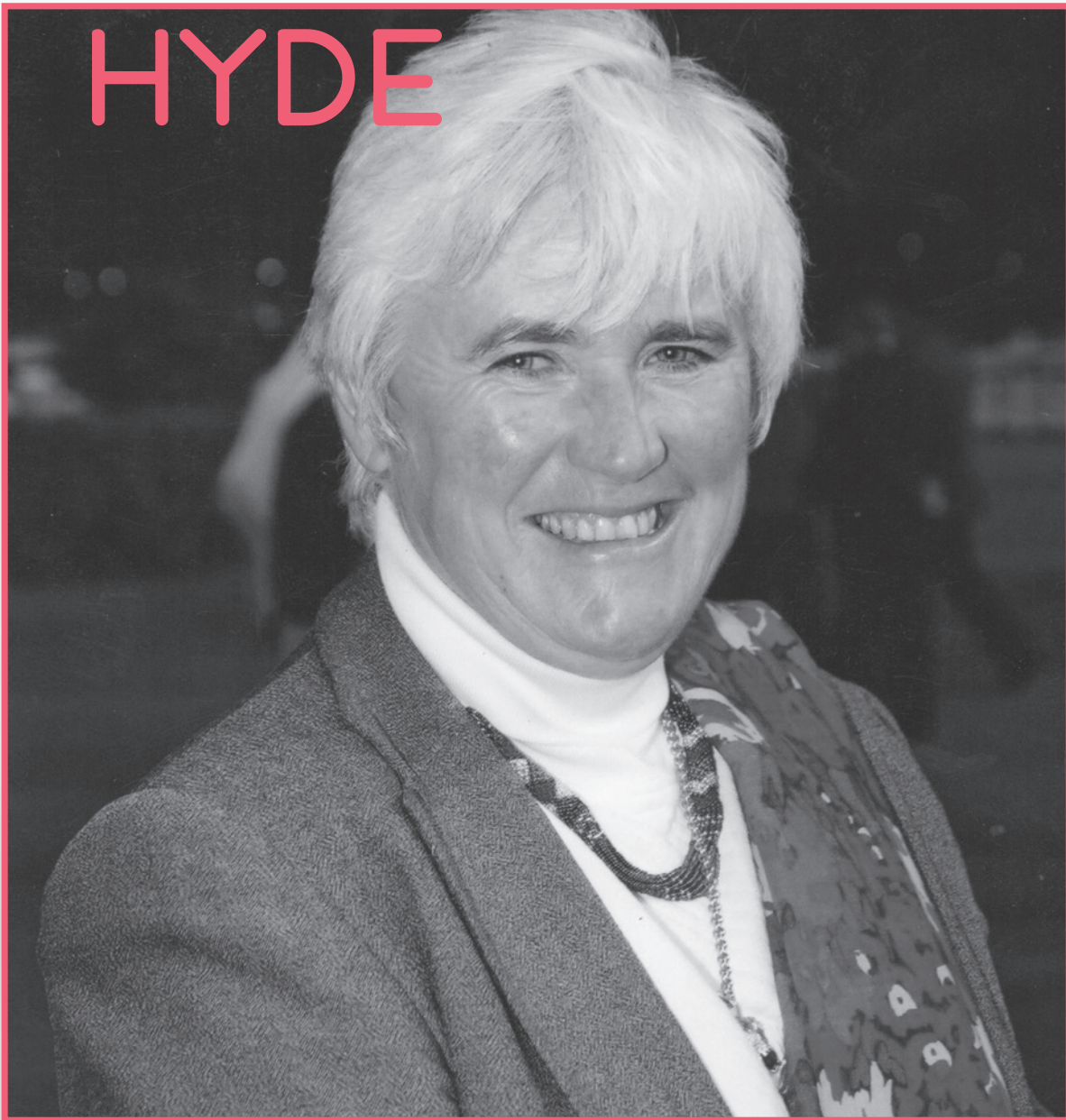


WE, WOMEN

by Giorgia Mauri

Women have always inspired and supported women. From the interviews we are conducting, it is clear that the present of many women in this world has been strongly influenced by strong women of the past who, with their voices and lives, have revolutionized their own history and imposed change on their own future. It is therefore important to pick up the baton and pass it on to future generations by continuing to let them tell their stories, innovating and enriching the vocabulary at their disposal.

