



All About the
**Arabian
Horse**

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The Arabian Horse

About the Arabian Horse

The Arabian is one of the oldest breeds of horses in the world. Their history is somewhat clouded in mystery since they have been closely associated with man for thousands of years. Arabians have been recognized as a breed for as long as man has had one by his side. Newer breeds have been selectively bred for specific qualities, often with the Arabian as a base for the newer breed. Arabians were imported to England and were selectively bred to other horses to develop a new breed, the Thoroughbred. In France, Arabians were bred with other breeds to establish the Percheron. Americans took the Arabian and developed the Morgan horse. Generally speaking, the Arabian is smaller than many other breeds. Most Arabians are right around 14 hands tall and usually weigh slightly less than 1,000 pounds. It is important to make informed decisions throughout your pet's life. This complimentary book is full of information to help you fulfill your needs. We will provide you with a number of tips, as well as helpful advice. Take a few moments to enjoy this information and you will spend many years enjoying a loving and fruitful relationship with your Arabian.

Arabian Characteristics

The Arabian highly intelligent and very trainable, with a gentle disposition. Arabians have a long life span and can live past 30. You can create many happy memories astride an Arabian. Their beautiful coats can be red, gray or chestnut with white stripes. As with any horse, Arabians will require a pasture to roam in and a stable for security and comfort. Arabians are used for and excel in a variety of areas, including racing, jumping, dressage and pleasure riding. Arabians are one of the most ancient breeds of horses, having been bred by Bedouins in the desert for hundreds of years. This is a reliable and intelligent breed and they tend to have a long life expectancy. Arabians are trained in both Western and English styles for the show ring. They often win endurance trials because they are bred to have the best stamina of any breed. Originally, Arabians were selectively bred to be gentle and easy to train, but today, these qualities are inherited and passed down to the next generation. Proper diet, exercise, grooming and veterinary attention will benefit both you and your Arabian.

Selecting Your Arabian Horse

Choosing and buying any kind of horse can be a daunting task, especially if you do not have much experience in this process. The first question you should ask yourself is what do you plan on using the horse for? Your answer can change the qualities you are looking for in a horse. Arabians are a good all-purpose breed. You can train an Arabian to race, to jump or to participate in the show ring. You may buy a horse and then find out it is better at jumping than racing, or vice versa. What color do you want your horse to be? Arabians are found in three shades: bay, gray and chestnut with white markings. An Arabian's skin is black, except for an undercoat of white hair. Regardless of what color or qualities you prefer, you will have a wide variety of beautiful Arabians to choose from. Make sure that you ride the horse and get a good feel for how he acts and how he has been trained before you make any decisions.



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A Few Words About Breeders

If you are interested in buying an Arabian from a breeder, make sure they are reputable. There are lists of breeders online and in published magazines. Visit the farm, bringing your own expert with you if you are not sure what you are looking at or feel uncomfortable going on your own. Make an appointment to visit the farm and look at the horses you are interested in. Look at the facilities the horse has been kept in. Are they clean? Has the horse been kept mostly in a stall or in a pasture? How does the horse interact with other horses and people? Also, make sure the breeder has the registration papers from the Arabian Horse Registry of America and verify the horse's registration and current ownership with the Registry. You also should be able to see the horse's papers and lineage. If the horse's parents are at the farm, ask to visit with them as well. All of these things will give you a better idea of what kind of horse you are looking at.

A Few Words About Auctions

If you decide to look for an Arabian at a horse auction, do some research before you go to the auction. Usually, you will be able to find information on various auction houses online. You can also ask around your community to find out what kind of reputation the auction house may have. It may be a good idea to find another owner who has bought from this auction house. What was their experience with this auction house? Try to find out as much history as you can about the horse you are interested in. Is the horse already registered? What is its pedigree? Horses may be at an auction for many reasons. Sometimes an auction is just another avenue for a breeder to sell his horses. An auction may be a cheaper way to buy a horse, but you will probably have to be a little more careful since you will not be able to see what kind of training or environment the horse has come from.

How to Choose your Arabian Horse

Choosing a horse can be a hard decision because there are so many different personalities and aesthetic qualities you may want to take into consideration. With an Arabian, you have many color options available. Sometimes you can make up your mind what you want before you look at a variety of horses, but what you had in mind may just go out the window if you happen to instantly fall in love with a specific horse. There are a few signs you need to look for that indicate a healthy horse:

- Bright and clear eyes
- Healthy coat and no skin conditions
- History and lineage; necessary because the genetics of animals are much like that of humans.
- Make sure the hooves are solid and well taken care of.
- Pay attention to the demeanor of the horse: does it shy away from people? This may be an indicator of abuse.



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Bringing Your Arabian Horse Home

It is vital that you have a place for your horse to live when you bring him home. Will you be renting a stable for him to live in? Or do you have a barn on your property? If you have never cared for a horse before, have you done your homework to find out how to care for a horse?

