

THE AKHAL-TEKE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA ANNUAL REPORT



Preserve, Perpetuate and Promote the Akhal-Teke

December 2018

2018 was a good year!

The ATAA has had another year with a [growing Akhal-Teke population](#), an expanding and active membership and exciting events, including our Akhal-Teke breed booth at the World Equestrian Games in Tryon, NC in September.

We received two grants from the WWW Foundation for helping with our preservation, promotion and perpetuation efforts for the Akhal-Teke and we are diligently working to best use these funds.

We have seen another increase in Teke and Teke cross horse ownership and horses competing in 2018, and our [Incentive Awards](#) continue to be popular. We have voted to increase the amount in 2019's Incentive Awards to \$5000, as we want to give back to our membership.

If you would like to get involved, either by becoming a [member](#), [volunteering](#) or donating for our upcoming events, check out the ATAA website at: www.akhal-teke.org.

2019 will be bigger and better!

So far we have:

2019 West Coast Rare Breeds Show, Dressage at Devon, the AHA/ATAA Distance Championships and more!

"To establish, maintain and operate a non-profit Association comprised of owners, breeders and friends of the Akhal-Teke for the preservation, perpetuation and promotion of the Akhal-Teke and to provide educational activities regarding the Akhal-Teke in North America"

[Corporate Bylaws of the ATAA](#)



2018 WEG demo horses; Hendrick with Katrina Ardiel, Adamek with Morlin Jochimsen, and Kurizma with Sabine Desper.

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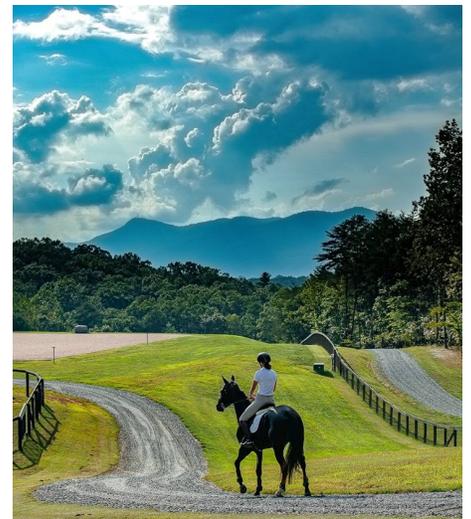
Registrations and Transfers

Registrations and transfers of ownership continue to rise each year. We are also working to get as many N. American purebred Akhal-Tekes registered with VNIIC, the closed Russian Studbook, as possible. Right now, we have at least 16 pending registrations with them. The registrar and registration secretary continue to work to get paperwork done as quickly as possible.



Membership

Thank you to everyone who is doing the ATAA Early Renewal! Our Early Renewal for 2019 (through December 31st) will give a free electronic Friends Membership to ALL that renew or join. Members receive all Association mailings, newsletters and membership directories and [more](#). We can't do it without you!



Katrina Ardiel with AT stallion Hendrick at Spy Coast Farms during WEG



Our WEG Thank You card, for all donors, participants and volunteers

2018 AT Breed Booth at WEG

We spent the year planning, fundraising, promoting and then going to [WEG](#) (World Equestrian Games).

Our Booth

There are three articles about WEG in the Fall ATAA Newsletter. There was lots of good stuff, some unforeseeable snafus (who could predict a hurricane?), but overall, it was very positive.

We had fabulous volunteers

Yes! We had wonderful volunteers who found housing for us, helped set up the booth, donated their time, effort and money, brought horses for the 'Demo that didn't happen', sat in our booth and talked to thousands of people, Thank you!



Volunteers Morlin Jochimsen and Dean Miller invite all to come in and "Talk Teke".

Attention

We were happy to see that almost every single person we spoke to (and more than one had come to WEG specifically for our demo and to see the booth) knew what an Akhal-Teke is! That is a far cry from the last Teke breed booth in 2010 at the Kentucky Horse Park WEG, where "Akhal what?" was a popular refrain.

ATAA Awards and Incentive Awards

The ATAA gave out both volunteer and horse awards this year, per the membership's requests. Our ATAA Awards chair, Betsy Wandler, did her usual fabulous job and found lovely plaques for the volunteer awards and very nice embossed leather photo frames for the horse awards. Our 'Horse of the Year', Gerald, also got an original drawing to fit in his frame! We gave out **\$2000** in Incentive Awards for 2017 and will be giving out **\$3000** for 2018. The BOD voted to up the Incentive Fund to **\$5000** for 2019 to encourage more people to compete!

Upcoming 2019 Promotions

- 2019 Rare Breeds Show, West Coast, May 9-12th, Sacramento, CA:** The ATAA is joining with the Equus Survival Trust to bring a Rare Breeds Show to the West Coast. Various rare breeds, Akhal-Teke only classes, clinics and all of this during the Western States Horse Expo!
- Dressage at Devon:** Once again, the ATAA will sponsor an Akhal-Teke in-hand breed class at Dressage at Devon, one of the premier horse shows in the US. We invite you to participate, either by bringing horses, donating funds (which are tax deductible) or by volunteering at the show.
- AHA/ATAA Distance Championships:** 2018 was our first year with the Distance Championship. Unfortunately, no Tekes or Teke crosses competed. 2019's will be in Oklahoma, so we hope to have many participants there.
- Magazine ads:** We usually do some ads in national magazines and are talking about having ATAA breed Booths at several large events, details to follow. Watch the [News](#) page on the ATAA Website.