DEIRDRE HYDE



Breeder, AHS Judge and AHS Council Member, ECAHO A Judge, Stud Manager, Breeding Consultant and Author

My name is Deirdre Hyde and I come from Scotland. Women seem to have woven their influence throughout my Arab horse life. I was first captivated through Mrs Lillas Macvie, a wonderful far-sighted friend of my mother who bred Arabians. Her sons were more interested in the farm's tractors than her horses, so she adopted a small group of her friends' horse mad daughters and for several years took us on a magical journey to the Arab Horse Show, held just outside London, an incredible adventure for country girls. We took the overnight sleeper train, we plunged into the London Underground and we stayed in a hotel, a first for some of us. Then two days of beautiful Arab horses, the cream of British breeding in the 1960s, a never to be forgotten experience. This clever lady also made sure that as we outgrew our ponies, we acquired Arab geldings and after that there was no looking back. I rode, showed, and eventually bred my own horses, I even briefly trained and raced a homebred gelding. Mother Macvie, as we called her, remained a mentor and role model until she died just a few years ago.

My passion for the Arabian grew, I became an AHS judge and a Council member, then I joined the ECAHO judges list, eventually becoming an A judge and part of the Instructors Group.

In 1992, almost out of the blue, thanks to another wonderful lady Jane Kadri, who passed on the offer that was to change the course of my life forever; namely to work in the Royal Stables of Abu Dhabi. I did not have to think twice in accepting, but I never guessed that for more than half my adult life I would have the privilege of working in the United Arab Emirates. Firstly, for the Royal Stables of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, then for his son Sheikh Sultan with whom I worked closely for 18 years setting up his Wrsan Stables. I was also part of the group he put together to devise the Boudheib Protocol to return endurance to its roots, and The Heritage Arabian Racing Club (HARC) to preserve the classic Arab horse through special conditions races which he sponsored. His Highness cared very deeply not only about welfare but about preserving a beautiful horse which could also perform, in this he admired the state studs of Poland and Russia, and these were all things that were in tune with my own beliefs. The Boudheib Protocol and HARC were a great success for the short years of their existence, but very sadly Sheikh Sultan passed away in 2019 and so far, no one has come to fill his shoes.

Early last year in another out of the blue situation His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid al Maktoum asked me to join his Shadwell Stud as Arabian breeding consultant and I returned to UK where I am now involved in breeding Arabian racehorses. However, in March this year another tragedy occurred,

Sheikh Hamdan succumbed to cancer. Nevertheless, the good news is another lady comes into my life, his daughter Sheikhha Hissa bint Hamdan al Maktoum. She is taking over the famous Shadwell racing empire of both Thoroughbreds and Arabians. I think an exciting time lies ahead as this exceptional young lady bravely takes the helm. Let no one doubt the power of women in the United Arab Emirates, some of those ladies are highly educated and becoming very talented owners and breeders.

I have often been asked how it is to be a woman working in the Middle East especially as I would often find myself the only woman in a room full of men. My answer is that not speaking the language was far more of a hindrance than my sex and I was only ever treated with respect and as an equal. In fact, being female had unexpected benefits because unlike the men, I was able to mix freely with the ladies and gain a much broader picture of the culture and their expectations. Women are given many incentives in the UAE and in my experience, they are frequently the 'power behind the throne'.

The equestrian field is one where women can compete on equal terms with men, many of the top show jumpers, event, dressage and endurance riders are women and even in the ultra-conservative world of racing, women as jockeys and trainers have made a huge strides, particularly in Arab horse racing. It would seem the Arabian often responds better to a woman than a man, dare I say this is to do with its innate intelligence and sensitivity. It is a pity there are now far fewer women in the show trainer field, and I wonder why this should be? Surely it is time women got back out there not just being left to do the work behind the scenes!

