

BAIT AL ARAB

and the Breeders of Kuwait: Celebrating Tradition and Beauty

All Nations Cup for Straight Egyptians

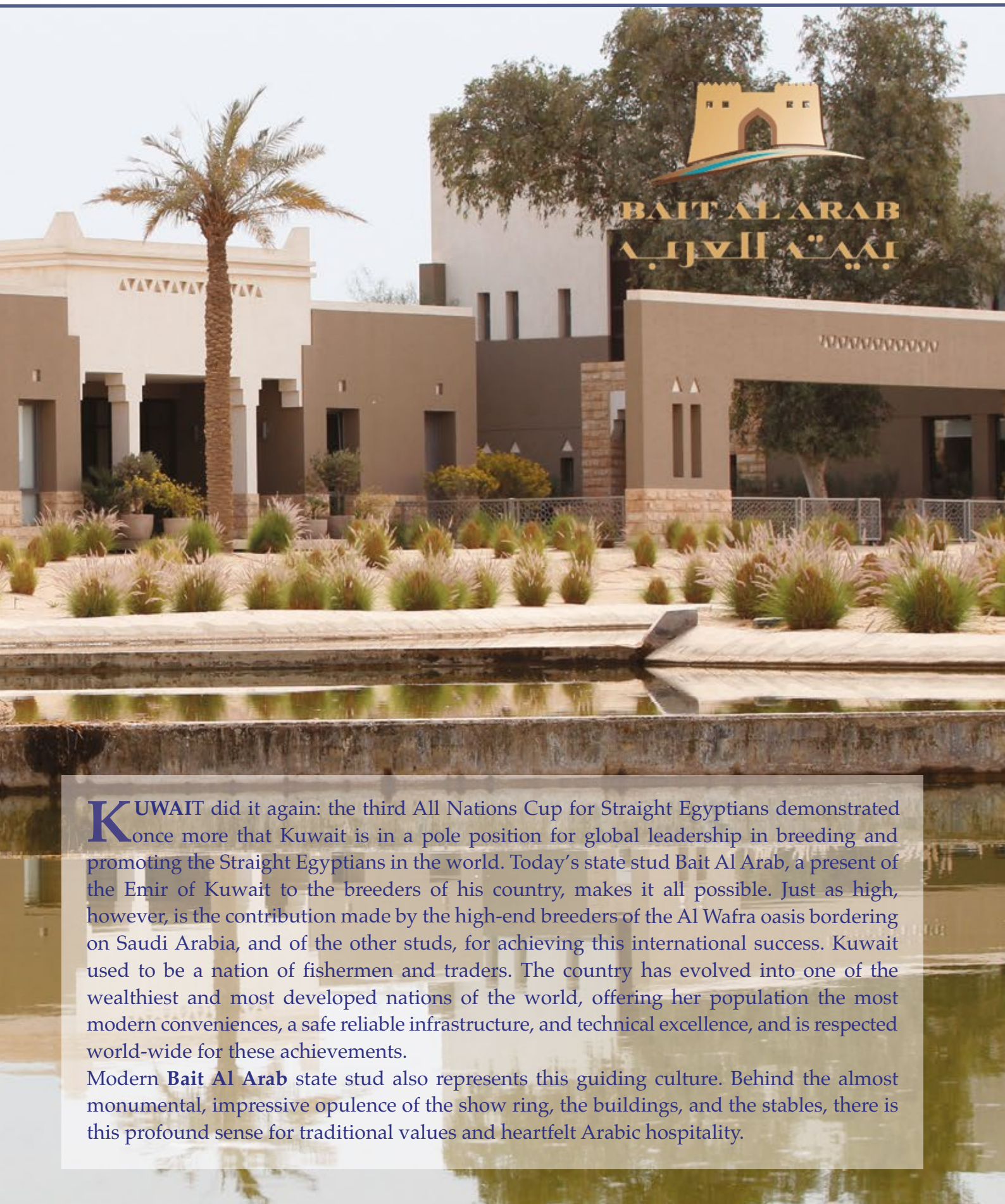
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by Monika Savier

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KUWAIT did it again: the third All Nations Cup for Straight Egyptians demonstrated once more that Kuwait is in a pole position for global leadership in breeding and promoting the Straight Egyptians in the world. Today's state stud Bait Al Arab, a present of the Emir of Kuwait to the breeders of his country, makes it all possible. Just as high, however, is the contribution made by the high-end breeders of the Al Wafra oasis bordering on Saudi Arabia, and of the other studs, for achieving this international success. Kuwait used to be a nation of fishermen and traders. The country has evolved into one of the wealthiest and most developed nations of the world, offering her population the most modern conveniences, a safe reliable infrastructure, and technical excellence, and is respected world-wide for these achievements.

Modern **Bait Al Arab** state stud also represents this guiding culture. Behind the almost monumental, impressive opulence of the show ring, the buildings, and the stables, there is this profound sense for traditional values and heartfelt Arabic hospitality.

The Straight Egyptians are a breeding group of their own within the frame of the big family of Purebred Arabian horses. They signify two aspects of horse breeding and cast a special light on the main characters involved in that:

In the first place, they represent an active and caring attitude towards preserving the cultural history of the country and the Bedouin traditions. As one might say: the centuries changed the country, but the traditions remained. The residents have kept up strong ties to their history up to today, not just because of their religion, but also in planning their own lives and those of their horses.

As to **Bait Al Arab**, this is how they define their *vision*: "Preserving the Arabian horse breed and to reestablish excellent representatives from different historical strains and families of Arabian horses of true descent from the Arabian Peninsula, the land of its forefathers, and further protect Kuwait's horse related cultural heritage for future generations to come."

As a state stud, Bait Al Arab is actively breeding horses on their premises. For that, their *mission* is: "To develop and continue its own Straight Egyptian Arabian breeding program in order to preserve the historical breed and maintain excellent representatives of different strains and families."

It's often claimed that breeders of Straight Egyptians cultivate a very conscious relationship with history, tradition, and the arts. So more often than not, their horses are a combination of historic conservation breeding with the emphasis on their genetic heritage, carried out by using modern sustainable breeding methods. Breeding is usually about creating and further developing the beauty of the horses according to the artistic visions and models of the painters of the 19th century.

Which brings us to the second aspect of this Straight Egyptian line breeding. The beauty



of these Arabian horses is what saved the breed quite a few times, particularly in times of crisis. Just think of the Egyptian pashas who, almost 200 years ago, were more or less obsessed with importing the beautiful Arabian horses from the Nejd region on the Arabian peninsula to Cairo, and to go on maintaining them for future generations by breeding them on. These original Arabians have their places in the pedigrees of the Egyptians among the Arabian horses until today. They signify authenticity, elegance, and Arabian noblesse. If they had not been so very impressive, they would hardly have survived the times of hunger and crises, and ever since cars took over in the world, they would probably have become extinct. Of course, beauty is not everything there is, but still, beauty is more important than we commonly assume. Everything else aside, it is what carries the breeders on and makes them forget about all their efforts.



