

Gazal and Marwan Al Shaqab

Sires to Success

World Championships December 2001: Not one but two times blares Qatar's national anthem through the arena of the Salon du Cheval.

At age six was Gazal Al Shaqab chosen as World Senior Champion and produced the World Junior Champion, his son Marwan Al Shaqab. A novelty in the history of the World Show; and only a preliminary highlight of this extraordinary career of father and son, without whom the modern purebreds would not be what they are today.



Photo: Betty Finke

■ Marwan Al Shaqab at the Nations Cup 2002. He surpassed his sires success, both in influence and shows.

The beginning of the story took place 13 years ago at the Persian Golf. Located in the historic district of Dohas, Qatars capital, is the stud Al Shaqab. Owned by the Emir of Qatar, HH Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, it is place where the arabic tradition of pure arabian horsebreeding is continued. Horses of high quality, beauty and arabian expression were and still are the breeding goals of this country's ruler. The year of

1995 will go down as a special one in the history of his stud farm: During spring time two stallions came into this world, which would introduce the name Al Shaqab to the rest of the world.

Only one month after the Ruminaja Ali-daughter Sundar Alisayyah gave birth to a pure egyptian stallion named Al Aadeed Al Ahqab, her stable neighbor Kajora gave Al Shaqaba another superstar: Gazal Al Shaqab.

An ideal combination

The dark brown Gazal, whose forehead is adorned with a small star, originates from a combination of famous russian, polish and egyptian bloodlines. Through his dam, the U.S. national champion Kajora (Kaborr x Edjora), he originates from the renowned stallion

Naborr (Negatiw x Lagodna) born in Tersk. Naborr, who was first sold to Polands stud Michalow and sired over 60 foals was then exported to the USA in 1963. After a stormy boat trip across the atlantic along with stable mate Bask (Witraz x Balalaika) the impressive gray started his second career on american grounds. The probably most popular son of Naborr of these times is the international champion stallion Kaborr (x Bint Kholameh). With the polish bred Edjora (Exelsjor x Edessa) he sired the mare Kajora in 1979. A solid but unobtrusive bay with strong gaits, she gave birth to national and international champions in show and riding divisions in the USA, Europe and the Middle East.

When Kajora was sold to Qatar in 1994, she carried a foal from Ruminaja Alison Anaza el Farid (x Bint Deena v. Ansa Ibn Halim). This elegant Egyptian Event Supreme Champion (USA) did not live long and Gazal is probably his most influential and famous offspring. He inherited Anaza El Farid's noble looks, which refined Kajora's neck and head.

■ World Junior Reserve Champion Marquis is only one out of many successful Marwan-sons.

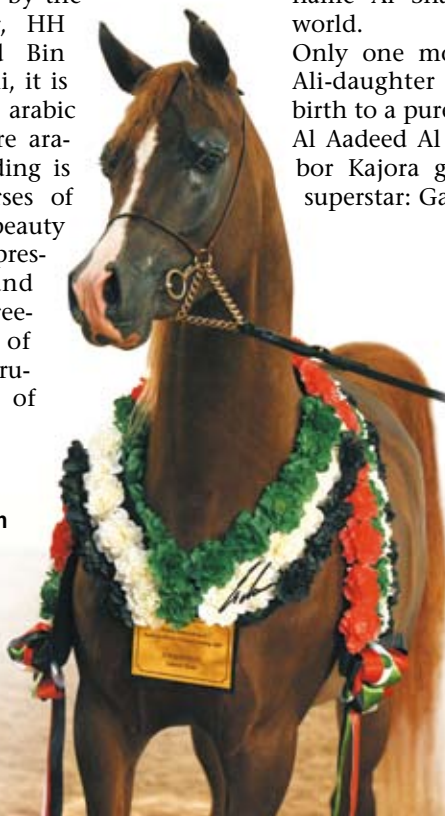


Photo: Erwin Escher



■ Gazal Al Shaqab, here with Al Shaqab-stud manager Sheikh Hamad Bin Ali Al-Thani, with only 13 years of age he has his own dynasty of champions.

