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New Findings on the Gait of Akhal-Teke Horses

By Dr. Molly Nicodemus, Mississippi State University & Jeannette Beranger, The Livestock Conservancy

As an ongoing part of a collaborative study on the gaits of rare breed horses, Dr. Molly Nicodemus, of Mississippi State University's Gaited Locomotive Research Program, and Jeannette Beranger, of The Livestock Conservancy, have been working together to collect and analyze video clips of the endangered breeds of horses on the Conservancy's Conservation Priority List (CPL). The most recent findings in this effort are on the Akhal-Teke breed, which is currently listed as 'Threatened' on the CPL. Breeds previously

studied have been the Marsh Tacky, Wilbur-Cruce and Banker horses. Studies of the gaits of the Irish Draught and the Choctaw are currently under way.

The Akhal-Teke study was conducted with the help of long time Akhal-Teke owner/breeder Phil Case and two of his trainers, Sabine Desper and Liz Morgan. Phil and his wife Margot were the first to bring this unique breed of horse to America in 1079. Sadly, Margot has since passed, but *continued on page 3*

Report on the 2014 ATAA Conference

By Cathy Leddy

This year's Conference is over and anyone who didn't come really missed out on a good one! Jack and Tish Saare did a great job with the hotel, the food and the speaker. It was really rather sad to see how few people attended. But, those of us that were there had a great time, never went hungry, saw some lovely horses and were treated to an outstanding presentation on the Akhal-Teke Gait Study that is going on at Mississippi State University. Unfortunately, we did not get it on tape, although I did

get a bit of the live horse presentation on video.

Friday night we started with our Meet and Greet and we said hello to old friends and a few new ones. Saturday morning was the General Membership Meeting, minutes on page 4. After the meeting, we screened the new HorseFlicks DVD. After some minor technical difficulties (my laptop was being naughty), we got to watch the entire episode. People were quite impressed overall with just a few minor

Newsflash!!

2015 Annual Membership Conference

Dates:
September 18th
-20th

Indiana at Greystone Eventing

More Information to follow

We'll see you there!

corrections noted (which Jon Mays was able to fix without extra cost!). We have ordered 1500 copies which will be shipped to me (Cathy at c.leddy@frontier.com) to sell. Watch the ATAA website for prices and details.

Saturday night was the Awards Presentation and Betsy and Catrina did their usual excellent job.

continued on page 3

Promotions: ATAA Logowear

Tish Saare has spearheaded the design and sale of ATAA Logowear, per what was decided at the 2013 General Membership meeting. We have Sweatshirts in Navy and Gray in various sizes.

The Sweatshirts are unisex sizes, so they run a little bit



big.

The gray sweatshirt



The navy blue sweatshirt. Price is \$32 for the sweatshirt, which includes shipping. Sizes are becoming limited, Contact Tish Saare to order at saare@zetabroadband.com

Goody Bags: We have some Goody Bags left from the Conference. The bags and a-lajas are from Turkmenistan, and there are other items from local businesses.



A box costs \$10 plus \$5.95 shipping, or \$12.95 shipping for everything in the bag. Contact Amrita for more info at lbolds@rockisland.com

ATAA News**2015 Annual ATAA**

Conference: Eron and Scott Owens of Greystone Eventing in Indiana will be hosting the 2015 ATAA Conference, September 18th - 20th. They will have room for up to 8 outside horses. If you have ideas for speakers and/or presentations, contact Eron at greystone.eowens@gmail.com

Silent Auction at

Conference: Thanks to Pat Johnston and Amrita Ibold for taking care of the Silent Auction. We made a profit of \$395. Also, thank you to everyone that donated items!

Awards: Pilot Program:

The ATAA is in the process of collecting data on Akhal-Teke sport results in recognized events.

We have new categories on our website where we will list results in the hope this will show the public what our horses can do and have the proof they did it!

This will go hand in hand with our pilot awards incentive program starting in 2015.

All ATAA members participating in recognized events will receive \$ from the ATAA **after** they have competed and sent in a link showing their results, and after they provide 2 high resolution pictures from the show. The ATAA hopes to have more members competing, more exposure for the horses, and hopefully donors to help pay for the program and eventually sponsor riders...

