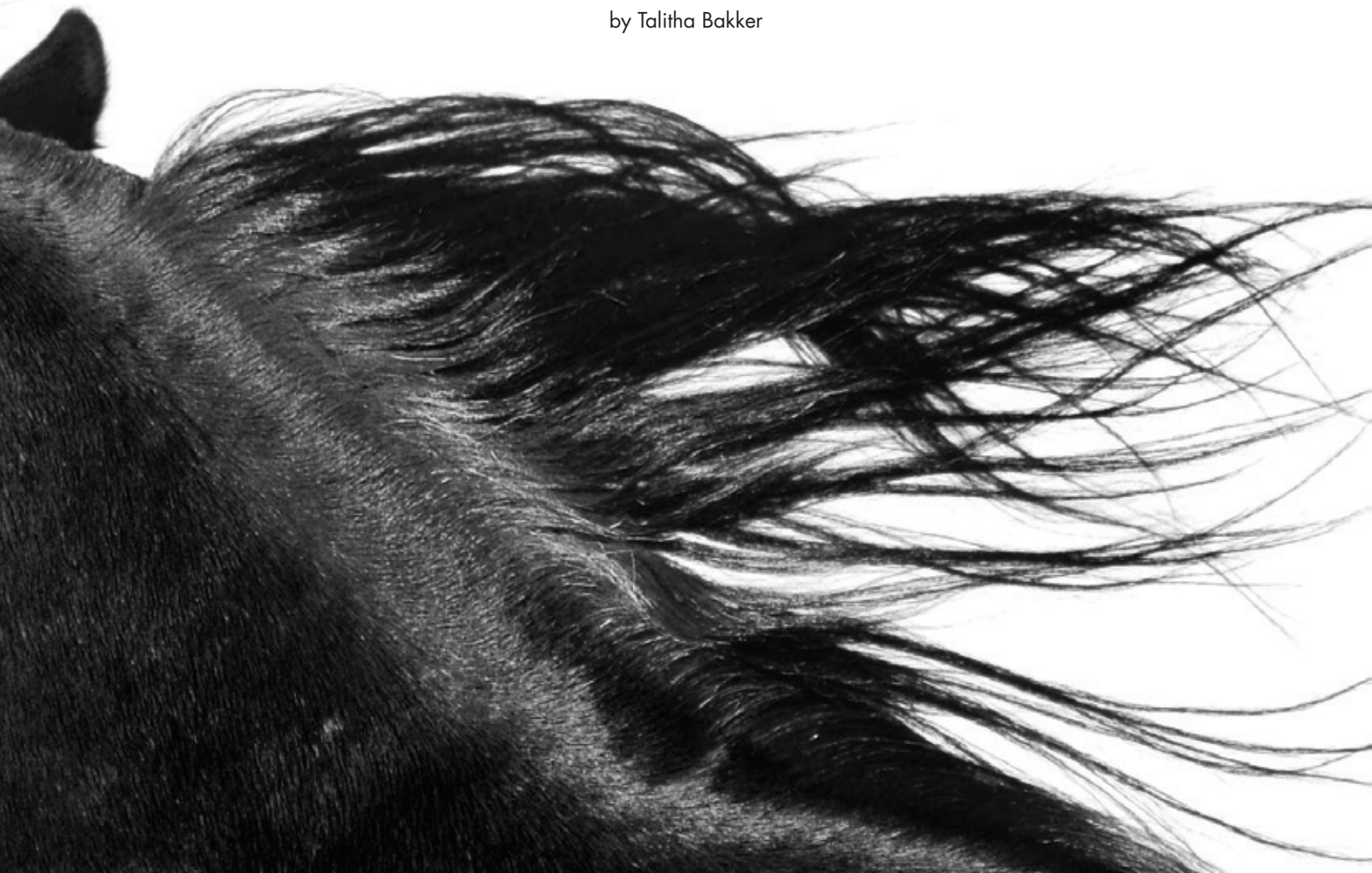
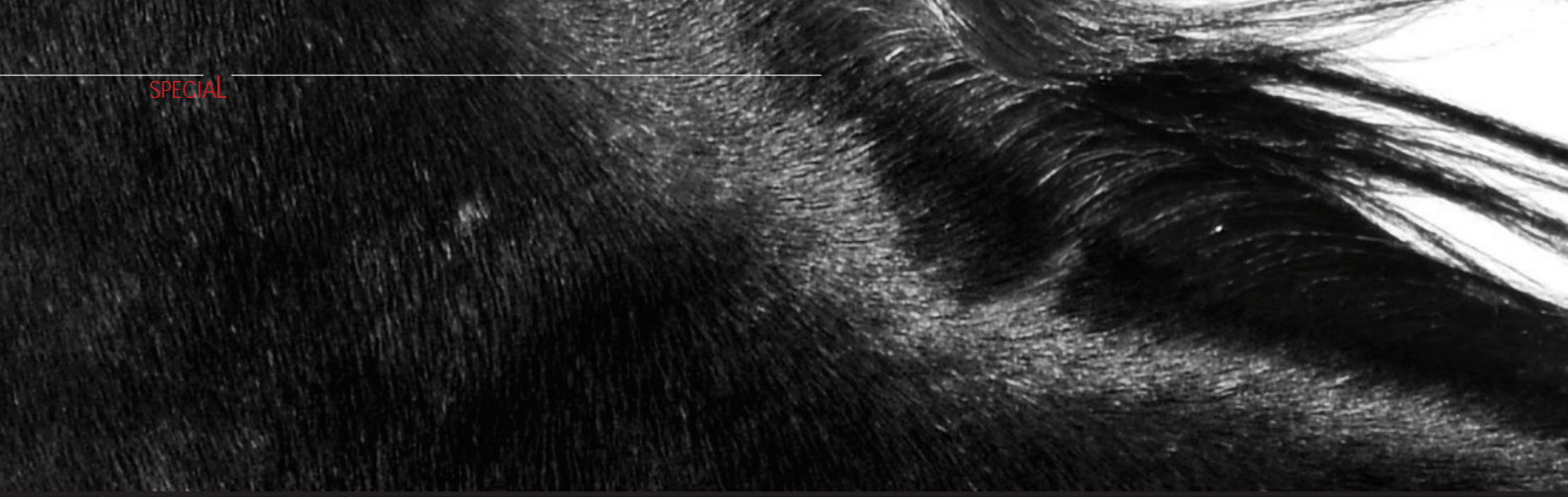


