

THE NOBLE MARES OF KATHARINENHOF

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NK Katharinenhof's Arabian brood mares are of a very particular quality. Each one of them is a member of a carefully elaborated breeding concept, which is unique in its selection method, its application and its later monitoring procedures. Therefore, no other mares existing

worldwide which are comparable to them due to the following detailed facts:

Only one closed private population has been exist for 40 years; it is the one of NK Arabians at Katharinenhof in Germany. It is composed of about

25 breeding horses; they are ordered into 4 families and one single stallion line; they all trace back to the El Zahraa Arabian Horse Stud in Egypt.

The beginning of the stud goes back to the 60's and started with the import of several carefully selected



NK Nerham



NK Nabeela



NK Nahla



NK Habiba

yearling fillies. They were chosen from such families, which had proven to be very important and essential for the success of the El Zahraa Stud in the past. Four of these fillies became finally the root mares of the Katharinenhof stud.

On the paternal side, stallions from Egypt are listed - sires of the imported yearling fillies as Alaa El Dine - and later on stallions stationed in Europe or in the USA as Madkour I, Ghazal, Ansata Halim Shah. Only these ones became a part of the breeding program, not any other stallion of the existing Egyptian sire lines are involved in Katharinenhof's breeding program. It is important to note that only those stallions, which are members of the "Nazeer stallion line" have been used in this closed population.

After a testing and selection period of 15 years in Germany, enough

results were collected, which would allow to choose those horses which looked to be suitable for a closed population. It was very essential that all the unwanted characteristics and features had to be detected and if possible, removed during this time, either for constitutional or health reasons. Since then, only stallions and mares bred by Katharinenhof have been introduced into the breeding stock.

In cooperation with the University of Göttingen and later with the University of Florida under the guidance of Prof. Samantha Brooks, the development of the herd was studied in detail mainly by investigating the speed of rate of homozygosity over a period of 20 years and establishing its status in that year of testing. At the same time the studies focused on the genetic imprint of each Arabian in the stud, showing the influence of the

ancestors on each horse and allowing to determine the prevailing ones. Further studies on similar topics are in preparation. It is felt that by applying such a narrow breeding concept, monitoring is a necessity and very essential.

The decision for a closed population was triggered by the fact, that a certain type of breeding and even inbreeding was applied in history on many occasions by the Bedouin breeders and that this happened according to old records (Abas Pasha Manuscript and others) mostly in the southern part of Arabia, that means in the Arabian Peninsula. Certain Bedouin tribes were very keen on their own breed, guarded it with great jealousy and kept it away from other breeding stock. It is an interesting fact, when looking to a single Bedouin family or a tribe, which such a family belongs to, that they all lived also in a

closed society and were used to such a system.

Finally, under these conditions the Arabian breed emerged. It is a great challenge to choose such a historical concept as a breeding goal, the corresponding model of such an Arabian horse would be characterized by a certain type, a noble head, a very light constitution, an overall dryness and a firm mental constitution. All selections for these features should be also strictly controlled following today's scientific knowledge. By time and after several generations, a herd with a high increased homozygosity would show up and consequently similar offspring of a well proven quality.

The respective mare families at Katharinenhof have until now produced four to six generations under this closed program. From each generation, those mares were selected for further testing which corresponded to the required overall quality, but also, they had to show the type of the family they belonged to. The prevailing mating in this herd follows the principle of breeding "equal to equal". Due to the fact that only four families are involved, inbreeding as generally specified is not applied. In addition, attention is paid to the fact that certain differences in type and conformation remain; such a variation is required to give room in order that new and interesting characteristics and features could show up in the future. The same principles apply for the stallion candidates.

This breeding concept could be carried out until today without any mayor setbacks. Even the contrary is true, a high percentage of good typical foals were born in every season; certainly, a result due to the fact that the choice of the four foundation mares from the Egyptian El Zahraa stud was carried out with great care. At this time, it should be mentioned that this breeding stock of El Zahraa in Egypt goes largely back to mares which were brought in the 19th century from Bedouin breeders in the Arabian Peninsula to Egypt, a population always under the pressure of heavy natural selection due to a hostile environment; heat,

drought and shortage of feed. This rigorous selection allowed that only the toughest horses survived, in terms of physical constitution and health. To build a program on such a history and rich heritage is a great challenge by using these already existing generous gifts of nature.

