

20 QUESTIONS

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

1 What is your current involvement with Arabian horses?

I am currently an equine photographer, shooting farms, sale horses, horse shows and any other equine photos needed.

2 How many years have you been around horses?

I acquired my first Arabian horse 30 years ago.



3 They say, "the Arabian horse finds you".

How did the Arabian horse find you?

My mother worked with a lady that owned an Arabian horse, I, of course, was a horse crazy little girl. The lady invited us out for me to go for a ride....the rest is history...lol.

4 Who is or has been your favorite horse companion?

My most memorable horse was Pride of Intrigue, sired by KGB Intrigue, he was a chestnut gelding that I showed in Show Hack, Hunter, Dressage, Western, Halter, and Showmanship. The one I learnt the most from was Abadi Sweet Satin, a flea bitten grey mare, that we bought for \$900.00 from a feedlot WITH all of her tack. I showed that mare in EVERYTHING and to the national level, she was absolutely amazing.

5 Who has been your (horse) mentor?

I have had many over the years and they have all left lasting impressions on me, including but not limited to, Gail Tory, Sharon Merkel-Beatty, Michael Whelihan, Pam Zimmerman, the Galloways (ALL of the Galloways), and Gary Coleman.

6 What is your favorite horse book?

I am not sure I have a favorite horse book, honestly I tend to stay away from stories involving horses, they ALWAYS get hurt (although they nearly always get better too) and I just can not stand that part. :(

7 What is your favorite horse movie?

Stripes.

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

I am heavily involved with horse shows in both the United States and Canada, I used to show at these horse shows but now I photograph the incredible beauties instead. :)

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

Well, it might be from an Aurora show from about 18-19 years ago, one of the first Arabian shows I ever rode in. I was at the time taking lessons from Lori Galloway of Rocking Bar Ranch, I was 12 years old on my 900.00 feedlot mare. It was an open hunter class with 24 horses. I placed FOURTH and BEAT my trainer!!!! There was absolutely NO turning back for me then...lol.

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

I have a few that I am very proud of but maybe the most is that I have horses that I bred in all parts of the world, including across Canada, across the United States, Dubai, Kuwait, and Germany.

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

Countess Vanessa left the most lasting impression on me, I saw her go National Champion Park Horse at the US Nationals, you could NOT look away from her, she gave me goose bumps and made me hold my breath...she was unreal...she floated above the ground.

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

To work HARD, I had to work to help pay the board for my horses as we did not live on a farm. I spent every weekend and holiday working at the barns I boarded at starting at the age of 12. I rode 5 days a week, even in -30 without heat, I bundled up so all you could see where my eyes, but I still rode. You have to work hard and dedicate yourself or you will not move forward and get better. You also have to learn to COMPROMISE...lol, especially with an Arabian. You can not just FORCE them to do what you want. You have to work WITH them and learn to do things together.



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

Their emotions! They are so able to show love and friendship, as well as jealousy and hate...lol. They love to play and love to learn, and when they love you they will always try their hardest.

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

I would simply get them to come out and meet the Arabian horse, if they are able to spend an afternoon

with Arabian horses then they will never go back... they just have so much to give.

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

Make sure they know what they are getting into, they need to know the costs (and yes, they are scary!), and what all is involved with properly caring for a horse etc. But at the same time, horses teach us hard work, loyalty, dedication and it is a great form of exercise.

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

Not really....sorry.

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

I would LOVE to show at Scottsdale, I have shown at nearly all of the other big shows in North America except that one, and that one has easily become my favorite show to go to, though I do not get to go every year...:(.



18 What about 'kids" and an Arabian horse?

Kids today have become inactive, everything is technological and online. They do not get out, they do not exercise, they do not know what it means to work TOWARDS something, to have a goal.... horses can do that for a child and they will form a strong, everlasting bond with their horse at the same time.

19 Why do you think you get such a "rush"

being around or riding your Arabian horse(s)?

Because when everything comes together and you connect with your horse and ride, it is like you are

one, flying and floating and LIVING. It is the most incredible feeling in the world.

20 What are your words to live by?

Live every day to the fullest as you have no idea what tomorrow will bring. Work hard and play hard. ■