

WADI AL NASMAT

TRUE STRAIGHT EGYPTIAN BREEDING IN COLORADO

*Interview with Alicia Midgett, founder and owner of internationally well-known
Wadi Al Nasmal Farm in the USA.*



■ *by Monika Savier*



Alicia with her family

The foothills of the Rocky Mountains are where Wadi Al Nasmat is nestled near the city of Loveland, Colorado, USA. It's about 45 minutes by car to Denver, but out here at an altitude of about 1500m it's a rocky and dry landscape, with yucca plants and a few trees – well suited for raising true desert Arabians.

Desert Heritage: *Mrs Midgett, you have established a wonderful horse breeding farm here, with beautiful pastures and a nice barn for foaling. When did you start breeding Arabian horses?*

Alicia Midgett: I got my first Arabian horse in 2005 and started breeding almost immediately. Today, we keep around 30 horses, which means stallions, mares, and foals we are evaluating. We're into our 3rd generation of Nasmat breeding now, and have bred for our 14th foal crop in 2020.





Alicia with Nasmal Neban (DF Nashwan x Ansata Valentina)

Desert Heritage: *Have you always wanted to breed horses, and Arabian horses especially?*

Alicia Midgett: I grew up a horse crazy little girl, I was obsessed. My Dad traveled a lot for business and somehow ended up grabbing a brochure printed on blue paper, from a motel in Arkansas. It was a publication by Ansata Arabian Stud, and I was truly captivated by it. I spent hours looking at the horses that appeared on the pages, learning their characteristics, Ansata Ibn Halima was featured as well as Ansata Shah Zaman and Ansata Ibn Sudan.

Desert Heritage: *Before entering the subject of horses, will you tell us some more of yourself?*

Alicia Midgett: Personally, I'm a single mother of four lovely boys aged 7, 11, 14 and 17. My former husband passed away in November, 2014. My family strongly encouraged me to abandon my dream of breeding and

raising horses at the time of his death, but I truly wanted to keep going, even knowing it would be incredibly challenging alone. It continues to be a healthy distraction and bring peace, breath and joy to my boys and me. I'm very grateful to now have an incredibly supportive partner in my life as well.

Desert Heritage: *So despite quite some hardships, you followed your dream. What made you decide to breed Straight Egyptians?*

Alicia Midgett: I simply fell in love with a Straight Egyptian, a son of El Hadiyyah, his name was Danseurs Rafiq. I leased a Straight Egyptian mare to breed to him, and in 2007 I had my first SE foal, Nasmal Asfour, followed by his full sister Nasmal Aleftina the next year. Nasmal Aleftina remains one of my most important founding mares, and she and her daughter, Nasmal Alamirah (Presumido Feisul X Nasmal Aleftina), are

building a beautiful mare group here: Nasmāt Aleftina, Nasmāt Alamirah, Nasmāt Amani (deceased), Nasmāt Alava (deceased), Nasmāt Amarnah, Nasmāt Almas. It has not been without its tragic losses, but I am dedicated to this family and am moving forward, retaining both Nasmāt Amarnah and Nasmāt Almas. With Nasmāt Amani, I had doubled up on the lines by breeding Nasmāt Aleftina to Nasmāt Burkan, and the results were outstanding.

Desert Heritage: *As we are right in the middle of horse family shop talk already: what is your core family, if there is one?*

Alicia Midgett: That's the Bukra Family. I am committed to developing the tail female Bukra family. I have had 3 offspring from NF Naeema (Ansata Sirius



TRA Majestic Mist and her filly Nasmāt Najyyah



*Alicia with Junior stallion Jamal Al Rashediah
(Jamil Al Rayyan x Samaa Al Rashediah)*

X Ansata Neoma). There is Nasmāt Nasrin (TRA Ibn El Mourad X NF Naeema) (sold), and 2 colts which I have retained as future breeding sires, who are Nasmāt Nakor (El ZiTamar X NF Naeema), and Nasmāt Naeem

Nasmāt Nehan just received a first place ribbon at the Spring Arabian show, 2019.