Savier

Kuwait, a Happy Place for Arabian Horses

Arabian breeding in Kuwait is a perfect example for the claim that the luck of the future has its root in the beginnings or, to put it differently, what starts well will normally succeed.

Kuwaitis are known in the whole Middle East to be very smart businessmen. Instead of forking out money, they first study things and stay reasonable, and this is exactly what happened concerning Arabian breeding in their country. A few people got excited about Egyptian horses about 20 years ago, inspired by visiting Egypt and Qatar. After that, they thoroughly studied what they had seen and visited farms in Germany and in the US. They exchanged opinions among each other and, in the following time, each one of them purchased what he considered to be his best choice. This took time.

It also happened that an oasis about 100 km south of Kuwait City called Wafra was considered to be an ideal location to build their studs. Again, well-designed stables in a beautiful style, impressive homes for their first-class Arabians. Both definitely express their artistic sense: The quality of their horses and of their studs. Quite obviously, the Kuwaiti society and their business activities are used to cooperating perfectly, the important families and the ruling family included. Such a way of cooperation has existed until today and is still the backbone of the Arabian horse community.

They engaged in middle-sized farms from 10 to 50 horses and were not tempted to start large-scale farms of several hundred horses which is contrary to their heritage and far away from the Arabian horses' mentality which tends to be close to their masters. They jointly advocated the idea to develop the old governmental horse farm into the new impressive Bait El Arab as a center for breeding and support.

Under these conditions, so many new studs emerged. Arabian horse shows were established to offer their breeders a place and an opportunity to show their horses and enjoy an attractive event where breeders, their families, and visitors could come together. In contrast to the sober situation of Arabian horse breeding in many countries where the number of studs is going down, Kuwait is, in fact, a happy place and an encouraging highlight according to the opinions of people who have visited Kuwait.

Hans J. Nagel

ARABIAN HORSE SHOWS IN KUWAIT

The Arabian Horse Center Bait Al Arab and their Event Management department are a highlight in the Arabian horse industry, as with their organizational skills and technological capabilities, they can meet even the most sophisticated requirements of their audience, of journalists and exhibitors, and what is more, they can get them all enthusiastic. The ambience, the elegant and functional top-level show arena, all the buildings and premises lined up along the new stud grounds of Bait Al Arab – all of that forms the setting for presentations in Bait Al Arab.

Meanwhile, there are a number of big shows offered in Kuwait, generally open to WAHO horses and every kind of line breeding. It's usually the "show horse Arabians" who win there, those who are today specifically bred to win according to international show criteria. Morphologically speaking – their shape and build – they are just as much specialized as are Arabians who are bred for racing or for endurance. In comparison, the Straight Egyptians as a family with a rather small gene pool present themselves more as "natural state" horses with different types. That's something the breeders usually desire and welcome, expressively so, for after all, they want beauty and functionality in their horses, but at the same time, they want them to authentically embody their history as rooted in their pedigrees.

However, even breeders of Straight Egyptians enjoy presenting their horses to an audience and what is more, to win titles on shows with them. To make that possible, there have been shows all over the world for many years that are restricted to Straight Egyptians participating. The "Pyramid Society" in the USA created the "Egyptian Event", which triggered a wave of similar events under their patronage during the last 30 years.

Arabian horse shows in Kuwait are a public festival. The classes are normally well stocked, particularly those for the junior horses. Every horse



is celebrated exuberantly, and the winners often collect clusters of people around them big enough to completely hide the horse. Most of the horses will just accept the hubbub with a serene attitude. The fact that they are so much attached to people makes it possible that even in all that turmoil and excitement, they will keep their cool, beautiful head.

The Bait Al Arab organizational team recognized this demand for shows, so they imported the name and the procedures of the world-famous "All Nations Cup" show of Aachen to Kuwait where they beamed the concept into Straight Egyptian dimensions and are realizing an exceedingly well organized show once a year.



Savier



Savier



Savier



Savier

THE ALL NATIONS CUP FOR STRAIGHT EGYPTIANS 2018 IN KUWAIT

This year, more than 170 horses were registered for the All Nations Cup for Straight Egyptians. The organizer was the one who does it every year: the Arabian Horse Center, Bait Al Arab with their Chief Director and Assistant Under-secretary of the Amiri Diwan, Sheikha Sarah Fahad Al Sabah, the granddaughter of HH Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah, the Amir of the state of Kuwait, who had taken over the patronage for the event.

The Head of the Show Organizing Committee was Alaa Hamad Al Roumi, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of BAA and owner of Al Rayah

Stud. He was supported by the General Director, Abdullah Albraihi. The Event Manager for the ANC Show project and for the subsequent stud tour for the national and international guests, all of it just as perfectly organized as has become customary, was Klaus Beste with his team from Bait Al Arab.

For judging the horses in the arena, a great international team of judges had been won, this year consisting of the ECAHO judges Holger Ismer, Germany, Julie Maden, Belgium/GB, Christian Moschini, Italy, Pekka Paakkonen, Sweden, Marco Pittaluga, Italy, Luiz Rocco, Brazil, Ali Shaarawi, Egypt, and Graham Smith, Australia. Judging was carried out according to the new

system, where the lowest and the highest score given for a criterion by the panel of judges are cancelled. For whatever reason, not every judge is keen on making a brave judgment that will subsequently be discarded. Supporters of the system say that this way, misjudgments will not have a negative impact on the horse.

“All in all, the mood in the group of judges was very good, and the level of the horses was encouragingly high”, Julie Maden reported, who was the only lady judge for the ANC. The results were created mostly harmoniously. After all, it was a considerable amount of prize money that was decided on.

Apart from Kuwait, where 160 of the horses enrolled for the show came from, only a few horses had arrived from the Gulf States. So of course, the question was asked of why the show is called

“All Nations Cup” when it was so obvious that the political fallout between the Gulf States had repercussions on the cooperation and participation for the Arabian horse shows. Kuwait took a neutral stand in that, but generally, the impact of isolating Qatar could be observed even within that micro cosmos that is Arabian horse breeding. The Kuwaitis did not seem to mind. Just like in the two years before, they brought their best Straight Egyptians to the state stud to compete for the victory with them. There were also some representatives of Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt, but no horses from Europe or the USA, which is understandable in the latter two, as the cost of transport is enormous and the horses quite certainly would not have been amused. Instead, Arabian horse breeders from all over the world had come to see the show and take part in the stud tour.