We hope this will be a success and eventually include schooling shows too.

This is for ALL disciplines. More information on the ATAA Website.

Registration: is going well. Amrita and Cathy report that more pending registrations have been finished and more new registrations have been sent out. To see the complete list, go to:

<http://www.akhal-teke.org/registration.html>

Membership Renewals-

Thank you to everyone that has renewed or joined so far. We have some people that have joined/renewed since the last newsletter. They are:

Anne Michelle Avolio, Seattle, WA Individual member

Jennifer Lindsey, Toney Alabama, Individual Member

Lisa Fuller, Mineola, TX, Individual member

Deb Bowker, Newcastle, CA Friends member

Dr. Molly Nicodemus, Louisville, MS Friends member

Sarah Severn, Friday Harbor, WA Friends member

Blood typing: University of Kentucky will do blood typing in April and November this year. Contact the Registrar for further information. **Next year the price increases 100%.**

HorseFlicks Update: We screened a draft of the new HorseFlicks DVD at the Conference. Overall, it was pronounced very good and only a few minor changes were suggested. We have

ordered 1500 copies and will have them for sale soon, amount to be determined. Contact Cathy to buy them at c.leddy@frontier.com

Board of Directors

Nominations: All three nominees were elected to the BOD. Your new Board is as follows:

Catrina Quantrell, president, Jas Shearer-McMahon, vice-president, Cathy Leddy, secretary, Amrita Ibold, treasurer, Tish Saare, Director at large, Betsy Wandler, Director at Large and welcome to Patricia Johnston, Director at Large.

Income/Expenses for

2014 As of 9/23/2014 Income is 2396.55, Expenses are 2147.19, with 9410.85 in savings and 10,196.80 in our CD.

Conference Expenses:

\$3,175.58; Income: \$2,380 with it being 795.58 in the red. The reason for this was that we brought Molly in to talk after the budget was set up and unfortunately with the low turnout we were unable to recover the majority of her travel expenses. We did approve this expense beforehand and Molly gave a great presentation

2015 Horseshow at KHP

Due to circumstances beyond the Equus Survival Trust's control, the 2015 Festival has been delayed until 2016.

Phil still maintains a large herd of these horses on their farm in rural Virginia. For the study, Sabine and Liz rode a number of Phil's horses in the training ring while Jeannette took video and photographs of each horse as they were put through their different gaits of walk, trot and canter. Individual and physical information on each horse was recorded and then sent along with the film footage to the University for study.

Dr. Nicodemus found that while the physical characteristics are what the breed is typically known for, the movement of the North American Akhal-Teke Horse is noteworthy having what is referred to as a smooth, elastic stride. Gait analysis, while previously not performed on this breed, offers researchers and opportunity to understand what allows the breed to perform its distinctive gait. A recent study done at Mississippi State University analyzed video supplied by The Livestock Conservancy of North American Akhal-Teke horses performing the trot. The study reported that unlike the 2 beat rhythm of the typical trot, this breed steps down individually with each hoof alternating between periods of a single limb supporting the body to two limbs, the diagonal limbs, supporting the body. While the gait has a diagonal footfall sequence (left hind-right fore-right hind-left fore) similar to the basic trot, by disassociating the diagonal pairs the gait loses a period of suspension, and thus, making the gait less concussive. Similar gait characteristics are seen in other breeds, but the velocity performed for these other breeds is slower than the Akhal-Teke horse. In most breeds with an increase in velocity, suspension will appear as the diagonal limbs move as pairs and thus, a faster velocity performed by the Akhal-Teke Horse may allow for the breed to perform a 2-beat, leaping trot. Nevertheless, the preference of the Akhal-Teke horse to perform this adapted trot will allow the rider to sit more comfortably, which in turn, will relieve some of the concussion the horse may feel if the rider was bouncing due to a more jarring, leaping gaits. Although the suspension allows for a more efficient gaits, for the Akhal-Teke horse, due to their very distinctive

longer back, which is typically undesirable for most breeds, this gait may allow for the horse to remain sounder across the back as they age. Additional research concerning conformation and gait in the Akhal-Teke horse is further needed to test this hypothesis.