These are the mares which were very influential in Katharinenhof's closed breeding concept and they created the type of which the NK Arabians are known for. They are the following:

The greatest group in the concept are the Arabians of the Hadban family best represented today by



NK Nadirah



NK Nay

NK Nadirah. She is with 19 years the oldest mare in the stud and is still the greatest attraction for most of the visitors. People like her lively and overwhelming expression, shown as best in her style of movement. This mare is dancing upright on the spot and when moving forward, she lifts the front legs high up and her acting is unique in this respect. She raises her head high up, snoring loudly and intensive when she is in full activity. NK Nadirah is a daughter of Adnan, a Sala El Dine son, and her mother, the charismatic chestnut-colored Nashua; one of the finest mares ever born in this stud, a daughter of Lotfia once imported from Egypt. Still NK Nadirah exposes her own type, a

perfect mixture between sire and dame line. As a brood mare she was very prolific, some of her offspring went to Kuwait and later to Qatar. Her latest daughter stayed in Germany: The four-year old NK Naala. She the closest to her mother in look, in movement and in character. It is good luck for any breeder to have such a worthy successor of a perfect mare. NK Nadirah produced as well two impressive stallions, both by NK Hafid Jamil. The first one is NK Nadeer. He is really his "mother's son", grey and elegant and of finest character. The second follows the look of his father NK Hafid Jamil. His name is NK Nizam, of bay colour, of powerful movement, in total of

strong confirmation and attractive but different type. In total NK Nadirah can be named as an exceptional typical Arabian mare, a mare of finest "desert type".

Her sister NK Nasrin was different; she is her father's daughter not only on pedigree paper, but also in reality. She exposes Adnan's strong back and croup, his powerful movement from behind in perfection and his overall type. She became a producer of four excellent fillies, and one colt. The stud retained her last daughter NK Nazli; very much similar to her mother in type, expression and again in her exciting movement. NK Nazli's first daughter NK Nawaal



NK Naala



NK Ninniffee

can be considered as one of the most impressive yearling fillies at this time. It is a delight to look to such a gracious Arabian.

There is a third member of the Hadban family which had opened so to say another branch of the Hadban group. Again, the lovely mare NK Nashua was this time bred to NK Nahaman, a tall dark gray stallion by Saala El Dine out of the Madkour daughter Ameera. Ameera was a full sister to Hanan's first son Jamil, a very well-known sire in the past. Out of this cross three daughters were born, one of them "NK Nabeela"; she was kept for the stud. Again, like her father, a

dark-colored grey mare, tall like her father NK Nahaman, about 154 cm. NK Nabeelah's first daughter by NK Hafid Jamil became the reason of many arguments between interested buyers. Mr. Osama Al Kazemy was finally the lucky man, who could bring this mare NK Nakeebya to Kuwait. Her daughter Nabaweyah Ezzain was sold to Rashediah Stud in Bahrain and became the mother of the famous stallions Naseem Al Rashediah and also Ezz Al Rashediah.

Finally, NK Nabeelah produced the mare NK Nerham by Jamal El Dine. She remained at Katharinenhof and by surprise this time a bay colt

was born by NK Nadeer which was named NK Nabhan. He developed to be one of the best stallions which Katharinenhof has owned.

In summary the mare Lotfia, an Alaa El Dine daughter out of Bint Kamla, member of the famous Hadban line in El Zahraa made history due to her marvelous daughter Nashua. Her six daughters, three by Adnan and three by Nahaman, brought this family up to the top of Egyptian breeding.

Three mares are representing today the Obayan family at Katharinenhof. NK Abba, her daughter NK Amsha and NK Ninniffee. They carry onwards



NK Nazil



NK Nachita



NK Lamyá



NK Abía

the reputation of her late ancestor, the root mare Hanan. This bay mare became a legend due to her three sons and five daughters.