THE WINNERS

In the junior classes of the 1 to 3 year-olds, the results of the breeding strategies of the recent eight to ten years became apparent. Those famous imports from the USA and Europe have now receded to the second or third generations. No doubt, horses tailing from the well-known SE show lines dominated the scene, but still: not all breeders of Straight Egyptians had relied on modern show horse Arabians for their mating decisions. Some had put their emphasis on pedigree-oriented conservation breeding and were able to present good results.

The yearling fillies squeezed into four classes of top quality. With a total of 58 foals, they formed the strongest group and provided an interesting overview of the female future in Kuwait's SE Arabian horse breeding.

As successful sires, there were three "foreigners" that drew the eye: Asfour Al Waab, the type inheritor, actually bred in Qatar but meanwhile owned by Hayrat Al Hilaliyah Farm in Kuwait; Royal Colours owned by Dubai Stud, who had impressive offspring starting in the show; and PSE Al Rakhan bred in Belgium by Prestige Arabians but now owned for a long time by Khaled Al Nughemshe in Kuwait.

There were some other sires presenting a number of their successful progeny on the occasion of the show, such as Shamek Al Danat and his son Ezz Al Danat, both multiple champions home-bred in Kuwait; Waseem El Kuwait bred and owned by Bait Al Arab state stud; and Ajmal Talal bred

by Mohammed Al Marzouq of Ajmal Stud. And of course, there was a whole number of other interesting sires represented by their foals.

The winner of the yearling fillies – that category that had four classes – was Bosmat AA, of the breeding of Ariela in Israel and owned by Al Shaha stud. Silver was awarded to AB Muhra of Al Babtain Stud, Kuwait, who had been given the highest score but still came in second in the championships. Dhay Al Hilaliya, bred and owned by Barrak Al Hajri of Hayrat Al Hilaliya Farm in Kuwait, won herself the Bronze medal. For the yearling colts, it was SH Saif who won the Gold laurels. This interesting young stallion is bred and owned by Al Shaha Stud. With him, this Kuwaiti stud brought a double win home: the best colt as well as the best filly of the yearling classes.

With their colt SH Sarab who won the Silver laurels, they were even able to bring home a third medal. Bronze went to AB Saif bred in Italy and was another prize under the belt of Al Babtain stud. In this category, it was definitely Royal Colours who had given proof of his qualities as an inheritor.



Championship Yearling Fillies

Gold BOSMAT AA

Silver AB MUHRA

Bronze DHAY AL HILALIYA



In the Junior Filly category, AB Faridah became the winner – another trophy and some more prize money for Al Babtain Stud. The Shamekh Al Danat daughter Azeezah Al Danat, owned by Danat Stud, received the title of Junior Mare Silver Champion in front of the bay NK Nabhan daughter Rayyanah Al Maale who is bred and owned by Khaled Al Enezi of Al Maale Stud.

With the Junior Colts, the Royal Colours son D Raouf brought home a clear victory, which was another one for Al Babtain stud. Nashme Al Zobair, imported from the UAE and owned by Hassan Mubarak Al Hindal in Kuwait, became the Silver Champion. And Bronze was awarded to the two-year-old Jarrah Al Wafi, a son of Dahes Al Rayyan and now owned by Abdullah M. Al Methin in Kuwait.

The Senior Mares class was of outstanding quality. The unanimous winner was a mare who is 14 years old already: CF Shamilia, a Moroc daughter bred in Italy. She is owned by Abdullah Hussain Sadah in Kuwait who was now taking home this ANC Trophy and the prize money for CS Shamila for the second time.

The Silver Champion title went to Qatar, to Al

Rayyan Farm. It was Nawaal Al Rayyan, a noble grey mare by Ansata Sokar out of Nadrah Al Rayyanm, who was chalking up this win for herself. Fotna Al Baidaa, bred in Egypt, had to contend herself with the Bronze laurels. She is a daughter of Al Shaikh Obaied Al Moghazy, out of DHS Suriah and owned by Al Babtain Stud in Kuwait.

For the Gold Champion of the Senior Stallion class, there was a unanimous vote for PSE Al Rakhan, a much-decorated grey out of Belgian citizen Pierre Groenen's breeding at Prestige Arabians. Khaled Al Nughemshe imported the stallion to Kuwait, proving his knack for horses that way. Al Rakhan tails back to the best Imperial lines and is also successful as a sire.

Naseem Al Nakeep by Murtajab Al Nakeeb out of Nessma, bred and also owned by Khaled Al Nughemshe of Asayel Stud, was elected second. The Bronze winner D Monaf, bred by Dubai Stud, belongs to Ali Matar Al Wawan in Kuwait.



Championship Yearling Colts

Gold SH SAIF

Silver SH SARAB

Bronze AB SAIF



Championship Junior Fillies

Gold AB FARIDAH

Silver ZAINAH AL NAWASI

Bronze RAYYANAH AL MAALE



Championship Junior Colts

Gold D RAOUF

Silver NASHME AL ZOBAIR

Bronze JARRAH AL WAF



Championship Senior Mares

Gold CF SHAMILA

Silver NAWAAL AL RAYYAN

Bronze FOTNA AL BAIDAA





Championship Senior Stallions

Gold PSE AL RAKHAN

Silver NASEEM AL NAKKEEB

Bronze D MONAF

The “Most Successful Kuwait SE Arabian Horse Breeders Award” was collected by Mr. Mohammed Al Omar, the owner of Al Danat Stud.

All results can be accessed at the following web-site: <https://arabianhorseresults.com/kuwait-all-nations-cup-straight-egyptians-02-2018>



BAIT AL ARAB GOES AHEAD: A MEETING OF STATE STUDS TO DISCUSS MUTUAL COOPERATION

With a meeting taking place on the sidelines of the Kuwait show, major representatives of the state studs of

- Babolna in Hungary, represented by Tamas Rombauer,
- Bait al Arab in Kuwait, represented by Klaus Beste, and
- Marbach in Germany, represented by Astrid von Velsen-Zerweck, made an idea into a tangible beginning. Their starting point is a plan to have state studs that breed Straight Egyptian Arabians cooperate internationally so as to make their respective functions transparent, to exchange experiences, and to analyze and optimize their didactic programs as well as their breeding goals.