THE **BLACK** ARABIAN HORSE

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:

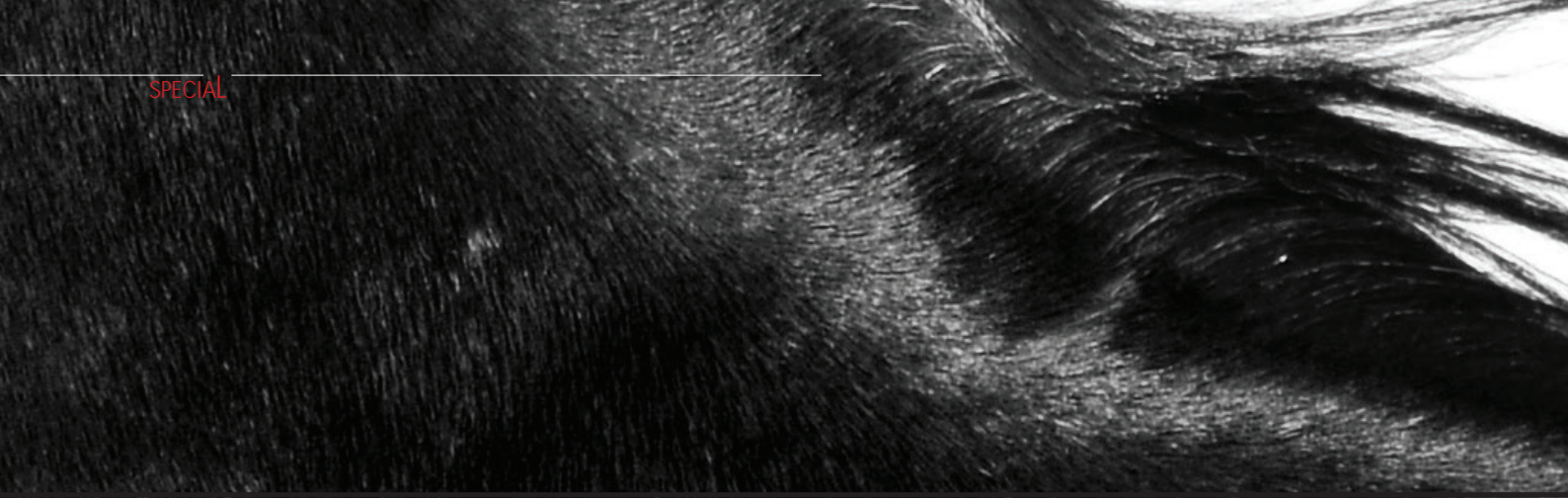
Also in the past decades we had some famous Black Arabians among us.

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; Geraldynne 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

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