

## An Unavoidable Path Toward Greatness

The Story of Al Shaqab and David Boggs
By Jeff Wallace

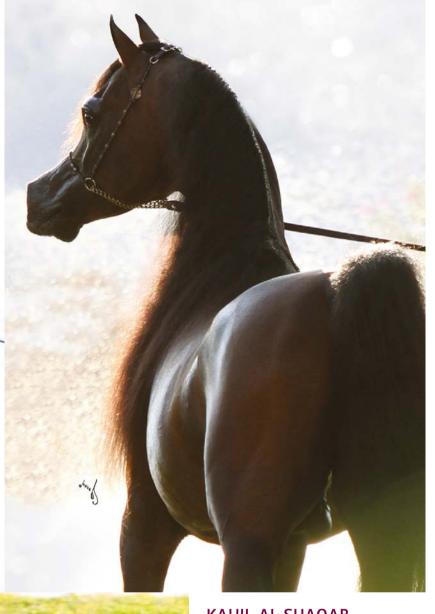
Quote: "As the field, so the crops; as the father, so the sons."  $\sim$  German proverb

Every parent hopes their child will grow strong, find happiness, and follow their dreams. Sometimes, those children dream bigger dreams than their parents can ever imagine. Sometimes, those children dream so big that their dreams intersect with another child dreaming the same dreams halfway around the globe. When this intersection happens, two boys become men and are united across cultures, across the world, and are united by the Arabian horse.

Quote: "A child doesn't belong to the father or mother; a child belongs to

the ancestors." ~ African proverb Bloodlines have always played a vital role in the Arabic world. To the Tamim, the bloodline from which the Qatari royal family descends, genealogy is held in especially high regard. They carefully record birth and family data and record their own history as direct descendants of Abraham – "the Father of Many Nations" – through Ishmael and Adnan.

The word Tamim in Arabic means "strong and solid" – and "perfection" – all attributes that have often been used to describe the Arabian horse. Beginning with Al Khamsa – "The Five" – favorite mares of the Prophet Mohammed who were so pure and



KAHIL AL SHAQAB (Marwan Al Shaqab x OFW Mishaahl) 2008 Bay Stallion true – "asil" – that upon hearing their master's call, they abandoned their quest for water after a –100mile trek through the desert and returned to him – potentially choosing loyalty over life.

Their act of bravery proved their worth as a gift from Allah and formed the cornerstone for the inseparable relationship between horse and man in the region. It is no wonder then that the marvels of the Arabian horse and its legends so fascinate and shape the world of the Arabian Peninsula.

Nor is it surprising that the Arabian horse played a pivotal role in the founding of Qatar. Centuries before natural gas and petroleum gave prominence to Qatar as one of the worlds fastest growing economies, the country was known for its prized Arabian horses.1





In 1893, Bedouin tribesmen and their courageous Arabian steeds, led by Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed Al Thani, grandson of the first Emir of the entire Qatari peninsula, defeated the Ottomans in the battle of Al Shaqab (Al Wajbah), which would eventually lead

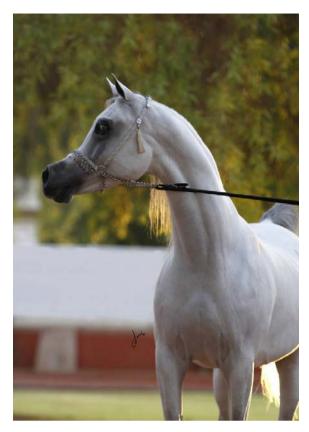
to Qatans independence.
Quote: My treasures do not chink or glitter. They gleam in the sun and neigh in the night. ~ Bedouin Proverb
In 1992 as a tribute to his ancestor and the brave Arabians who helped him found a nation, emir Sheikh Hamad

## FALAH AL SHAQAB

(Fadi Al Shaqab x Joseph Just Emotion) 2013 Chestnut Colt







FARHOUD AL SHAQAB (Al Adeed Al Shaqab x Johara Al Shaqab) 2008 Grey Stallion

bin Khalifa Al Thani established the -980,000square meter, +400 stall architectural marvel: Al Shaqab equine facility.

Al Shaqab's breeding philosophy is to preserve the Arabian breed in all its greatness: to produce horses that are beautiful, athletic, and strong, with the character and kindness that is their birthright and their gift from Allah. Three World Champion Stallions: Gazal Al Shaqab, Marwan al Shaqab, and Al Adeed Al Shaqab form the cornerstones of the Al Shaqab breeding programs

and their influence and presence is felt in every stable throughout the globe. Meanwhile, halfway around the globe and an entire world away a young boy from Minnesota began his lifelong love affair with the Arabian. David Boggs may not have the long lineage of the Al Thani's, but he has the same love of significance.

"The Arabian horse has enriched my life in countless ways," David confirms. "Most significantly, through my family. My father and mother shared their love of the horses with my siblings and me, and now I am able to share that same love with my own family."

David Boggs' heartfelt desire has become his life's work. Over the past 40 years, has trained and shown more United States national champions than almost any other trainer. Beginning in the 1980s with Padron, throughout the 1990s with Padrons Psyche and Magnum, and into the 2000's with Valentino and Vitorio, David recognized the importance and power in bloodlines play in achieving greatness.

Given David's understanding of the



MARSAL AL SHAQAB (Marwan Al Shaqab × Miss El Power JQ) 2010 Grey Stallion

importance of royal bloodlines, his showring acumen, and love of the Arabian horse, it is no wonder that he and Al Shaqab united over the past several years to stand and show some of the most influential young stallions in the world: Hariry Al Shaqab, Kahil Al Shaqab, Falah al Shaqab. Nor is it any wonder that upon his return to Al Shaqab, Sheikh Hamad bin Ali Al Thani has enlisted David's talents to continue their march toward destiny.

From the bright lights of Las Vegas to the hallowed halls of Tulsa; from the breeding barns to the foaling shed throughout the world, David and Al Shaqab continue to thunder their way into history.

For the 2017 breeding season, team Midwest will stand the incomparable grey US Egyptian Event Supreme Champion Male Farhoud Al Shaqab (Al Adeed Al Shaqab x Johara Al Shaqab) and the exciting young stallion Kanz Al Shaqab (Marwan Al Shaqab x OFW Mishaahl) full brother to 2014 World Champion Senior Stallion Kahil Al Shaqab. Although Kahil will return to his homeland, semen will be available through Midwest.

There is an old Bedouin proverb that states, "When you sleep in a house your thoughts are as high as the ceiling, when you sleep outside they are as high as the stars."

This is the relationship between David Boggs and Sheik Hamad: Two paths beginning on different continents, representing different cultures, different religions, and different ideologies united by an unequivocal love for the Arabian horse, and carried on an unavoidable path toward continued greatness on the backs of Farhoud Al Shaqab and Kanz Al Shaqab...





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