In the words of Dr. von Velsen-Zerweck: „From my point of view, this new cooperation offers a lot of chances. The focus of this initial meeting was to get to know each other, and to exchange



Dr. Astrid von Velsen-Zerweck, director of Marbach State Stud and Mahmood Al Zubaid, member of the board of Bait Al Arab State Stud

information on the activities of the respective state studs. We talked about different approaches towards a possible cooperation that may span some common task fields such as breeding, culture, research, and ongoing professional training. We aim to continue these talks, if possible, in a larger circle including some more state studs. Further transnational visits are planned for this year.”

BAIT AL ARAB - THE ARABIAN HORSE CENTER-OPENING THEIR GATES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

The state stud of Kuwait is more than just an architecturally well-made and elegant facility incorporating lots of know-how and experience on horsemanship, and on horses' natural needs and interests. It is also just beautiful, as well as functional, with every detail taken into consideration. There are the spacious box stalls and the shaded paddocks, the library, the mosque, the modern horse hospital, the registry offices and the training rooms, the presentation ring and the big arena featuring every appliance from laser canons to jumbo screens – for they have a mission at Bait Al Arab:

- to continue its own Straight Egyptian Arabian breeding program in order to preserve the historical breed and maintain excellent representatives of different strains and families.







- support private farms by offering carefully selected stallions
- developing an educational program about the history of the Arabian horse, its culture and heritage as well as horse management, judging, handling, and veterinary medicine and art through exhibitions, seminars and lectures with international authorities.
- organizing and supporting National and International Championships
- managing the records of the purebred Arabian horse in Kuwait through a modern registry office, publishing studbooks and communicating with international Arabian horse organizations

In addition, the state stud supports and sponsors the sport of racing Purebred Arabians and Straight

Egyptians, with separate races organized for the latter. The sport of endurance racing is also supported financially. Horse sales take place once a year, with a selected collection of horses offered to the breeders on the occasion of this auction, exclusively.

In the words of Klaus Beste: „We generally support the breeding of Purebred Arabian horses, not just by the measures described above – our newsletter, for example, will contain information on, to name a few, Polish and Spanish sire lines. We also „place at the disposition“ of our breeders so-called modern sires that are show-oriented, such as Fadi Al Shaqab, Wadee Al Shaqab, Hadidy Al Shaqab, and others; via frozen semen or by stabling them with us for some time, and we don't charge Kuwaiti breeders a covering fee. As to our own



breeding, however, we clearly put the emphasis on conducting a breeding program for Straight Egyptians".

During one of the event days, the international guests had the opportunity to visit the stables and a selection of the breeding horses, with Stable Manager Jonas Salzman presenting and commenting on the horses. Offspring of the stud-owned stallions and mares could be looked at – and the results of the breeding of recent years are doubtlessly impressive. After all, Bait Al Arab has been a role model, the world over, for breeding and keeping Arabian horses, and particularly Straight Egyptians, for a long time.

The next night, the stud presented their horse stock as part of a “Open Door Night” with a gala dinner afterwards, in a Bedouin tent

and with a romantic campfire background included.

The individual mares with their offspring were presented in divisions according to strains, and commented on by Klaus Beste (in English) and Fahad Alazmi (in Arabic). After the mares, the stage belonged to the stud's sires, who are also at the disposal of the breeders of Kuwait for their own breeding – free of charge. In the grandstands, not only the international guests were seated, but the local breeders were also there, hundreds of them all squeezing in to see the products of THEIR state stud this year. So it's definitely apparent that Bait Al Arab is not just a useful adviser, but also part of their identity for the breeders in Kuwait.

KUWAIT 2018

AMPLE LIFE IN THE DESERT!

Inspiring Stud Farm Visits in Al Wafra and Abdali

by Monika Savier

Photos: Joanna Jonientz, Monika Savier

Graphic Design: Mario Brunetti



The success of Kuwait's breeders results from their friendship and cooperation, both invested into reaching a common breeding goal. It was in Al Wafra oasis, bordering on Saudi-Arabia, where they laid the foundation stone for this development; today, the studs that were built there are the mainstays of international Egyptian Arabian horse breeding. Even if in the 1990ies, the original gene pool there was primarily based on imports purchased in three internationally renowned breeding operations, which were Judith Forbis's Ansata Stud, Dr. Hans Nagel's Katharinenhof, and Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Thani's Al Rayyan Farm, what you can see today is the variety that has arisen from these beginnings about 25 years ago.

Every stud has their own aims and goals, and most of them have a story of success in their own right to tell. Preservation breeding or show breeding – breeders visiting Kuwait will find everything there they looked for. Every year in February, you should invest a few days, after the ANC show, so as not to miss the following highlight, the Study Tour that offers stud presentations in Al Wafra. For it's a unique place indeed. There is no other country that has a comparable center of horse breeding, top quality all carried by a whole number of experienced and successful breeders, and all of them pooled together on the few square miles of

ground of Al Wafra oasis. Touring the different studs, it is easy to see how much the breeders cooperate with each other and will even often gain experience together. The foal crops can almost be "read" somewhat like a serial novel, as you can recognize the sires and dams that form the background of the foals, and you can recognize the breeders who introduced the foundation horses into the gene pool. Usually, the presentations are didactically well structured, and for an informed spectator, it's easy to recognize the family structures of the horses along the generations.

Again this year, the commentator for the event was Klaus Beste, who has known the studs and their owners for many years now and is used to acting as an interface between international visitors, the state stud, and the private studs on the occasion of public events. All told, the visitors had the opportunity to see and enjoy more than 400 Arabian horses this time. They were presented naturally, with no stress and usually in whole families, so as to illustrate the generations-spanning concept and to make the influence of the respective sires and dams obvious. The perfectly organized program did not only offer the visitors an overview, but also a see-through of a horse breeding operation that can be said today – no ifs and no buts – to have arrived in the future already.

Stud Tours are more important than ever today to enable communication and information. Considering that the major part of Arabian horses imported to the Gulf states during the last 20 years came from Europe and the USA, it is clear to see how much the markets have already merged the digital and the analogous world. Today, many stallions from Kuwait live in Europe for some time, leased as sires or for show training, leaving their top-quality offspring there in turn. So it's quite unnecessary for Europeans to cry because our best horses were sold to the Gulf States. The gene pool comes and goes.

There is another reason why visiting all those studs is so important: for real cooperation in horse breeding, maintaining lots of Facebook

friendships is not enough. For real cooperation, you have to really get to know the horses in the studs. Anybody who is looking for suitable breeding stock or wants to see what that colt he sent to the Gulf some years ago actually produced as a sire – that person will need the certainty of a real world experience.

Undeniably, we are required to move about in both worlds nowadays, but seeing and experiencing a beautiful horse in the analogous world, that's something no digital-world videoclip can ever replace. Everything else aside, in the digital world we would also miss that Arabian hospitality with its particularly enticing cuisine. Which was a big highlight in its own right this year and needs to be explicitly mentioned.

