

Endurance

by Talitha Bakker ■ photos by Arabian Stud Europe archive

Endurance riding with show horses is it even possible?

Frequently we get the question If it is possible to start a show horse in endurance. Our first answer is YES you can!

That being said there are some things you have to keep in mind when starting your show horse in endurance. Let's start with the benefits your show horse has compare to endurance horses.

- 1. Your show horse has already learned to travel long distances to the show so it has no stress on the trailer and calmly eats his hay until he arrives at the showground.*
- 2. Your horse is used to spent the night in a strange stable surrounded by horses he doesn't know. Therefor it is used to eat hay which tastes different than the hay he has at home and is used to drink different water and also to drink out of buckets.*
- 3. Your show horse is already familiar with all kinds of noises so he will not spoke easily.*
- 4. Most show horses have a very low heartrate and fast recovery which can give you a lot of benefit during the endurance race.*

Of course there are also some down sides of the show horse



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in endurance. Nowadays the focus on the modern show horse is more on head and neck. The more upright the horse, the steeper the shoulder will be, the more difficult it is to show free movement from the front, which is essential in endurance. Also the modern show horse pays less attention on the legs and movement than in the older days. And with no legs, no horse! With the legs I don't just mean the correctness of the leg itself, but also the size of the hoofs. Are they equal in size? Having one hoof smaller than the other can give a chance on injuries during his endurance career. Of course it is more convenient when the legs goes straight forward instead of making a circle to the side as we see more and more in the showing these days.

What else you need for endurance. A strong back. Not long and soft which most of the times comes with the long neck

we like to see. But strong and short like the original Arabian should be. Then again not too short as than you will have a challenge finding a saddle that fits.

Also you need to have a nice character. A horse that likes to work together with you as a team and loves to work in general.

When you find a show horse that can check most of the features mentioned above, than you have a good chance to go far in endurance, even when your horse has a beautiful face!

How do you start?

First you train the horse to be obedient under saddle. Make sure he moves in a correct way and in balance. Slowly extend



ASE Falaree (Fadi al Shaqab x Dakaree) - winning the 53km in Leende



ASE Marshall by Psytadel

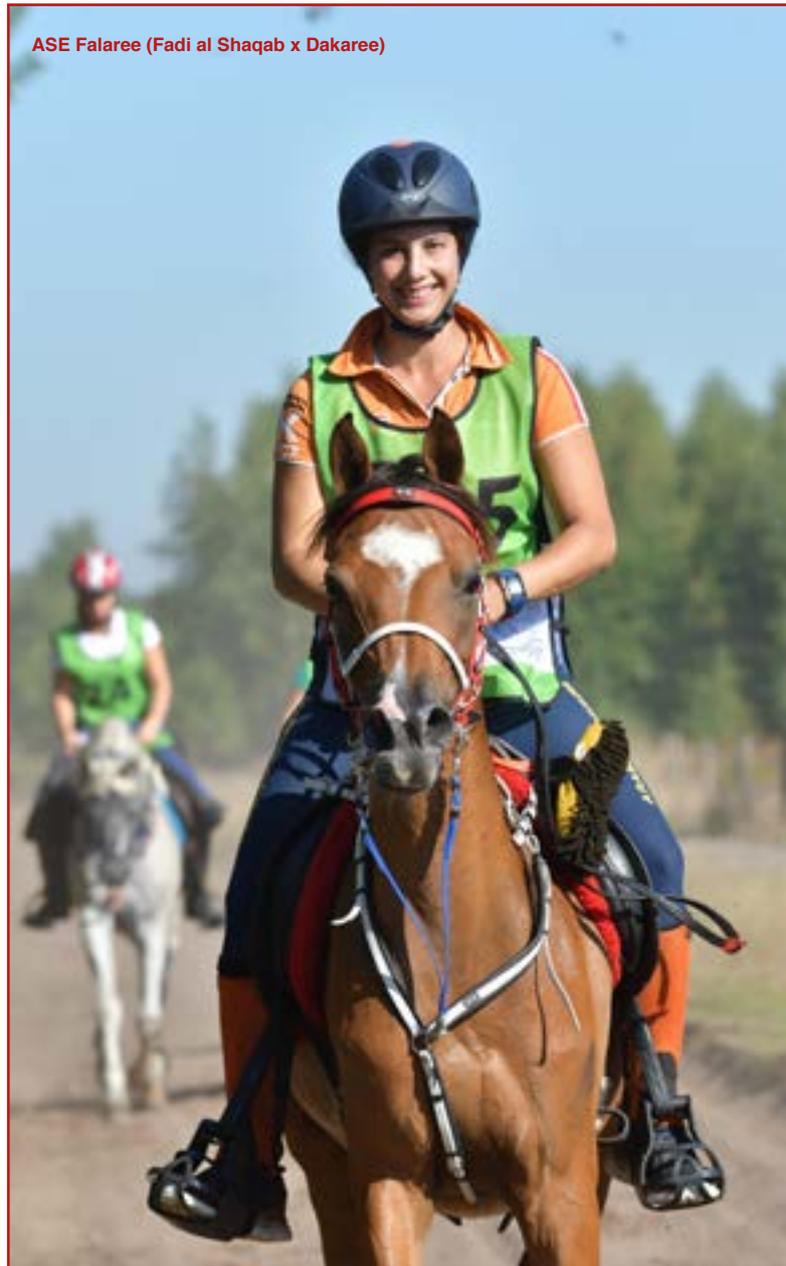
your training to about 4 hours a week. I normally train the young horses 30 minutes every other day in the riding arena to build up strength and in the weekend I go to the forest for 1,5 to 2 hours. Just relaxing, doing mostly walk, a little trot and just a few minutes of gallop.

