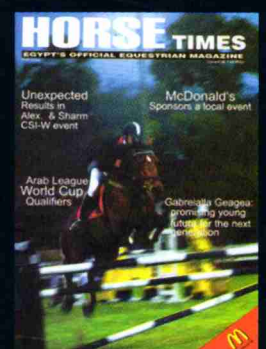
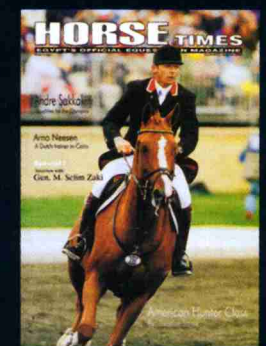
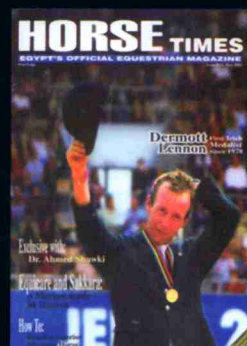
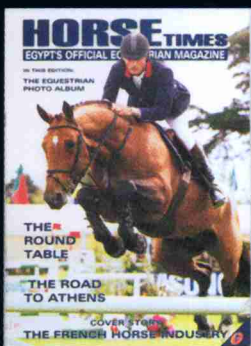
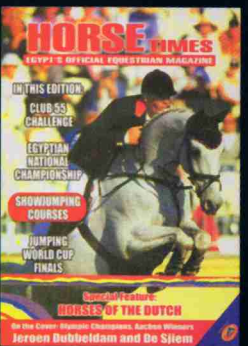
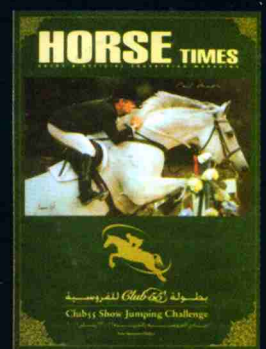
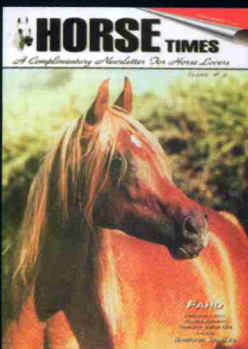
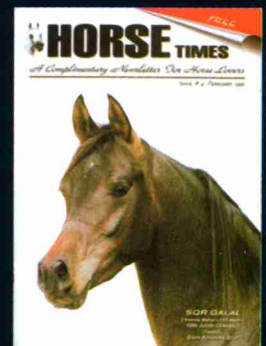
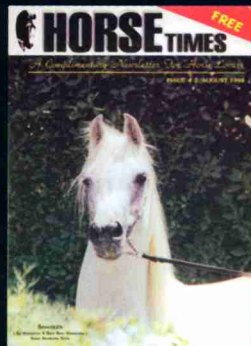
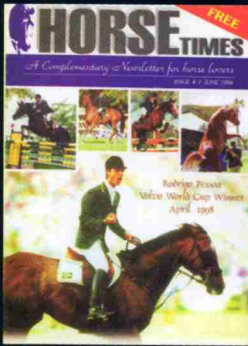
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