Starting with **AL REHAB STUD**



Sulaiman Al Qenaei, the owner of Al Rehab Stud, presents his horses to us organized into families. The Saqlawis of the Moniet El Nefous family are on stage as the first starters, presenting typey Hind Al Naif with her offspring. The next ones are the Obeyans from the Hanan family and the Hadban Enzahis from the

Lutfia family, all of them with their origins tailing to Katharinenhof and foundation horses. Another group of Hadban Enzahis descended from the Bint Samiha family through Taghreed – El Thay Tiffany from El Thayba Arabians. The Dahman Shahwans are covered by three families, which are the Bint Bukra and the Ansata Nile families, and the mare Al Zubara Al Waab representing the DS Malaka family. The stud's sire Bahar Al Waab succeeds in not only fascinating the visitors with his typey foal crops, but he is an impressive stallion in his own right, with lots of charisma enchanting the spectators. Type and elegance are the impressions that dominate throughout the whole presentation.





SULAIMAN AL QENAEI WAS VERY WILLING TO ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS:

MS: You are one of the youngest here, and you have fantastic horses. How did you manage that so fast?

Well, we could not have done that without the help of the older breeders aiding me, their knowledge and support and help. We have an amazing community here in Kuwait. They are all neighbors, and we visit each other literally every week. There are also friends from abroad who helped, selling me outstanding fillies. Starting with the best bloodlines is one of the reasons for success, I believe.

MS: Which are the role models you have as a breeder?

Well, actually, the older breeders with their books are role models, such as Judy Forbis, Dr. Nagel, and there are also breeders from Kuwait, like Mohammed Al Marzouk and others. They have all been in this for about many years. And they are very welcoming, I can sit with them and learn from them.

MS: Kuwait has maybe the best Straight Egyptians in the world right now. Do they get sold to abroad, such as Europe or the USA?

Well, yes, we sell them around the world and I truly believe that Kuwait today has the most important breeding programs in the world, in terms of quantity as well as of quality. The best broodmares are here in Kuwait, and we produce quality every single year. We see horses traveling to Qatar, to Europe, to Egypt, to Saudi-Arabia. So I think Kuwait is very helpful in bringing this breed back.

MS: You have twenty mares and one stallion, you told me. Do you use outside stallions, too?

I use other stallions, yes. This is something that is very helpful here in Kuwait, all the stallions are available for breeding free of charge. They are good quality, and this helped us a lot in the beginnings of our breeding, to achieve quality as well.

MS: Do you like it when people from abroad come and visit your horses in Kuwait?

Of course! This time of the year, with the great show, is the best time of the year for us. We meet with people, we share knowledge, we talk to each other.

MS: Much better than Facebook...

Better by many lengths!

AL RAYAH STUD and AL SHARQ FARM



As they are friends, Alaa Al Roumi and Talal Al Nisf have amalgamated their two separate studs, Al Rayah Stud and Al Sharg Farm, into one large stud facility. They are bedrock here in Al Wafra, , being breeders of

Straight Egyptians, starting their breeding program nearly 20 years ago. They showed us almost 50 horses out of their stock. The young horses we get to see are of a refined and elegant Nejd type, all of them, and many of them of top show quality. They were presented in the context of their different families so as to enable the big group of visitors to follow the breeding approach of both studs throughout the generations, up to three of them. In addition to the well-known Ansata lines that are an integral part of the Straight Egyptian blood stock all across Kuwait, there were also horses from Nagel's Katharinenhof, from El Thayeba Arabians, from Al Rayyan, and some other studs involved in forming this pool of horses, the products and results of which have been confirming their two owners' efforts and breeding goals for years.

DESPITE OF THE GREAT NUMBER OF GUESTS, ALAA AL ROUMI FINDS THE TIME TO ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS FOR US:

MS: You had a lot of success last year. What is your program for the future? Is there still a challenge you are looking forward to?

Yes, of course, I think I am still at the beginning. We bought a new bloodline, which is Bahhei Ezzain out of Nagel lines. We are planning a mix between Ansata, which is our mares with their strong conformation, with Nagel type, which is what we need now, to give our good conformation more type. We already achieved small ears on all of our horses, a nice small muzzle, and a long neck, a strong body, and good movements. And we like the good legs that we have from our mares.

MS: Do you mainly breed for shows?

No, I breed for Kuwait really, to contribute to making the breed strong here. We are not a show farm, we are a breeding farm.

MS: Where, do you think, is Kuwait standing at the moment, if you try to rank the breeders of Straight Egyptians?

I think we in Kuwait are first now, because we have a lot of these horses now which we initially got from Qatar and from Egypt. Today, many of the Qatari and the Egyptians are buying horses from Kuwait and breeding them on in their countries. That's good for us.





MS: Kuwait has a large number of top quality horses indeed, not just some stars. That's maybe one of the differences as compared to other countries?

This is maybe what misleads some of our visitors. They attend a show and see some Egyptian horses there, but a lot of the farms do not participate in shows, although they have beautiful horses. But they don't go public with them.

MS: How do you see Europe in this context? Is there still something you are interested in, some breeder or some idea, or is it all outdated for you?

Well, I think we shouldn't forget that we got most of our horses from Europe. They came back to the Gulf from there, and now we breed them on. The problem in Europe, many breeders here think, is that there is no new generation of breeders now, and that will kill the Arabian horse in Europe. I don't think there will be any of the big Arabian horse breeding farms left in 15 years. Here in Kuwait, ten new breeders go into horse business every month, there is continuation.

MS: But many stallions from the Middle East go to Europe, being placed with trainers there and presented in shows, and also used for breeding. That might bring back quality to Europe as well.

Every breeder can choose which stallion will fit his mares, and it doesn't matter which country the stallion lives in. Technology makes things easy, it brings every stallion you want to your country.

MS: What about Embryo Transfer, are you doing that in Kuwait?

No, I don't like doing that, because I am just using frozen semen directly for my mares, and I have enough of them.

MS: My compliments for your beautiful horses, it's an amazing production.

Thank you! We feel very proud of them. We also take care to have whole families on the farm, so visitors can look at the line and are not restricted to seeing just the best horses. This is the fair way to do it, and it is also instructive, there is information about breeding, about what happens from generation to generation.

