



“It’s for sure I won’t let myself be carried away into breeding a horse that doesn’t correspond to my ideas, just in order to serve the market.”

Cornelia Tauschke

El Thayeba Arabians in Germany, Thoughts, Breeding Goals and Results

by Monika Savier ■ photos by Gigi Grasso, Joanna Jonientz, Nicole Sachs

El Thayeba Arabians stud in Northern Germany can look back upon a success story of 50 years. Last century, horses with a Straight Egyptian pedigree had added value because they were so rare. This changed even during the 1990ies when the market for Straight Egyptians started booming, not only on the continent, but also in the Gulf States. By now, there are enough Straight Egyptians in the world, and the demand is now for “quality rather than quantity”. Only those studs who made the effort to constantly improve their horse stock by applying a concept and criteria, lending their horses a profile of their own, developed into influencers with a great name. “El Thayeba” stud became one of them.

That this place of breeding has been so successful up to today is to be attributed to the owner, Cornelia Tauschke, even if the person who laid the foundations of the stud fifty years ago was her late husband Dr. Hans Joerg Tauschke. However, it was „Conny“, as she is called, who was brave enough to go on after his death and to systematically implement her visions. She remained faithful to her time-proven noble mare strains and can, today, refer to five generations of top-notch quality offspring. Arabian horses with the El Thay logo can be found in many studs and pedigrees world-wide today. Her horses do not only have beautiful heads, but also athletic bodies of perfect functionality. In all areas of the breeding work, she gets supported by her domestic partner Klaus Beste.

Conny is riding many of her horses, with the stallions in particular being schooled from the saddle, among others. Animal wellbeing plays a significant role in this stud. The horses have a barn as beautiful as you can wish for, the spacious box stalls flooded with light and with big pastures and meadows attached, and grow up with minimum stress in small herds. Let us wish, for the horses in traditional studs such as this one, that they will cope well with the crises of their times and will have a future of many more generations.

Monika Savier talking with the lady breeder and owner of El Thayeba Stud in Germany, Cornelia Tauschke.

Monika Savier: *El Thayeba Stud has been a well-known player in the Egyptian field for fifty years now – not just in Germany, but world-wide. How did all of that start?*

Cornelia Tauschke: El Thayeba Arabians was first named, 'Oberland Stud' and was founded by my late husband Dr. Hans Jörg Tauschke in 1971. He lived and practiced medicine in Bad Heilbrunn in Bavaria, in the "Oberland" area. We then moved, in 1981, to Grossenkneten, which is a small village in between Bremen and Oldenburg. He loved and bred different animals and had always been fascinated by the history and the culture of the countries of the Orient, and by art. Which is why in our stud work, he would have his focus on studying pedigrees and developing breeding strategies.

In the early 1970ies, the so-called "Arabitis" was very much in the air. There were very few Arabian breeders in Germany; Arabian horses were rare, they were exotic, and they were smaller than the usual warmblood horses. So some people thought they might turn to Arabians just because their small size would make them easier to handle, and they were beautiful, too. Then, people would realize that arabian horses have very special qualities that go far beyond that, and they would fall in love with them. So they became the horses of choice for people who love special horses.

Monika Savier: *What was your initial role in the stud?*

Cornelia Tauschke: My practical horsemanship and experience increased in 1978 when I met my then future husband and joined him. Until then I had worked mainly with warmbloods sports horses, and had gotten my first riding lessons as a young girl. I took over the practical matters at the stud which included the daily care, handling and managing of the horses, as well as training and riding the youngstock, monitoring the foaling, and taking care of the coverings of the mares.