After three months of training the horse is ready for it's first endurance race of 20–30 km. At the start of the endurance race, there is a vet check. Here they check the heartbeat of your horse and if he had enough to eat and drink so he is fit enough to start. Also they check the locomotion. This means you have to trot your horse in a straight line from the vet and back. We sometimes see that the show horses recognize this from the shows and put their tail up complete with snort and blow.

20km sounds like a long distance but it is really easy to do and normally takes 90 – 120 minutes to complete. Just take your time and enjoy the ride!

Step by step you go further and faster and before you know it you are participating at the long distances of 120 and 160km!

ASE Falaree (Fadi al Shaqab x Dakaree)



My endurance horses

I myself started in endurance with my mare ASE Bisiriya Hlayyil. She is a granddaughter of Hlayyil Ramadan (Salaa el Dine) and comes out of our foundation mare Manilah who is by Radamess II (Salaa el Dine) and out of Marischka (Plakat). Bisiriya has a very extreme face and was a silver medal show champion as a junior filly. She has a lot of workeffort. She has won multiple races of 20, 40 and

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ZT Faraventure by Anaza el Farid



ASE Bisiriya Hlayyil (Bishr x Manilah) winning the 44km Grolloo

80km and was 9th at the CEI 1* of 90km in Ermelo, The Netherlands with an average speed of 16,87 km/h. Later she took the 3rd place at the CEI 2* of 120 km in Babenhausen, Germany with an average speed of 15.59 km/h. She was also selected for the world championships endurance in 2017. Which we skipped due to her breeding obligations.

Another show champion in endurance is the breeding stallion ASE Marajó. As a junior he won the gold medal at the show in Milan as well as a silver medal at several shows in Holland and Belgium. ASE Marajó is a son of Marwan al Shaqab and comes out of the mare Manilah, who is also the mother of the mare we mentioned above. Marajó was Bronze National Champion endurance over a distance of 60km with an average speed of 16,70 km/h. He also won numerous 60km and 40km endurance races and won the 4th place at the CEI 1* of 80km in Neustadt-Dosse, Germany.

The stallion ASE Myandour won in 2016 the CEI 1* in Kilkis, Greece with Arianne Venizelou. He is a son of Marbaabah (Marwan al Shaqab) and comes out of the champion show mare Dakaree, who is by Dakar el Jamaal and comes out of Ultimate Fancy by WN Ultimate Star. Dakaree was later sold to Al Shaqab stud.

