

# OUR PASSION OUR FUTURE

by Giorgia Mauri

Everyone today is facing a new situation and is imaging the world after Covid19. We collected some reflections of breeders, owners, trainers, organizers, judges, media and Association's presidents on the future of the Arabian horse world. We warmly thank them for their words.

This global health emergency and the resulting restrictions on mobility and personal freedom are marking a watershed between what was our life before and what will become in more or less permanent terms after the emergency is resolved.

This situation also provides an opportunity for us to reflect on the key points of our lives and how we intend to continue to achieve the goals we have set ourselves at personal, professional, private and collective level.

The world of the Arabian horse is not exempt from this reflection because never before has it been necessary to rethink how to meet and express all the potential that Arabian horse offers.

*How do you imagine the future of the Arabian horse world and shows in case the restrictions should continue?*

*In order to continue to give hope to breeders, could it be useful to organize shows behind closed doors?*

*How do you think the shows could take place?*

*Luckily the breeding season is going on because the seed can be shipped and circulated. To continue this business could it be interesting to organize online auctions?*



Executive Director of the  
Arabian Horse Association of Arizona



This pandemic has rocked the world and caused people to stop and think about what is important to them, for many of us it is the Arabian Horse! Our future is changing and the Arabian industry has been working to find new ways to keep the barns going and the community engaged. Many of us rely on this industry for our livelihood, we have many smart, hardworking people that are resilient and coming up with new ways to keep their business going. There will be some fall out for many of our shows and events, the economic impact this has caused to the majority of people is going to be felt but as a community we need to stay strong, support one another and continue to do and support what we love. For now, we need to come up with new innovative ways to keep the Arabian Horse in the forefront as they make people happy and give them something positive to focus on.

It is amazing the initiative many people and companies have taken to continue to promote the Arabian horse and keep people engaged. The online horse shows, the online promotion, and videos, the photo contests are all wonderful ways to keep the industry going and maybe how we get through this for the next few months. The marketing online, the town halls, educational opportunities have allowed us to reach an even larger audience. I think this will be part of the future and my hope is we may get some new Arabian horse lovers from it!

The next few months will be rough while we wait for the virus and the fear to subside. With many horse shows being canceled and not yet rescheduled until we see what our future looks like is uneasy for everyone. I think the online shows are genius, this allows people to be a part of a 'worldwide' show which allows trainers, owners & breeders the opportunity to promote their horses internationally. The format is great with the judges giving feedback and allowing us all to learn more about what they are looking at gives us not only a learning opportunity but also a fun event that we can be a part of the international community.

I do think that we have many online auctions and that this inability to go to horse shows will help them be more successful, this is a great way to still be involved in viewing the horses out there for sale. I do think there is even a greater opportunity to showcase the 2020 foal crop this year and get people excited about the future show career of these horses.





# RENATA SCHIBLER

ECAHO A Judge, ECAHO's member  
and President of Swiss Arabian Horse  
Organization

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It was when I was judging the 2020 Dubai International Arabian Horse Championship that COVID-19 first touched my life. The circumstances were very unusual, and the show was closed off from the public. Then immediately after, for the same reason, I postponed the upcoming AGM of the Swiss Arab Horse Society. Since then, I can confirm one of the most quoted statements on this subject, “The world after Corona is no longer the world before Corona.”

Because every crisis can also create opportunity, our overall perspective has never been more important. I am aware that our Arabian show scene is suffering, but we must stay positive and reinvent ourselves. Even before the pandemic, there were virtual events which indicated future possibilities. Fortunately, there are some who are moving us forward by implementing more of these opportunities for engagement while we are homebound.

This is a good time to reflect—and if we hope to survive, we must all consider the future and make efforts. We must also remind ourselves that it is a privilege to have a role in the existence of the Arabian horse, a breed which has survived thousands of years. The Swiss writer Max Frisch (1911 – 1991) wrote, “A crisis is a productive state. You just have to take away the aftertaste of the catastrophe.” I am confident that we will emerge from these unique challenges stronger than ever before.

I would like to thank TUTTO ARABI for this opportunity to share my opinions. TUTTO ARABI has been a leading media provider in the business of Arabian horses and is a cornerstone of our community. I look forward to how Fabio Brianzoni and Simone Leo will contribute to the transformation from our present, into our future.

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# TK ARABIAN CENTER



Urszula Łęczycka & Tomasz Kotyński,  
breeders and co-owners of  
TK Arabian Center

## The arabian horse industry how to survive the crisis and get better for the future

Nowadays horse breeding meets a lot of difficulties and the global crisis we are facing now due Covid-19 doesn't make the situation of Arabian horse breeders and owners better. In our opinion the „horse factories” and popular use of embryotransferring as well as using very limited number of just a few fashionable stallions all over the world destroys the basic sense of any horse breeding.

We think that to develop our breed for the future we should give the chance for more

stallions to be used, also via natural covering – that widens the gene pool of the breed, avoid the problems of semen quality and in consequence – lowers the costs for the breeders to cover the mares successfully and promotes medium and smaller farms with their homebred stallions. They may exchange the stallions with a good results too. Good idea that is being forgotten is leasing the stallions, also those from medium and small breeding, to prove their quality that happens to be a very good way to discover new blood sires that are under used too often. Letting new blood coming into a gene pool develops the breed much faster than any promotion. For example we probably all know some stallions from smaller farms that usually cover around

10-20 mares producing 2-3 very good foals while some famous stallions used everywhere on 100 or many more mares they have the same number of outstanding offspring. Their popularity is thanks to the giant promotion and the number of mares covered, not thanks to their real quality. That doesn't lead to development.

Excellent example that confirms that thesis is Thoroughbred breeding program that doesn't allow embryo transfers and even semen freezing. Results of that breed development and the market for it are still amazing all over the world, also the gene pool is bigger, there is no problem to find the market for colts and stallions – as big number of them has to be used on even a local mares. And the prices for breeding to top Thoroughbred stallions are incomparably bigger than the fees for top Arabian stallions semen. The same situation is with the prices for top quality horses at the auctions where millions or euros or dollars are not a rare deals. In the same time Arabian horse industry is struggling with no market for medium and lower quality mares and no place for thousands of colts that are not good enough for shows or races. The crisis due to Covid-19 may deepen that situation, as the market works well mostly for champion holders and champion producers, the breeders who keep having and breeding horses wouldn't have a chance to sell the other horses as, on the other hand, some buyers whose business struggle with coronavirus may hesitate to buy the horses. At last but not least – cancelling the shows may lead to lowering of popularity of Arabian horse breed, show sponsors may look for other ways of investing money other than promoting Arabian horses at the shows that wouldn't take place.

We see that many breeders are afraid of planning their trips to the shows in the near future and they are afraid for the high costs of breeding against narrowing the market.