Monika Savier: *Looking back, what did you like best in the early years? What was different and why is it no longer there today?*

Cornelia Tauschke: Fifty years is a very long time, indeed! A lot has changed in that time. During the 1970ies people were glad if they were able to get their hands on a horse of Arabian blood at all. The first ones were Arabians from the Lebanon and mares from Russia, and my late husband started to breed with these. The Arabian Scene was much more familiar overall, everybody knew everybody else and almost all of the horses, as most of the important things happened right here in Germany anyway. Of course there was El Zahraa in Cairo, which was almost a place of pilgrimage for German breeders. It was spine-tingling to be there and



El Thay Ibn Halim Shah (Ansata Halim Shah x Mahameh by Ibrahim and Mona III) Premium Stallion and Winner of Stallion Licensing through Racing with his breeder Dr. Tauschke (left)



El Thay Mansour (Ansata Halim Shah x El Thay Maheera by Nizam and Mona II) Multi Champion Stallion - shown here by Cornelia Tauschke at the Asil Cup



El Thay Kamria (Ansata Selman x Kamla II by Ansata Halim Shah and Mona III)

see those famous horses, of the ancient bloodlines, in their country of origin.

The USA were far away, and they only started getting more interesting during the 1980ies.

Today, the “Arabian Horse Industry”, as the scene is often called after the fashion in English-speaking countries, has become highly globalized and is dominated by the countries of the Near and Middle East.

By the way I hate that word, industry, in this context. Horses are living beings, no less, and they ought not to be treated and marketed like some industrial commodity, like merchandise.

Monika Savier: *Yes, you are right, I never use that term either. It creates a mental picture of industrialized livestock farming, that is horrifying. Luckily, however, we breed Arabian horses according to the principle of quality,*



Kamla II (Ansata Halim Shah x Mona III by Hadban Enzahi and Mona II)

not quantity. Which brings me to my next question: how do you select your sires? Do you miss that time-proven German procedure of Stallion Approval, of presenting the stallions and awarding premium ribbons? What did that do for your breeding?

Cornelia Tauschke: A stallion approval, or a presentation of all sires within a breeding association, that does make sense for me – however, only if we are mindful of the fact that Purebred Arabians as a breed come in a wide range. What they do in the German Arabian breeding association today, in my eyes, is to try and achieve a standard type of Arabian modeled after a riding horse. This doesn’t make sense to me. Of course, a purebred Arabian needs to be built correctly and functionally, just like any other horse needs to be, but these criteria cannot be the dominant considerations for selection. There is the risk that the type of the Arabian breed and the variations in type will be lost – but that, after all, is what makes our horses distinctly different from all other breeds.

I would like to present my young stallions to an approval commission whose members are really interested in Arabians, and know enough about breeding, that they are able to assess the pedigrees, and the phenotype that rose from them, in the greater context of that horse’s bloodline, or breeding program, or origin, and to compare him with that. I have always been in the habit of carefully selecting my stallions for the presentation. Those I believed in, I would prepare myself, and it would be me who brought them to the approval or presentation event and who would handle and present them there.



El Thay Mashour (Madkour I x El Thay Bint Kamla by El Thay Mansour and Kamla II) National Champion Stallion

Monika Savier: *If one of your stallions would not receive a premium ribbon from the presentation of the association's sires, how did you react? Did you wait until his first foal crop was born, to be assessed for giving their sire a second chance, or would you start breaking him in for riding as soon as you had brought him home?*

Cornelia Tauschke: If the commission made a different decision from what I had thought, I used to accept that, learn from it, and on my way home call my vet to set a date for castration.

Stallion Approval events, and Sire Presentations of our breeding association, were particularly helpful for newcomers looking for information as a basis for their decision for a particular sire. After all, there were many sires assembled there in one place, you were able to assess them in different situations, their build, their walk, their trot, and running loose, and you could listen to the commentaries the commission gave. That's highly educational, especially for new breeders.

Today, the stallions that are advertised the most are also those that are used the most. What this results in, is an extreme loss of genetic diversity, and a standard type. We have lost the variety of type in the course of recent years.

Monika Savier: *Customers used to buy a colt planning to use him for breeding later on. Why is it that today, this rarely happens?*

Cornelia Tauschke: With colts, strict selection has always been necessary and still is today. Mediocre horses will have a better life as geldings for riding.

In the beginning, there were not so many Arabian horses overall, so people were more ready to give a young stallion the chance to grow, and then present him to the approval commission. If he was approved, that was an obvious sign of his quality, and if he was meant to be sold on, a buyer would quickly be found.