Jamil was the first stallion of Katharinenhof and was later on leased to Ansata Arabians in the US. Asfour, the second, was chief sire and Simeon Stud in Australia and finally Ibn Galal, was bought by the Hungarian stud Babolna and his influence on all the mares in Babolna was very obvious. Out of Hanan's five daughters it was Ghazala by Ghazal and Ameera by Madkour I, which were the ones which brought this family into further generations. Ameera with her son Nahaman, as mentioned before,

and Ghazala through her daughter Amroulla by Jamil. This Amroulla could look back to seven beautiful daughters when she passed away at the end of 20 years, daughters which went to England, to Kuwait, to Qatar and the two ones which stayed in Germany. This family became a solid flee-bitten grey group as colour stayed very uniform in size, type and conformation. The living three mares NK Abla, NK Amsha and NK Ninifee are solid columns of the NK Arabian breeding concept.

The next and third family belongs to one of the oldest Egyptian blood lines, the Siglawis, world-known due to her famous member Moniet El

Nefous. This mare was a dream for all admirers of Egyptian Arabians in the 1960ies - 70ies. Definitely due to her son Morafic, the chief stallion of Gleannloch Farm in Texas US.

It was Mahiba, again an Alaa El Dine daughter, which was chosen for the breeding program. A mare which qualified later perfectly for the closed concept. The two full sisters NK Lina and NK Lateefa, both by NK Kamal El Dine and the young mare NK Lamya by NK Nabhan filled out an important position in the concept. All three are of chestnut colour like Moniet El Nefous. However, all the three are in their overall conformation different from the two previous families. The



NK Nadirah



NK Lina

Hadbans are always the tallest ones, followed by the Obayans and then come the Siglawis. They show a wonderful strong body, good necks and a fine head, they are broad in the breast, but of shorter legs, which gives them a height of about 148 – 149 cm. A well-formed solid body makes them look taller as they are. This is true for Moniet El Nefous, her daughter Mona, which was the dam

of Mahiba; they all had the same size. NK Lina is the one which people like due to her wonderfully shaped head, elegant in its typical concavity. This family is very calm, friendly and extremely healthy. No trouble at all with infections, with birth problems or intestinal accidents. All these are very noticeable and appreciated characteristics since it was easy to produce and to keep such family

successfully going. Mahiba created, distributed overall Germany her own important population through her children, grandchildren and furtherer on in many other studs.

The last family which Katharinenhof favored to be a part of its breeding concept was a member of the Egyptian famous Dahman Shawan strain. In Egypt one can find two families, the one tracing back to the mare El Dahma, the other back to Bint El Bahrain, both were very different. The El Dahma is a very refined one. Regrettably this family in Egypt showed not the type which was expected. Stallions were used which brought this family into another direction. However, the preferred type was available in Ansata Arabians in the US. Two young mares Ansata Gloriana, a taller one and Ansata Primarose, middle in size and both Jamil daughters, were bought. Both belonged to the Bukra-Nazeer-Ibn Halima cross.

While the three other families in the concept developed as usual, this one remained a problem. Ansata Gloriana produced only two daughters, both by Sala El Dine, and passed away. One of them was Helala. She was fertile in bringing four daughters. They all were very much asked for and became brood mares in Kuwait and Qatar. Regrettably shortly after Helala died due to a stroke at only nine years of age. Ansata Primarose went back and forth to the US, finally her daughter Ansata Ken Ranya could be bought back by the stud. She became a good stallion mother



NK Laylah



NK Bint Bint Nashua



NK Layal



NK Lateefa



as the mother of Kamar El Dine and Jamal El Dine. From her two daughters NK Habiba by NK Nadeer was finally a good consolation. This beautiful mare has now all the future on her shoulder. Her latest foal was NK Houssain El Dine, now a strong powerful stallion, similar to her type which should assure that her genetic potential does not get lost.

A few years before a good friend of mine made a list of all foals which were born in Katharinenhof since the beginning. The figure came to a total of 450 foals, 221 females and 229 males. Considering some later mortality about 200 registered females carry the blood of these four families, which originally came from

Egypt. Only 20 of them are grouped together in Katharinenhof's stud and will be bred further on under a well-considered and controlled concept as a closed population. This comparatively small breeding

population, in comparison to so many bigger ones, is bringing the stud into the direction to be a more and more equal population and to become a source of very fine Arabians, with a high rate of homozygosity. ♦



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THE KATHARINENHOF ARABIANS ARE



SETTING A NEW STANDARD



THE STALLIONS OF KATHARINENHOF



NK Nizam



NK Houssain Al Dine

ARABIANS



NK Nabhan

