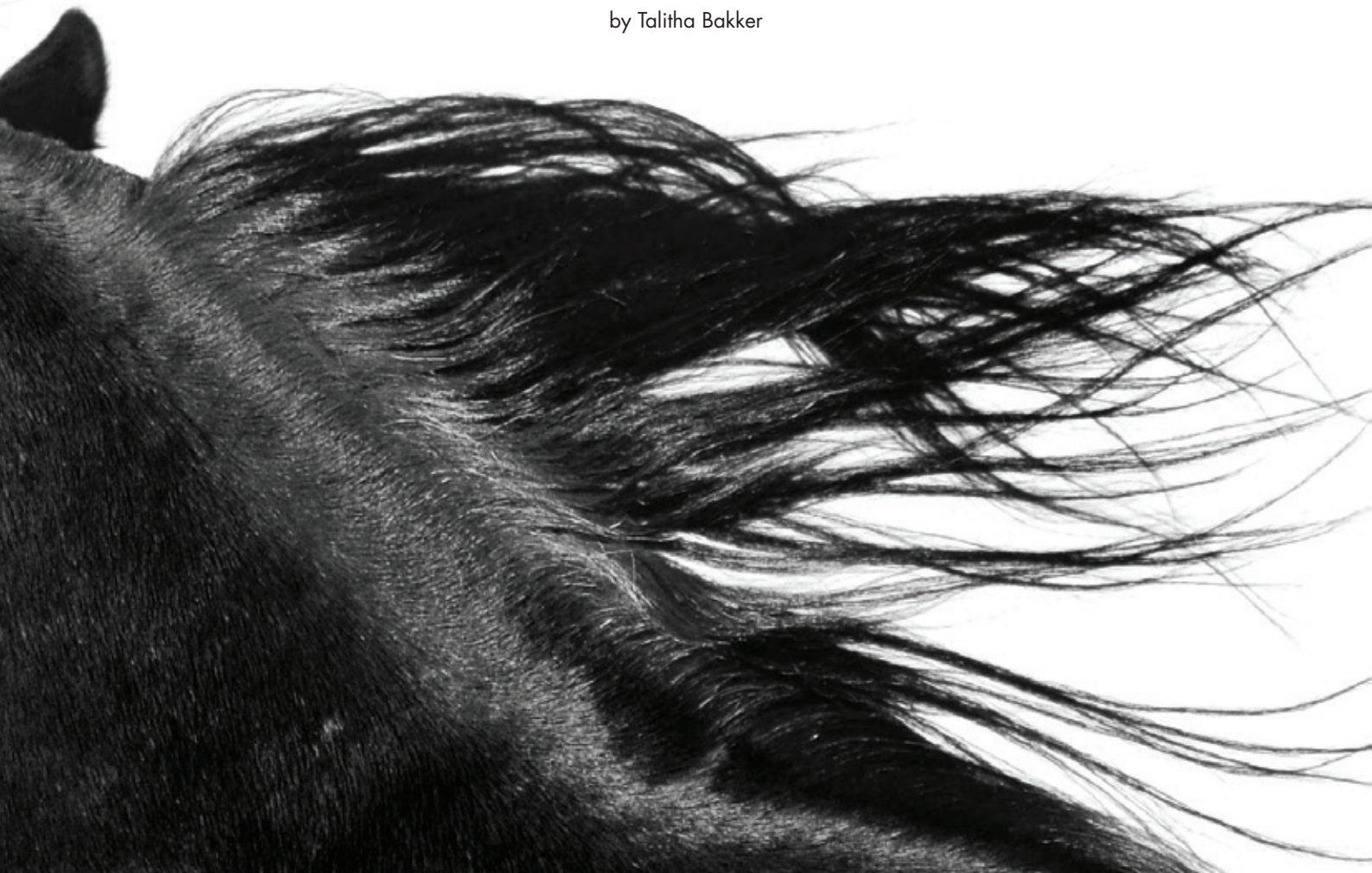


THE **BLACK** ARABIAN HORSE

by Talitha Bakker



The purebred Arabian horse comes in many colors. The color that is maybe most loved around the world is the black one. In 1941, Walter Farley already showed his appreciation for this magnificent Black creature and produced a series of novels featuring "The Black Stallion." Later, in 1979, a movie called the Black stallion was released, based on the adventures of Walter Farley. Since then, more and more admirers of the Black Arabian horse were gained. What makes a Black Arabian so special and how does one get this magical color.

Genetics:

We will first dive into the world of genetics. Each horse has two complete pairs of chromosomes – one that came from its father, and the other from its mother. The genetics behind a black horse are coming from two genes. We use letters to identify which types of each gene (which allele) the horse has inherited. Capital letters identify the dominant allele, and lower case letters stand for a recessive allele. The first gene is the 'Extension' gene. You can see this extension gene as the Black and the Red (Chestnut) gene. The letters are 'E' for black, and 'e' for red. Black, big 'E', is dominant to red, little 'e'.