However, today there is much more choice in horses, while the buyers are a completely different group now. Many are not able to assess a young horse and have no background knowledge regarding a horse's ancestry. So they prefer to buy a stallion that's all made, maybe has



El Thay Malakah (El Thay Mashour x El Thay Mahfouza by El Thay Ibn Halim Shah and El Thay Mansoura)



El Thay Kamla (El Thay Mashour x Kamla II by Ansata Halim Shah and Mona III) owned by Al Waab Farm, Qatar

produced good offspring already. There are not so many horse people around anymore. Some never cared for a horse themselves, they don't know anything about foal births, or about the fact that a stallion can do a natural mating, or how that is done.

Monika Savier: *Do your stallions do natural coverings? If they do not, do you see changes in behavior with stallions who only ever get a phantom mare to cover?*

Cornelia Tauschke: I do think semen quality suffers when a stallion never gets to see a mare and all he is ever offered is the dummy. We mostly prefer natural

coverings and hardly ever employ that phantom mare. When we do, the stallions are somewhat confused and annoyed, and it is easy to see what they prefer.

Monika Savier: *How do you chose the stallions for your mares?*

Cornelia Tauschke: The stallions I chose for breeding need to match the mares, in phenotype as well as in genotype. This means I will pay close attention to what I would like to improve in my mares, or what to maintain. With mares who are quite close to the ideal already, that's not always easy to do, and then I will prefer a stallion who is not too strong a transmitter.

Genetically speaking, the stallion's pedigree should not be too far away from my mares' ancestry. My mares will produce just one foal per year which they will carry themselves, full term. And I just get five to seven foals per year anyway, so I like each of them to come close to what I imagined. In my experience, the probability to achieve that is highest in line breeding.



El Thay Mahfouz (Ansata Selman x El Thay Mahfouza by El Thay Ibn Halim Shah and El Thay Mansoura)

Monika Savier: *Can you explain that in more detail to our readers? What you mean by line breeding, and how you use it?*

Cornelia Tauschke: Line breeding can be considered a “softer” form of inbreeding. I try to concentrate on a particular horse in the pedigree, one whom I admire or prefer, in order to obtain offspring that is closely related to this particular horse. In my interpretation, this procedure allows many choices: from a very closely

related horse in the first or second generation position, to horses more distant, or even to horses far distant which are more or less re-introduced into the breeding line. In German terminology, we talk about “Blutanschluss”, which means more or less “closing the gap between blood relatives”.

Line breeding starts where inbreeding ends, which means to breed uncles, aunts, cousins and more distant relatives to each other.

Some line breeding examples in El Thayeba breeding: El Thay Kamla and El Thay Kais Al Sabah

EL THAY KADIRA AL SABAH, grey, 14.06.20, Dahman Shahwan (El Dahma), Sabah / Halima - Moheba II - Kamla II family

