

# 20 QUESTIONS

... about your life with Arabian horses ... with EMMA DYBKA



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

*I own three horses. Two purebred Arabian mares and a bratty welsh gelding.*

**2** How many years have you been around horses? *44 years!*

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

*When I was 8 my parents sold my miserable New Forest pony and bought me a Welsh/Arab cross. He was the most beautiful horse I had ever seen and was so kind. Didn't try to kill me like my pony did!*

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

*That's tough. Velexus was my 4-legged BFF. He got me, sometimes I just didn't get him! After he passed away I was devastated, never thought anyone could take his place. I was wrong. Cyty Mystique aka Missy has filled my heart with love and trust and that goes both ways.*

**5** Who has been your (horse) mentor?

*I respect all trainers of all breeds, tough gig for them, dealing with us amateurs and other crazy horse people! If their horse goes happy and not forced I would consider them a mentor. Rob and Carolyn Bick have been people for years that I have respected as people and trainers. We have great local trainers in Alberta and I would consider them all mentors in their own right. I learn by watching and appreciate any time they give to me.*

**6** What is your favorite horse book? *The Pit Pony.*

**7** What is your favorite horse movie?

*Secretariat.*

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

*I show, trail ride, go to open arena nights with our local All Breed Horse club and enjoy the many family activities that this club puts on. My favorite time though is just spending time with my mare in our arena and barn.*

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

*My first Reserve Regional Championship on Jabasks Attache at Region 6.*

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

*Finding more than one that has stolen my heart. I think of achievement as something that makes me smile, not necessarily a ribbon or prize. I'm lucky to have had some beautiful horses embrace my life.*

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

*NDL Pericles, most multi talented horse ever is my past, and my beautiful Missy is becoming my dream horse present. Thanks to Sammy Mohr and Michelle Hansen for dreams coming true.*

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

*Be kind and you get better results with horses and people, they will trust and respect you!*

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

*I love how they play! I feel respected on the ground and in the saddle, I don't always feel that way with other horses.*



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

*I would just explain my own experience with the breed. I love how they trust, I love their work ethic, I love their owner devotion and I love their beauty. You don't train Arabians, you learn from them!*

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

*To take lessons until they have confidence, to try different breeds until they settle on the Arab ;) and to not listen to negative talk about any breed, but to make up their own mind. If they consider buying, to first consider the long term cost of looking after them, the initial cost is nothing compared to proper and safe keeping. Lastly to enjoy every aspect of a horse, grooming, feeding, etc are just as much fun as showing.*

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

*Not a book, but I really love and learnt a lot from the Tommy Garland DVD set. I read the Times, Modern Horse and Horse and Rider. I learn from them all.*

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

*GET A TOP 5 AT REGION 17! That has been elusive for me!*

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

*My mare cares for my kids better than I do! They are so gentle with our girls on the ground and in the saddle. When I see 20+ horses carting kids around in the ring I tear up everytime."*

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

*I love to ride and I'm lucky enough that my Cyty Heat mare is a treat, she is soooo comfortable and has an amazing gentle personality.*

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

*Enjoy your horse, know your horse, know what's going on if your horse is at a trainer and if you show my motto is "Don't fear the competition BE the competition" Ha, I don't follow it but I like it!!*

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

*Be kind to your horse and fellow horseman. Welcome the public and don't be afraid to continue learning. ■*