Create a list of items that you will need for you horse. Among the essentials you will need are a couple of good brushes, good feed, a halter, tack and a lead rope. There are many other things you may need, but this is a good list to begin with.

It is vital to keep your horse up to date on any immunizations they may require. You will also need to pay attention to their hooves since they are vital to a horse's health. You will also want to buy books or even check them out from the library and find out more regarding Arabians. You will also need a veterinarian who specifically deals with horses. Choose your vet before you have any problems, since it will help your vet to see how your horse acts when it is healthy so he can help your horse when he is sick. Horses are a bigger responsibility than the average house pet. However, if you pay attention to the needs of your horse, you will be a success as a new horse owner.

The Arabian Foal

Each stage of your horse's life will be characterized by special needs. Foals' lives are full of learning experiences from the day they are born. Enjoy the time you spend with your foal, since his experiences as a young horse will shape him into what he will be as an adult. Arabians are highly intelligent and very people-oriented. They are very trainable. However, if you feel uncomfortable training a foal, it may be a good idea to hire an expert to help you in this vital part of a horse's life.

As a foal, your horse will require its first shots. He will also need to become used to various grooming aids, such as brushes and combs. While it is a foal, your horse will depend on its mother for food. After it is weaned, you will need to pay particular attention to its feeding so it will grow up with healthy eating habits. Growing horses will need additional grain or supplements to help them grow up strong and healthy.

The Arabian Adult

As your foal ages into an adult, his needs will begin to change. Arabians very much enjoy human contact, so it is vital that you stay in touch with them and interact with them daily.

As a breed, Arabians generally eat less than other breeds. However, you do not want to underfeed them either. Pay attention to what your horse eats and you should get a good idea of how much to feed him everyday. It is also vital that you do not overfeed a horse. If a horse eats too much, he can founder, which is a serious inflammation of the hooves. A horse can also develop colic if he eats too much rich feed, which can include grass in the spring, high protein feeds and too much grain. If a horse is being shown or is more active, obviously he will require more feed than usual. All horses will need constant access to a salt block to replace the essential minerals they lose during the day.

You'll need these basics for your Arabian colt/foal. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices online.

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The Arabian Senior

As your Arabian ages, his needs will change again. As a general rule, Arabians age fairly slowly compared to many other breeds. Most Arabians are still at their best when they are 20 and will more than likely live past 30. They are still fairly active at an older age than other horses. You will need to reevaluate your senior's feeding and care needs as he ages. As a general rule, much like any other animal, a horse's skin, eyes, teeth and hooves age and may require different care than they did in their youth. You can help your horse age gracefully with proper feeding, exercise and care.

A senior horse's disposition may change over the years just as any senior's demeanor can change as they age. They may be more grumpy when introduced to new things or if they simply do not want to do something you ask them to do.

You will have many happy years and memories with your Arabian. Horses can be a very special part of your family and can add many happy memories during its life. Arabians are an intelligent and loving breed that will give you a lot of love, memories and unforgettable times.

Necessary Items

American Paint Horses will need the same kinds of saddles, bridles, halters and other equipment that other breeds need. The items you need can be found in a variety of sizes to fit the needs of your specific horse. You can find equipment for your American Paint Horse online, at retail stores or through mail order catalogs.

Tack

Tack is an all-encompassing word that basically refers to the equipment you will need for your horse to care for and ride him. These items include halters, bridles, saddles, and other equipment.

As a general rule, Arabians have smaller heads and muzzles than other breeds. This will require smaller bits in the bridle and smaller halters. Often you can find tack specifically made for Arabians. Some standard equipment may fit however, especially if you can find smaller sizes. Arabians have shorter, wider backs than other horses and are very round through their body. As a result, a wider, shorter saddle may need to be used. With all that in mind however, you need to look at your Arabian and go with the tack most comfortable for him. Ask other Arabian owners for advice, and usually a tack store employee can be helpful as well.



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Feed

Most Arabians require less feed than other breeds because they use it more efficiently. Also, since Arabians are smaller and less heavy than other breeds, they usually require less feed. You will still need high quality feed and should always make sure your horse is eating enough. They still need a proper mix of vitamins and minerals to stay healthy. Quality feed and plenty of fresh, clean water will keep your horse healthy and happy. In addition to grain, your horse will need to be able to graze in a pasture or have access to hay. A salt block and possibly mineral supplements are also vital to your horse's health. A salt block should be accessible at all times for the horse's use. You can also research this topic by asking other owners or by referring to books.

Medical Considerations

As a breed, Arabians are genetically sound and healthy. This is mostly due to its origins. The Bedouins only allowed their best horses to reproduce, which has resulted in pure bloodlines and strong genes. Since they have such strong genetic traits, Arabians usually breed well with other breeds and pass on their traits to their progeny. It is very rare for an Arabian to have any genetic problems, and is generally one of the soundest and healthiest breeds you can find.



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