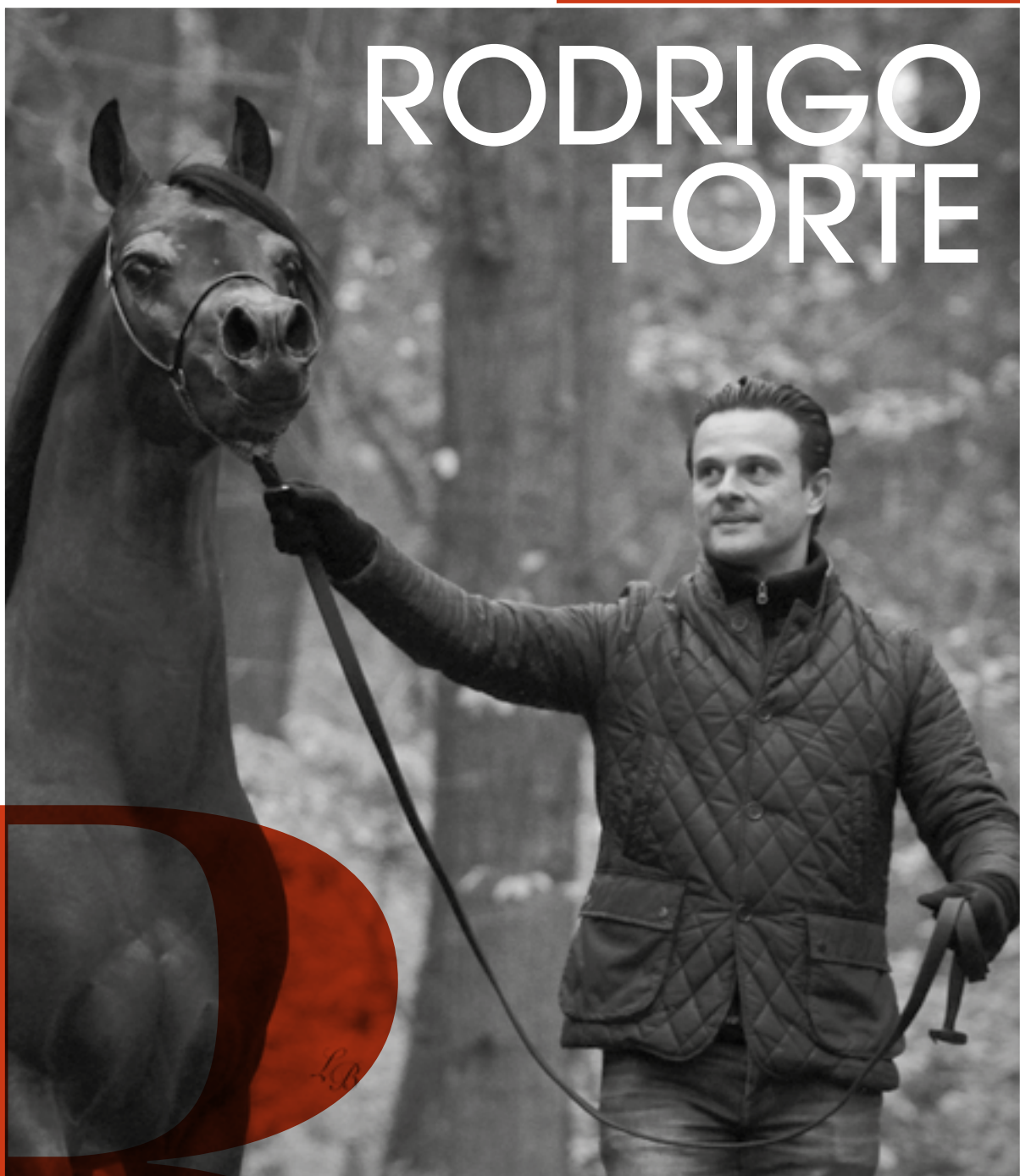
As the owners of the training centre we see that problem clearly. No monopoly works well for the market. It also concerns smaller training and breeding centres. Many horse owners

hoping for great show results used to focus around few big training centres that, having hundreds of horses may not promote all of them on equal level at limited number of shows and for limited champion titles anyway. Smaller training centres are able to spend much more time for a single horse giving it the best care and training possibilities. The same is with the reproduction. For example the services of show training and covering with raising the mares and foals at our centre in Poland are getting very popular amongst the breeders from foreign countries. They appreciate the individual care with daily photos and videos reports about their horses, excellent results of mares reproduction (last year we have been the only place in Poland that inseminated the mare with frozen semen of one of the world top sires successfully, while all the other breeders had to bring the mares abroad for fresh semen covering of that stallion. This year the beautiful filly has just been born few days ago!). All that services including show training we are able to offer in much lower costs in Poland comparing to Western Europe. That's getting so important in the time of the global economical crisis! The result is that we already have the stable full with horses from such countries as Sweden, Finland, Kuwait, Egypt, Russia, Lithuania, Austria, Switzerland, Israel, Saudi Arabia and Poland. Not many people may know that also the future racing stars of Al Khalediah Poland (that would hopefully follow the footsteps of Fazza Al Khalediah) are being raised at our farm – from a weanlings to 2 years old when they leave for the race training. There are also show horses and broodmares being bred and delivering foals for their owners in our stables, as well as we offer 3 breeding stallions of different blood for the 2020 season mainly with fresh semen and natural covering.

In the moment of a crisis especially smaller and medium breeders have to stay together and support each other. We appeal to everyone to take it seriously, search and share the experiences and solutions in that special and difficult situation. Maybe it's worth considering to make one step back to have opportunity to make few steps forward later.

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# RODRIGO FORTE



Owner of RFI Arabians and  
President Of Brazilian Arabian  
Horse Breeders Association





We are living in an odd moment of great suffering for several reasons. But on the other hand, I think this crisis is teaching us a lot of good things, especially to give even more value to the people and things we like most.

Here in Brazil we are all at home obeying the lockdown. Some of the luckiest ones are in their stud farms, others like me stuck in the city away from the horses. My parents are elderly and I isolated them in the farm. To preserve my parents' health, I am not going to the stud farm. I am missing them so much, as well my horses.

In regards to the Brazilian Arabian Horse Breeders Association, with the first semester's shows canceled, we are acting with great force in the interaction of the breeders via a super group that we have on WhatsApp and on social media. It is incredible the amount of information and knowledge that we have exchanged in the group, something that I have never seen before in many years of breeding. Confinement and technology have helped us a lot in this regard. We are now going to organize forums addressing judging criteria, sports modalities, stories about important breeders etc., all so that people can continue to interact and enjoy our beloved Arabian Horse. We have just held the traditional embryo and breedings auction of the Association, 100% online, which was a real success, reaching record sales. More than ever, technology is at our disposal to help.

Despite the very critical moment, we know that it will all pass. It is a matter of time. I believe that despite the financial problems and the sad losses, the world will come back better, people more sensitive to the needs of others and the Arabian Horse world more united around our passion. I wish you all a lot of health, faith and that soon we can be free and have fun together again.