Gazal Al Shaqab travels the world

Early on did Gazal become an ambassador for Al Shaqab in the international show scene. As three-year-old he reached the top ten of the Scottsdale Arabian Show in the US. During the same year he became Egyptian Event Supreme Reserve Champion. Of course he had already achieved national and international awards in his home country. In the beginning of 2001 the typy bay moved to the Specifically Equine Training Center in Germany. And a successful year was rounded off when he won the World Championships in Paris. At the young age of six years he produced World Junior Champion Marwan Al Shaqab. A unique double-success for father and son. „The night after this success I could still not believe it“, says stud-owner Sheikh Haman Bin Ali Al-Thani. „I had to touch the trophies again and again to realize our achievement. This success was so important for Al Shaqab because we did not only want to be known for buying good horses but also for breeding good horses.“



Photos: Erwin Escher

■ Janow Podlaski's Pianssima (x Pianosa) may be Gazal's most exotic and successful daughter.

The year of 2002 was another milestone for Qatar's arabian breeding: winning the 20th All Nations Cup, Junior Champion for Marwan Al Shaqab, who achieved the world champion title for the second time. While Gazal bred in Janow Podlaski and Michalow in 2002 and 2003, Marwan gave his breeding debut in Marieta Sala's spanish stud Ses Planes. At the Nations Cup she immediately recognized his special qualities. „I thought he would be an excellent match for my El Perfecto daughters.“ This way the two-year-old Marwan got his chance at her stud farm on Mallorca. And Marieta Salas' initiative was awarded with some highly successful horses, among them the spanish national champions Abha Maharani (x Abha Gazali) and Abha Mahdi (x Alisheeba) and the internationally known Abha Myra (x ZT Ludjkalba). Later US-trainer Michael Byatt took the Al Shaqab-stallions under his wings and wisely planned their triumph.

Succes starts with „M“

Marwan, Marajj, Marquis, Mardigras - Champions of the past years shows often start with an M. Behind them are usually Gazal or Marwan as sires; first Gazal then Marwan. Marwan Al Shaqab descends from one of the very first breeding years of Gazal in Qatar. Through his dam Little Lia Fame he is a

grandson of US National Champion and Canadian Reserve National Champion Fame VF. In Europe Fame VF became popular through his son, the Triple Crown winner Esteem (x Expressa). (see AWW 5/07)

Little Liza Fame, a US Top Ten Futurity Filly and US National Reserve Champion Western Pleasure Junior Horse herself, inherited her long lines, especially her long legs and fine neck, to her son Marwan. His expressions however resemble his father Gazal Al Shaqab. Under Michael Byatts management the double world junior champion also achieved two national champion titles in the USA (2003 and 2005) and produced one successful son after the other. European shows were dominated by three Marwan sons: Marajj (x RGA Kouress) *2004, Marquis (x Rohaa-

■ World Junior Champion 2007 Marajj (x RGA Kouress) is another successful Marwan-son descending from american bloodlines.



■ Nations Cup Top Five PS Rose Of Marwan (Marwan Al Shaqab x PD Rose Mahogany) from America.



Photo: Joanna Jomientz



Photo: Erwin Escher

■ Double Nations Cup Junior Champion Mardigras JMF (Marwan Al Shaqab x SMF Daretodream) with Michael Byatt.

ra Magnifica) *2004, and Mardigras JMF (x SMF Daretodream) *2005 were unbeatable. Two examples: Mardigras was double Nations Cup Junior Champion, Marajj was World Junior Champion 2007 with Marquis as reserve champion. A victory with special meaning for his presenter Scott Allman: „ I was impressed by Gazal Al Shaqab from the first time I saw him. It was a great honor for me to lead him to a world champion title seven years ago. When I discovered his grandson Marajj in America I was convinced immediately that he has the qualittites to follow in

his fathers and grandfathers footsteps.“

The beautiful Pianissima

The polish stud farms Janow Podlaski and Michalow used Gazal's breeding potential. From Janow is Gazal's descendant Ellora, who produced the famous stallions El Paso and El Azrak. Gazal obviously had blood from his mothers side. Through is egyptian father Anaza El Farid he brought in something new. The results after two years of breeding are diverse, not always expected. Could

this be due to his two very different parents?

