

WHAT MAKES A SUCCESSFUL ARABIAN HORSE BREEDER?

There is an old horseman's axiom that puts forth it takes over a hundred years to be a good horse breeder, let alone a great one. The adage makes solid sense and is proven over and over by the finest horse breeders among us. Since these breeders almost never live long enough to accomplish their objectives, the wise have consistently built their successful programs on the painstaking work of their predecessors. At a time when some of the best Arabian horse breeders of the last 30 or 40 years are selling out their bloodstock, it begs the question . . . how and what can we include in our herds to take part in their success?

One such important herd availability comes from R O Lervick Arabians, Stanwood, Washington. A 45-year-old breeding program, Roger and Linda Lervick incorporated classic Arabian bloodlines from the very beginning of their program but hit their real stride in 1990 when they brought home the *Bask++ grandson, Cytosk+++/, bred by Oak Haven Arabians. Cytosk began his show ring career in Halter, English Pleasure, Pleasure Driving and Informal Combination. He was a U.S. and Canadian National Top Ten in Stallion Halter (open) and Informal Combination. In 1991 Cytosk was the U.S. Reserve National Champion English Pleasure Horse with Ray LaCroix.

The first important indicator of a stallion's possible significance as a breeding sire is his individual quality, top show record and the consistency of his pedigree. Cytosk's sire Mi Tosk (*Bask x Toi) was a U.S. National Top Ten Halter Stallion and Park Horse and a full brother to what many consider the greatest Arabian English Pleasure mare of her time, Mi Toska+++. Mi Toska is the tail female in the pedigree of a current Leading Juvenile English Pleasure Sire, HA Toskcan Sun+, 6-time National or Reserve National Champion. Cystyr, dam of Cytosk and a National winning producer was sired by Cytarus+, multi-National Top Ten and the 1978 U.S. Reserve National Champion Western Pleasure. Cytosk is the best son of both his dam and sire: Cystyr and Mi Tosk.

Now himself the sire of 93 National winners, Cytosk has produced 52 offspring that were National Champions and/or Reserves. He also has sons and daughters (28) that have sired or produced multi-National winners. His most prolific son to date, Out Of Cyte, has sired 47 National winners, 16 of them National Champions or Reserves, including the prominent National Champion Stallion, First Cyte. Cytosk produced more females than males during his lifetime as a breeding sire, an asset that was not lost on the Lervick family as they developed a world class broodmare band over twenty years north of Seattle. The success of

the Cytosk daughters is exemplified by mares like Cymply Red, dam of 18 foals, 13 National winners and one National producer, and Singularcylection, dam of 16 foals with 7 National winners, including 17-times National Champion and Reserve, ROL Firecracker+// and his sister ROL Fire Lily+//, 6-times National Champion and Reserve.

Perhaps because Cytosk has only one cross to his grandsire *Bask++ and boasts a particularly successful set of bloodlines that are not heavily line bred or inbred in today's Arabian horse show industry, his offspring are easily incorporated into many different successful breeding programs. The show ring achievements of these horses is also bound up in their exceptional soundness and attitude. They are fundamentally healthy and strong. They instinctively like people and want to work with them and please them. Cytosk get possess extreme athletic ability in a wide range of disciplines from English to Dressage, Western Pleasure and Side Saddle, Hunter Pleasure and Show Hack. His offspring are noted for their quick and early aptitude under saddle, an asset that has earned them all manner of national awards in Futurity and Junior horse divisions. This same intelligence and people savvy, a quality for which the greatest Arabian horses have won fame and fortune, makes them a perfect match for youth and amateur riders of every age and ability. They also possess unusual longevity in the show ring, starting out as successful halter winners, progressing to futurity and junior horse champions under saddle and in harness, and following solid careers in open competition, they often go on to years of winning with youth and even the smallest Walk Trot riders.

Cytosk had many years as a venerable and respected breeding sire, and right up to the time of his passing his shipped semen has been sound and viable with exceptional motility. Today, the farm still breeds annually using his frozen semen with dependable, consistent results. With nearly 400 offspring sired, Cytosk sons and daughters still carry on their great sire's excellence in the show ring and the breeding barn.

Quality, attitude, conformation, trainability, pedigree. The Cytosk+++// record is remarkable and provides a solid basis for a horseman to begin a breeding program or to go on and improve one already functioning that can benefit from the assets of a truly well-bred and noteworthy Arabian stallion.

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