EE = black-based

Ee = black-based

ee = red (chestnut)-based

The second gene is the Agouti gene. The 'Agouti' gene controls black distribution across a horse's body. Since red-based horses have no black, they will have two copies of this gene, but they won't play a role in determining the horse's color.

On a black-based horse, the agouti gene determines whether the black will be all over the horse or only on certain parts like the mane, tail, and legs. In this last case, the horse will be bay.

Let's make it more clear:

AA = black restricted to main, tail, legs

Aa = black restricted to main, tail, legs

aa = black is unrestricted, black all over the body

When you combine this with the extension gene and you get:

EE or Ee (black based) with AA or Aa (restricted black) = a Bay horse.

EE or Ee (black based) with aa (unrestricted black) = Black horse.

And when you have ee (red-based) with AA, Aa, or aa (or any combination of agouti alleles) it is a Chestnut horse.

Past:

Back to the Black Arabian. In 1979, the role of the Black stallion was given to Cass Ole. He was born

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in 1969 and was a son of Al Marah Cassanova by Rapture out of Cassandra, both a direct descent of Raffles. The dam of Cass Ole was La Bahia by Hanrah out of Ronara. While the sire of Cass Ole was grey and his dam bay, Cass Ole himself was black as cole. He won over 50 championships and 20 reserve championships in his seven years show career including the title US National champion Western pleasure.

Cass Ole awakened the love for Black Arabian horses in people all over the world, however, he wasn't the first Black Arabian stallion that became famous. Around 339 BC, another Black Arabian became legendary. It was Bucephalus, the horse of Alexander the Great. Although no one can confirm he was a purebred, paintings found of the stallion shows great similarities with that of an Arabian horse. Bucephalus guided Alexander through many battles until his eligible death in 326 BC.

Present:

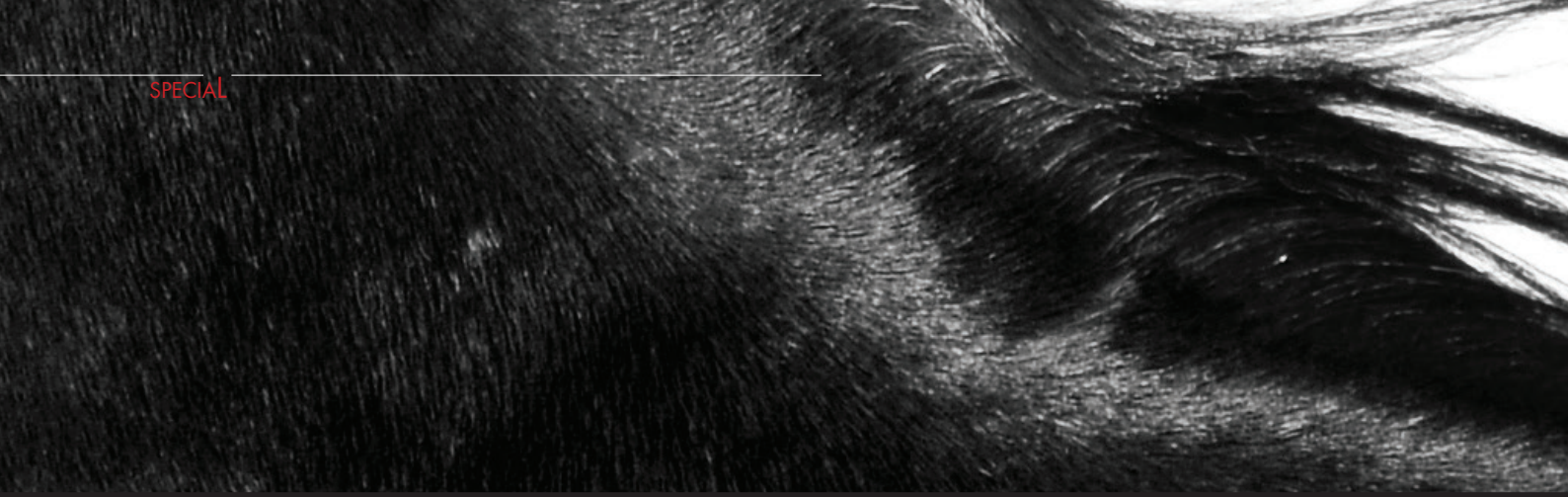
Also in the past decades we had some famous Black Arabians among us.

In 1997, the stallion Simeon Sadik, was named World Reserve Champion stallion. Bred by Simeon Stud in Australia and owned by Halsdon Arabians from the United Kingdom until his death in 2012, Sadik was a son of two greys. His sire was the famous stallion Asfour (Malik x Hanan) and his dam the



This filly was born from a black father and bay mother. The father and the mother both carry a gene for black.