AL DANAT STUD



Al Danat Farm with its owner Mohammed Al Omar and manager Abdullah Al Metrek are among the Straight Egyptian breeders of Kuwait since 2008. It is remarkable how much success they have had in this short time, and mostly with home-bred horses, at that. Their stud is quite well

known in Europe, as there are horses of Al Danat's stabled with Giacomo Capacci in Italy who are often celebrated as the winners on European shows. Leading in that is the stallion Shamekh Al Danat, a son of Ajamal Al Kout out of Ajmal Sherifa, who has drawn attention to himself even outside of the show arena, with his excellent offspring. At present he is a sire with Ariela Stud in Israel. His successful son Ezz Al Danat was also absent, as he was on the show circuit in Europe. We were able to see his first foal crop, however, a numerous crop that contains highly typey colts and fillies. The broodmares of the stud need to be paid compliments, too, as they presented themselves in consistently good and beautiful quality. Among their mares, there is also the famous Gold Champion Mare of the Egyptian Event Europe, Maysuna Guasimo, a daughter of Al Adeed Al Shaqab. We also saw Phaaros (ZT Faa'iq x Bint Atallah), a well-known inheritor from Italy who is at present serving at Al Danat's stallion station, just as is typey Nooredine Ezzain, a son of Ansata Murtajiz out of an Adnan daughter, NK Nada.

Al Danat's show placings give ample proof of their successful breeding. On the occasion of this year's ANC, Mr. Mohammed Al Omar received the "Most Successful Kuwait SE Arabian Horse Breeders Award".





TALKING WITH MOHAMMED AL OMAR OF AL DANAT STUD

MS: What are your future plans for your wonderful stable, where can you still go?

Well, I wish for the best, I have dreams like every breeder has them. But when I started my program, with advice from much-valued friends, I did not have any stallions yet. Our first stallion Shamekh Al Danat went international. Then there was his son, Ezz Al Danat, three times gold medalist. Now, with these two stallions, I have the benefits of having stallions of my own with just the same cost that I face on the dams' side. Maybe these two stallions will change the mare stock that we now have.

MS: When you bought your horses, did you start by looking at the pedigree or at the horses?

Well, I look at the pedigree, which needs to be authenticated by the great breeders I associate with. So when I bought my first horse I went to them, who started ten years before I did.

MS: Do you aim at showing your horses, or do you just want to breed?

Well, for every breeder, shows are what brings the products of his stud under the eyes of the judges. So I am happy if I achieve good results there, but still, on any show there is just one medal for each class, and other breeders produce nice horses, too - I respect them, but I would not take part in their breeding programs, some breed or lease or buy just for the show. But in the future for me and my friends, we decided to go for organic growth, not grow by an acquisition program.

In 2006 or 2007, we started not to have prize money in shows. You do not compete for the prize, for even if you get 20.000 Euros for a gold winner, this is not 10% of the cost of bringing the horse up here in our harsh climate, where feeds must be imported. It's just passion, which you need to have as a breeder.

MS: What do you think of Europe and the horses and shows there?

I just wish there were more important shows for the Straight Egyptians, as there are very few of them and they are declining, while in the US, they are going up.

MS: Maybe there is a lack of good stallions in Europe, and many of the good mares have been sold to the Middle East?

No, there are good stallions there, and fresh or frozen semen can be shipped everywhere. But you have to have different entries for the shows - I remember that during the last three or four shows for Egyptians, there were only very few SE horses.

MS: So how can Kuwait and Europe work together more closely?

The Europeans need not be afraid they cannot finance their shows, shows are not for making money. Six or seven breeders together will put up a good show, they have the land and the transportation and the facilities, but they won't do it just for the money.

AJMAL ARABIAN STUD



Mohammed Jassim Al Marzouk is more than just the owner of Ajmal Arabian Stud and a successful breeder of Arabian horses; he is Kuwait's role model for Straight Egyptian horse breeding par excellence. For almost 20 years now, he has been supporting the Arabian horse breeders

of Kuwait by importing breeding stallions of international significance and placing them at the disposal of the private breeders as well as of the state stud. Mr. Al Marzouk allowed his world famous champion stallion Ansata Hejazi (Ansata Halim Shah x Ansata Sudarra) to serve selected mares. Tailing to the Sabah / Bukra / Delilah family, Hejazi has set a precedent as a superior breeding stallion in the Gulf and around the world. Bait Al Arab also used his renowned Katharinenhof-bred stallions of the Obayan om Jreis strain through Hanan: Shahin (Salaa el Dine x Ameera by Madkour I), and Adnan (Salaa el Din x Ghazala by Ghazal), both of them having double Bukra and Hanan lines in their pedigrees. More recently two more of Al Marzouk's stallions have been introduced into the state stud's breeding: Al Kidir (Thee Egyptian Prince x AK Khattaara) and Ajmal Al Kout (Ansata Hejazi x Ansata Malaka)), Ajmal Ashhal (Sinan Al Rayyan x Ajmal Obbeyah) and Ajmal Tameen (Ansata Hejazi x Tabanya). And it was not only through the free use of important stallions that he supported the Kuwaiti breeders' community, but also through educational strategies such as publishing different publications on Arabian horse breeding. For many years, he was Chairman of Bait Al Arab and remains a Honorary Chairman up to today.

This year just as for many years before, being invited to visit Ajmal Stud in Al Wafra was one of the highlights of the stud tours. Thirty wonderfully beautiful mares with their foals and three selected stallions were introduced to the international audience. Dominant by number were the Dahman Shahwan families, who were presented divided into their sub strains and showed themselves, so to speak, running free. Ajmal's self-bred stallions Ajmal Talal by Sinan Al Rayyan and Ajmal Tameen, who was a worthy deputy in stepping in for his sire Ansata Hejazi, entirely succeeded in giving proof of their qualities as inheritors via their offspring. Klaus Beste commented: "You see here today what Ajmal Stud has achieved in the last 20 years. A collection of noble Arabian horses, unique in the





AL MAALE STUD



Al Maale Stud was established in 2010. The stud's owner, the lawyer Mr. Khaled Al Enezi, had carefully selected a superb group of Egyptian Arabian mares within just a few years' time. As the results of his breeding until now, he can proudly point to horses embodying a well-made combination of bloodlines from Katharinenhof as well as from Ansata Stud.

Al Maale Stud is home to three mare families. There are the Hadban Enzahi family via Kamla and Yosreia, the Obayan line via Hanan, and the Dahman Shahwan lines via Bint Bukra and the Sabah family. Among the mares, the yearling filly Rayaana Al Maale attracted particular attention. She is a daughter of NK Nabhan out of Radhwaa Ezzain and won her first Gold Champion title even last autumn. For the All Nations Cup, she made Bronze Champion among strong competition, as there were four classes comprising 57 junior mares.





TALKING WITH KHALED AL ENEZI

MS: What made you start to breed horses of Straight Egyptian ancestry?