EL THAY KADIRA AL SABAH gr 2020 ARABIAN	EL THAY KARIM SHAH gr 2013 ARABIAN	AJMAL TAMEEN* gr 2008 ARABIAN	ANSATA HEJAZI* gr 15.0H 1992	ANSATA HALIM SHAH* gr 1980		
		EL THAY KAREEMA gr 2007 ARABIAN	TABANYA* gr 1996	ANSATA SUDARRA* gr 1982		
			ANSATA SELMAN* gr 1999	HAMASA NABIH* gr 1988		
		EL THAY KAIS AL SABAH b 2017 ARABIAN	EL THAY KATEEFA AL SABAH gr 2009 ARABIAN	EL THAY MAHFOUZ* gr 2003 ARABIAN	TAMRIA II* gr 1985	ANSATA HEJAZI* gr 15.0H 1992
				EL THAY MAHFOUZA* gr 1999	G SHAFARIA* gr 1992	EL THAY KAMLA* gr 1999
		EL THAY KADIRA AL SABAH gr 2020 ARABIAN	EL THAY KAREEMA gr 2007 ARABIAN	EL THAY MAHFOUZ* gr 2003 ARABIAN	EL THAY MAHFOUZA* gr 1999	EL THAY KAMLA* gr 1999
	EL THAY MAHFOUZA* gr 1994			EL THAY IBN HALIM SHAH* gr 1985	EL THAY MANSOURA* ch 1983	
	EL THAY KADIRA AL SABAH gr 2020 ARABIAN	EL THAY KAREEMA gr 2007 ARABIAN	EL THAY MAHFOUZ* gr 2003 ARABIAN	EL THAY MAHFOUZA* gr 1994	EL THAY KAMLA* gr 1999	
			EL THAY MAHFOUZA* gr 1994	EL THAY IBN HALIM SHAH* gr 1985	EL THAY MANSOURA* ch 1983	
	EL THAY KADIRA AL SABAH gr 2020 ARABIAN	EL THAY KAREEMA gr 2007 ARABIAN	EL THAY MAHFOUZ* gr 2003 ARABIAN	EL THAY MAHFOUZA* gr 1994	EL THAY KAMLA* gr 1999	
			EL THAY MAHFOUZA* gr 1994	EL THAY IBN HALIM SHAH* gr 1985	EL THAY MANSOURA* ch 1983	
	EL THAY KADIRA AL SABAH gr 2020 ARABIAN	EL THAY KAREEMA gr 2007 ARABIAN	EL THAY MAHFOUZ* gr 2003 ARABIAN	EL THAY MAHFOUZA* gr 1994	EL THAY KAMLA* gr 1999	
EL THAY MAHFOUZA* gr 1994			EL THAY IBN HALIM SHAH* gr 1985	EL THAY MANSOURA* ch 1983		
EL THAY KADIRA AL SABAH gr 2020 ARABIAN	EL THAY KAREEMA gr 2007 ARABIAN	EL THAY MAHFOUZ* gr 2003 ARABIAN	EL THAY MAHFOUZA* gr 1994	EL THAY KAMLA* gr 1999		
		EL THAY MAHFOUZA* gr 1994	EL THAY IBN HALIM SHAH* gr 1985	EL THAY MANSOURA* ch 1983		
EL THAY KADIRA AL SABAH gr 2020 ARABIAN	EL THAY KAREEMA gr 2007 ARABIAN	EL THAY MAHFOUZ* gr 2003 ARABIAN	EL THAY MAHFOUZA* gr 1994	EL THAY KAMLA* gr 1999		
		EL THAY MAHFOUZA* gr 1994	EL THAY IBN HALIM SHAH* gr 1985	EL THAY MANSOURA* ch 1983		

This filly is line bred to the foundation mare of El Thayeba, Kamla II through her daughters El Thay Bint Kamla, dam of El Thay Mashour, El Thay Kamla and El Thay Khadija, both by El Thay Mashour, as well as to Tamria II through Tabanya, the dam of Ajmal Tameen and very strong line bred to Ansata Halim Shah through his sons El Thay Ibn Halim Shah, El Thay Mansour, Ansata Hejazi and through his grand sons Ansata Selman, Ajmal Tameen, his grand grand sons El Thay Mahfouz and El Thay Karim Shah.

EL THAY MOFIDA, grey filly, born 2018 - Dahman Shahwan (El Dahma) Sabah Farida - Halima - Moheba - Malukah family

