

# 20 QUESTIONS

*... about your life with Arabian horses ... with TEX KAM*



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

*Owner, Breeder and Exhibitor. Current President of the Canadian Arabian Horse Registry (CAHR).*

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

*I have been with horses as long as I can remember-practically my whole life. Started with grades and quarter horses moving to Arabians in 1979.*

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

*At the Two Hills, Alberta Fair - open horse show in 1979. My father and myself ran into a woman named Gertrude Thompson who had \*Raffles bred horses and had a Varian Bred stallion from the Cartwright Ranch in High River. We purchased a \$500 weanling colt - a Bay Abi grandson that very same day from her.*

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

*Can't say I've ever had one as a companion so to speak. My horses have never been pets - I view them more as livestock. I have placed great value and pride on many of them over the years. I have had so many greats it's tough to separate them. It's like asking a parent who is their favorite child.*

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

*Again I can't name one, but rather a trio of old Polish Stallions, namely WA Fools Gold, Medalion and VF Premonition. I got them all late in life - all were Producers of National Champions and considered to have issues and perhaps not great reputations. I took great pride in being their caretaker and giving them a safe home where they prospered in old age. They taught me more than you can imagine about the Psychology of Dominant Stallions. It made me purely understand you have to out think every situation in life, you can't let emotion rule you.*

**6** What is your favorite horse book?

*I don't read fiction but any Arabian Horse World or Times certainly catches my attention.*

**7** What is your favorite horse movie? *The Man from Snowy River – all day long.*

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

*I show sparingly, but consider myself first and foremost a breeder.*

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

*It hasn't been the show wins, but rather seeing foals born from a mating's that I pictured - and the realization that your decision worked! It's remarkable, because a lot of nice horses are born every year - but so few GREAT ones are foaled. I'm proud to say I think I've bred a handful of great ones in 35 years.*

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

*Probably breeding the Scottsdale Unanimous Junior Champion colt AOTH that Murray Popplewell showed a couple years ago. He also won in Vegas at the World Cup the same year. The colt was a couple generations of my breeding program - as I bred his mother also. She was one of the first Embryo Transfers to be registered in Canada. We sold this colt to South Africa to the owners of Magic Dream CAHR.*

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

*Personally that I owned: Stallion: WA Fools Gold – U.S. National Champion Top Ten Stallion out of a class of 76 stallions.*

*Mare: \*Gitara PASB- imported from Michalow State Stud Poland. Dam of Gitar MF*

*That I didn't Own: Stallion: \*Aladdinn - U.S. National Champion Stallion. (I owned many of his great daughters over the years)*

*Mare: \*Elkana U.S. and Can. National Champion Mare. Owned by my good friend Aude Espourteille.*

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

*Point Blank - Horses have taught me how to handle failure with grace and dignity.*

*It's such a rare thing to have a horse that you conceptualize before birth, breed, foal out and then it goes on to have an impact on the breed. So my point is that it's almost like winning the 6-49, it really is. The odds are certainly not stacked in your favour. So you must be able to handle all the other aspects with grace or else you won't be in this business for 35 years.*

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

*The solitude it affords me to shut the outside world out at times. I have worked with the public all day long for many years; the horses offer a great break from the real world while providing a challenge to me.*

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

*They are the most intelligent breed of horses hands down. It's amazing that even though we are hundreds of generations away from when these horses used to live in the tents of the Bedouins, they still possess that need to connect with humans. They are really a gift to us.*

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

*Take the time to learn before you jump in. Don't be afraid to ask questions ... I still am anxious about this to this day ... none of us want to look stupid so we don't ask enough questions. Be a good student and soak up*

everything you can.

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

*Not Really. Don't believe everything you read lol!!! I believe that firsthand experience is the way to gain real knowledge in any endeavor. Since breeding is my passion, I have been to nearly every major breeding farm in North America over the years and have firsthand knowledge of a majority of the Greats of our breed.*

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

*Coming from a farm family with eight children and little money, I think I've accomplished things that my parents would only have dreamed about. At this stage of my horse life, I'm more interested in what I can do for the breed, then in my own personal aspirations.*

*I want to see the CAHR pay off our building and gain ground financially. That is not an easy task in the days of declining Arabian Horse Ownership Worldwide. The CAHR backed "Western Canadian Breeders Show" which includes our public "SHOWCASE NIGHT" was my brainchild and I have surrounded myself with a wonderful working group to pull off the event. Based on the feedback we have received I think we are on the right track.*

*These horses are discretionary spending for everyone, we can't forget that. No one NEEDS a horse in our modern world. We need to interject fun into all our events for people to be interested.*

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

*It's a natural fit and that's why I have become involved with Gary Millar's "Arabian Horse Reading Literacy Program." I've had the opportunity to see firsthand through my granddaughters the impact these horses make on children.*

*My eyes were re-opened last summer in Saskatoon after perhaps getting a little jaded over the years. We took Gary's horse "Socks" to three inner city schools and to watch those kids interact with the Arabian Horse was magical. It was the highlight of my week in Saskatoon. I wasn't expecting it to be ... but it was! I guess old dogs can still learn new tricks.*

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

*There's no breed like them. Nostrils flared, tails straight up, snorting around the pasture ... it never gets old ... ever!!*

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

*Don't listen to detractors ... follow your heart!! Most people follow the pack ... it's a safe route ... I choose the other one! ■*