# MONIKA SAVIER



Breeder, equestrian journalist  
and owner of 3 Balzane Stud

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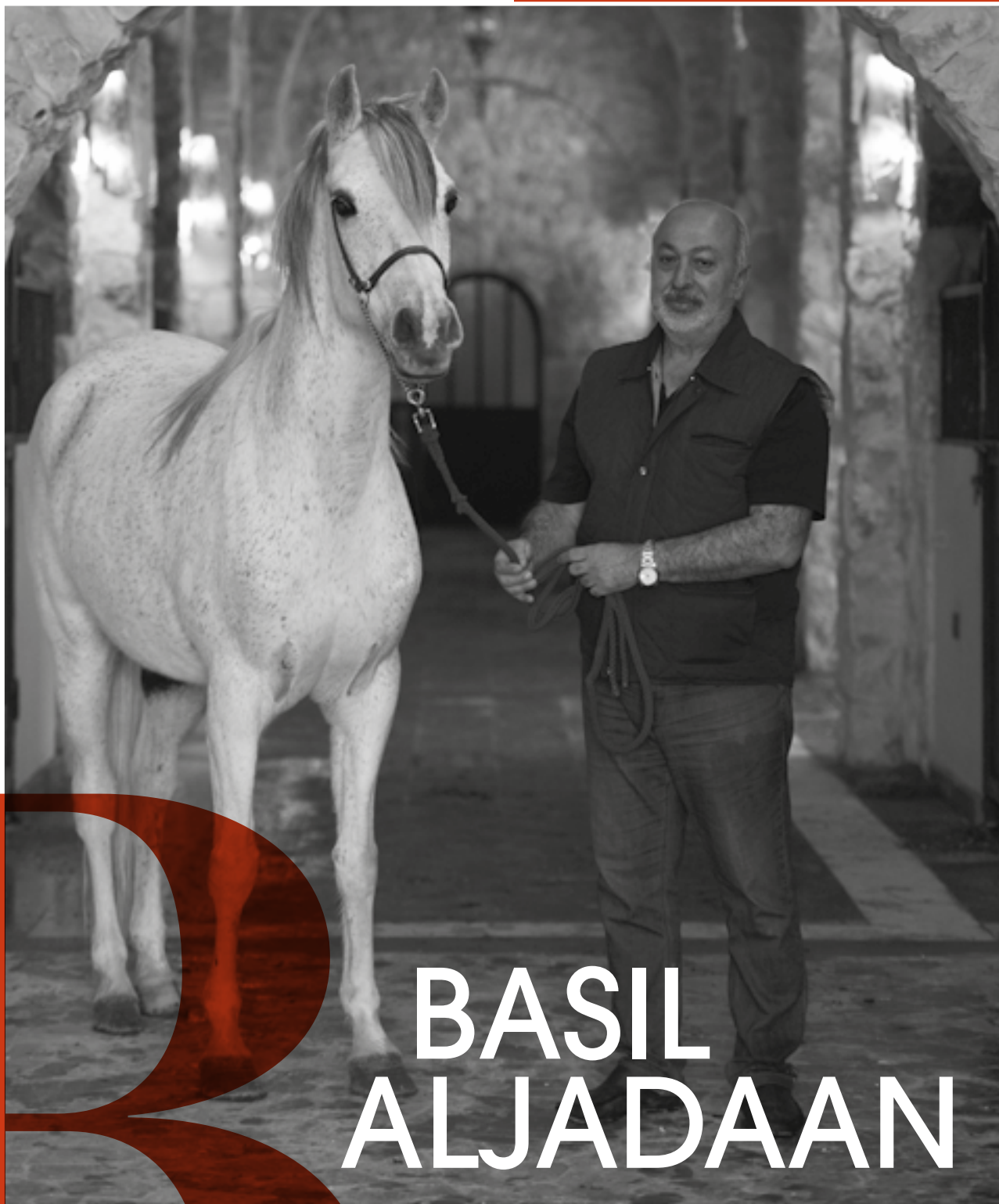
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All show events could be shown to a large audience through live stream. The Arab scene knows this already well. The actors, i.e. horses and handlers, do not normally have direct contact anyway.

That shouldn't be a big problem, because even in the past there was very little audience at most shows, the grandstands were almost empty. One could leave enough space between the few people and also prescribe face masks. With Live stream the show will be delivered to the breeders home.

2020 an online auction for the sale of horse semen comes too late. By the time this is organized, the season in Europe will be over and the decisions will have been made long ago. I assume that 2021 the Corona virus will not affect us anymore. For the Arabic world an auction is not necessarily interesting. The social networks between the breeders there, work very well and most of the time mating is free of charge.

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# BASIL ALJADAAN

Breeder, owner of Al Jadaan Stables,  
ECAHO A judge and First President  
of the Syrian Arab Horse Association



There is no doubt that the world has changed a lot and will never be the same. World as the one we have known before. What will be after the corona crisis will not be what was before it in a lot of ways. So far some of the results of the current crisis are positive and some of them are negative if we talk about the social side of it... Having to stay at home altogether, families seem to have stronger ties and members of the family are becoming closer and in some cases are re-introducing to each other as if they didn't know each other before.

Spiritually, people seem to have been reminded again and strongly of the basic facts of life and death and are closer to faith and belief than any time before and the ladder of their priorities have a new order and ranking as if we reminded strongly of our weaknesses as humans and in the light of our failures in finding solutions we are certainly in need of help from our creator, the creator of the Earth and the Skies and what's in between them, the seen and the unseen, the known and the unknown. Economically speaking, the impacts of the freezing of life (which was MAYBE necessary) will be most probably catastrophic and will end by disastrous reflections in various forms, the worst could be a world war besides a massive raise in crime rates and internal unstableness.

Politically speaking, using fear as a justification to control people more and more in order to take away their basic freedoms should have a limit and should in no way become continuous and escalate to an extent of that in the name of vaccines and protection of people, individuals will be forced to implant some kind of the most advanced technologies and monitoring devices in their bodies. It's not only governments who are involved and to be blamed for this global control of data and of humans, it's the big money and the strong interest, powers and groups behind the curtains that are to be pointed at as well. Governments must be held accountable for not having the preparations for big epidemics and were prepared for wars and have arsenals of weapons that could destroy the earth multiple times.

