

Interview with



# KOENRAAD DETAILLEUR

by Talitha Bakker ■ photos by Tutto Arabi archive

Koenraad Detailleur is a well-known international judge from Belgium. In the past he also organized some successful shows in Belgium and besides all this he is also a very good breeder.

*TA: Could you give us a small introduction on yourself, your lifestyle and family?*

**KD:** I'm a designer/ interior architect, so I have a real passion for beauty. I love cooking as well, which is another passion we share with the family. Since my childhood I've been passionate by horses and I was riding a lot in my youth. Later on I discovered the Arabian breed. My first show, which is 40 years ago was



Koenraad with his foals, El Rasheem x Magnolia Apal

the 'Arabica Show' in Vlimmeren at Mr Joseph Peeters's property, organized by himself. In that time it was a competition between Belgium and Holland.

I'm very lucky that my family loves the Arabian horses as well. My three daughters Louise, Marie and Esther and my wife Katrien, are all involved with the horses at home and we all share the same passion for the Arabian breed.

**TA:** *How did you start with Arabian Horses and did this influence your current breeding program?*

**KD:** I was once on a wedding, sitting at the same table with a man who owned Arabian horses. He was talking about them and invited me the day afterwards to go riding with his Arabian horses on the beach and dunes. It impressed me so much that a couple of weeks later I bought my first Arabian, a Crabbet colt. I had a lot of fun with him.



Koenraad with his wife

Later on I started to visit many shows in Belgium and abroad. The first horses that had a big impact on me, were from the Plakat bloodlines, in those years the leading stallion in Europe. The crosses with Plakat and Ibn Estasha were extraordinary in that time.

In my breeding program I love to cross Straight Egyptian bloodlines with mixed bloodlines.

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*TA: What is your ideal image of the Arabian Horse?*

**KD:** I still love the classic Arabian type, horses that are nice in harmony, big black eyes, big nostrils, small ears, thin skin, good tail carriage and some dryness. Another important factor of a good Arabian horse is of course nice movement.

*TA: What goal do you want to achieve with your breeding program?*

**KD:** One day I would like to participate in Paris with one of my homebred horses and get the ribbon.



Koenraad at the Egyptian Event Cairo 2021





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*TA: How many mares do you own and which foals are you expecting this year?*

**KD:** I have five nice broodmares all homebred. Magnolia Apal (El Amin x SA Natsarah) is my foundation mare. This is a female line that created many champions around the world, all related to the most famous mare Saskia.

This season we expect 3 foals: Magnolia Apal x EKS Farajj; Amaluna, a daughter of Magnolia Apal with Kais Albaydaa is expecting her first foal by EKS Farajj and Magilla Apal, which is also a daughter of Magnolia Apal with MCA Magnum Gold is in foal to El Ray Magnum. For next year we already bred Emilia Apal (Redwood Lodge Artique x Bk Estera by Esparto) with Emerald J and we're planning to breed Meia Luna (Eden C x



Magilla Apal) with Fa El Rasheem. We're really looking forward to see our next generation of horses, the foaling season is always a very exciting period for us.

*TA: As a breeder and judge, you frequently travel the world. Are there any new young stallions who you think can have an impact on today's breeding that are still quite unknown?*

**KD:** Many times I see some offspring of not so popular stallions, who in fact







Koenraad at the World Championship 2018

are wonderful producers, but not they are not in the spotlights on the show scene, to mention some names: Muranas Jassehr, Kanz Al Nasser, even a horse like IM Bayard Cathare is interesting to reset some horses in body and leg structure. It's not the World Champions who are producing the next Champions, but the correct build horses with a certain consistency in the pedigree. A new colt who took my attention, is the young colt of Christine Jamar, Muranas Nader he is in my opinion a very promising young colt.

**TA: Which bloodlines have your preference?**

**KD:** There are many nice bloodlines, but I use more and more Egyptian or related stallions. It is very important to keep the characteristics of the Arabian horse in the breed and in my opinion we're losing it more and more. That's why I want to bring dryness and



those important details back.

**TA: Do you like the modern Arabian horse or do you miss some aspects of the past in the modern Arabian horse?**

**KD:** Some yes, for example my number one stallion in the world nowadays is "El Rasheem" he is just breathtaking.

But in many others, as we say modern Arabians, they become to long in the body, a super important Arabian characteristic is a short back! Many “modern arabians” become to big and missing big black eyes, they are losing “the Arabian spirit”.

*TA: We see more and more that old breeding programs are being shut down and not passed over to the next generation, losing some valuable knowledge about bloodlines. Do you think this will give problems in the future?*

**KD:** No, not so quickly. It is of course a shame that some nice breeding programs ended up, but there are newcomers as well with a vision, but not so many. Sometimes horses that are sold, out of those programs have new chances as well to be mixed with other lines and creating something new.

*TA: You are a worldwide respected judge. When did you start judging and what do you find interesting about judging the Arabian show horses of today?*

**KD:** I'm judging already more than 20 years, so I'm a 'senior' judge with a lot of experience (but I 'am young of mind ;) ). While travelling around the globe, you have the chance to see many kind of breeding programs, you see quickly the impact of some stallions. It opens your mind and you can always learn something, horse breeding is a never ending story and we must react quicker than ratio 30 years ago.

*TA: Do you think there is a big difference in showing as it was 10 years ago. Not only talking about the quality in horses but also at the atmosphere and the ways shows are being held nowadays?*

**KD:** If you would ask that question 20 or 30 years ago it would be the same answer, yes after a decade things change, some in a positive way, some in a bad way. Big shows become of course very professional, there is nothing wrong with that but our community needs to invest in the basic level of our breed too!

*TA: What was the most memorable moment of your judging career?*

**KD:** There are already a lot of nice moments, but judging for the first time the “World Championships” in Paris is something special. I also have nice memories

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of judging the Brazilian Nationals, the USA Nationals, Dubai show and judging in countries like Azerbaijan, Kurdistan, Oman...

*TA: Which show is still on your list to judge?*

**KD:** It's a long time ago that I was judging Aachen and so far I never judged Scottsdale so it would be nice to judge these shows one day.

*TA: How/Where would you see yourself, five years from now?*

**KD:** To have some homebred A show winners in my barn.

*TA: Is there anything specific you want to add to this interview to tell to the readers?*

**KD:** Yes, we are in a very bad period for the moment, covid is destroying our daily lives and I hope within a year of here it will be over, so we can continue our life like before.

The same in the Arabian horse breeding today, it's in the bad times that you have to invest and continue to breed, because my slogan is after rain sunshine is coming. Never give up!

Breeding today must be done in a clever way, observe your mares individually, look for what they need to become better, do you need better shoulders or shorter backs, longer croups...

Look for a stallion that give you that specific point and use him only for that, breeding is not mathematics but a long term way, do it step by step. Don't be blind for only a nice face. You always need to look at the whole picture. Good luck to everyone.

Koenraad Detaillieur □