Taking a lead from my mother and Mother Macvie it never occurred to me that being female could be a disadvantage. If you wanted something you just had to work hard to get it and to always act with respect and integrity. For this article I made a list of some of women whose work has played a part in my education either through their books or their conversation, it starts with Lady Anne Blunt founder of Crabbet and her daughter Lady Wentworth, then in no special order Izabella Zawadzka from Poland, Mary Garagozlou from Iran, Joanna Maxwell UK, Rosemary Archer UK, Pat Slater from Australia, Dana Alkhalifa from Bahrain, Judy Forbis and Karen Kasper USA. So, one of the first things I would recommend is to get educated, read and study all you can about this amazing horse because you can never stop learning and wisdom only comes with time. I then recommend travel and visiting as many farms and countries as you can to open your mind and eyes, the Arabian is an international horse.

FINALLY. IF THERE IS JUST ONE LESSON TO PASS ON IT IS THIS, IF A DOOR OPENS GO THROUGH IT. DON'T HESITATE. LIFE IS FOR LIVING. THERE ARE SELDOM SECOND CHANCES. AND WITH LUCK THE ARABIAN WILL TAKE YOU ON THE VOYAGE OF A LIFETIME.

JOHANNA ULLSTRÖM



Breeder, Trainer and Consultant

My name is Johanna Ullström, I'm Swedish and I would say am a multi tasker around everything that has to do with Arabian horses.

I have my own business, but cooperate long term with our clients and friends as a team. The mares at our farm are owned by several breeders but we work as one breeding farm!

Our business cover breeding, raising of young horses, show training/showing, consulting, and also educating. We also try to do a little corner of performance, mainly dressage.

I loved horses from as long as I remember, and started riding when I was about 7, once a week at a riding school, but also biked many kilometres to brush or look at horses in the neighbourhood, took the bus to help out in barns, and by time, I helped out during weekends in several barns, all breeds from trotting horses to fjord horses!

My first own horse was by accident an Arabian gelding, we did not search for a specific breed, but when I saw him, there was no return..

We did so much together, many competitions as well, showjumping, crosscountry, a bit of racing and dressage.

Through him, I fell in love with the Arabian horse, and it became my life passion!

Today, I do not feel I am any different in the Arabian horse world as a woman, than if I was a man. To me, the biggest obstacles where before I was established.

Now, I am in this business for so long, and I have found my way and my nisch, and I do not feel I struggle at all because I am a woman. I am confident in what I do, and I have chosen to do it my own way, without changing my integrity, beliefs and passion the slightest!!

At start, it is always difficult to grow into someone to count on. Competition is hard, experience is low, and to be an eye catcher, you must work harder than those already established, to prove your point. Among the handlers of Arabian horses, women has been and is a minority, and I can perfectly understand this.

You must not only have skills to show horses...

It takes so much more, you must be so strong, do a good job with horses, be a fair, straight and honest person around both employees, clients and all other people. You must withstand gossip, blackmail and jealousy. You must sort out critics

and complains - what is fair critics you must learn and grow from, and what is just mean, unthoughtful and without sense?

You must be able to drive during night, put up your stands at the show, show all weekend, while caring for clients, updating those not attending, plus make sure you have good people at home/manage that everything works fine. Late dinners and early mornings each show, week after week.

Drive home during night after the show, to get home in time for unpacking, catch up on work, both in the barn and during night at office (oh, forgot - you must have skills with papers/taxes/communication and structure), then prepare for next show.

In between, there might be visitors and presentations. Plus, those who ask for photos and videos of sales horses/updated photos of own horses. Or, information about stallions, with records/photos/videos/offspring...

With some luck, some foal watches during nights as well inbetween.

You must be able to handle and educate obnoxious, sometimes dangerous stallions, and work with unhandled arriving youngsters.