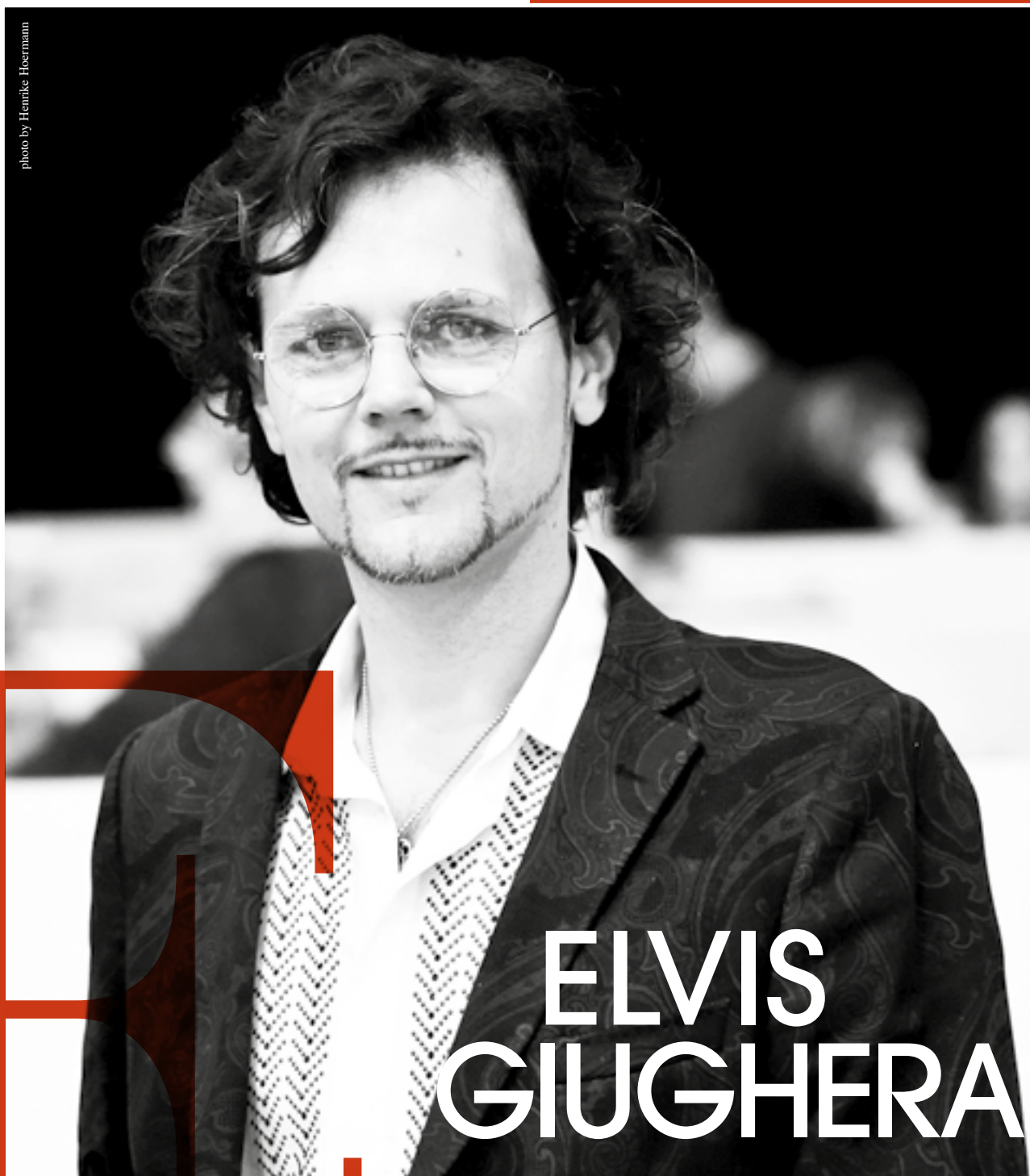
Speaking of Arabian horses, breeding and events are another subject to see things in a positive vision, to see the horse again as a partner and a friend and not as a property or a commodity. In fact we don't own them, we are in partnership with them and with other creatures, we continue and complete each other and we cannot survive without the other creatures around us, we are in the same chain and it's nice to see people looking at nature in a new prospective and appreciating life and all the beauty and harmony around. It was really shocking to see how things can change overnight and how planning for the future can be impossible and how all expectations can be mysterious, living day by day is pleasant and losing the present time and emotions worries about the future and tomorrow. Take your time, hold your breath and live slowly.

I think everything has an end and even this one... will also pass.

I will stay and always be optimistic and I hope and believe that things are going to be better in the future and we should not forget the lessons we learnt during this first time in history experience and the most important of all is to be closer to our families and friends, closer to our horses and to the nature around us, closer to the good values, closer to ourselves, closer to God.



photo by Henrike Hoermann



# ELVIS GIUGHERA

Breeder, owner of Le Soleil Stud,  
co-owner of Arabian Essence



First I would like to thank you to ask for my opinion, I know Tutto Arabi is one of the most followed Arabian horse magazines in the world and it's always a pleasure to collaborate with you. However this is a very difficult question, I think that we all should take this time of lockdown to reflect on our breeding programs and take advantage of it, we always run and run all the time and we never have 10 minutes to sit and think or talk with other breeders and Arabian horse lovers, personally I think that sharing and listening is the key of success, as a breeder I always tried to watch what other important breeders did before me and tried to learn from their success and also from their errors. Of course breeding is not like mathematic, you can do your best but not always 1 + 1 gives you 2...

In case the restrictions should continue, we (Media) must keep people joined and help them to stay happy and think positive. With this in mind Arabian Essence created two very interesting projects:

**ARABIAN ESSENCE ACADEMY** For years we have dreamed of creating a FREE resource where breeders or enthusiasts can find educational information to help them care and manage their horses successfully. The basis of good horsemanship is knowledge and we want to provide this valuable and helpful educational information to our Arab horse community.

We have always been visionaries and innovators - we're always looking for new ideas - not only to fill the needs of our customers and friends but to pay tribute to these magnificent creatures we are dedicating our lives to and we are very happy to see that other people have followed our footsteps.

This is our slogan LOVE | KNOWLEDGE | SHARE so the more the merrier!

And #StayAtTheFarm

We have had the idea to create a talk show where people can watch and participate to keep all joined in this global health emergency moment, we've started like a pastime and already at the first episode we've got so many requests to participate as a guests and hundreds messages with questions for our guests that we've decided to do it weekly so every Friday we have 6 guests and, believe me, you cannot imagine the audience we reached, more than a show, viewers send questions to our social room from all around the world, people share their experiences and have the occasion to ask informations about breeding to other breeders or judges, nothing else could better identify our slogan: LOVE | KNOWLEDGE | SHARE

I'm not an organizer so I do not know how complicated it can be to organize a show, but I'm sure it is, I think this could be a good idea, go ahead to do shows behind closed door as Dubai International show did last march and we (Arabian Essence TV) will do livestream to allow people to watch their horses. Livestream nowadays is became a standard for all shows, people have become accustomed to this service and it has now become fundamental for everyone. I think this will be the best solution till the end of this emergency, It will give for sure hope to everybodyY