I also imported my junior stallion, Jamal Al Rashediah (Jamil Al Rayyan X Samaa Al Rashediah). And I am

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(Desha Daheez X NF Naeema).

I have 2 offspring which I have retained from Ansata Valentina, also tail female Bukra, which are Nasmāt Amayya (El Zilal Tamar X Ansata Valentina) and a colt, Nasmāt Nehan (DF Nashwan X Ansata Valentina).

breeding with another Ansata Qasim daughter, Ansata Valentina's sister, Ansata Cassandra, who gave me 2 fillies: Nasmāt Celestina (Nasmāt Baroud X Ansata Cassandra) (deceased) and Nasmāt Malaak (El Zilal Tamar X Ansata Cassandra).



Ahlam Baselah

Ansata Cassandra



Desert Heritage: *That's an impressive list of Bukra tail line descendants. Is there another family you pay major attention to?*

Alicia Midgett: Yes, that's the Nile Family. I am also committed to developing the Nile tail female family.

I had a lovely filly by DF Nashwan that sadly did not survive her birth, and now in 2019 have the first living daughter, Nasmata Nile Tee (Jamal Al Rashediah X Nile Amira HHF (Ansata Nile Emir X Highview Nile Jewel).

One of my other key mares is a Shahir IASB daughter that we all really like, Ahlam Baselah (Shahir x MB Mashiehl). She has had many nice foals for me:

Nasmata Burkan (Nasmata Asfour X Ahlam Baselah) who went on to sire Nasmata Alava (Nasmata Burkan X Nasmata Aleftina) and Nasmata Aliah (Nasmata Burkan x Al Jedrani Asiah); Nasmata Baroud (Cajun Man X Ahlam Baselah) who went on to sire the black son Nasmata Mabrouk, (Nasmata Baroud X Ahlam Baselah).

Nasmata Basimah (Cajun Man X Ahlam Baselah), who brought Nasmata Basim (Ansata Nile Falcon X Nasmata Basimah) here, was later exported to Saudi Arabia with a

filly in utero; Nasmata Bahiah (Ansata Nile Commander X Ahlam Baselah) who had a nice colt this year by El Zilal Tamar; Nasmata Balqis (El Zilal Tamar X Ahlam Baselah), who produced a good quality colt by Jamal Al Rashediah this year; and finally, Nasmata Balqisah (El Zilal Tamar X Ahlam Baselah), who will be retained for future breeding.

Desert Heritage: *As you have so many splendid Bukra and Nile family descendants to be proud of, do you also attend shows with them?*

Alicia Midgett: I don't show often, but really enjoy it when I do. Before showing Nasmata Nehan this year, the last filly I showed was Nasmata Farha (Ansata Nile Falcon x Fula by Safeen). She won the first place in Scottsdale 2016 Egyptian Heritage in the class of the two-years old fillies. Sadly she passed away as a 2-year-old, before starting her breeding career. A great loss.

Desert Heritage: *Is there a major stallion in your breeding program?*



El Zilal Tamar



Alicia Midgett: El Zilal Tamar is my main and senior stallion. He was bred by Gregor Pintar in Slovenia. I imported him to the USA as a 9-month-old colt. He consistently brings type, exotic beauty, great legs, and smooth topline to my foals. I will continue to use Tamar extensively, and also start to test-breed his sons, specifically Nasmah Fahdi in 2019.

Following Fahdi is Nasmah Naeem, who looks especially promising.

I also have a handful of Tamar daughters I am breeding to our junior stallion Jamal Al Rashediah, and other outside stallions.

Desert Heritage: *What are your future strategies?*

Alicia Midgett: Well, breeding plans with outside stallions include Jamil Al Rayyan, DF Al Majeed, Nil Del Guado, DF Nashwan, Hadban Al Naif, SM Bariq and NK Nabhan.

