

20 QUESTIONS

... about your life with Arabian horses ... with AMANDA PRESTON



1 What is your current involvement with Arabian horses?

More breeding focused currently, but that can always change in the future!

2 How many years have you been around horses?

My very first love was an Arabian horse, I believe I was 3, soooo 22 years? haha.

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

I was fortunate, as a young rider, to have a coach who understood and appreciated the intelligence of the Arabian horse and the versatility. She helped me to teach the horse's mind first and body second.

4 Who is or has been your favorite horse companion?

No fair!! Just one??! I think the honor goes to Bucky (Celebrity Ruler). He's a 23 years young Anglo Arab and owes me nothing. Bucky had been a western pleasure/reiner when I bought him and he quickly trained to FEI dressage. Bucky is now my most trusted mount for my daughter.

5 Who has been your (horse) mentor?

There's no easy answer on this either. Bucky has taught me more than, I think, any other horse, but each and every one I have had the pleasure to work with has taught me so much!

6 What is your favorite horse book?

Riding Logic by W. Museler, all about riding in the classical style and recommended by my former coach, Otto Sameit (may he rest in peace).

7 What is your favorite horse movie?

I think it would have to be Black Beauty... Docs Keepin Time was an incredible horse in that film and started my interest in liberty and trick horse training.

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

Right now my involvement comes mostly from education, writing my regular article for the DAH newsletter, breeding and otherwise just enjoying my favorite "breed" people!

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

Most memorable hey? Picking just one isn't easy! One of my proudest moments with an Arabian (Pintabian) was being able to take BG Northstar to Northland's for the Farm and Ranch Show and being able to perform a trick demo with him for a group of 4H kids. It makes me so proud to know that he and his new owner, Betty Jensen, are doing so well in the show ring with 3 Canadian National Top 10's in Sport Horse this year!

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

I think schooling to FEI levels with Bucky, showing him to 4th level and then, years later, confronting my fears of trail riding and taking Mr. Reliable out to an Endurance Rider's clinic and "bush whacking" with him.

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

Without a doubt, my young stallion LaBamba SE. He's registered Zweibrucker (RPSI) but I think my favorite part of his pedigree is that he's got several crosses back to Ramsez, the Anglo Arabian who was so incredibly influential in the warmblood world. I have bred him to Amanda Ubell's mare DTD Fancy That for 2014 foaling. The starts have truly aligned for me with my "Ritchie" boy!

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

To laugh. Having an idea about how something should go is great, but it's best to be flexible and keep my sense of humor close by!

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

I've always found Arabians to be so quick to learn! I've heard so many people complain about "dumb Arabs" but the only problem I've ever found is that those horses are most often smarter than their handlers! Certainly there is nothing that an Arab cannot do. Their athletic ability and eager minds make them superior animals, in my opinion.

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

Without a doubt! If not a purebred, then definitely a part bred! You can find a horse who will succeed and be superior in any discipline you'd like to compete, in any size or colour. Why not just have it in a prettier

package (inside and out!)

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

ASK QUESTIONS!!!! I often talk with brand new horse people when teaching my equine first-aid certification courses and I've heard them say so many times, "I have a stupid question..." In my opinion, there are no stupid questions. But I've heard a lot of stupid answers. Ask knowledgeable horse people with a lot of good experience, reputations and references. Then ask another and another! Take clinics, take lessons, learn learn and learn more!



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

My equine first-aid hand book from Equi-Health Canada. Being familiar with your horse and how to treat minor injuries, first-aid for trauma and knowing your horse's vitals can save his life and make a huge difference in his ability to recover from injury.

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

I'll give you 3: Piaffe, Passage and single tempis! I've come so close to Grand Prix dressage training that I could taste it, but I've not yet been able to ride those three movements.

18 What about “kids” and an Arabian horse?

Couldn't be a better match! A schooled and well experienced Arabian horse seems to have more understanding of his young charge than other horses. Of course, I cringe when I hear about young horses and green riders of any breed together, but I think the best teacher for a young rider would be an Arab.

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

Come on, I like the stage! Performance is a thrill and when you're riding or handling something so beautiful and eye catching, how can you not feel the rush?

20 What are your words to live by?

Someone once took their time out to help me, gave me a chance to learn with horses, and asked nothing in return. It's my job to pay it forward.

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Please check out my website, www.shimmere.com for a list of equine first-aid and trick-horse clinics coming up or to discuss booking your own. ■