My personal point of view is that the Egyptian Arabian Horses represent the true identity of the genuine Arabian horse; however, this definitely does not mean that other Arabian horses do not reflect the Arabian identity. There are many breeders who undoubtedly prefer (non-straight) Arabian horses to the (straight Egyptian) Egyptian Arabian horses.

MS: Which horses did you start breeding with?

My journey of straight Egyptian Arabian horse breeding started with two female lines, Dahman Shahwan - Bint Bukra, and Hadban Enzahi -Kamla. Let me divulge a secret here: these two families also were the foundation of the production programs of those very important breeders, Judith Forbes and Dr Hans Nagel. Combining refinement and body strength from these two sources, we achieved very good results in a short time, with some of our "shining stars" being Alamer Almaale (Kuwait National Gold Champion Colt 2015), Rayaana Almaale (Kuwait National Gold Champion Filly 2017), and Naderah Almaale (Kuwait National Bronze Champion Filly 2015).

MS: Just combining the right lines is not enough to consistently yield results such as these. What did you pay particular attention to?

The main consideration is to start with horses that correspond to two factors, as these will enable you to achieve a distinguished production level. The first factor is a strong conformation expressing an elevated level of type. The second factor is the genetic strength of families, meaning the horses should have a high predictability ratio, with champions in their families, and the stallions that have been bred to the mares of these families also matter greatly. If only the pedigree factor is adopted, without having elevated type and without using strong families, I believe one cannot consistently reach a distinguished level. Good results based just on pedigrees are, as I deem, just a genetic stroke of luck, which will not reoccur in the future.

MS: What is your view on breeding in Kuwait today, as compared to other Gulf States or to Europe?

I believe that the quality of horse breeding in the state of Kuwait is strongly and steadily developing, as compared to other countries. This is owing to the very special kind of cooperation among all of our breeders, where stallions are provided for all free of charge. This is an important factor helping to select the most suitable stallion for improving the production of any breeder, be he a small or a big one.

AL SAFINAT STUD



This stud is owned by Khaled Ben Shoqor and was one of the first ones in Al Wafra. The guests from all over the world were enjoying the presentation of more than three horse generations of top quality. A good number of breeders from Qatar and Bahrain had also come to take the opportunity and see the presentation. A good number of breeders from Qatar and Bahrain had also come to take the opportunity and see the presentation.

The first group of mares to enter the arena was led by the good looking foundation mare Aliikat (Ruminaja Ali x Kathourah by Mohssen) of the Dahman Shawan – Farida family, a mare who is 29 years old already and created a dynasty of her own in this stud. With her three daughters kept in the stud, Adjbah Al Safinat by Ansata Iemhotep, Hilal Al Safinat by Adnan, and Lulwat Al Safinat by Ansata Hejazi. Aliikat demonstrated, right at the beginning of the demonstration, the kind of mare quality that is the basis of this stud. Most of the grandget of Aliikat were by the stallion Wahag Al Rayyan, an Alidaar son out of Ansata Majesta, who produced horses to the taste of Khaled ben Shoqor: long-legged and elegant, with their necks well inserted, and with good gaits.

All of the foundation mares were presented together with their offspring, organized into strains. Just as in most of the Al Wafra studs, the Dahman Shawan strains were strongest in number. Khaled Ben Shoqor also showed us the Saqlawi Jidran family of the beautiful mare Nourah Halima, a daughter of Al Adeed Al Shaqab out of Moufisa Al Kidir. There was also the get of his stock mare Ansata Exotica tailing to Jamil of Katharinenhof stud. She enchanted people with her type and charisma. Another mare to leave a legacy of three generations of horses in Al Safinat Stud, the DS foundation mare RN Rayana who had been imported from Al Rayyan Farm in Qatar, was also another one to enchant the audience.





A SHORT TALK WITH KHALED BEN SHOQOR

MS: These are wonderful horses you are showing here. My compliments for Aliikat and her dynasty. Where are you headed in the future, is there still a challenge for you?

There is always a challenge, of course. But we always have a consultation with our friends and opinion leaders in Qatar, and we try to follow their ways in breeding.

MS: Kuwait is now a leading country, too, in straight Egyptian breeding, so in which direction is your cooperation with Qatar going now?

We started with the support of Qatar and we learned a lot from them, that's why we are in harmony also in the future.

MS: What is your personal aim for the future of the horses?

I am happy with beautiful horses and I'm working on that aim. I don't emphasize shows too much, I am just happy to be here with my horses and friends.

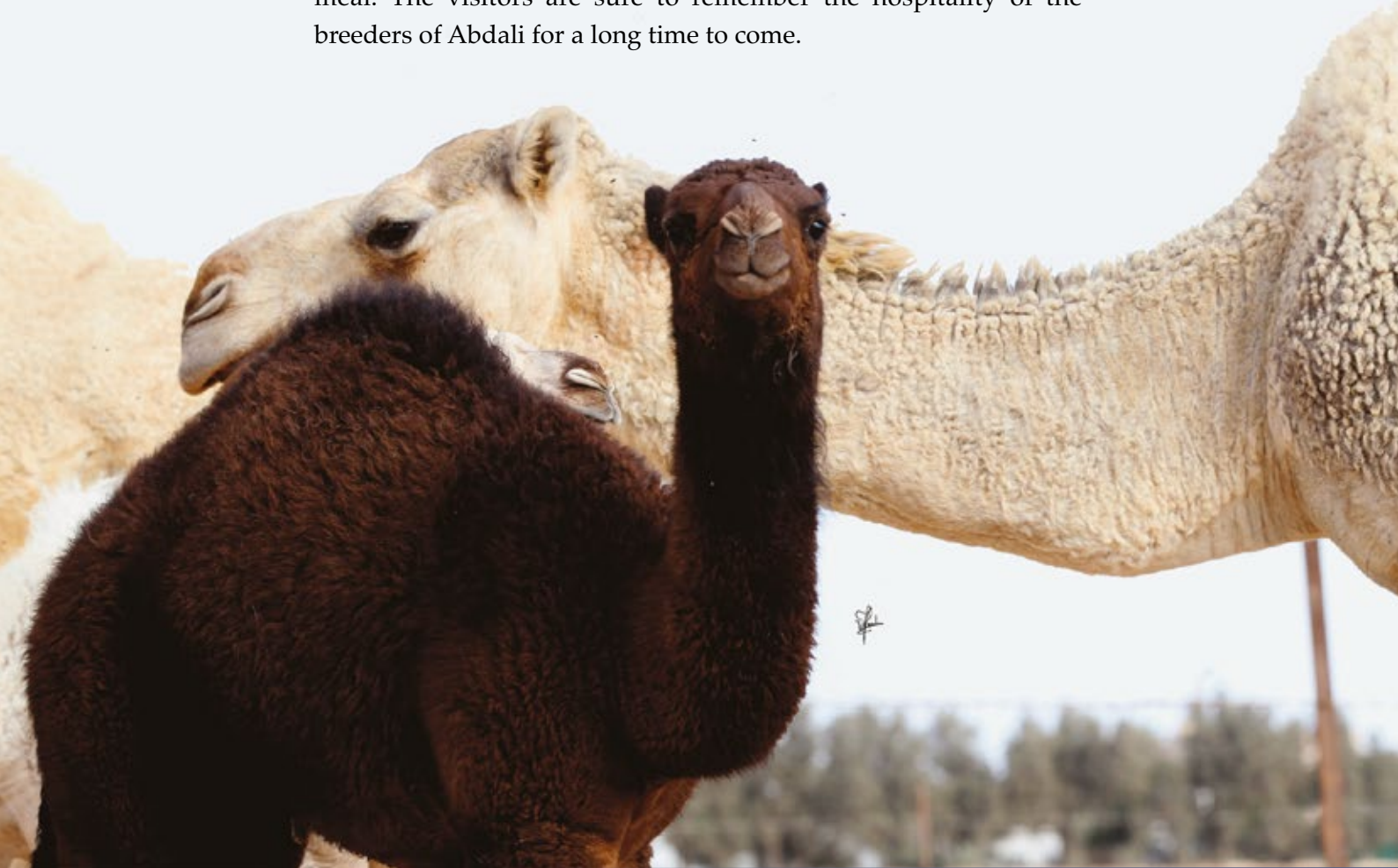
MS: What can the European breeders learn from the Kuwaiti breeders right now?

