

20 QUESTIONS

... about your life with Arabian horses ... with **MARIJKE KALISVAART**

1 What is your current involvement with Arabian horses?

I own and show two amazing Arabian horses. I am also the Region 17 Arabian Horse Association Youth Director.



2 How many years have you been around horses? *45 years.*

I have been riding for almost nine years now.

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

When we first decided that I was going to start riding lessons, we ended up going to an Arabian trainer. It was while learning how to ride that I first fell in love with the Arabian horse.

4 Who is or has been your favorite horse companion?

It is too hard to pick just one! Every horse has brought new challenges and has helped me to grow as a rider as well as a person. I will always love every single Arabian horse that I've had a pleasure of working with.

5 Who has been your (horse) mentor?

That would have to be my first horse, Tangier HFA. He took me from just being a passenger, to learning how to really ride a horse.

6 What is your favorite horse book? *Black Beauty.*

King of the Wind by Marguerite Henry.

7 What is your favorite horse movie?

Black Beauty.

8 What are some 'Arabian horse activities' in

which you participate?

I actively participate in local shows including attending regional and national shows, as well as being the Region 17 Arabian Horse Association Youth Director.



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

One of my favourite experiences was trail riding for the first time with my horse, George. He trusted me to continue on the trail ride and behave, even though he was completely surrounded with new things. It just showed me how much of a bond we had.

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

My first horse used to just bolt on me whenever he got tired of working. When I finally could stop his behaviour before he started to be bad, it was my first step in really learning how to ride.

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

It's hard to pick between all of the awesome horses in my life, but if I had to pick, it would have to be my current horse, Lil Wayne. He has such a good work ethic and personality, and he is such a fun horse to work with.

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

Horses have shaped the person I am today. They have taught me how to work hard, and to not take any achievements for granted.

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

All of them have their own personality and are unique in their own way. I love working with them, and seeing that personality come out.

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

Arabian horses are bright and quick to learn. They are very sensitive and truly bond with their people.

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

Research what disciplines you might be interested in and really think about what you want in a horse. It is very important to know what you are getting into and make informed decisions, and remember that it is much easier to buy a horse than it is to sell one.

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

I don't have a particular reference book I'd recommend. Just make sure you are getting all of your information from reputable sources.

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

I would love to work with a foal and train it up to the point where I could show it. It would be amazing to see how your horse progresses and develop a bond with it.



18 What about 'kids" and an Arabian horse?

The Arabian horse is an incredibly gentle and intelligent breed; they are amazing with children. Forming a relationship with an Arabian horse as a kid, shaped the person I am today".

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

Working with your Arabian horse and forming a bond with them, is a rush like no other. They are such intelligent animals and completely understand human emotions, they'll snuggle with you if you are sad, or goof around with you if you feel playful.

20 What are your words to live by?

Never take the time you spend with your Arabian horse for granted. ■