EL THAY MOFIDA 2018 ARABIAN	EL THAY KARIM SHAH 2013 ARABIAN	AJMAL TAMEEN* gr 2008 ARABIAN	ANSATA HEJAZI* gr 15.0H 1992 ARABIAN AHR #479624	ANSATA HALIM SHAH* gr 1980	ANSATA IBN HALIMA* gr 15.0 1958		
		EL THAY KAREEMA gr 2007 ARABIAN	TABANYA* gr 1996 ARABIAN	ANSATA SUDARRA* gr 1982	ANSATA ROSETTA* gr 1971	ANSATA ABU SUDAN* gr 1974	
			ANSATA SELMAN* gr 1999	HAMASA NABIH* gr 1988	ANSATA DELILAH* gr 1972	FARAG* gr 1962	
		EL THAY MOFIDA 2018 ARABIAN	EL THAY KAREEMA gr 2007 ARABIAN	EL THAY MAHFOUZ* gr 1999	TAMRIA II* gr 1985	ANSATA HALIM SHAH* gr 1980	NAFETA* gr 1976
				EL THAY MAHFOUZA* gr 1994	EL THAY IBN HALIM SHAH* gr 1985	EL THAY KAMLA* gr 1999	Z11 ZOHAIH* gr 1978
		EL THAY MOFIDA 2018 ARABIAN	EL THAY KAREEMA gr 2007 ARABIAN	EL THAY MAHFOUZ* gr 1999	EL THAY MAHFOUZA* gr 1994	EL THAY KAMLA* gr 1999	EL THAY IBN HALIM SHAH* gr 1985
	EL THAY MAHFOUZA* gr 1994			EL THAY IBN HALIM SHAH* gr 1985	EL THAY MANSOURA* ch 1983	EL THAY BINT KAMLA* gr 1989	
	EL THAY MOFIDA 2018 ARABIAN	EL THAY KAREEMA gr 2007 ARABIAN	EL THAY MAHFOUZ* gr 1999	EL THAY MAHFOUZA* gr 1994	EL THAY KAMLA* gr 1999	EL THAY IBN HALIM SHAH* gr 1985	
			EL THAY MAHFOUZA* gr 1994	EL THAY IBN HALIM SHAH* gr 1985	EL THAY MANSOURA* ch 1983	EL THAY BINT KAMLA* gr 1989	
	EL THAY MOFIDA 2018 ARABIAN	EL THAY KAREEMA gr 2007 ARABIAN	EL THAY MAHFOUZ* gr 1999	EL THAY MAHFOUZA* gr 1994	EL THAY KAMLA* gr 1999	EL THAY IBN HALIM SHAH* gr 1985	
			EL THAY MAHFOUZA* gr 1994	EL THAY IBN HALIM SHAH* gr 1985	EL THAY MANSOURA* ch 1983	EL THAY BINT KAMLA* gr 1989	
	EL THAY MOFIDA 2018 ARABIAN	EL THAY KAREEMA gr 2007 ARABIAN	EL THAY MAHFOUZ* gr 1999	EL THAY MAHFOUZA* gr 1994	EL THAY KAMLA* gr 1999	EL THAY IBN HALIM SHAH* gr 1985	
EL THAY MAHFOUZA* gr 1994			EL THAY IBN HALIM SHAH* gr 1985	EL THAY MANSOURA* ch 1983	EL THAY BINT KAMLA* gr 1989		
EL THAY MOFIDA 2018 ARABIAN	EL THAY KAREEMA gr 2007 ARABIAN	EL THAY MAHFOUZ* gr 1999	EL THAY MAHFOUZA* gr 1994	EL THAY KAMLA* gr 1999	EL THAY IBN HALIM SHAH* gr 1985		
		EL THAY MAHFOUZA* gr 1994	EL THAY IBN HALIM SHAH* gr 1985	EL THAY MANSOURA* ch 1983	EL THAY BINT KAMLA* gr 1989		

This filly is line bred to Ansata Selman (3 times in the 3rd generation) and his sire Ansata Hejazi (4 times) as well as to El Thay Mashour (2 times) and to Ansata Halim Shah (9 times)



El Thay Kateefa Al Sabah (El Thay Mahfouz x El Thay Khadija by El Thay Mashour and Kamla II)



El Thay Kahila (El Thay Mahfouz x El Thay Kamla by El Thay Mashour and Kamla II)



El Thay Konouz (El Thay Mahfouz x El Thay Kamla by El Thay Mashour and Kamla II)

Monika Savier: *Are there still breeders, customers, or visitors who like to drop by on a weekend to have a look at the horses? Or do you find that the analogous world of horse breeding has vanished into what you do privately, while going out for public relations work is something that's done digitally only?*

Cornelia Tauschke: During the summer months we do have visitors, mostly from abroad, who want to see the new foal crop or look for general information on the stock of horses in the stud.

Sometimes, these visits result in sales. With most of these sales, the background is that the persons involved would like to own an El Thayeba horse because they have known the stud and the type we breed here for a long time, or because we have been recommended to them by their fellow breeders.

