



## Modern Uses FOR THE ARABIAN HORSE

Aside from being able to trace each line of its pedigree to the traditional Bedouin horse-breeding tribes of the Arabian Peninsula, a Desert Arabian horse is first and foremost inordinately versatile. It is a performance animal that can compete and excel at many disciplines.

**In Endurance** — Virtually bred for this discipline, the Arabian horse dominates this sport from local to international competition — the tougher the course, the more convincing the win.

**In Competitive Trail** — Teamwork between horse and rider is evident in any Competitive Trail event where the partnership between horse and rider is evaluated.

**In Halter** — The classic natural beauty of the original, Bedouin-bred Arabian horse transcends time.

**In Liberty** — Who among us has not watched an unbridled herd of Arabian horses turned loose into a pasture at liberty and experienced the great pleasure in the athletic gallops, elegant trots and joyous playfulness throughout the group?

**In Dressage** — Although smaller than most breeds competing in this discipline, Dressage showcases the willingness to learn, athleticism, disposition and teamwork between the Desert Arabian and its riding partner.

**In Western** — Sensible, intelligent, focused attention makes for enjoyable performers in Western Pleasure classes — quick, spontaneous, instinctive responses coupled with power, a short back and a low center of gravity make the Arabian a pleasure to ride in reining, working cow and cutting disciplines.

**In Trail** — The intelligence, curiosity and willingness of the Desert Arabian makes it a natural for Trail classes, in either Western or English disciplines.

**In Jumping** — Activities and classes involving jumping offer a challenge and a game to the Desert Arabian, who has been bred for generations to cover uneven ground.

**In Driving** — Attractive to the eye, tireless in execution,



and possessing smooth, ground-eating gaits, the Desert Arabian is well suited for driving.

**In Hunt Seat** — The well-sloped shoulders found in the Desert Arabian offer great freedom of movement, front-end flexion, and a truly pleasurable ride.

**In Sport Horse** — The conformation and willing disposition of the Desert Arabian lends itself to being successfully shown by its owner in both under saddle and in-hand classes.

**As the Family Pleasure Horse** — Perhaps the greatest value of a Desert Arabian horse is as a loyal, dependable, trustworthy mount for weekend trail riding, as a child's mount, and for use in special education courses. The Desert Arabian's intelligence, disposition, affection for humans, and willingness to please make it the perfect friend and companion.

But, it is not just excellence in a multitude of disciplines that makes a Desert Arabian horse invaluable. It is the Arabian horse's personality that captures our attention.

It is the fearlessness and trust of many Arabian horses that allow you to just get on and ride them the first time without their reacting as if you were their natural predator.

It is the Arabian horse's innate sense of mischievousness — stealing your tools, your hat and your handkerchief — and playing “catch me if you can” — then offering the purloined item back to you so that he can play “tug-of-war.”



THE INSTITUTE  
for the DESERT ARABIAN HORSE

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*The Institute for the Desert Arabian Horse is a 501(c)(3) public charity*



It is the Arabian horse's marvelous sensitivity and tolerance of children.

It is the overwhelming affection Arabian horses express toward humans that brings tears to the eyes of visitors, standing in the pasture, cradled in the horse's embrace.

These are the things that make a Desert Arabian horse. And these are the things that make people possess the passion to use and preserve them.

## Desert Arabians in Danger

In 1924, there were 545 registered Arabian horses in the United States, the vast majority of which could trace all lines in their pedigrees to the Bedouin-breeding tribes of the Arabian Peninsula. Today, there are approximately 184,000 registered Arabian horses living in the United States, yet, according to reliable sources, fewer than 10 percent of them could meet the same criterion. The other 90 percent contain varying degrees of mostly European indigenous blood. Registrations of all Arabian horses in the United States have declined by 89 percent over the last twenty-eight years, and 75 percent of presumed living Arabian horses are now over the age of 15 years. The reproductive herd is quickly reaching the limits of their ability to produce.

Additionally, the Bedouin-bred desert horse is nearly extinct in the greater Arabian Peninsula and adjacent countries, preserved by only a handful of purist breeders and remnants of the great Bedouin tribes. The tide has turned with individuals in the United States exporting more than 700 Arabian horses a year, predominantly to buyers in the Middle East.

We are in danger of losing forever that which the Bedouin crafted from evolution's cauldron into one of the most perfect of nature's creations.

Imagine the unique genetic pool of the Desert Arabian horse to be represented by the primary colors blue, red and yellow. One can mix and blend the primary colors to create any other color imaginable. However, if the primary colors are lost, they can never be recreated from the hundreds of other shades they have shaped. In terms of color, today's show ring may prefer puce or purple, but those shades would not exist were it not for the primary colors represented by genes of the Desert Arabian horse.

Without this precious genetic resource, future generations will not have access to the foundation blocks

to create the next variation of Arabian for the show ring, endurance race, or pleasure horse. This unique gene pool and the reliable transmission of desirable characteristics is what makes the Desert Arabian horse priceless. It has the ability to predict and then repeat the quality of the offspring within this unique genetic pool, conveying the best traits of the Arabian horse to whatever one envisions.

Founded in 2004 by long time advocates of the Desert Arabian Horse, the Institute for the Desert Arabian Horse seeks to protect and conserve the cultural legacy and genetic heritage of the Bedouin-bred Arabian horse through historical and scientific research, education, standard performance evaluations, international collaboration, and conservation projects.

Contact us at [contact@desertarabian.org](mailto:contact@desertarabian.org).

### *What has the Institute done to help preserve and promote the Desert Arabian horse?*

1. Annual presence at the Egyptian Event held at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky, the first week of June. The Institute's recognizable "Black Tent" booth serves as a gathering place for those people seeking more information about Desert Arabian horses.
2. Creation of *The Babson Influence: A Retrospective* – the definitive reference book chronicling the horses imported by Henry Babson and their influence on Arabian breeding since 1932.
3. Multiple Breeding Symposia held between 2005 and 2012 to educate breeders to identify faults in their horses so that appropriate breeding decisions would lead to better quality horses.
4. Published information about Cerebellar Abiotrophy and available genetic testing for genetic disorders.
5. Led the drive to performance and horse usage by encouraging owners to participate in our Drinkers of the Wind perpetual performance trophy program.
6. Rehomed dozens of Desert Arabian horses through the Desert Arabian Reproduction and Research Effort (DARE).
7. Established Heritage Farms that offer a friendly, educational introduction to the wonderful world of the Desert Arabian horse.

*Join us in the quest to preserve the most precious equine treasure on earth – the Desert Arabian horse.*



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