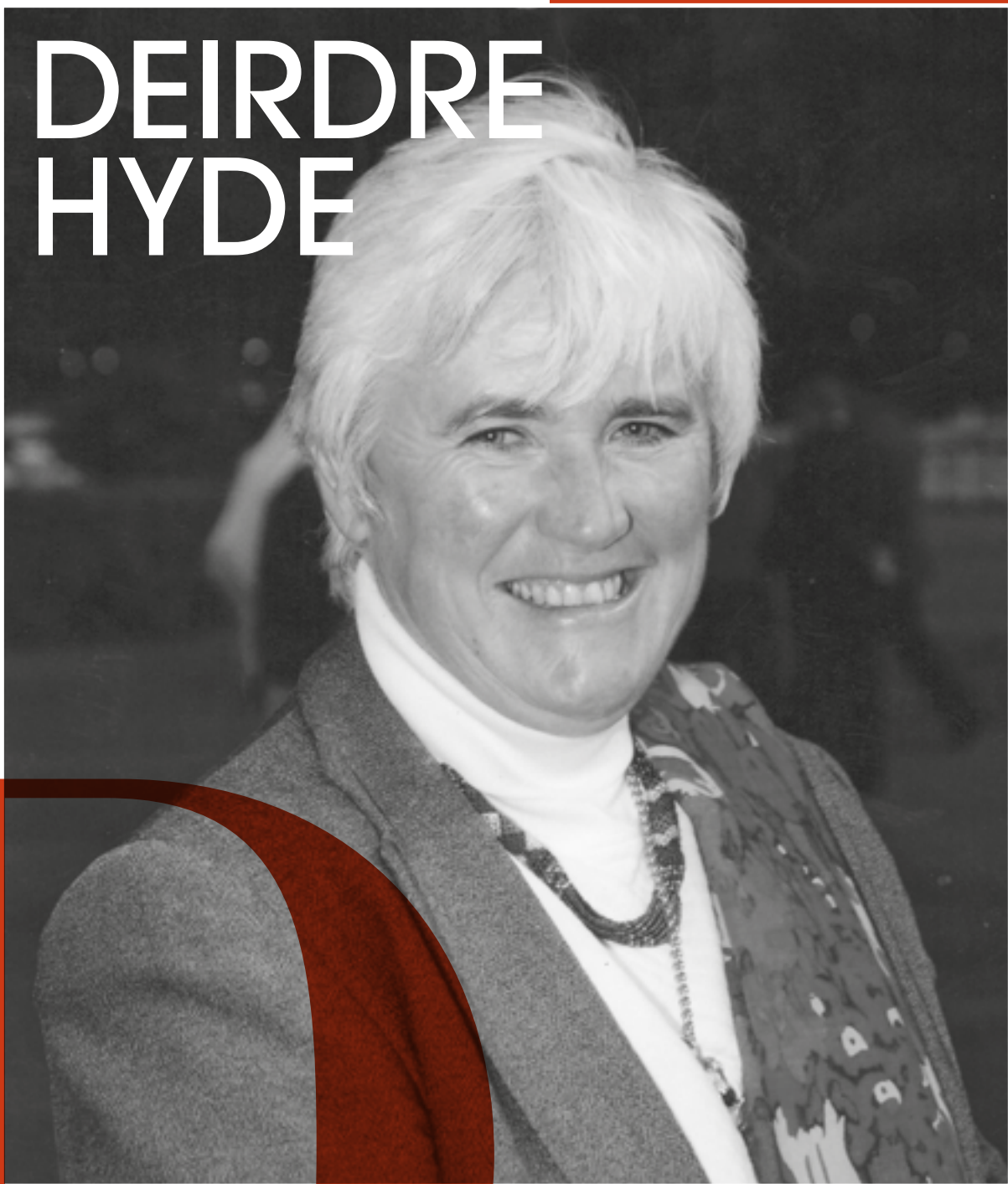
Yes I think this can be a good idea too, just yesterday we've got a call from an European breeder that asked us to be their official media on the realization of an online auction and of course we`all give our support, on top we also started to organize ONLINE OPEN HOUSES, this will help a lot all breeders to show their horses worldwide and costs are cheaper than how much does a real open house with lot of visitors cost. It would be like a show behind closed doors, people can watch all directly from their houses.

We will start with our first ONLINE OPEN HOUSE with La Movida Arabians end of May or beginning of June.

Thanks for asking for my opinion.



# DEIRDRE HYDE



ECAHO A Judge  
and Arabian horse consultant  
for Emirates Arabian Horse Society





This is a very good and difficult question and the answer needs a crystal ball! A great deal is going to depend on the eventual financial position everyone finds themselves in and it will vary very much according to different countries. The Arabian business was already facing questions about its future, small breeders feeling they have little chance in the shows and giving up. Less and less breeding going on outside the Middle East, shows with very small entries and the dissatisfaction with judges and judging systems etc.

Maybe this pause gives time to consider where we want to go in the long term? Everyone in the business needs to be thinking "outside the box"! How to develop wider markets for the horses that are not going to make it to the top especially colts? These horses need to be made desirable and given more than the throw away value they have at the moment. We need to do more to encourage people to want an Arabian for itself, not just to breed horses to breed more! We must bring in young people, vital for the long term, we are in competition with so many other activities, how do we do it? The Al Jassimya Amateur initiatives are one bright spot on the horizon. We need to promote some superstar horses and their people, not necessarily World Champions but horses that fulfil people's dreams and we need to show our horses as people and family friendly.

I strongly believe that we could do a great deal more by way of online education. So far just a toe has been put in the water, congratulations to those already trying. We need to invest in regular slots on TV e.g. Horse and Country Channel or similar, or a regular on-line programme that covers all aspects of the Arabian, its history, what is happening around the world, training, endurance, sport, racing as well as breeding and shows. We have to build a much broader base. All these things need to be done whether we have restrictions or not if we want to see a healthy future our fabulous breed.

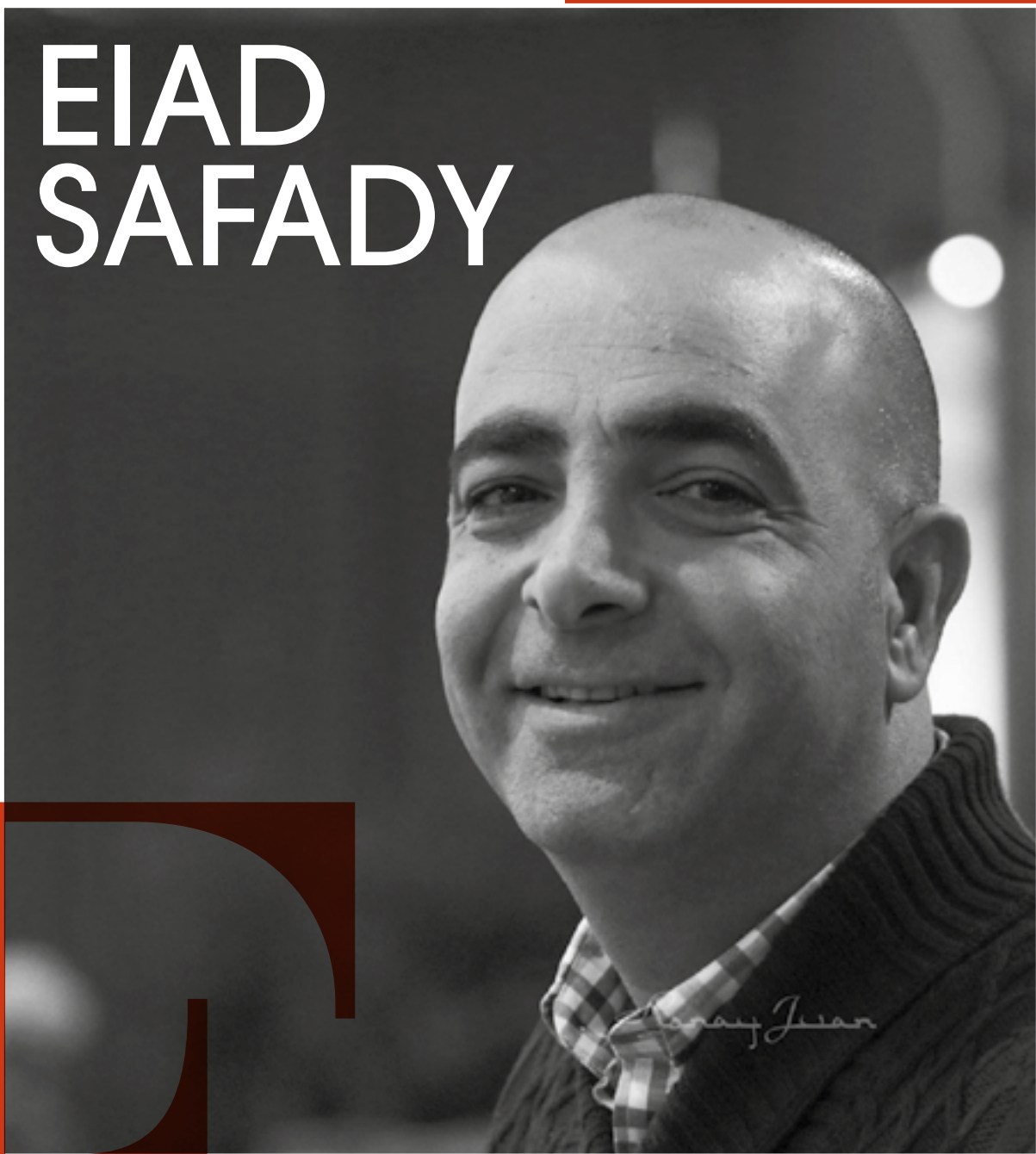
The very idea of shows behind closed doors goes against the whole principle of shows. They are social highlights to meet friends and exchange information, we want to be there to see our horses, how they stack up against the competition, study the offspring of different stallions and so on. The TV or video experience is something quite different as you only see how and what the cameraman chooses to show you. Sitting at home becomes very boring and often gives a bad impression of what goes on often resulting in negative press on Facebook etc. Furthermore, I suspect the conditions that would apply for shows behind closed doors would have high financial and logistical implications which may put off many organisers, also the possibility of risk to all those who could attend. I cannot really think it would bring hope to many except perhaps trainers who must be suffering. Of course, we feel very sorry for them, but they are not alone.

