



# EGYPT

## EL ZAHRAA STATE STUD

**Is Calling for its Annual Event,  
November 2017**

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"Each show has a different objective. Many shows have price money. Price money is simply meant to encourage the Egyptian breeders to participate. But the El Zahraa show is very special for us. It is part of our history and everybody is really enthusiastic although there is no price money. It is an honour for every Egyptian to go and win here.

It is, after all, the cradle of our breed."  
(Ali Shaarawi, Shaarawi Arabian Stud)

"I really hope the EAEO is going to continue its work of breeding and educating and take things in their hands. That would be highly important for Arabian breeding in Egypt - which is needed all over the world. Egypt is a cradle of Arabian horses, no doubt. In the world of the Middle East, this country is also a starting point. Where are the Egyptian horses coming from, where are they going, and why do we have to preserve them?

These are the important questions we are answering to."

(Fatma Hamza, Hamdan Stables)

What better place to meet, than El Zahraa? Apart from contributing to preserving the cultural heritage of Straight Egyptian horses, El Zahraa is meant to facilitate social meetings, networking, and information for all breeders and friends of the breed, also with an emphasis on joint breeding strategies. For this reason, one of the important approaches of the state stud in addition to the breeding work proper is to organize shows which are meant to support the breeders and to give them an opportunity to present their horses to an international panel of judges, to the press, and to the public.

## 19th Egyptian National Championships & International B Show

**P**reparations are held in El Zahraa stud for the Egyptian national and international 19<sup>th</sup> championships celebrating the beauty of the purebred Arabian horse from Nov 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The show will be held in two phases including two championships: one national and the other an international one under ECAHO rules.

Every year, this show attracts international attention because of the power and beauty of the pure Arabian horses participating in the festival, arriving from Arabian and foreign countries. The show is held under the auspices of the Egyptian Agricultural Organization EAO and enjoys an internationally famous position; every year, it attracts a number of VIPs from all over the world, such as business men and Arabian princes, horses lovers and international breeders. We are also honored by the attendance of politicians, ministers, and ambassadors.

Preparing for the event we have coordinated



with Cairo airport to minimize procedures for the incoming guests, and to make sure the horses are going to receive due care immediately after reaching Cairo.

As for security measures, we are contacting the interior ministry as usual in order to secure the show and our guests. We have also booked rooms for VIP guests in luxurious hotels, and they will be provided with all the transportation means to ensure their well-being.

This year, we sent invitations to participate in the show to the club of the Egyptian Military Forces, the Police Academy, and to international farms. A dedicated young show work team is doing their best to get the show running to the highest standards, as usual.

These championships have been held since the 1990ies. Among the countries participating in the show this year are the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Jordan, Italy, Germany, and Belgium. We are expecting about 300 horses to participate. Two different international boards of ECAHO-qualified judges will be scoring the



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championships on the basis of the well-known five beauty standards for Arabian show horses: Type 1-20 points; Head and neck 1-20 points; Body and top line 1-20 points; Legs 1-20 points; Movements 1-20 points.

### Judges panel for the Egyptian National Championships:

**Mrs. Christiane Chazel**, France

**Mrs. Karin McCrea**, United Arab Emirates

**Mr. Koenraad Detaillieur**, Belgium

**Dr. Marek Trela**, Poland

### Judges panel for the Egyptian International B Show:

**Mr. Christian Moschini**, Italy

**Dr. Gianmarco Aragno**, Italy

**Mrs. Janet Court**, Great Britain

**Mr. Jaroslav Lacina**, Czech Republic

On the margins of the show there will be lots of activities all related to Arabian horses, such as art galleries attended by professional artists to introduce sketches of horses, but also photographs and carvings. And once again, the hugely popular



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horse dancing show will be offered, accompanied by traditional Egyptian *Baladi Muzmar* music. If you wish to register your horse for participation, please contact:

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[www.facebook.com/EAO-Egyptian-Agricultural-Organization](http://www.facebook.com/EAO-Egyptian-Agricultural-Organization)

<https://twitter.com/elzahraastud>

(EAO)

## El Zahraa and the EAO: Straight Egyptian Arabian Horses that Wrote History from a Historic Location in Cairo

When the Kedives Abbas Pasha and Ali Pasha Sherif started their collections of Arabian horses in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, they cannot have known that on the foundations they laid then, the Egyptian government would later on – for more than 80 years now – take measures to promote and preserve the breeding of Arabian horses in their own country. So the Egyptian state stud of El Zahraa has always been more than just a stud – it is acknowledged world-wide as a symbol of authentic Arabian Horse breeding. And it is also synonymous for the dialogue between people of different continents and cultures with a common passion: maintaining and improving Straight Egyptian Arabians, a breed of their own within the Purebred Arabian breed. Which is why particularly for breeders involved with Straight Egyptians, the impact of the name „El Zahraa“ is sort of magical.