Also - to travel, mostly alone, to countries all over the world, adapt to other cultures and religions. Stay fearless, also under pressure.

One week can be ultimate luxury, and next week, you might sleep in your horse truck.

You can not be picky, you can not be tired and you must always be service minded and mentally stable, no matter how your surrounding behaves..

You must remain kind and professional, also when exhausted. You must deal professionally with people that wants to make you fail behind your back. You can not be sick.

You are always the one cancelling on family events, friends and holidays.

During Christmas, New year and other big weekends, you will always disappoint your family as its the time of the year with the most work, as employees are off.

There are no bank holidays to relax- those days are full work days.

You need to be able to structure, organise, repair, invent.

There are traumatic situations with injured horses, sick horses or conflicts between people. You are the one to take command and sort it out.

But...

On the other hand, I would never, ever, want to change my life!

Through my job, I have met several lifetime friends,

no difference between celebrities or truck drivers. My life has become so rich through meeting amazing people on my path. I have learned to be a better person each day, and even though my job is tough, I love every single minute of it! I have realised I can do so much, and I can change the world, one heart at the time. I do put my foot down around everything I really believe in, and it is possible to do so without harming others. I do not hurt my animals, and I do not hurt the people I surround myself with.

They lift me up, and give me energy, courage and happiness.

We enjoy the horse shows, we enjoy our daily work and we enjoy so much the communication with people all around the world!

I do hope I can inspire people. I try to encourage and educate. People were kind to me when I started, and when I was an inexperienced, young person, wanting to learn. Now, it is my turn to add value and knowledge with others!

MY ADVISE TO YOU, LADY, ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, WILL BE THE SAME ADVISE THAT SHEILA VARIAN GAVE ME. SHE SAID TO ME: "YOU HAVE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO. BE YOURSELF, DO WHAT YOU BELIEVE, AND MARCH ON, ONE FOOT AT THE TIME, NO MATTER WHAT OTHERS DO"

LAURA MASCAGNA



Veterinarian, DC, International Ringmaster, ANICA Councilor, National and International DC Instructor, Breeder, Show Organizer and National Judge

I am a veterinarian and I work with small animals. For the past 20 years, since I got my degree in veterinary medicine, I have also started taking part in the show disciplinary committee. Over the years I have consolidated my experience in different events. In 2007 ECAHO reorganized all the lists of judges, ringmasters and DCs and on that occasion I participated in a course for DCs and passed the test brilliantly which allowed me to be directly included in the class A lists. After one year I also became a national and international DC instructor.

Two years later I took part in the course to become an international ringmaster: I went to Paris to help other Italians who at that time were not familiar enough with English to be able to teach the course. Since I was there to translate their course, I automatically took the course myself, receiving the Ringmaster certificate at the end. Over the years I have also organized several shows.

I can say that I was born into the world of Arabian horses because in 1979 my uncle bought the first Arabian horses and founded the Anica association of which he was president for more than 10 years. I was six years old at the time, so I can say that I grew up in the world of Arabian horses. Thanks to my uncle I was introduced to the world of Arabian horses. I lived on the family farm and took care of the births and of course the choice to study veterinary medicine was conditioned by this. In the world of Arabian horses, I was a breeder together with my uncle, then I was also a handler and I presented horses in several Italian shows. At a certain point I decided to move into the world of officials so I became a DC and this has been my main career in the world of Arabian horses, even if I am also a national judge and I started my path as an international judge. The commitments of work, family and as a DC did not allow me to follow this path assiduously that however I think I will finish within the next year.

In my life, in the world of Arabian horses, I have found several obstacles. First of all because of my

nationality because I am Italian. Above all as a DC, in the role of a person who has to enforce the rules within the show, I had difficulties to impose my role because I come from a country identified in the world as the nation of "mafia, spaghetti and mandolin". As a woman, I have certainly had some limitations, especially in Arab countries, although I must admit that I have always been respected and accepted as a person even before as a woman and thanks to my personality I have not had to fight.