I think the situation is moving so fast with the virus it will be very difficult to make any firm plans, we have to hope that restrictions are lifted soon, and plans need to be in place for that, maybe there need to be fewer shows or shows joining together to help with likely increases in expenses. For those exhibitors that have been hit financially they may decide to limit their outings so they have to feel that participating will be worthwhile in quality of competition, safety and general treatment. We are heading for very difficult times.

Without doubt online auctions have a place, however I suspect they will always have limited appeal as shipped frozen semen has many drawbacks not least costs, as well as the different conditions attached to it by the sellers. If it offers top stallions at knockdown price it would attract people, but as soon as the price goes above the normal fee there is no point in bidding further unless for charity. Furthermore, there is a growing number of people with reservations about shipped semen because it has led to the over-use of a few very popular stallions and the narrowing of the gene pool, this is certainly a concern. The costs associated with using frozen semen often puts people off if they do not have easy access to veterinary backup. I am afraid there are challenges ahead but sometimes we need them to open our eyes and move forward in a good way.



# EIAD SAFADY



National ECAHO judge  
and breeder



The COVID 19 Pandemic did strike in a very short time all over the globe, a complete shock to everyone, resulting to a completely different way of living, being in quarantine, countries going into lockdowns. A time in life where we should remember the importance of what we do have in these times.

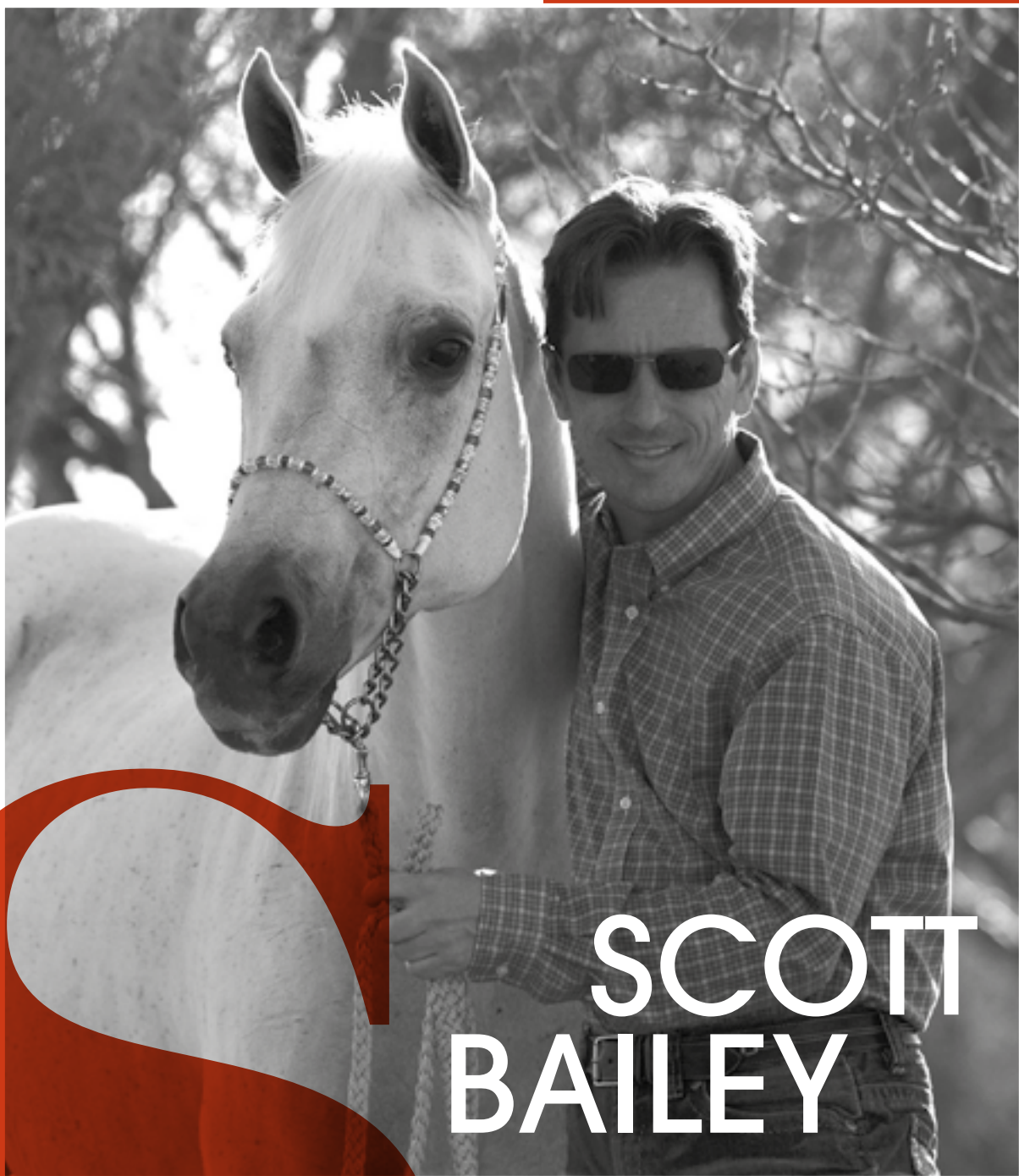
It is mandatory we all stay positive, and focus on the opportunities this gives us. The Arabian horse breed known to have their longest existence in the Horse breeds for a reason. Their intelligence, strength, beauty is something so powerful. Most among us surrounded by these beloved creatures are reminded of this everyday when seeing, working or riding an Arabian Horse. I believe the Arabian horse society will only get stronger as we are reminded what it is that truly captured our hearts. Already great initiatives have been taken by for example Arabian Insider and Al Jassimya. Important we support all new coming ideas, cause only together will we be able to get trough this.

Passion of the Arabian horse breeders will never go in loss, it is just a matter of time. Perhaps the only way of having shows continue with all the restrictions held would be behind closed doors. A limited number of people presence, but most important giving judges the possibility to observe and mark the horses correctly.