Well, we mutually learn from each other. We learn from Europe, the Europeans learn from us - we are equal.

OPEN HOUSE IN ABDALI

Meeting Point at Hayriat Al Hilaliyah Stud to present Al Mouriat Stud, Al Soor Stud, Al Falah Stud, Al Jarallah Stud, Al Jenan Stud, Al Fayez Stud.

This time, the bus full of breeders does not head for the desert and the border with Saudi-Arabia in order to visit the studs of Al Wafra, but takes the road along the Kuwait Bay in a Northern direction, until almost to the border with Iraq. The small village of Abdali is the destination. Here, a number of studs have been founded in recent years. The area seems to be quite fertile, even though it is surrounded by desert. Agriculture and fruit growing outweigh animal husbandry. Our destination is Hayrat Al Hilaliya stud. Baraq Al Hajeri, the owner of this stud farm, invited the surrounding studs to present their horses on the premises of his farm. This idea makes it possible for even small breeders to show their horses to a substantial audience. In this case, this was done in a unique and well organized desert setting, fascinating not just because of the camel herds present, but also because the hosts had, after the horse presentations, conjured up a 5 star lunch in the desert tent, with not just the camels looking on, but also Salukis and falcons asking for a share of the meal. The visitors are sure to remember the hospitality of the breeders of Abdali for a long time to come.



AL MOURIAT STUD had brought four of their Straight Egyptians to Hayrat Al Hilaliya and were the first to present their horses. Their Hadban Enzahi family representative was a daughter of El Thay Tariqah imported from Germany: beautiful Nisma Almouriat, who was the first horse to enter the arena. For the Dahman Shahwan family of the Bint Bukra line, there was Manal Almouriat, whose dam GR Bashara is a foundation mare of the stud and had also been imported from Germany. The Saqlawi family was presented by showing us Bint Almouriat out of the foundation mare Lujeen Asharq. The stud's sire, Fareed Al Rayah by Ghazal Al Rayah out of Farida Al Rayah, is a descendant of the Bint Bukra family and was a worthy horse for rounding out the impressive presentation of Al Muriat Stud.

AL SOOR STUD presented just a single mare – however, the 15 year-old chestnut mare is a major factor in SE breeding: Ansata Sokara by Ansata Sokar out of the Safeen daughter MB Sateenha.

AL FALAH STUD which is owned by Mohammad Jassem Alfalah, started their presentation with Ajmal Baheera, a beautiful Ansata Hejazi daughter out of Sodfat Al Badeia. The next mare was a 3-year-old, Jude Al Jude by Dahes Al Rayyan, whose dam line is from El Zahraa, Egypt. Showing Noor Al Rashediah bred by Mr. Al Jasmi in Bahrain, Al Falah Stud closed the interesting presentation of their promising young mares.

AL JARALLAH STUD started off by presenting the impressive filly Wajed Elkuwait of Bait Al Arab breeding. After her, they brought into the arena the typey NK Nabhan daughter Badeyat El Adiyat bred by Mahmood Al Zubaid. Insha Shanaya Halima, a mare imported from Germany, rounded out this well-done presentation.

AL JENAN STUD has been active in breeding for several years now and were rightfully proud to present three beautiful young mares by their homebred stallion Siraj Al Jenan, a pretty son of Ajmal Juman. The stud also impressed the audience with their Ansata Nile Echo son Nader El Mabrouka out of Nahlah Ezzain by Salaa El Dine.









When it was finally **HAYRAT AL HILALIYAH FARM**'s turn to show their horses, they choose to start with the mares: Saba Najd Al Arab by Ajmal Ashahal, then Sadeem Al Arab by NK Hafid Jamil, and Serene Elis by Salaa El Dine, imported from Italy. They were followed by Hamsah El Adiyat, a daughter of Ansata Hejazi out of NK Hala. Beauty was followed by beauty, and in this line, there were also Safira Al Waab, Ajmal Sharifa, and the Ansata Nile Echo daughter Damah Al Waab presented.

Now it was time for the homebred foals to enter the arena. The first of them was the yearling filly Fawziyah Al Hilaliya, the next one was Dhay Al Hilaliya who had become Bronze Champion of her age group just two days ago. This was a great achievement, as the field of starters had been 58 yearling fillies divided into four groups. She was also the first of the Asfour Al Waab daughters to be presented, and of course, everybody was enthusiastic. Three more fillies by Asfour Al Waab were shown next, with all of them displaying very good quality. There was also a colt by Asfour out of Toug Al Waab, a noble foal indeed. Masara Al Shaqab, a daughter of Al Adeed, also came in presenting her beautiful Asfour daughter. The grand finale was a sure thing when the stud's sire Tourky Al Wafi entered. He is a son of type progenitor Ezz Ezzain out of Gamila, an El Thay Thamam daughter.

Free-running groups of peacocks accompanied us to the tent with lunch, camels, and falcons. This is how we will remember Hayrat Al Hilaliyah Farm, a place in the desert dedicated to the beauty of animals and devoted to hospitality.







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