In El Zahraa, the most renowned international studs of the world discovered their stock horses. From there, Henry Babson imported the first horses to the USA in 1932; from there, the stable masters of Marbach State Stud in Baden-Wurtemberg (Germany) imported the first Nazeer son, Hadban Enzahi, in 1955; and in the same year, Ghazal (Nazeer x Bukra) arrived in Germany. He was followed by the Nazeer son Kaisoon in 1958, who was a noble present of the state, and then there was another Nazeer son, Aswan, who became an improver in the Russian state stud of Tersk, more or less founding the Tersk Arabian stock. In 1968, Babolna state stud in Hungary imported the stallions Ibn Galal and Farak. Dr. Nagel purchased his famous stock mare Hanan



Photo: Mohamed Abdo



Photo: Mohamed Abdo



Photo: Mohamed Abdo

and four other beauties in El Zahraa in 1968. Doug Marshall imported the famous Morafic to the USA, and Judith Forbis found her stock Arabs such as Bint Bukra, Ibn Halima and other important horses, hugely famous today, just there – in El Zahraa. There were many in the next years to follow along these same lines, founding their studs on the basis of horses from El Zahraa, “the flower” of Cairo.

The sheer number of Egyptian horses exported from El Zahraa resulted, on the one hand, in heavy losses for the breeding strategy of the stud. On the other hand, the enormous popularity of this oasis of horse breeding increased, with the stud achieving unparalleled fame with horse friends all over the world.

The breeding stock of El Zahraa is based on a historic gene pool that was affectionately preserved and protected from genetic influences out of new and foreign pedigrees. The studbook for the state stud El Zahraa has been “closed”, with the gene pool consisting of somewhat more than 460 horses whose offspring is sold by auction once a year. There are well-defined mare tail lines that have coined their respective Arabian types, with the Saklawi and Hadban strains still strongly apparent in the stud.

Since its founding in 1920, El Zahraa is the highlight for every lover of Egyptian Arabians in the world. Egypt is not a part of Arabia, despite the Arabic language spoken there, and nature as well as climate in the Nile delta are different from the dry desert climate of the Arabian Peninsula. Still, the stud has always succeeded in preserving and even developing the noble, chiselled “desert Arabian” from the Nejd area, the type the Egyptian Khedives cherished so much. All over the world, this type has been the embodiment of the ideal Arabian horse for centuries.



Photos: Mohamed Abdo





## Different Horse Worlds With the Same Origin

In their spacious paddocks, the horses of El Zahraa will play with each other, go and feed together from the renowned feed mangers of El Zahraa constantly filled with fresh green Alfalfa grass by the grooms, or just lie in the sun sleeping. The peaceful silence brings to mind the vast expanses of the desert, and the infinitudes of life. Even many of the stud's staff are rooted deeply in horses, often for generations, in the ancient tradition of Bedouin breeding.

During the national and international shows on the stud premises, visitors can experience two different horse worlds just 50 meters apart – a rare opportunity to see and take part in both. For in the fascinating world of the show ring, accompanied by music and cheered by a lively audience,

the most beautiful horses anybody can imagine are presented by their handlers. They are the modern international Arabian horses, sometimes evoking thoughts of a kind of uniform look, many of them imported or, during the last 20 years, successfully home-bred in one of the enormous number of recent private studs in Cairo.

Straight Egyptian tail lines are no longer a priority, more important is the winning type. Now they contest for their cheering owners, displaying stand-ups, floating gaits and raised tails in order to win ribbons, cups, or at least honor for their studs.

In the no less fascinating world of Straight Egyptian breeding, the Straight Egyptian horses of El Zahraa impress with their playful power of composure – and of course, with loads of charisma and the most impressive floating trots.

Come and see for yourself.



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Since about the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when Arabians became internationally popular, there was no well established Arabian horse breeding stud to be found anywhere in the Arab world, except later in Egypt. The stud now known as El Zahraa Stud, was first established in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century by a group of wealthy and privileged Pashas, and it became known as a place which organized its pure-bred breeding in a systematic way, but based on principles orientated on Western knowledge, and over time it has received world-wide renown.

The Egyptian State Stud, El Zahraa, is the original source of all horses which are at present called "Straight Egyptian Arabians". All of them trace their lineage back to this particular breeding centre in the Middle East, located on the Eastern outskirts of Cairo in a desert-like area, and today, housing about 150 broodmares and 20 stallions. It was formally founded in 1908 as the Royal Agricultural Society, "RAS", and after the collapse of the Kingdom in 1952, it was reshuffled into the Egyptian Agricultural Organization, the "EAO." The Royal Stud of King Farouk, the "Inshass Stud", was dissolved, and a very small but carefully selected group of its horses were taken into the existing Arabian herd of the EAO. From that time onwards, El Zahraa became the only official Egyptian Stud and acted as a closed breeding operation, i.e. no further outside horses were introduced into the breeding programme.

Hans Joachim Nagel, *The Arabian Horse Nature's Creation and the Art of Breeding*, Nawal Media, 2013



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