The shows could take place as done with the dressage, the judges are placed separate, so this would be on both long sides and short sides of the arena, total of 4 judges or incase of 2 judges on each side that would be a total of 8 judges. The exhibitor will receive the time schedule in which their horses are presented. The exhibitor will make sure the horse is prepared and ready to enter at the given time. After the presentation and the judgement has been completed, the horse will leave and the trainer can load the horses immediately. Each trainer could have his horses presented one after one, as done during a farm presentation. As every handler will be requested to leave the facility after presenting their horses we minimize the number of people present. The only thing which would be missing the audience is the prize ceremony, but as there could be a live stream for the breeders and horse lovers to follow at home, also the prize ceremony can be followed at home by all competitors.

The idea of organizing online shows and auctions are a great initiative, however during this time people are more careful when it comes to purchasing. Same will count for horses, to buy only viewing an online video is known never to be the best observation, might be risky. Then on the other hand, if good quality horses are presented and not sold, this could reflect negatively to the horse industry. Perhaps also in this case there would have to be a way of scheduling a moment of viewing the horse in small number of people at the same time.





# SCOTT BAILEY

Breeder, founder of [arabhorse.com](http://arabhorse.com)





I am responding to these questions today on the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, April 22, 2020. Thinking that we have been abusing the planet, animals, and our fellow humans for so long that Mother Nature fought back... all of us have to do better and be better in moving forward. Let's not waste this chance to be better stewards of this planet we all share.

It certainly is no secret that the Arabian horse business as a whole has been struggling for the past several years. Collectively as a community I feel this is an excellent time for us all to come together and make the changes our community needs to grow and evolve. The Arabian horse market has changed very much in the past couple of years, it seems only the very very best and the lower-priced horses are selling. The market for young colts also no longer exists. Our community has lost many breeders that actually had a program and a vision for the future. This is certainly a subject we have all talked about for a number of years now and still no solution. We have to find a way to support each other and find value in our horses other than a big show win.

Let's ask ourselves what exactly does Arabian horses offer us? For many people, it has become impossible to compete in the show ring today with the high prices of shows, the politics, and the lack of quality horses being bred. In the USA the owners of Arabian horses that do not show their horses are much much higher than those that do not show, why is that?

The Arabian horse community can not survive long term on the 1% supporting this industry and that is what has been happening for a while now. We need owners, breeders, exhibitors of all kinds, of different backgrounds and financial situations to keep this business alive long term.

I applaud some farms for doing online events and shows, but as we know it's no replacement for the real thing. But let's support them until we can return to our new normal.

One of the great things about going to a show is often the beautiful destinations, the horses, and seeing our fellow breeders. I personally could not imagine a show behind closed doors. But in the reality of the world today we may have no choice for a while.

Online auctions are great if you want to move horses for cheaper prices, but it does hurt the market for breeders trying to sell their stock. This goes back to the big problems we have in our breed of having no real marketing plan or program for our horses, it's a supply and demand issue. The number of horses being born is at an all-time low here in the USA and people still can't sell as we don't have a great demand for our products (horses). So I feel "online auctions" much like many live ones, are more symptoms of a larger problem of not having created a proper demand for our horses. Many people feel the only way to move horses is to sell them online for rock bottom prices, this is not a good long term solution for a healthy horse industry and should be kept to a minimum if possible.

We need to create value for our horses first, the demand needs to be there and then people will feel better about breeding. We need to create a reason why people will want to get involved in Arabian horses and for those already in the business to stay! We have to look outside the showing for these solutions!



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## MOHAMD MACHMOUM

Vet, ECAHO A judge and Judges' Instructor,  
member of Arabian Horse Organization  
Board, show organizer



## Quarantine diary: A point of view on the future of the Arabian Horse

Throughout history, ordeals and calamities have proven to be the primary drive behind humankind's re-evaluation of their lives. They push people to question and analyze the reality and relativity of "being". During crises, masks drop and fragile standards fall apart. The instinctive values that form the human nature resurface, strengthened by a struggle to survive. The world of the Arabian horse does not deviate much from this cosmic context.

The "COVID 19 pandemic" took the entire world by surprise. An unimaginable and unexpected scenario, even for a fiction movie! As the situation worsened at a perplexing speed, a "Freeze" button suspended the courses of daily life in the world. The connections that once allowed physical communication and contact between countries were firmly cut. Thus, the entirety of the Arabian horse society – breeders, owners, handlers, grooms, show officials, and mass media – were confined each in our own spaces in a fight against the virus to survive. Promotions about and from farms and horses discontinued as Shows and Championships were either canceled or adjourned. Stands and arenas that once brought us all together to celebrate became an objective in themselves!

Given some time away from the abundant amount of advertisements and media influence that promote a hero over another, be it for objective or subjective reasons, the partakers started to analyze the real and fundamental stones that form the Arabian horse system. Few underlying questions began to impose themselves in these times of torment and a logic of priorities started to govern us today as people and societies. Therefore, I see that, to preserve a bright future for the beauty of Arabian horses' system, we need to:

- Determine right from wrong
- Define genuine from artificial
- Discern the authentic from the fake

The future of Arabian Horses' Shows depends on answering these questions.

From my humble opinion, and in an attempt to contribute to this debate, I believe that the genuine thing about our system is the uniqueness and originality of the Arabian horse and the depth of its history, which nurtured our mutual love for it throughout times and despite our differences. However, I think that somewhere somehow we lost the honesty in the process and turned towards a road that objectifies the Arabian horse, making it lose plenty of its peculiarities by making it a luxurious "merchandise" that we trade at prices with no logical standard and in ways that are unethical sometimes.

As for the "right", Arabian horses' breeding is a science in itself. It requires continuous diligence and research for productivity. From breeding to grooming, to training and handling,

ground shows have witnessed remarkable progress, which contributed to highlighting the esthetic qualifications of the Arabian horse. However, the right way to assess the beauty of a horse though is through linking "functionality" to "beauty". It is necessary to remember that what gave the Arabian horse its primary importance is how it has been used for riding. Nonetheless, certain wrong habits have emerged from this, such as limiting promotions to cover a small circle of "famous" stallions to improve productivity for commercial motives. This act affects the genetic pool of the Arabian horse negatively and speeds the change in the equation that reflects its characteristic that combines "beauty" and "strength". There has become an almost absence of principles of kindness, natural care and leniency in dealing with horses, despite the rules and recommendations of professionals.

Finally yet importantly, what constitutes the "authenticity" of the system is the continuous endeavor to develop a knowledge that aims to preserve the uniqueness and identity of the Arabian horse, through national and international organizations, which form qualified staff in professions related to horse breeding and training. Their goal is to create a balance between the West and the East in terms of knowledge and experience.

However, some events and championships continue to show inconsistency with the principles of kindness to horses. Despite the efforts made by respectful organizations to reduce this scourge, bad habits continue to sneak into shows under the name of "celebrating the Arabian horse", be it in good or bad faith.

Hence, I fully believe that drawing a comprehensive painting for the future of the Arabian horse is necessary. The very principles that helped us fight against this pandemic should be an inspiration for the Arabian horse society to create a balanced future for horse breeding and its activities:

- To make the best interest of the horse above all other considerations
- To promote principles of honesty and ethicality in breeding, advertisement, Judgement, and show organizations
- To strengthen and build bridges of cooperation and synergy between all countries by searching for formulas that would create concrete and cognitive balance between the East and the West free of rent approaches

In conclusion, I would like us all to take a moment to pray for the victims of this pandemic all over the world. Our prayers are with the sick and suffering. It is through maintaining human values and morals that we would be able to prevail and mitigate the consequences of this virus.