ATAA Budget: The ATAA is in the 'Black' for the fourth year in a row and two grants from the WWW Foundation have increased our bottom line. Our Board of Directors spends quite a bit of time making sure that we use our member's money and any grants for the right reasons, while completing our mission statement of "Preserve, Perpetuate, Promote."

2018 Promotions

Akhal-Teke Promotional video: Backyard Green Films did a short promotional video for us (pro bono!) in September. ATAA Members Amrita Ibold, Jas Shearer-McMahon and Tish Saare participated. <https://youtu.be/AsdSYzldcZw>

Akhal-Tekes in national magazines: 2018



saw several national magazines with articles, covers, and full color ads about Akhal-Tekes. The ATAA spearheaded a full page ad in the February issue of Horse Illustrated. There was a lovely Akhal-Teke on the cover and an article featuring a photo of Sabine Desper and Adamek.

The AERC (American Endurance Rides Conference) listed our breed awards in the March issue of Endurance News, along with a half page



ad which was paid for by the ATAA, Timothy Floyd, Cathy Leddy and Jas Shearer-McMahon.

Akhal-Tekes in video games!

Blockbuster video game, 'Red Dead Redemption 2' features a 'Turkoman' horse, predecessor to the Akhal-Teke, as a powerful and popular mount in this award winning game. This is the equivalent of having an Akhal-Teke horse in a blockbuster movie!



"Turkoman are multi-class with characteristics of both race and war horses. They can be identified by their slender but agile build, and also their sleek coat."
-Red Dead Game



Dressage at Devon:

The ATAA sponsored an Akhal-Teke in-hand class for the 3rd year in a row at DAD. This year, we only had 2 entrants (just too close to WEG for many to come), but we awarded CASH PRIZES for the first time! Come next year and be part of the fun!

Western States Horse Expo Booth:

Pleasant Grove Akhal-Tekes and Deb Bowker teamed up to bring 6 Akhal-Teke mares to the Expo, and showed them in-hand and under saddle.



Preservation

The ATAA is not only promoting our breed, but we are working to preserve Akhal-Tekes also. The Akhal-Teke is classified as 'Vulnerable' and 'Threatened' by the Livestock Conservancy and The Equus Survival Trust. In 2018, we were awarded two generous grants from the WWW Foundation to help us with both registration related purposes and to continue facilitating our education about the breed.

The BOD has come up with an online survey to help us figure out just how many horses still need to be both ATAA and VNIIC registered. We have also been running articles about preservation in the last several newsletters. February 9-11th, 2018, two of our Board members, Patricia Johnston and Jas Shearer-McMahon, went to the Endangered Equine Summit in Texas, hosted by the Livestock Conservancy. Several ideas have come out of this summit including a possible semen bank, using 'Edutainment' to widen your market, cooperation with other rare breeds and more. Watch the News page on the website and the Newsletter for updates!

NFS Fund Results

Our NFS coupon fund continues to bring in [results](#). So far, we have given out 66 coupons and have gotten back results on 61 horses. Of those 61 horses tested so far, only 4 carry the NFS gene. The ATAA BOD voted to continue this coupon program for the foreseeable future.

Census of North America Akhal-Tekes

The population of a closed purebred breed like the Akhal-Teke consists of the registered horses. Without being registered, a horse is not formally recognized as an Akhal-Teke. The recent census the ATAA conducted highlights the small numbers of Akhal-Tekes in the US, suggesting they might qualify as 'critically' endangered, rather than just threatened. The ATAA continues to combine preservation with promotion in our quest to preserve and protect our beloved breed.

The ATAA received two monetary grants

The ATAA received 2 generous monetary grants in 2018 from the WWW Foundation. To Educate owners and breeders as to WHY it is so important to register your Akhal-Tekes with both the ATAA and the Russian closed studbook and to facilitate accomplishing this. Special thanks goes to the Equus Survival Trust for helping make the grant happen.

ATAA Facebook page

The [ATAA Facebook page](#) has over 1200 likes now and has new content almost daily. Member competitions, photos, links to breed related articles and videos and announcements make it a great resource, so check in frequently.

ATAA Newsletter

The [ATAA Newsletter](#) is published 4 times a year and features articles, news, photos, competition results and member interviews. Scroll down on the link for previous year's newsletters.

Annual Report

This is the fourth year we've produced an '[Annual Report](#)' to recap the ATAA's accomplishments for the year and what we plan to do the next year. We always welcome suggestions for other promotions, ideas, articles, etc. Just contact a BOD member and let them know your thoughts!

2018-2019 ATAA BOD

Tish Saare—President

Jas Shearer-McMahon—
Vice President

Pat Johnston—Secretary

Amrita Ibold—Treasurer

Gretta Teets—Director at
Large

Dean Miller—Director at
Large

Cindy Sither—Director at
Large

Registry Staff:

Amrita Ibold—Registrar

Cathy Leddy— Registry
Secretary

Opportunities

[Volunteer](#) for upcoming
events

Write [articles](#) for the ATAA
Newsletter

[Donate money](#) for specific
events, such as the 2019
West Coast Rare Breeds
Show.

[Become](#) a part of a
positive Akhal-Teke
community.

Run for the ATAA BOD—2
spots open in 2019!

Handle the [Silent Auction](#)
in 2019 2018's online
auction was a success!

Translate articles for the
ATAA newsletter and/or
website

Whatever you can think of!

Contact the secretary at
ATAA Secretary :

secretary.ataa@gmail.com