Ansata Valentina



Nasmat Firouzab



NF Naema

I am still waiting for a foal from Hadban Al Naif out of my Ajmal Tameen daughter, Nesma Al Mabrouka, this year. As of now, I have several mares confirmed in foal to El Zilal Tamar and Nasmat Fahdi for 2020.

Desert Heritage: *What can you say about Straight Egyptian breeding in the USA and the influence of Gulf breeding, if there is one?*

Alicia Midgett: Honestly I think that SE breeding in the USA is dwindling. I only know a few small breeders that are still breeding actively.

There is no influence of gulf breeding here, we have sold most of our stock to the Middle East and there is not a whole lot left here. I'm guessing there is a perception that nothing is left in this country, and there is the feeling that the gulf countries have stopped looking here for breeding stock. I guess in such a limited market, it's risky to breed... but I believe there will always be a market for the exceptional, and so I strive for that.

Desert Heritage: Thank you for sharing all that intriguing information with us, and good luck with your horses and family!

2019 colt by Zilal Tamar x Desert Splendor EF



Jamal Al Rashediab



Nasmat Alava

Nasmat Farba



Nasmat Malaak



Nasmat Neban



Nasmat Fabdi



Nasmal Alestina



Nasmal Burkan

I'd like to thank Lisa Zukowski, my best friend and mentor, for always encouraging me and pushing me forward. Thank you to Monika Savier for being a mentor and inspiration, Dr Hans Nagel for so graciously hosting us last summer, and the endless inspiration, Judi Forbis, for planting the seed that lead to my life's work and passion. Vincenzo Pellegrini and Achim Dirnhofer for breedings and collaboration. Anne Caroline for taking care of my mares and for breedings to her stallion Hadban Al Naif. Gregor Pintar, for having the vision to breed El Zilal Tamar, who has fulfilled all my dreams, superseded my expectations, and changed the face of my program. Julie Patton and Montana Henke for being on this journey with me, and for the beautiful images that help tell our story.

Alicia

Below is a list of horses I have retained on the farm to breed forward within the first 3 generations:

1st Generation of Nasmal breeding:

Nasmal Aleftina (Danseurs Rafiq x SDR Hostan Granat), 2008
Nasmal Malaak (El Zilal Tamar x Ansata Cassandra), 2016
Nasmal Firouzah (El Zilal Tamar x TRA Elmourads Felecia), 2016
Nasmal Fadia (El Zilal Tamar x SM Fakriyyah), 2016
Nasmal Amayya (El Zilal Tamar x Ansata Valentina), 2017
Nasmal Mussah (Esfahan Manaseer x Al Ilah Taghria), 2017
Nasmal Balqisah (El Zilal Tamar x Ahlam Baselah), 2018
Nasmal Malik Masri (DF Malik Jamil x El Zilal Masriyyah), 2018
Nasmal Nakor (El Zilal Tamar x NF Naeema), 2018
Nasmal Neban (DF Nashwan x Ansata Valentina), 2018
Nasmal Naeem (Desha Daheez x NF Naeema), 2019
Nasmal Nile Tee (Jamal Al Rashediah x Nile Amira HHF), 2019
Nasmal Tariq (SM Bariq x Al Ilah Taghria), 2019
Nasmal Amal (El Zilal Tamar x Nasmal Alamirah), 2019
Nasmal Unnamed colt (El Zilal Tamar x Song of Kamar EF), 2019
Nasmal Unnamed colt (El Zilal Tamar x Desert Splendor EF), 2019

2nd Generation

Nasmal Alamirah (Presumido Feisul x Nasmal Aleftina), 2013
Nasmal Fahdi (El Zilal Tamar x SM Fakriyyah), 2016
Nasmal Almas (El Zilal Tamar x Nasmal Aleftina), 2019

3rd Generation

Nasmal Amarnah (El Zilal Tamar x Nasmal Aleftina), 2017
Nasmal Aliah (Nasmal Burkan x Al Jedrani Asiah), 2018



Nasmat Aleftina



Nasmat Amani



Nasmat Naeem





Nasmat Mussab



Nasmat Celestina



Nasmat Amayya

Nasmat Alamirab