Monika Savier: *What kind of media relations do you maintain, and why?*

Cornelia Tauschke: Being present on social media is something I hardly do. I'm with Instagram and will post a picture now and then, but that's more for giving some information on what's new with us, and for maintaining

my contacts with other breeders, or to make new contacts. Of course I will write a short message to an interested person. Sometimes, I put in an advertisement or a piece of text.

Monika Savier: *For more than 20 years now, horses from Europe have been flying across the sea to the Gulf countries. Likewise, many come from there to live with us. How have you been able to use that globalization for your stud? What are, for you, the benefits and the disadvantages of globalization?*

Cornelia Tauschke: I don't think globalization is the reason why everybody uses stallions that have come in from abroad. Ansata Halim Shah flew across the Big Pond even in 1983 in order to cover mares in Germany. At that time, „globalization“ was not even a term that was used in Arabian horse breeding. Of course you can obtain frozen semen from many well-known stallions all around the globe, but getting a valuable stallion to be stabled in your own stud, in order to cover your own mares and other people's mares naturally, that's a matter of trust. Which is what ought to be at the basis of the whole process.



El Thay Munifa (El Thay Mahfouz x El Thay Malakah by El Thay Mashour and El Thay Mahfouza)

We were very lucky to be able to use Ansata Halim Shah in the mid-1980ies when he was on lease with Dr Nagel. Via his offspring, he stamped the El Thayeba breeding program to quite some extent. Later on, I was able to get leases for the stallions Ansata Selman and Ajmal Tameen, both by the Ansata Halim Shah son Ansata Hejazi. Both have left sons and daughters in El Thayeba stud, and these offspring have a vital role in the ongoing development of the stud.

Monika Savier: *When there is demand for mares, it is mostly for young mares up to 8 years of age. What do you think of this kind of „best-before date“ that plays a great role in the Arabian countries in particular?*

Cornelia Tauschke: When interested buyers from Arabian countries prefer mares who are already old enough to breed but not too old overall, that's probably because for one thing, they don't want to wait very long for the first foal to be born, and for the other thing, they know that elderly horses have a harder time to get used and adapted to a new environment and to the extreme climate in particular. In the Middle East, mares age more quickly than in Europe, because of the extreme

heat and the farming methods resulting from that. In our climate and area, it's not unusual for a mare of 20 years or older to be in foal. In the Arabian countries, that's much more rare. Personally, I won't sell a mare of 13 years or older into an Arabian country because of these reasons. I would feel somewhat guilty if I did.

Monika Savier: *During the 1990ies, I saw you in Aachen, where you handled your horses yourself for their show presentations. You used to like to take part in shows, but you are less often there by now. What is the reason for that?*

Cornelia Tauschke: Well yes, shows used to be fun then. There was not so much of that predominant rivalry, of that competitive mode. Everybody would wash and groom their horses, and of course the stand-up was practiced as well as trotting in hand. Everybody would handle and present their horses themselves, and be proud of it. Achieving a good score came second. Above all, we just loved to spend a nice weekend with like-minded people.

The visitors that came to see the shows were actually interested in the horses, and we used to be addressed by



El Thay Toya (El Thay Mahfouz x El Thay Taqiyah by Ansata Selman and El Thay Tiffany)



El Thay Mazyouna (El Thay Mahfouz x El Thay Malikah by Ansata Selman and El Thay Mashoura)



Ajmal Tameen (Ansata Hejazi x Tabanya by Hamasa Nabih and Tamria II), bred and owned by Mr. Mohammed J. Al Marzouq, Ajmal Arabian Stud, Kuwait





El Thy Kenana (Ajmal Tameen x El Thy Konouz by El Thy Mahfouz and El Thy Kamla)