Dakaree is also the mother of ASE Falaree who is by Fadi al Shaqab. This mare, Falaree, won the 40km in Ankum, Germany in 2019 where she won the prize of best condition. In 2020, she won the 53km in Leende, The Netherlands.



The mare LI Wallonia (LI Chawan x Wamirah) 2nd place at the CEI 3* in Wimmenau

Another show bred mare is ASE Rahyeelah. She won the Silver medal at the show as a senior mare and then started her endurance career with Kine Belland from Norway. Rahyeelah is a daughter of Jary el Jamaal who is by Ali Jamaal and comes out of Roxana el Bri by CH el Brillo.



Medina el Assuad (Mouazar x Masoura) 2nd place 44 km Someren

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ASE Bisiriya Hlayyil at the CEI 2* in Babenhausen



ASE Bisiriya Hlayyil



Manilah (Radamess II x Marsischka)

Rahyeelab finished several CEI 1 and CEI 2* races successfully. Most recent she won the 2nd place at the CEI 2* of 120km in Denmark with an average speed of 16.15 km/h.*

Also the Straight Egyptian division is doing a great job. The

Blue List, Al Khamsa mare Medina el Assuad won the 2nd place at the 44km in Someren, The Netherlands.

The best show lines for endurance

It is hard to tell which lines are the best for endurance. At the moment, Gazal al Shagab offspring are very popular as they are known for their low heartrate and incredible fast recovery. Some of the successful progeny of Gazal in the endurance are:

Zloty Wiatr out of Zlota Wieza. This horse won the CEI 1 of 100 km at the HH Sb. Khalid B Hama al Khalifa cup with an average speed of 21 km/h. He was also second at the CEI 2* 120km race in Shakhbir with an average speed of 23.3 km/h.*

The horse MSA Silver Gazal won several CEI 2 endurance races in the States. He is out of of G Silver Rain by Menes.*

The gelding Emimbor out of Emika (Eldon) won the CEI 1 in Dubai with an average speed of 28.08 km/h.*

The gelding Bazyliszek won the CEI 3 in Zakrzow with an average speed of 16.3 km/h including other wins and second places at the CEI 2* events.*

The bay gelding Hilal S out of Waltz Away (Gondolier) also had a fabulous endurance career with many second places at CEI 2 events in Europe.*

It's been said that the endurance features of Gazal come from his sire Anaza el Farid. His son named Al Adham (originally named ZT Faraventure), coming out of ZT Garaventure not only won the CEI 3 three days endurance of in total 240km in Bouthib with an average speed of 22.14 km/h but a month later he also won the CEI 3* 160km President Cup in Abu Dhabi in 2007 with an average speed of 23.91 km/h which was very fast in that time. He was also known for his low heartrate and very fast recovery. Over the years Zichy Thyssen horses proof to be quite good endurance horses.*

The stallion ZT Magnanimus (AB Magnum x ZT Shakmontelite) is one of the best endurance sires in Argentina with numerous successful endurance offspring!

And what do you think of WH Justice? Also some of his



Geisha P (Major x Piruna) 2nd place 44 km Otterlo

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**Marijke Visser & Laiza de Jalima (Ismael Daubanel x Pirula by Piruet)
Talitha Bakker & ASE Bisiriya Hlayyil (Bishr x Manilah by Radamees II)
photo by Ruud Overes**



Marijke Visser and the mare Laiza de Jalima - Silver champion, World Endurance Championships Endurance 2014

offspring are doing well in endurance like the grey gelding Congo from Italy who won several CEI 1 and was 6th at the CEI 2* of 120 km in Pisa with an average speed of 20.2 km/h.*

My experience taught me that also Ali Jamaal bloodlines can give low heartrates and they have a very strong determination which can help you on the longer distances. They are no quitters! Personally I ride my direct Ali Jamaal daughter in endurance as well and she is always the first one to be presented at the vet, despite her older age of 18!

I also like the Egyptian lines in the endurance. They also have a great mindset.

Do you want to stay at the lower endurance level until 80km? Then it doesn't matter what pedigree your horse has or how much he looks like a pure show horse. Just relaxed and have fun! Any horse can successfully finish the 20-30km's and even until 80km most horses get through! It is worth the try! □