The "COVID 19" may have evacuated our streets, squares, and cities and erased the features of what we once called "normal life", yet the neighing of the Arabian horses will remain resonant in our stables for sure and so will our love for this noble creature.



## "من الحجر الصحي" .. وجهة نظر في مستقبل الخيل العربية

في تاريخ الأمم والشعوب، وحدها المحن والمصائب من تدفع الناس لإعادة التفكير في مسار حياتها الروتينية وتحليل- بنسبية "أدمية"- الواقع المعاش.. وفي الأزمات تسقط الألقنة وتتجاوز المعايير الهشة، وتطفو على السطح طبيعة الإنسان بقيمه الغريزية الراضخة في البقاء كلما أصبح الأمر يرتبط بقضية حياة أو موت. وعالم الخيل العربية لن يخرج عن هذا السياق الكوني...

لقد فاجأتنا "جانحة كوفيد ١٩" جميعا بشكل سريالي، فل أحد منا كان يتوقع، حتى الأمل القريب، حدوثه بل حتى تصوره ولو في سيناريو أفلام الخيال. تفاقمت الأوضاع بسرعة خيالية كما لو تم الضغط على زر "تجميد" لكن ليس لشريط، بل لشرايين التواصل المادي بين دول العالم لنصبح جميعا، مربين ومالكين وسياس وعارضين وإعلاميين في حجر صحي مفروض برغبة الغريزة في البقاء وبقوة القانون.

وهكذا، بطولات عديدة لمباريات جمال الخيول على اختلاف مستوياتها إما ألغيت أو أجلت. لم نعد نتوصل بذلك الكم من الإعلانات الترويجية للخيول والمزارع في خضم التأثير الإيجابي والسلبى على كل من له ارتباطا بعالم جمال الخيل العربية، افتقدنا تلك "اللمة" بالميادين وبالمدرجات بين العاشقين ومحبي الخيل رغم اختلاف وتنوع النوايا، فأصبحت اللمة في حد ذاتها إنجازا...!

وبعد توالي الأيام داخل الحجر الصحي، بدأنا نستوعب الوضع، وكل منا من موقعه شرع في تحليل ما راسبته منظومة الخيل العربية.. وإعادة النظر في توازنها العام؟ وغاب عنا ذلك الكم الغزير من النشرات الإعلانية والإشهارية التي تروج لبطولة أو لأبطال في طور التأسيس حقيقية أو في المخيلات الإعلامية فقط! وبدأت الأسئلة الحقيقية تفرض نفسها مع توالي أيام الحجر من خلال منطلق الأولويات الذي يحكم اليوم على مستوى الشخص والعائلة والبلد. هناك مجموعة من الأسئلة اعتقد أن طرحها والأجوبة عنها محطة حاسمة لتحديد التصور المستقبلي للحفاظ على منظومتنا للخيل العربية للجمال:

ما الصحيح وما الخطأ؟

ما الحقيقي وما المصطنع؟

ما الأصل وما المزيف؟

وأي تصور لمستقبل الخيل العربية يمر بالضرورة من خلال الإجابة بصدق عن هذه الأسئلة المطروحة. ومن وجهة نظرنا المتواضعة، وكمساهمة في الأجوبة:

نعتقد أن الحقيقي في منظومتنا هو أصالة الخيل العربية وتجذر عمقها التاريخي وتقاطع حياها بين كل مكونات البشرية على اختلاف مشاربها وهوياتها بالمفهوم الواسع للمصطلح. أما المصطنع أو الصادم منه فهو "تشيئ" الخيل العربي بشكل أفقدها الكثير من خصوصياتها، فأصبحت "تحف" تقتنى بأسعار لا معيار منطقي لها وبأساليب ليست دائما أخلاقية.

والصحيح أن تربية الخيل العربية علم قائم بذاته يستوجب الاجتهاد والبحث المستمرين لتطوير الإنتاج، وأن تدريبها وتسيبها وعرضها في الميادين عرف تطورا ملحوظا ساهم في تنشيط التربية وإبراز الموهلات الجمالية للخيل العربية. والصحيح في تقييم جمالها هو مقارنة ربط "الوظيفة بالجمال" لأن استعمالها للركوب قبل الزينة هو الأصل في استمرارها وأهميتها. والخطأ هو ظاهرة الولوج إلى الاستعمال غير المعقلن للتقنيات الحديثة في الإنتاج، بدوافع تجارية محضه كالاقتصار على الترويج لدائرة صغيرة من الفحول "المشاهير" في الإنتاج، مما ينعكس سلبا على الخزان الجيني للخيل العربي وتسرع في تغيير معادلة الجمع بين "القوة والجمال" التي تميزه. والخطأ كذلك هو التقليل من الحرص على مبدأ الرفق والعناية الطبيعية بالخيل والتساهل في التعاطي معها رغم الضوابط والقوانين المسطرة.

والأصل في المنظومة هو السعي المستمر في تطوير المعرفة التي تصب في الحفاظ على أصالة الخيل العربية وهويتها من خلال المنظمات الدولية والمحلية، وتأهيل الكوادر البشرية في المهن المرتبطة بتربية الخيل والسهر على التكوين المستمر لها ونقل المعرفة الصحيحة لخلق توازن في تأطير الخيول بين الغرب والشرق. أما المفعل فهو المنحى المجانب للضوابط الذي لازالت بعض المباريات والبطولات مسرحا له سواء في التنظيم والتحكيم أو التأطير الفني أو ضبط كل الممارسات الغير المنسجمة مع أخلاقيات الرفق بالخيول.

ورغم الجهود المبذولة والمشكورة للحد من هذه الآفة من خلال المنظمات الدولية والإقليمية والمحلية ذات الصفة، فإن كفة العادات السيئة بسوء أو حسن نية لازالت صعبة المراس في علاجها !  
ومن هنا اعتقد، وبكل تجرد، أن رسم اللوحة الشاملة لمستقبل الخيل العربية بعد الخروج من هذه الجائحة العالمية، يقتضي استلها، ومن بعض المبادئ التي ساهمت في مكافحتها، ضمان مستقبل متزن ومتوازن لتربية الخيل العربية وأنشطتها. ويتجلى ذلك فيما المبادئ التالية:

- جعل مصلحة الخيل والرفق بها وتطوير تربيتها فوق كل اعتبار
- تفعيل مبادئ الصدق والأخلاق في التربية والترويج والإعلان والتنظيم والتحكيم
- تقوية جسور التعاون والتآزر بين جميع الدول والبحث عن صيغ لخلق توازنات حقيقية مادية ومعرفية بين الشرق والغرب والابتعاد عن مقارنة الربيع التي تسبب أكثر ما تفيد

وفي الختام لا بد من لحظة ترحم على ضحايا هذه الجائحة عبر العالم والدعاء الخالص بالشفاء لكل المصابين. ووحدها القيم النبيلة، التي يتقاسمها كل منا، هي السبيل الأمثل للتخفيف من عواقبها.

وإذا استطاع فيروس كوفيد ١٩ أن يخلي مدننا وشوارعها وساحاتها ويفرغ معالم الحياة الطبيعية مؤقتا بها، فإنه من المؤكد أن سهيل الخيول العربية سيظل مدويا بإسبابلتنا. أما عشقتنا لهذا المخلوق النبيل فلن تخلو منه قلوبنا مدى الحياة.