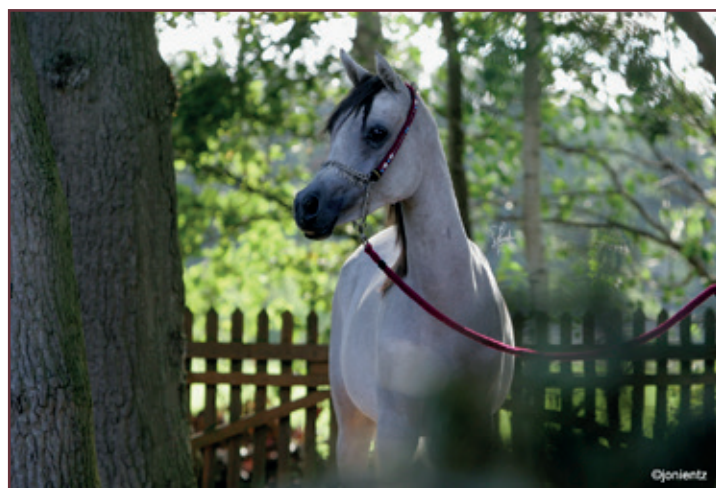
people during the shows, and many of them were new to the field. They asked questions, and they really wanted to acquire information. There was nothing like a VIP area. Everybody was on equal standing with everybody else. Today, horses that are intended for shows need to work through lengthy and costly training. If you watch the visitors in the VIP area, you will see them engaged in animated conversation with not a lot of attention spared for watching the horses in the arena. If there is interest in horses, it's usually just in the horses owned by that person, and mostly restricted to those who produce a championships title for you. More often than not, the owners are not even there, sending their managers to accept any trophies.

Monika Savier: *Is it possible to breed successfully without taking part in shows?*

Cornelia Tauschke: Fortunately, I breed Straight Egyptian Arabian horses – that's just a small group among the purebred Arabians, and the breeders involved with them are mostly not really interested in the show circus.

In my opinion, it doesn't make sense to breed "show Egyptians". Show horses have been invented already!

El Thy Karim Shah



El Thy Marwa (El Thy Karim Shah x El Thy Malikah by Ansata Selman and El Thy Mashoura)

It would be better for Egyptian breeders to be really interested in maintaining the variety of bloodlines, and the variations of type within them.

Monika Savier: *What are possible alternatives to the shows we know?*

Cornelia Tauschke: Well, presentations such as we had with the Noble Straight Egyptian Arabian Horse Breeders Festival in Lochem, the Netherlands, which was organized by Mr. Mahmoud Al Anzarouti, Sham Stables in 2017 and 2018. There, breeders could present their home-bred horses to highly interested visitors without having them judged, which I think is much more sensible, and events such as these should be organized increasingly more often.

El Thay Mofida (El Thay Karim Shah x El Thay Mazyouna by El Thay Mahfous and El Thay Malikah)

Monika Savier: *For many breeders and owners, their horses are projection surfaces. Correspondingly, they are subject to optimization. The type is getting ever more extreme due to the selection done on this basis. You, on the other hand, breed in generations, which means that changes come in small but consolidated steps. How can we bring this concept across to the customers? What is your answer to the demand for horses of extreme show quality?*

Cornelia Tauschke: In order to answer this question, we need to define what is meant by type, first of all! For me, type is the outer appearance as a whole, not just the head. A noble, harmoniously built horse, with a head that fits his ancestry, so a short head or a longer one. Attentive round eyes I can see while standing in front of the horse, meaning the forehead must be broad with no extreme bulging. A fine muzzle with the nostrils beautifully formed, and a refined and well-carried neck is important to me, too, just as a proud tail carriage when moving.

I used to train our stallions for the stallion performance test myself, by racing them. I obtained an official license from the Direktorium für Vollblutzucht und Rennen for home-training racing horses. All of my stallions, even if they are just leased for some time, were and are ridden regularly. And I try to maintain or optimize all the traits I mentioned. I think I succeeded in breeding an El Thayeba look. Generally, the breeders of Egyptians are quite interested in breeding for a specific look of their own, which will make it possible to say which stud a horse came from.

Monika Savier: *In your breeding strategy, does embryo transfer have a part?*

Cornelia Tauschke: I will only consider embryo transfer on medical grounds, like when an outstanding mare is, for reasons of her own health, not able to carry a foal herself.