Conference report, continued from front page



Sunday morning, we all headed over to Jack and Tish's Pleasant Grove Akhal-Tekes for the farm visit and Akhal-Teke Gait Study presentation by Dr. Molly Nicodemus and more food.

A few more people showed up, but we were still a small group. We visited all of Jack and Tish's horses and I got to spend a little time with little Mr. No-name, Arin x Asalari (Astrachan x Anastasia). Molly gave an excellent 2 hour presentation, which unfortunately, none of us thought to video. I even asked her if she had it on video herself, but she replied that this was the first time she had actually given it!

It was a treat though – Molly is extremely knowledgeable about all different gaits of horses and gave us a background and how she came to study Akhal-Tekes. In fact, it was sort of funny; she had been sent a video of Tekes trotting and watched it quickly, but just saw trotting horses. She put it aside for about a year, until an eager grad student came to work for her that was crazy about Akhal-Tekes. This grad that

student was given the tape and told to analyze it and see if there was anything interesting. And she found there certainly was.

I think all of us that ride Tekes know that they don't move like your regular thoroughbred or Arab. But now, we have proof! Molly was quick to say that the Tekes she saw were not gaited in the traditional sense, but have an extra smooth trot with next to no suspension. She went on to describe how their conformation assists this smooth, gliding gait. They have done preliminary studies and have made some observations (she said they do need to do more research and will in the future). Tekes seem to use their hip and back pasterns more than the hocks (use of hocks is what you'd see in a typical trotting horse), which might help explain the smoothness and also could make the gait more efficient, using less muscle and having less wear and tear on joints. She did stress that they need to do further study, looking at different speeds in the trot and also the canter and walk. Then came the live horse part (after lunch). Tish brought out her nice QH mare and a 2 year old Teke filly and put them in the round pen together. Molly went over the conformation on the QH (which I did get on tape), describing the angles of the shoulder, hip and hock and also how the withers flow into



the back. She praised the mare, who is a very nice working QH and said she wasn't surprised that the horse had done well and stayed sound for many years. She also told us some stories about judging at several large breed shows that

continued on page 4

were very interesting! She had the mare trot and canter around to show us how those angles worked. Then, she brought out the Teke filly and did the same thing, showing us how different the angles in her shoulder, hip and hock were from the QH and how her withers were much more defined and laid into her back. She also noted the more upright neck and strong loin. Then, we got to watch the filly move, behind the mare. Night and day! The mare pounded around the round pen, working hard as the filly floated behind, using little effort.



Kooskia showing the Teke Glide, Blaine Fender photo

Molly did note that she probably wouldn't use the filly for heavy duty western work, such as roping as she isn't built that way, while the mare was built perfectly for that. Then, two stallions were brought out; Gallo, Fakir x Gelekul, Tish and Jack's older stallion. He perfectly demonstrated the Teke glide and was caught midstride by Blaine Fender.



Then she brought out Arin, Asman x lashma, who also demonstrated his lovely gaits (and some pent up energy!)



Arin showing his lovely gaits, Blaine Fender photo.

We then had a question and answer session and wrapped it up. All in all, a really lovely weekend, with good friends, good food and good horses!



BOD meeting minutes 2014,

September 26th, 5:55 pm, Hilton Garden Inn, Roseville, CA

Call to order by Jas Shearer-McMahon

Roll call: Catrina and Jeremy Quantrell, Tish and Jack Saare, Amrita Ibold, Jas Shearer-McMahon, Cathy Leddy, Pat Johnston, Michelle Fight, Betsy Wandler via Skype

Reading of last year's minutes and approval: Read and approved

Old business:

How to retain members: Amrita has some ideas to be presented at General Membership Meeting. So does Betsy.

HorseFlicks report- given at General Membership Meeting, along with screening it.

Repeat raffle for new foal registrations?-talk about it at membership meeting

New Business:

Agenda for General Membership Meeting- nothing added

Betsy's ideas for streamlining registration-to be given tomorrow.

Motion: Motion to adjourn at 6:10 pm by Amrita, Jas seconds. Approved.