I have a great passion for my work, for my role as a DC and for sure it's an activity that I want to continue. I want to continue to be in the DC world because on the one hand you have to enforce the rules and on the other hand this meets the needs of the horses and allows them to be presented and shown in the best possible way while having the best connection with the world of regulations. Sometimes being a DC is difficult because you have to make decisions that may go against your own way of thinking but that are within the rules. I am, however, a great mediator - even though from my physicality and character people might think I am an aggressive person. I am not at all, although I am very firm when I make a decision. This means being DC: sometimes you find yourself in situations where you have to enforce a regulation that you don't fully agree with. As I said before in these cases my personality helps me because when I make a decision I have the certainty that that decision is right and I never go back on my decision. I know what I need to do and how to handle certain situations and this is because of my experience as a DC. Sometimes my decisions are unpopular but they are always based on regulations that I have to respect and enforce. People who attend the shows and sit in the VIP tables don't always know what the regulations are like and how to enforce them. Sometimes people expect from the DC a more punitive attitude, sometimes a softer attitude, they

have different expectations than what actually happens in the field that is not always related to the regulations.

I believe that my story can be an inspiration because until a few years ago the role of DC was a role not too followed and instead in recent years this job has attracted more attention and perhaps my story has inspired some people to take the path to become DC, to approach this world and this job. Even though I have the title of Ringmaster, I prefer to continue to be an international DC and I prefer

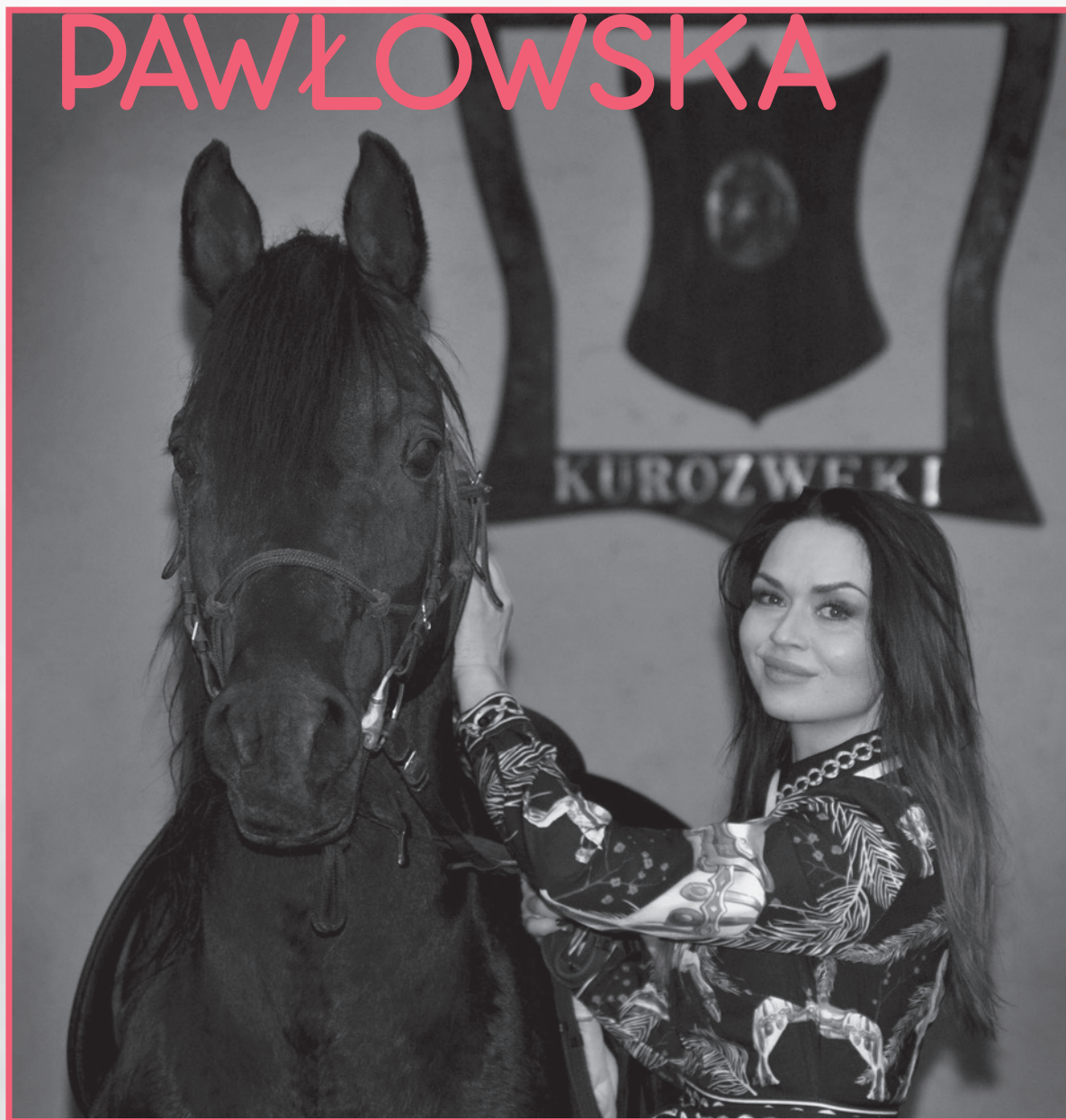
not to be a DC at the national level because, since I am also an Anica councilor this year, I don't want to have a conflict of affiliation.