Both of them gave the black gene to the foal, which resulted in a homozygous black filly!



beautiful Simeon Safanad (Sankt Georg x 27 Ibn Galal V). One of the sons of Sadik was the black colt Arastin (x Arina), who was bred in 2002 to his half-sister Sadika (x Woodlay Angelika). Together they produced Aziza who later became known as the dam of the Black, Al Thumama stud owned, Ava (by Vervaldee) who holds quite a nice show record.

Another famous Black horse is the mare The Vision HG (Thee Desperado x Belle Staar). Bred by Hamilton Gates Arabians, The Vision HG is the dam of famous stallions like the 2006 World champion Al Lahab (by Laheeb), International champion Al Ayal AA (by Al Ayad), Al Ghazali AA (by Gazal al Shaqab), Al Hadiyah AA (by Laheeb) and Al Maraam AA (by Imperial Imdal). Before her passing at Ariela Arabians in 2018, she also left some fantastic daughters like Al Amal AA (by Halim Shah I) and her only black daughter, Al Sharoura AA by Nader al Shamal AA. With a breeding record like this, we can clearly say that The Vision HG has been the best Black broodmare the world has ever known.

Now, in 2021, the eyes of the world are mainly focused on the black stallion Magic Magnifique, owned by Sweden Arabian Horse Stud. This Black stallion is sired by True Colours by Thee desperado, making him related to The Vision HG. The dam of Magic Magnifique is Magic Mon Amour who also has two crosses to Thee Desperado. A recent success of this stallion

is the win of the Bronze medal title with the yearling colt WF Gavin at the prestigious show in Menton.

Another Black stallion that gains more and more popularity is ASE Justice el Jamaal. A son of the champion maker WH Justice and out of the direct Ali Jamaal daughter; Geraldine el Jamaal. Bred by Arabian Stud Europe, ASE Justice el Jamaal is now in the ownership of Al Dawla Arabians, Australia.

With the Black Arabians gaining more and more popularity, Giorgia Mauri of Tutto Arabi Magazine came with this great idea to dedicate a whole section to the Black horses of the Arabian Horse World. We hope you will enjoy! □



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“On this lab result you can see that this horse is tested homozygous for black as it is a/a for agouti and E/E for chestnut.

This foal is a result of a black stallion and a bay mare. Both carry the black gene and gave this to the foal, resulting in a homozygous foal

Moeder: NL 00115350 / VHL ID: P784595 / GERALDYNE EL JAMAAL
Vader:

P807 - Vachtkleur Schimmel - Testdatum: 14.07.2021
Testresultaat: N/N

P907 - Agouti-factor - Testdatum: 14.07.2021
Testresultaat: a/a

P902 - OVERO LETHAL WHITE FACTOR - Testdatum: 14.07.2021
Testresultaat: N/N

P785 - Kleurfactor Sabino 1 - Testdatum: 14.07.2021
Testresultaat: N/N

P784 - Vachtkleur Silver / MCOA - Testdatum: 14.07.2021
Testresultaat: N/N

P783 - Kleurfactor Pearl - Testdatum: 14.07.2021
Testresultaat: N/N

P904 - VOS-FACTOR - Testdatum: 14.07.2021
Testresultaat: E/E

We have dedicated this special section to black Arabians and their breeders. We asked them what it means to breed or own black Arabians and here are their words. They are words full of passion and enthusiasm, of desire to reach a goal and to move it even further, beyond.

By Giorgia Mauri

Diaa Karaali

Al Dawla Arabians

“Scientifically colors and emotions are linked. Black feels serious and it evokes power. It’s bold, powerful and is often used to evoke mystery.

When I personally see a black horse I see courage and it therefore makes me feel respect for what I see.”

Stefania Bellomia

Arabian Group Bellomia

“The black Arabian horse has an incomparable charm and you Black Ali with your charisma have won us over!”

Talitha Bakker

Arabian Stud Europe

“The first black horse we purchased was the stallion Jazzmeen. Then by chance, we bred four black foals, one of which was out of Geraldyn el Jamaal, who shows to be a

consistent producer of black. She is in foal to AJ Yas for 2022. Breeding black is not difficult. To breed a beautiful, correct black foal with a strong pedigree, that is a challenge.”

Wendy Delvalle

Forelock's Arabians

“A black Arabian stallion, a breeders dream! Especially a homozygous Black. It was all meant to be. Mu'Tazz is born out of Mashique PKA who spent time at our farm as a baby. I loved her from the start. She was a true beauty with movements you rarely see and I knew one day I would use her. Her granddam Rigona as a yearling was my first championhorse in 1994 when I was 16, I used to ride her in competitions when she was 4.

