

Breeder's Top Ten in Q&A: Piotr Podgórny (M Arabians, Poland)

by Urszula Łęczycka

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Having a quick look back on the farm history Piotr shares with us the most significant moments in his life as an Arabian horse breeder, recalls the happiest but also those difficult moments and gives an idea what impact an Arabian horse can have on the life of its owner – all in 10 short, sometimes funny, questions and answers.

1. The best thing that horses have brought into my life is...

I can't imagine my life without them. I was born at a time when things in Poland were not yet as good as they are today. You couldn't own Arabian horses on your own, but you could have dreams. And these are the ones that have led me throughout my life to this day.

Besides, they brought a lot of joy into my life and taught me that you need to have a great distance from yourself.

2. Best horse-related memory...

There is no end to these memories, as they are all related to horses, but to return with my thoughts to the very beginning of our breeding, to the first purchases and to the wonderful young people of my age at that time, with whom together we started to run today's world-famous Polish private breeding farms, this is it.

3. Greatest success related to horses...

Looking at it from the perspective of 21 years, which is very little in horse breeding, and bearing in mind that we started



from zero, our horses have won many titles and medals. However, the most important thing for me personally is that I was able to stand in the top five junior mares at the prestigious Menton show in 2018 with my wife Magdalena and my mare Espaja. This was something that for young breeders without an established brand there is impossible to achieve. I succeeded after 15 years, and this is for me the greatest personal success in breeding.

4. The most difficult decision in my life as a breeder and owner of horses is...

Fortunately, there were not many of them, but breeding is not a pen factory and at any time something can happen. Usually, it is related to health or the birth of foals. Then you

must grit your teeth and make the only right decision at that moment. Later, you must bite it off. Such is life.

5. My biggest dream related to horses...

My whole life is a dream that I strive for. There would be something wrong with me if I didn't want a horse of my breeding to win the title of World Champion. But, let's take it easy, give me a few more years...

6. The best horse I have bred is...

Quick question - quick answer: our most beloved Espaya. But she, too, must and she reckons to be dethroned, as there is a lot of competition on the horizon among the youngsters.

Espaja (AJA Justified x Espanera) - 2018 Menton Show



Espaja (AJA Justified x Espanera) - 2018 Menton Show





Espajlita M (AJ Elaf x Espaja)

photo: Kinga Wnuk



Espajlita M (AJ Elaf x Espaja)



Espaja (AJA Justified x Espanera) - 2023 Aachen Show

7. My ideal Arabian horse is...

I don't have a definite answer to this question. There were and are many horses that I like. Just as the judges have their subjective opinions. If there was only one ideal, then all the rest of breeding would make no sense. I still believe that one such horse will be born in my stable. Or maybe for my children, who are just this year starting their own careers in the show rings under the guidance of their dad.

8. The most beautiful place associated with Arabian horses for me is...

Every place has its own charm. Sentimentally I was very strongly connected with Janow Podlaski, because it was

there that my acquaintanceship with many people began, with whom we are on very intimate terms to this day. Hotel and pierogi at "Mrs. Basia's", who treated us like her grandchildren, but these are memories that will not return. Recently, my wife and I became enamored with Qatar and the shows in Doha. A wonderful place. Almost as wonderful as the horse paddocks near my house.

9. The funniest Arabian horse related story that happened to me is...

One such story was the purchase of my first mares from Janow Podlaski. At the tender for them I went 3 times. The first time the price was too high for me, but nothing could be bargained. The second tender was similar. I am a very



photo: Piotr Podgórný



stubborn and persistent in resolutions man from under the sign of the scorpion. I went to the tender a third time. It was the day when the beautiful Pianissima became the World Champion for the first time. With this information Marek Trela called Ania Stefaniuk (breeding specialist in Janów Podlaski at that time) from Paris. There was great joy, which I took a little advantage of. I asked if there was then a chance for me to buy these mares for the price I proposed. Marek Trela then agreed without the slightest resistance. From such a wonderful event everything started. It was a good sign for my breeding - "M" Arabians.

10. Arabian horse breeding has taught me that...

Arabian horse breeding has taught me many things. First, that the most important thing in life is dreams, which you have to strive for at all costs. Secondly, not to listen to people who think that what you are doing doesn't make sense, because you are doing it not like everyone else but against any rules. I've always had my opinion and in breeding I am guided by my heart, and humility and perseverance are my sisters. I still have a lot of work ahead of me, but I'm in it together with my dear wife Magdalena and my children (now youngsters). I am very happy and proud of them.

Piotr Podgórný - owner and breeder at M Arabians in Western Poland. This relatively young (since 2004) stud farm has already a number of show entitled horses, amongst which the national and international successes belongs to:



Gotico (WH Justice x Ginga/Galba), 2011 stallion

- 2012 Junior Spring Show Bronze Champion Stallion - Białka (PL)
- 2012 Class Top Five (Yearling Colts) at the Polish National Show - Janów Podlaski (PL)
- 2013 Arabian Horses in Westphalia Junior Champion Stallion - Salzkotten (GER)
- 2013 Polish National Junior Top Five Stallion - Janów Podlaski (PL)
- 2014 Tulip Cup Top Five Junior Stallion (Three Year Old Colts – 2nd place) Deurne (Netherlands)
- 2014 Polish National Junior Top Five Stallion - Janów Podlaski (PL)
- 2014 International Wels Show Top Five Junior Stallion (Three Year Old Colts – 2nd place) - Wels (AT)
- 2015 Silver Champion Senior Stallion - International B Show Kauber Platte (GER)
- 2016 Gold Champion Colt Cracow Arabian Horse Festival (PL)

Espaja (AJA Justified x Espanera/Kabsztad), 2016 mare

- 2023 2nd place mares 7-10 years old European Championship Verona (IT)
- 2023 2nd place mares 7-10 years old All Nations Cup Aachen (GER)
- 2023 3rd place mares 7 - 10 years old XLVth Polish National Arabian Horse Show (PL)
- 2018 Top five fillies 2 years old – Menton (FR)
- 2017 Top Five Yearling Fillies Białka Junior Spring Show (PL)
- 2017 Top Five Yearling Fillies XXXIXth Polish National Arabian Horse Show (PL)
- 2017 Gold Medal Champion Yearling Filly II Cracow Arabian Horse Show (PL)

Eselaja M (AJ Elaf x Espanera/Kabsztad), 2020 mare

- 2022 Class winner yearling fillies European Championships (BE)
- 2022 class winner (scored 93,00) Białka Junior Spring Show (PL)
- 2022 class winner junior fillies III Sopot Arabian Horse Show (PL)
- 2021 Silver Medal Champion Junior Filly Sopot Arabian Horse Show (PL)

Espajlita M (AJ Elaf x Espaja/AJA Justified), 2021 mare

- 2024 Gold Champion Filly and class winner Prague Intercup - International Arabian Horse Show and Emirates Arabian Horse Global Cup (CZ)
- 2024 class winner fillies 3 years old All Polish Arabian Horse Championship (PL)
- 2024 class winner fillies 3 years old Białka Junior Spring Show (PL)
- 2023 class winner and Best Polish Horse IVth Sopot Arabian Horse Show (PL)

Eskahila (Kahil Al Shaqab x Espanera/Kabsztad), 2018 mare

- 2020 class winner XXXIVth Polish National Arabian Horse Show (PL)
- 2020 Top Five Junior Fillies Białka Junior Spring Show (PL)
- 2020 Bronze Medal Junior Filly Sopot Arabian Horse Show (PL)