Absolutely as expected was one filly born in 2003, who was going to follow in her brother Marwan's footsteps and be admired by the world: Pianissima.

The dark brown mare is out of Pianosa (from Eukaliptus), a granddaughter to the unforgettable Pilarka. So Pianissima is the product of famous ancestors and distinguishes herself through a good frame and a special feminine expression. Not to mention her jaunty movements, which she is showing more and more the older she gets. Already as a yearling she impressed as polish national junior champion and best horse of the show. Ever since her appearance at the polish Arabian Horse Days it was apparent that she was a favorite for the big title of 2004. And that is how it happened: Pianissima overwhelmed them all, she became Nations Cup, European, and World Champion within one year; she won the Triple Crown! An unbelievable career for such a young mare. Only Essteema achieved the same kind of victories in 1999.

Following her big brother Marwan, Pianissima went to the United States; Janow Podlaski leased her for several years. The year 2008 is a new beginning on european grounds for the now five-year-old mare. She turned her back on the USA, won a senior champion title in Saudi Arabia and returned to her home stud Janow Podlaski on January 25th. This year she is supposed to compete at the larger senior shows in Europe. There is no other mare in sight, yet, who could stop Pianissima's triumph.



■ Like peas in a pod: Marylla and Magora (both Gazal x Margotta) from Blommeröd Arabstuteri, Sweden.



Photos: Erwin Escher

■ USA-bred Marwan-son QR Marc (x Swete Dreams) causes much stir due to his looks.

About bays and grays

In Germany is Gazal-son Aka Gavayan (x Victorias Angel), who was awarded silver in 2005, breeding at stud Al Kudaira of the Leupold Family. „We saw Gazal years ago at an arabian show in Kreuth and were fascinated by his expressions and ease“, says breeder Nicola Leupold, Schwabach. „But it was also his pleasing character, which convinced us. Gavayans whole expression reminds me of his father. He combines strong movements and a presence with a kind character. We are looking forward to his first offspring this year.“ Looking at Gazal's offspring it is obvious that some of his traits will be passed on together with the brown color. It seems like his bay colored foals are more like him while the grays show more of their dam's traits. Of this opinion is the austrian breeder Gabriele Hammerer, who leased the gray stallion Lissar (Gazal al Shaqab x Lariss v. Eukaliptus) from Poland, a part-brother to Pianissima, for the next breeding season. „I have been following the development of Gazal's offspring during those two years in Poland. There are only a few grays sired by him. Among the more popular ones are international champions mare Etnologia (x Etalanta), Pistoria (x Palmira) and Norma (x Nina). Especially Lissar seems extremely influenced by his mother Larissa, who is a typical representative of the cross between Eukaliptus and Palas“, says the breeder. „One of Gazal's wonderful gray offspring is Emandoria, out of the polish Emanda (Ecaho x Emancja) who she inherited the gracile delicacy from.“ Gazal left Poland in 2004 to move to the USA. In Michael Byatts texan training stable lives the now nine-year-old together with his son Marwan again and a former stable mate Al Aadeed. At his last two big shows the matured stallion Gazal could achieve a reserve title in 2005 in Scottsdale and at the U.S. National Finals.

■ Stallion Lissar (Gazal Al Shaqab x Lariss v. Eukaliptus) breeding in Austria is a four-quarter-brother to Pianissima.



Photo: Erwin Escher

Return to Qatar

And the circle will close in 2009: the three superstars Gazal, Marwan and Al Aadeed will move into the newly and luxuriously renovated stables at stud Al Shaqab. And even if Gazal and Mar-

wan are never going to leave the Middle East again: their influence on arabian breeding worldwide cannot be done away with. Even now QR Marc (x Swete Dreams), another grandson of Gazal, is ready to continue his ancestors great successes. The fourth generation is ready: Maharaja HDM (Marajj x Miss Yahsminah Elamal) became junior champion at the Scottsdale arabian show in February.



Photo: Dodo