

# 20 QUESTIONS

*... about your life with Arabian horses ... with DANA LEADBEATER*

**1** What is your current involvement with Arabian horses?

*I currently own, show and breed Arabian horses.*



**2** How many years have you been around horses?

*I have been around Arabian horses for thirty years. I started riding at the age of 8.*

**3** They say, “the Arabian horse finds you”. How did the Arabian horse find you?

*I was a born and raised city girl. My best friend in kindergarten owned Arabian horses and boarded them at an Arabian show/lesson facility. As little girls do, I would have sleepovers at her house and on Saturday mornings we always had to wake up early for her to attend her riding lessons. Within two visits to the farm with her, Linda Leslie of Twin L Farms had me up on a horse partaking in the lessons. My parents had no idea what this was going to lead to!*

**4** Who is or has been your favorite horse companion?

*My absolute best friend was my very first purebred Arabian gelding, EL Tusaan, or ‘Dan’. Dan was by my side from the age of 12 until I was 35.*

**5** Who has been your (horse) mentor? *My horse mentor was certainly Dan. He taught me to be the rider I am today.*

**6** What is your favorite horse book? *War Horse.*

**7** What is your favorite horse movie? *War Horse or Seabiscuit.*

**8** What are some ‘Arabian horse activities’ in which you participate?

*I participate in Arabian horse shows, rider clinics with Arabian trainers and I attend Arabian horse club meetings.*

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

*My most memorable moments with Arabian horses are the times when I spend one on one with them. I had a mare*

*that foaled out twins. I spent hours just sitting in the corner of the stall watching them. These are the moments when it seems the rest of the world doesn't exist and all of your worries or concerns just go away. I wouldn't trade these times spent with my horses for anything.*

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

*I ride and train most of my horses myself with the help of trainers giving me lessons. My biggest achievements in the show ring have been Top Ten wins at the Nationals. Any ribbon won is a reward to me for all the time, dedication and passion I have for my horses..*

**11** Which horse do you consider to be your "dream" horse, either past or present? *I do not have one dream*

*horse. I admire so many of these great horses that I have the pleasure of working with and watching.*



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

*Horses have taught me so many valuable lessons. I owe so much of the person I am to my involvement with Arabian horses. Compassion, responsibility, and a work ethic are some traits I believe horses have taught me. A passion for learning and a goal oriented personality comes from the desire to do well in competition. Horses help to develop self esteem and communication skills. My love for Arabian*

*horses and all the animals on the farm led to my career choice as a Veterinary Technician. I love every moment of my job and have been employed at Herbers Veterinary Services for over 16 years. An involvement in Arabian horses has certainly contributed to me being a better person!*

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

*I am always happy and relaxed when I am around my horses. It is definitely my happy place in the world!*

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

*Arabians are people horses. They love to spend time interacting with people. This breed is smart and athletic. Arabians come in all shapes and sizes and they are versatile. There should be no problems finding an Arabian that suits a person's desires in a horse.*

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

*My biggest piece of advice to someone considering becoming involved in horses is to take lessons at a stable. Ride lots of different horses. Spend time around the horses for a long time before jumping in to a purchase. Make sure that you are ready for the commitment and that your love for it is true, before taking on the life of a horse in your family.*

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

*I think that the Modern Arabian Horse magazine is an excellent resource for both beginners and seasoned Arabian horse owners.*

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

*My ultimate goal is to own and show an Arabian stallion that I bred myself to the US National Championships.*

**18** What about 'kids' and an Arabian horse?

*Arabian horses are gentle, people pleasers and are an excellent breed choice for children!*

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

*I love the feeling of accomplishment I get from working with horses. The love I receive in return from the animal is priceless.*

**20** What are your words to live by?

*A good friend once told me to "LIVE WITH NO REGRETS" when I was trying to make a decision regarding my horses. I made the absolute right decision and try to always keep those words in mind with all of my decision making! ■*