She was sired by Abakan owned by Forelock's Arabians at that time. So all together it was meant to be...

I saw a video of Avatar AT on facebook. His attitude and body are amazing!! The perfect match for a baby. I was lucky to have him.



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He is a very special black colt.
Mu'Tazz means proud and for sure she is!
It is rare to have a black that has everything.”

Manuela Lucini *Harem Stud*

“HaremStud is located in south part of Switzerland, Lugano. We are specialized in production of high quality Straight Egyptians in black, with great results and scores in the big show for Egyptians. Quality, type, movement and charisma are the must as well as their wellbeing. Breeding the black color came by chance as for my black mares I never found the right black SE stallion. So I had luck.”

Ilona Bax *Just Arabians*

“A good horse is never a bad color but we all have our preferences. To us... It's black. Black is Beauty.”

Nadia Boersch *NB Arabians*

“As breeders we create dreams, and I find this is even more true when breeding black Arabian horses. Almost every day I am contacted by someone who says: “I always dreamed of owning a black Arabian horse.” The Black Stallion Book and Movies by Walter Farley for sure had a significant impact on this dream, and this is also how my journey started. I was obsessed as a little girl by this Movie, I watched it over and over, dreaming of one day owning my version of “The Black”. Little did I know back then that the

first horse I would breed, would be exactly what I envisioned my “Black” to be. Shayan de Magnifique was born in 2016, and wow, this horse took me on quite a ride in every way and also “put me on the map” as a (black) breeder. Fast forward 5 years later Shayan had a successful show career, is breeding some of the best black mares the world has to offer and recently started his dressage career, just recently winning Gold Champion at the Classic Pleasure Junior at the Arabian Futurity Europe with Ilona Bax.

In the course of creating my vision of a high quality black breeding program, I searched for experienced breeders and trainers to learn from. They all told me something similar: 1) “be careful not to limit yourself when breeding black”, 2) “you will have a hard time winning with a black in the Showring” and 3) “a good face can be bred in one generation, a good confirmation needs to be bred through many generations”.

Following the first advice, I found that some of the best blacks in the world are in fact not out of (only) black parents and this has been true for my breeding program as well. Which is why I also love to mix some other lines into my program that are not black but can produce black.

In terms of the second advice: I can't confirm this one. I'm still not entirely sure whether it was beginner's luck, strategy or the horse, but so far we did quite well in the Showring. Furthermore, what made my day more than winning was hearing people whisper: “Wow, Who is this?”.

And for the third advice, I follow this one very closely. What I look for in breeding Arabian horses is versatility and balance... all of the horses I breed need to have the basis to be able to perform both in Riding and Showing.

Most importantly, I always follow my passion and intuition. What makes my day as a breeder is when they light me up like a fire-cracker when I see them running on the field,

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when I ride them with so much pride and joy or they are looking at me out of the barn.”

Petra Mulder *PeKa Arabians*

“A good horse does not have a colour they say”. I agree but for me breeding a black Arabian horse is a challenge. There aren't too many beautiful black Arabians so breeding a beautiful one is something I would like to accomplish. I am not just breeding for the colour. I try to breed an Arabian that has all the beautiful characteristics of the breed. And if the filly or colt is black this is a nice addition. Sometimes I make a well considered choice for a breeding knowing that the outcome has a good chance of being black but the breeding decision is a combination of pedigree and things I would like to improve on the mare.”

Carmine Motta *Scuderia Alcantara*

“I was born in Trieste, Italy. Having always been passionate by horses, I had the opportunity to create my own breed in France and named it Scuderia Alcantara. Alcantara is the wild river behind Taormina, in Sicily, where my children were born... I always loved to learn all different cultures and purebred Arabians have the faculty to meet passion of people all around the world by their beauty, spirit and intelligence. The best time of the year is the birth of foals... and black is my favourite colour...”

Angelika Wadas *Sil-Ven Arabians*

“Breeding of black Arabian horses is like making your dream come true...”

I have always wanted to have horses but having a breeding farm seemed to me an unreachable dream. When me and my family put all our efforts to make it happen I started to believe that's not an impossible thing. So now the wonderful 11 years of Sil-Ven Black Arabians is like living in my own dream.”

Kathleen Ohlsson *Sweden Arabian Stud*

“My first Arabian horse stallion was a black one called Armaani that I both rode and used for breeding.

He was the start to my stud farm and at that time, I only had black Arabian horses. I bred some nice ones and many of them were exported.

In 2012 I bought Magic Magnifique, that is one of the best and most exotic blacks in the world today.

I believe he has done a lot in the “black Arabian industry” leaving both great black daughters and sons.

Unfortunately I have no black mares right now in our programme, but I am searching for the right one as I still think the black Arabian horse is someone very special and exciting!”

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