I really enjoy being DC, horse and animal welfare is a priority of mine in my life as a veterinarian and DC. I love being out in the field making decisions that affect horses in and out of the ring, I love being in contact with people, with horses, with show Officials. The role of DC allows me to learn and collect experiences while also learning from the experiences of others.

MY MESSAGE TO THE NEW GENERATION IS THIS: IT'S GREAT TO HAVE GROWN UP IN THE WORLD OF ARABIAN HORSES. IT'S GREAT TO HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRAVEL THE WORLD AND MEET SO MANY BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE WHO SHARE THIS GREAT PASSION FOR ARABIAN HORSES. ARABIAN HORSES CAN INTEREST PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW, BUT IN ANY CASE, THE EXPERIENCES YOU HAVE FOLLOWING THE WORLD OF ARABIAN HORSES ARE IMPORTANT EXPERIENCES THAT SHAPE YOU. THEY ALLOW YOU TO LEARN ABOUT DIFFERENT CULTURES. IN ALL SECTORS, I BELIEVE YOU HAVE TO FOLLOW A PASSION, STUDY, TRAIN AND HAVE FORMATIVE EXPERIENCES THAT CAN STRUCTURE YOU PROFESSIONALLY AND ALSO AS A PERSON.

ALWAYS TRY, COMMIT TO EVERYTHING, IN EVERY SITUATION IN LIFE AND YOU'LL SEE THAT YOU'LL REACH YOUR GOAL.

DOMINIKA PAWŁOWSKA



Rider and Stud Manager

When asked who am I? I always answer: a just horse lover, but I have found a special connection with Arabian horses. Arabian Soul stole my heart ... I was born and raised in Poland. I come from a large city of Katowice, located in the south of Poland. Horses have been with me since I was a child, since I can remember, I have always admired them and wanted them to be close. I spent every vacation in the countryside with my grandparents, who used them to work in the fields. My family has an interesting history with horses as my grandfather was a postman who rode horses delivering letters. He told me a story about how a horse saved his life during World War II by refusing to cross a road where a mine was hidden. He could never understand how this horse sensed danger. At the age of 13, I started riding in an equestrian club. So I was in the stable 24 hours a day. Then it was time to study, love, family, and put off riding. I graduated in legal administration as well as management and marketing for company. This, in turn, gave me a stable job. But because I missed horses I have started training in an equestrian club very much in my life, I have completed various courses in the field of horse training, reproduction, natural horse riding, etc. Currently, I have the pleasure to supervise and take care of the Arabian horse herd, working as the manager of the Kurozweki Horse Stud. The Kurozweki stud farm was once a state stud, on a par with Janów Podlaski stud and Michałów stud. The place where I am now exudes magic. You can feel the presence of the horse's spirit here. In 20 years, over 800 horses were born at the state stud. In 2023 we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Arabian horse stud and breeding here at this stud. But the history of horses and this place is even older, as it dates back to the times of knights and the nearby castle. Poland as a country has over 200 years of beautiful history of Arabian horse breeding, which I am very proud of.

