

# 20 QUESTIONS

*... about your life with Arabian horses ... with TERRY JOHNSON*



**1** What is your current involvement with Arabian horses?

*Currently I am a Regional National judge, and have had the privilege of adjudicating The Canadian Nationals, Youth National, US Nationals and recently judged the Australian National show, and numerous other shows in USA and Canada. I served on the Arabian Horse Association BOD 2007-2011 and was chair of the Competition Advisory Board, which is the committee that sets the rules, and insures that the rules are complied with. I am also on the Arabian Foundation Committee, which assists with Scholarships, Research, and Homing. And I am the Vice Chair of the Equine Stress*

*Committee, dealing with controlling the stress on our horses, both in and out of the Show ring.*

*I am the Equine Canada Chair of the Breed Sport Committee, and Saddle Seat Committees. I also assist with the EC Arabian Rules committee.*

*I owned and trained Arabians professionally at Weststar International, for over 25 years.*

**2** How many years have you been around horses?

*I was the kid that skipped school in grade 2 and went to explore the local stable. So a really long time!!*

**3** They say, "the Arabian horse finds you". How did the Arabian horse find you?

*Well after hanging around the local stable for many years, exchanging stall cleaning for lessons, we joined the local Pony Club. The pony club is an excellent venue and I found many friends, 2 and 4 legged, and I can say that I still stay in contact with several of them after all these years. This led me to riding Hunters and Jumpers, and I traveled all over Canada competing at some of the largest competitions. Unfortunately there was no young riders or other venues for me to continue riding when I completed High School. So I took a Operating Room Technician Course. This was a very exciting but stressful job, and I did not have the time or energy to continue with my riding. A few years later, a good friend of mine asked me to come ride a horse he had! When I was told it was an Arabian I was reluctant, as at that time Arabians had a very bad reputation!! Well for me that was the beginning of the end! After that I did not want to ride any other types of horses.*

**4** Who is or has been your favorite horse companion?

*Wow that is tough as I have had so many wonderful horses! There was Nobler+ my first Anglo that I thought at the time was the smartest horse I had ever been around. JA Magnificat++ was a Bask son that was not only a wonderfully horse, but as a Stallion, helped our Business in so many ways. CT Breakout was a fabulous horse, that won so many Championships in Park English Pleasure and Native Costume. Mystic Music was another fantastic Park horse, (we never told her she was under 14.2 HH). She competed with all the big boys and beat them all! And so many more!*

**5** Who has been your (horse) mentor?

*Again another tough question, there have been so many! I love to talk to so many knowledgeable people, and learn*

from them all. Everyone is willing to talk to you and share their knowledge!

**6** What is your favorite horse book?

*Of course the Black Stallion!!*

**7** What is your favorite horse movie?

*There are so many but loved Secretariat!*

**8** What are some 'Arabian horse activities' in which you participate?

*I am very active in the Arabian Industry. I am the President of the BC Arabian Horse Association, and Secretary of the Region 17 AHA. I am on the AHA Foundation BOD and EC Chair of Breed sport, Saddle Seat and EC Arabian Rules committees. I also show horses, my daughter and clients show horses, and I give several riding clinics every year.*

**9** What would be your most memorable experience or moment with an Arabian horse?

*Again there are so many to choose from! One day when I was training horses in the indoor arena my daughter then about 5? Came down to the barn and her favorite horse Naughty, a 24 year old Arabian, was laying in his paddock. She went in to visit him, and decided to climb on him while he was down. He was fine with this till she decided this was a little boring and decided to get him up! So started kicking him with her little legs, so reluctantly he got up very gingerly and stood like a statue, with her now screaming, and scared! I jumped off the horse I was on and ran to her rescue, with Naughty standing like a statue, not moving a hair. Arabians are wonderful baby sitters!!*

**10** What has been your greatest achievement with your Arabian horse(s) so far?

*I have had so many accomplishments with Arabians and they have made my life so full and rewarding. They have taken me to places I may never have visited, with judging assignments all over North America, Australia, South Africa, & China. The Arabian Horses have also been instrumental in raising my children. My Daughter is now very involved with the Youth AHYA BOD and has had the opportunity to travel all over North America, and meet so many friends, and build lifelong relationships. She also has run meetings and fundraising campaigns that have helped support Scholarships, youth tournaments, and other Youth Activities for the youth members in Western Canada.*

**11** Which horse do you consider to be your "dream" horse, either past or present?

*I love the Bask and Huckleberry Bey Horses, they have had so much influence on the Arabian Industry, with beauty and athleticism!*

**12** Horses are amazing teachers. What has your horse taught you that has helped you become a better person?

*Horses are fantastic teachers! I guess the story that comes to mind is when I first started training at 22 and obviously I knew everything!! I had a horse that I had ridden in the am, he was great, of course, I was his trainer! I got a call from the stable that they thought he had broken his leg. Frantic I rushed back to the stable to find the horse could not put weight on the hind foot. The vet requested I bring him to the race track where his office was. Upon arrival, and while unloading, an old (haha probably my age now) trainer, farrier, wandering by said oh you have an abscess! Well luckily*

*the words out of my big mouth were not, but on the tip of my tongue, everyone is an expert! Well he picked up the foot 2 swipes with his knife and the blood was poring, just then my vet walked up and said, Oh Ed I guess you have this one covered. From that day on I have been very careful not to shrug others suggestions, and weigh several options, before rushing blindly into situations. And certainly not be sarcastic when someone offers a suggestion!*

**13** What is the best thing about working and playing with your Arabian horse?

*Arabians are so smart and giving. They teach us so many things, from budgeting our time, and preparing for competitions, to sportsmanship, winning and loosing & Caring for an animal, Arabians open so many doors for lifelong friendships, and travel to unknown areas.*

**14** What would you say to a person considering buying a horse to encourage them to purchase an Arabian?

*Arabians are different from other horses, they will give back the attention you give to them and they want to be your friend and companion. They have been breed for thousands of years to be different, and return your love. They build our confidence and help us to become better people.*

**15** What is your advice to someone, "brand new," considering becoming involved with horses?

*Contact a reputable trainer, or coach to help you get started. There are numerous places to find these stables. AHA & EC Websites, local Stables or feed stores. Find one that feels right to you don't be afraid to ask questions. Visit several stables before you make a decision.*

**16** Is there a favorite reference book you'd like to share?

*Probably the Pony Club manual, it has excellent information on many horse topics.*

**17** What is the one thing you'd like to do that you haven't done yet?

*Wow Arabians have done so much for me, and I hope it continues for many more years!*

**18** What about 'kids" and an Arabian horse?

*Arabians are excellent teachers, and are wonderful with children. My own kids grew up on them. They are intelligent and careful. And will not knowingly hurt someone, if there is an alternative. Some other breeds do not have this quality, and are more difficult and unwilling to be worked with.*

**19** Why do you think you get such a "rush" being around or riding your Arabian horse(s)?

*Arabians are so exhilarating that sometimes we are just in AAH of them.*

**20** What are your words to live by?

*Treat others like you would like to be treated! Never talk down to anyone! And always love your horses!*

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

*Arabians have shaped me into the person I am today, and I hope they remain in my life for many more years to come. Don't be afraid to get involved, and to get riding! ■*