I believe it is very short-sighted to produce too many foals. It cannot be beneficial for the market. Arabian horses used to be rare! Excessive use of embryo transfer makes these horses into a mass product. In the end, only the best and most typey ones are in demand and will find buyers.



El Thay Kais Al Sabah (El Thay Karim Shah x El Thay Kateefa Al Sabah by El Thay Mahfouz)



El Thay Kalilah (El Thay Karim Shah x El Thay Konouz by El Thay Mahfouz and El Thay Kamla)



El Thay Kadira Al Sabah
(El Thay Kais Al Sabah x El Thay Kenana by Ajmal Tameen and El Thay Konouz)



El Thay Kidounah Al Sabah
(El Thay Kais Al Sabah x El Thay Kamria by Ansata Selman and Kamla II)



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Monika Savier: ... and these are, usually, a dam's natural foals, as she doesn't only transfer her genes to them, but also her behavior and movements ...

Cornelia Tauschke: ... I dread to think what becomes of all the mediocre horses produced for the show scene and not meeting expectations.

I'm glad the breeders of Egyptians are a bit more guarded when it comes to using ET. I also feel that Egyptian foals do not „function“ as smoothly within these unnatural proceedings as horses from other bloodlines apparently do. Breeders are responsible for the offspring out of matings they planned, and they ought to be aware that every foal that is not used for breeding stock replacement needs to be passed on into good care. If there are more mediocre foals being produced per year because of ET, there are more foals for sale in the market, and all of them need

Nader Halim (Maydan Madheen x Moufisa Al Kidir by Al Kidir and Moufisa Halima)



El Thay Minouha (Nader Halim x El Thay Mazyouna by El Thay Mahfouz and El Thay Malikah)



El Thay Mouna Al Ryah (Nader Halim x El Thay Mayassa by El Thay Mahfouz and El Thay Magidaa)



El Thay Kameelah (Nader Halim x El Thay Kareema by Ansata Selman and El Thay Kamla)

a new good home. Basically, however, everybody needs to decide for herself or himself how they will treat the animals they accepted responsibility for.

Monika Savier: *So how can we get to grips with this problem? After all, there is also the fact that fewer and fewer Arabians are bought as riding horses.*

Cornelia Tauschke: One measure to regulate the use of ET might be to have the breeding associations or studbook institutions intervene by registering no more than two foals per year per mare – a mare might have two foals if she was carrying twins.

A problem with that might be that breeders using ET may still produce a higher number of foals per mare and year, but may then select the maximum of two from for registration with their associations. The rest of the foals, those that do not live up to quality requirements, will then go to market without a pedigree,

but still with a horse passport. Ultimately, it is still every breeder's responsibility to use this means of reproductive technology with great care.

Monika Savier: *Do you still like to be active as a breeder?*

Cornelia Tauschke: I look forward to the new foal crop every year! No matter how many years I have spent as a breeder, I keep being thrilled by finding out if the matings I did resulted in what I hoped for when planning them.

Monika Savier: *Do you feel that the limits of growth and globalization have been reached?*

Cornelia Tauschke: New markets keep cropping up, such as recently Pakistan, or Iraq. In these countries, breeding Arabians is still in the early stages, and it's good to see that young, committed breeders are existing and want to get something done.



El Thay Komeira Al Sabah (NK Nabhan x El Thay Kateefa by El Thay Mahfouz and El Thay El Thay Khadija)



El Thay Kamala (NK Nabhan x El Thay Konouz by El Thay Mahfouz and El Thay Kamla)

Monika Savier: *Are the horses still going to play an important role in your life?*

Cornelia Tauschke: I'm sure horses will always play a role in my life. However, I don't know today if I'm going to be breeding when I have reached old age. As long as there still are breeders pursuing the same visions and values as I do, things are going to keep moving.

It's for sure I won't let myself be carried away into breeding a horse that doesn't correspond to my ideas, just in order to serve the market. If I were ever forced to do that, that would be the point in time when I'm done with breeding. □



Cornelia Tauschke and Klaus Beste with El Thay Malikah and the Australian Shepherd Jaden

الطيبة
El Thayeba
Straight Egyptian Arabians

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