Farhang FAZELIO

Interviewed by Sonja Smaldon

Interviewing DC's is something we do not often do, so I wanted to bring to light and underline the constituent parts of this profession by talking to Mr. Farhang Fazeli from Iran. He was very pleased to walk me through the main aspects of his personal experience as a Disciplinary Commissioner inside of the Arabian Horse show industry.

Who is Farhang Fazeli? Please share with us some background to you and your family.

I was born in a horsey-family. My father is still a Veterinary practitioner, so I have been with horses since I was a teenager. After I finished university, I started breeding Arabian horses seriously, actually I was the first person after Islamic Revolution in Iran, in 1979, who concentrated on breeding and promoting a new generation of the Arabian horse. As you might know, Iran is one of the oldest countries in the world with Arabian horses, but, what I was looking for it was new bloodlines and new breeding programs. My daughter Neela is a big fan of Arabian horses although she is only 7, but, we talk a lot



about this beautiful creature so I hope she will continue what I have done and I still do for my native country.

Farhang, when did you meet an Arabian horse for the first time?

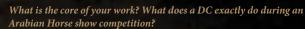
The journey with a new generation - or let's say a new type of Arabian horses - started in Poland in 2005-2006. I could visit private breeders and state-studs for my very first time, and I got simply hypnotized by the stunning quality and beauty of their horses. Ever since that time, I have been travelling to Poland every year and I still have many good friends which makes Poland like a second home to me.

When and why did you start this profession as a DC?

That's a nice question! I was sitting in a restaurant with Tomasz Tarczynski, who is still one of my best friends, talking about horses on the way to visit Sylvatica Arabians. At some point, Tomasz came up with an idea and said to me out of the blue: "Let's try to become ECAHO officials, I will maybe start as a Judge and you as a Disciplinary Commissioner." After many years, he has become an A-list judge, for sure one of the best, while I am an A-list Disciplinary Commissioner. Pity that Tomasz didn't come up with the idea of being on the list of Forbes top 100 billionaires in the world!







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I believe many people still underestimate the job and jurisdiction of DCs at shows. The main responsibility is to work for the welfare of the participating horses; the second one, it is to ensure a very fair com-



petition for all the exhibitors. As matter of fact, the job of a DC starts before the show and finishes after the show, it is not as easy as it looks. During a show if everything goes wrong, it's the job of DCs to take care of it. So, as a DC, I have to stay sharp from the beginning until the end of the show, making sure that everything is under control and that the rules of Blue Book are being applied in details. All sorts of complaints are made to DCs during a show and, sometimes, in less than a second, I am required to decide what to do to solve the issue.



If any, which is one of the most frequent complaints that you can hear about the disciplinary process at shows?

"Don't interrupt my horse presentation!". This is what my DC collegues and I commonly hear at shows...Of course, it is never our intention to interrupt some handlers, but, sometimes, we have to!

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