As I mentioned earlier, I forgot about my passion for many years, because of work, study and family. When I returned to horses after a long break, I realized that this is the only way to professional satisfaction that gives me joy. Endorphins and enormous magnetism did not allow me to live without horses anymore. Apparently horses do not appear in our lives without a reason ... I came to the Arabian horse stud in Radom out of curiosity and stayed there for longer. On that first visit, my heart was stolen. It was a dark bay Arabian stallion named Etnodrons Psyche from Stan Red Arabians, son of Padróns Psyche. This is probably how you can describe love at first sight. I quickly understood the character of the Arabian horse, its delicacy, subtlety and sensitivity that fascinate me to this day. Of course, we started going to shows with our horses, and that's

how I got to know people and the world of Arabian horses. The path to personal development in the Arabian horse world was opened for me by coach Gerald Kurtz, to whom I owe the most. Our cooperation continues to this day.

What the world loves women for is our exceptional sensitivity to beauty, nature has endowed us with the gift of seeing and feeling more. We are gentler than people, more subtle, more humble, we have more patience and protection. I think this is my strength and gift for working with horses. I am committed to building relationships with horses based on mutual trust and respect. I teach the same to my employees and the next generation of teenagers who help us at our stud on a daily basis. I can see how this knowledge pays off, what successes they achieve in working with horses and I am happy about it, and I know that they will pass it on. Here special thanks to Ameleka Charyga.

Of course... it's not always colorful. It is mainly about human characters and their incompatibility. Sometimes there were sad break-ups, some doors closed and it was hard, but others were opening. I had a period when I decided to quit working with horses, I lasted 3 months and then my own Arabian stallion named The Witcher turned out to be the cure, and he is still with me today. It was the beginning of my path, then I met all the good people who opened their hearts and opportunities to me.

I think that I am realizing my dreams and projects, everything that I once dared to ask from the universe comes to me slowly.

I'm on my way... I feel so. I think I am very brave and often determined, hardworking, but also empathetic. It is important for me to build success based on relationships with people and understanding the environment in which I work at the moment. Because the key to success is a team of satisfied and committed employees who feel appreciated, also financially.

I hope so, and that's why we talk together. My story is not over yet, but I think the horses will stay with me for the rest of my life.

Life writes various scenarios for us, it is not always easy, but also nothing happens without a reason. By going our own way, we gain experience, and it is priceless. It really teaches us to discern the values of our lives. The most important thing is to follow your own heart, courage to leave places and people with whom we are not comfortable. It is important to surround ourselves with people with whom we can grow, feeling their love and support.

I WISH YOU ALL COURAGE, STRENGTH AND HUMILITY IN THE FIGHT FOR YOUR DREAMS. I ENCOURAGE EVERYONE WOMAN AND MAN TO FOLLOW THE PATH OF HORSES. THE RELATIONSHIP CAN TEACH YOU LIFE BECAUSE HORSES WILL OPEN YOU MANY DOORS WHEREVER YOU ARE HEADING TOO.

WE, WOMEN

is:

Margot Chazel
Sunny Sassudelli
Chiara Carrer
Antonia Bautista
Jennifer Dhombre
Kamila Kozłowska
Anna Maria Raffa
Jennifer Von Dahn
Urszula Łęczycka
Kathleen Ohlsson
Ally Nelson
Mindy Peters
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