

WESTERN FALL

by Taliha Bakker

■ photos by Reindert Jansen & Josefien Spoelder

On Sunday the 30th of October, the Western Fall show of the Dutch Arabian Western Riding Association was held at the grounds of Forest Mountain Ranch in Woudenberg, The Netherlands.

Western riders from all over the country came to compete with their Arabian horses in five categories of Western riding; Hunter, trail, pleasure, horsemanship and reining.

This divided in different levels: Walk and Jog, Starters class and Open class.

The morning started with the category Hunter. In this category, the riders and horses are temporarily converted to dressage combinations. The horse is being ridden in a forward motion. The horse is being judged on obedience, willingness and appearance. Winner of this category was Patricia Bolleboom with her horse Amal-Casimir (Insjallah's Fayoum x Maral).

The second part of the day was the trail. In this categories, the horse and rider are being asked to ride a certain trail with several obstacles, like a bridge, a gate that needs to be opened and closed while sitting on horseback and going backwards in a certain path.

In this part the judges paid attention to the confidence of the horse and rider and no fear for the obstacles. The walk-and-jog level of this category was won by Marja Nauta with her horse Shadan (Sjapour x Pokanja). Winner of the open-class level was Warren Staas with her horse AAS Theeb (AAS al Sakk x Bint Amiraa).

After the trail is was time for the western pleasure. With the pleasure, the horse needs to move in one consistent speed and pose during the whole contest, making fluent changes between walk, jog and in the higher level, also the lope (gallop). Winner of the walk-and-jog level of this category was Carmen Brink with her horse CZA Arba Gira'en (Abril x Gilvana).

Winner of the open class level was Patricia Bolleboom with Amal-Casimir – her second win of the day! The starters level was won by Monica van Duijvenbode with her horse Erogon P (Honorrs x Raville P).

Next up was the horsemanship. This category has a certain

pattern that needs to be ridden. This is being marked with parwns. Circles need to be ridden as well in walk, trot and in the higher level also the lope (gallop) – also a turn on the backhand and backwards is obligated in this category. After this, the riders also need to perform some Western pleasure. In this class, the judges were judging the performance of the rider, the position of the rider and the relaxation of the horse. Winner of this category was Amanda Compaan with the beautiful horse Dakaree (Dakar el Jamaal x Ultimate Fantasy) – in ownership of Arabian Stud Europe.

Winner of the open class level was Warren Staas with AAS Theeb. Winner of the starters class was Marja Nauta with Shadan.

The last category of the day was maybe the most exciting one – the reining! In this part the riders need to follow a certain pattern and perform several excersizes like circles in different speed, gallop changes, stops, sliding stops, rollbacks and a spin. The horse needs to look relaxed at all times and show no resistance. In the end of the class, the judges also check the bridle of the horse. Winner of this category was Linda Kranendonk with Korinto (Almonito x Konkubina).

In the end of the day there was also an extra price for the best combination. This price was shared between Carmen Brink and Monica van Duijvenbode!

The best combination with the starters category was Warja Nauta.

Allround champions were Warren Staas and Patricia Bolleboom!

Although not so familiar in the Arabian horseworld, Arabian horses are doing very well in western competition all around the world. The DAWRA (Dutch Arabian Western riding Association) is organizing several competitions a year and are also serious competitors at the European championships for Western riding each year. That also showhorses can be good competitors in western riding, proofs the horseman ship category winner Dakaree. A multi-champion showhorse who is breeding champion offspring but mostly enjoys her life under saddle with her rider Amanda Compaan! □



Monica van Duijvenbode with her horse Erogon P



Carmen van de Boogaard with her horse CZA Arba Gir'ën



Amanda Compaan & Dakaree



Linda Kranendonk with Korinto