

## Shagya-Arabians: Description of the Breed & Breeding Goal

The Shagya-Araber is the refined continuation - on an international purebred basis - of the "Araber-Rasse" (Arabian Breed) horse of the Hungarian and Austrian studs of Bábolna, Mezőhegyes and Radautz, which means that the studbooks of the national associations are closed. The breeding goal is a large framed Arabian horse, suitable for everyone – both as a noble riding or carriage horse. Through the method of purebred breeding, the breeding goal can be strived for. The inclusion of genes from to the Purebred Arabian breed is possible.

### **Description of the breeding goal:**

Color: grey, bay/brown, black, chestnut

Exterior and Type: The Shagya-Araber should resemble the appearance of a beautiful, elegant and harmonious riding horse, while having an unmistakable Arabian expression, characterized through a delicate and defined/dry texture and silky hair as well as corresponding details in head and body. Breeding stallions and broodmares should show obvious and distinct gender specific characteristics, while considering the delayed development of the Arabian horse.

Undesirable are breeding animals with indistinct breed or indifferent gender characteristics.

Head: The head should be small, defined/dry and striking; the profile can be slightly concave or straight. The eyes should be big, dark and wide apart. The nostrils should be dark, big and markedly capable of being expanded. The throat latch should be wide and the teeth regular.

Undesirable are big, heavy, coarse heads; small, high-set and too lateral eyes, a narrow throat latch and all sorts of teeth anomalies.

Neck: Desirable is a long noble riding horse neck with a fine throat, a light neck and an arched crest.

Undesirable is a neck set too high or too low, as well as a pronounced underside of the neck. Especially a short and heavy neck has to be evaluated negatively.

Shoulder/Saddle-Area: Desirable are big, sloping shoulders and a significant far into the back reaching withers.

Undesirable are small, flat and steep shoulders, too flat and short or very high and pointed withers.

Back: Desirable is a medium long and closed coupled, harmonious, concave well muscled back that allows an elastic movement of the back.

Undesirable is a very short or very long back, a weak back with a too convex or too concave kidney/loins area.

Croup: Desirable is an only slightly sloping, long croup.

Undesirable is a straight (horizontal), or very sloping or short croup.

Legs: Desirable is a dry well muscled foreleg with distinct joints. The hindlegs should show a normal angle with a wide hock that is well coupled with a smooth transition into the cannon bone. The pastern should be elastic and of medium length. Undesirable are any kind of leg conformation faults, lack of muscles, too short or too long, too steep or too weak pasterns, too steep or too sloped angled hindlegs, elbows pressed to the chest.

Hoofs: Desirable are well shaped hooves, matching to the proportions of the horse. Undesirable are any kind of hoof conformation faults, as well as too narrow, pointed, flat, wide hooves and a flat back of the horn walls.

Correctness of Gaits/Movements: Desirable is a straight regular movement, noticeable from the front to the back. Undesirable are any kind of irregularities of the movement/gaits, such as paddling or wiggling, as well as twisting joints.

### **Movements:**

Walk: Desirable is a rhythmical, regular four stroke sequence, active relaxed and ground covering. Undesirable is an arrhythmic or faulty (amble), short, dragging, stiff walk.

Trot: Desirable is a rhythmical, regular (two stroke) trot with energetic forward motion at acceleration, plenty of impulsion with hindlegs distinctly supporting the center of gravity, good ground covering and lots of momentum and elasticity as well as a noticeable hovering phase. Undesirable is an arrhythmic, weak, short and limited, flat without momentum or uptight trot.

Canter: Desirable is a regular rhythmical (three stroke), diligent, powerful, magnificent, with lots of momentum, elastic uphill canter. Undesirable is an arrhythmic, dragging, short and flat canter without movement and insufficient jumping phase with rushed repetition.

Jumping: Desirable is a bold horse that enjoys jumping with good jumping ability, fast and well bent forelegs, while hindlegs are opening, and an elastic and well arched back (bascule) during the jump. Additionally the optimal ability to assess the distance before the jump including great skills over the jump is desired. Undesirable is a reluctant, coward, jumping without control, hanging foreleg, high nose across the jump, retracted hindlegs, a stiff and straight back.

Rideability: Desirable is a pleasant rhythm and seat experience, where the rider is part of the momentum due to good back activity from the beginning. An alert, sensitive, confident contact, a confident chewing mouth with salivation, a forward moving temperament, and willingness to learn. Undesirable is a seat sensation, where the rider is not in sync with the movement, an uptight and rebellious against the hand, insensitive, clumsy mouth, which is not able to reach suppleness, or a faulty tongue, a listless or hot tempered horse uninterested to learn.

Interior: Desirable is a trusting, well natured behavior in the stable and an at all times well balanced and safe one outside the stable, with strong nerves and manageability, when unexpected stimuli occur.

Undesirable is a false and insidious behavior in the stable, spooky, over anxious while being handled, panicky and uncontrollable reactions to unexpected stimuli.

Health: Desirable is in general a robust health, longevity and fertility, stamina and frugality, without hereditary defects, minimal prone to health related risks in regards to the joint illnesses (Podotrochlosis), OCD (Osteochondrosis Dissencans Tarsi), spavin and arthritis of the toe joints, as well as a minimal risk for respiratory diseases.