The Annual General Membership Meeting of the Akhal-Teke Association of America, held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Roseville, CA

Called to Order: Saturday, September 27, 2014 at 9:10 am by Terri Fender, President

Roll Call, Secretary, Cathy Leddy: Pat Johnston, Amrita Ibold, Michelle Fight, Vicki Lacina, Jeremy and Catrina Quantrell, Jas Shearer-McMahon, Terri Fender, Cathy Leddy, Betsy Wandler via Skype, Jack and Tish Saare, Deb Bowker, Donna Haselow (a few minutes later) Meredith Reinhart towards the end

Minutes of 2013 General Membership Meeting read by Cathy Leddy.

Motion: Amrita motions to approve 2013 General Membership Meeting Minutes, Catrina Seconds. Approved.

Presentation of Officer and Committee Reports:

President's Report – Terri Fender, Not too much to report, things are moving along, keep being positive, figure out how to retain and get new members. Pat Johnson suggested we have everyone introduce themselves and say why they come to the meetings. We do. Most people say they like to meet other Teke people, see new places and horses.

— continued on page 5

Need to get younger people involved. It needs to be reasonably affordable.

Treasurer's Report- Amrita Ibold. Amrita is putting \$100 each month into savings (keeps us from paying any fees). We have 9410.85 in savings as of 9/25/2014 and 10,196.80 in our CD. Checking account: Income from 1/1/2014 through 9/23/2014: 2396.55. Expenses: 2147.19. Overall, we are 249.36 in the black. The complete year to date accounts were given to Cathy for inclusion into the Corporate Logbook.

Secretary's Report – Cathy Leddy. Things are getting done, annual report, taxes are filed. All items go into the Corporate Logbook for future reference. Members: 61 members as of 9/22/2014. 7 Lifetime, 25 Individual, 14 Ranch, 1 Family, 11 Friends, 3 international. Early renewal drive last year worked very well. Pat Johnston and Amrita will do a survey for non-renewing and current members to find out why people didn't renew. Tish suggests sending them a membership application and SASE, Betsy suggested same. Post on Website, maybe have something when people return survey – voucher? Betsy also suggested that if people renew they get a % off each year and/or as a thank you for referrals for new members. Discussion about costs. If people are paying via Paypal, we don't get their preferences, so we always send them a 'welcome' email and ask.

Motion: Betsy motions that if members renew or join by March 1st of that year, they get put into a raffle for 50% off Conference Fees. Amrita seconds. Approved

Tish suggests we put together something for Pony Club and 4-H. Fa's color poster – Cathy will send copy to Amrita and Tish, sire lines also. We can give local libraries copies of our DVDs.

Survey: Will put Pat's Survey in the October Newsletter with results in the January Newsletter. We should ask Blaine Fender how to get more Facebook likes, list Facebook page in prominent place on website.

Registrar's Report – Amrita Ibold, Will add time limits on how long registration should take – DNA reports weren't sent back in a timely manner. Help people know when to ask if things are almost done. Betsy had an idea to streamline registration – she suggested no photos required. Amrita explained Russian Registration, which we must be compliant with. We will advertise ATAA helping with Russian Registration as a perk of ATAA registration. Will send out an email blast when we're ready.

Website Report – Amrita Ibold- continued above discussion, Ask General Membership for Facebook Challenge – Catrina suggests doing a promotion for 100th member – free friend membership each 100th like on Facebook. Amrita and Cathy will write something.

Newsletter Report- Cathy Leddy

Awards Committee- Catrina Quantrell- Giving out 2 sets of awards for 2014, this year there will be embroidered vests for Alphabet Orgs awards. Betsy and Catrina would like ideas for member awards –what do people like to get? Also, members need to nominate for Awards. Each newsletter will have info on awards.

Amrita proposes an incentive type fund Pilot Program, where if you are a member on a registered horse and do a recognized event, send in the link, a high resolution photo, will get some sort of money back from ATAA. Suggestion of sending a banner to put on stalls, Donna suggests finding a sponsor for USDF awards (expensive!). Talk about giving out checks (large fake check) at Alphabet Award national conferences. Catrina, Betsy, Amrita and Pat will come up with a proposal. Start with a \$600 budget – proposal in October newsletter.

Promotions Report – Tish Saare – HorseFlicks – We have a draft, will look at it after lunch. Expos – Betsy Oct. 17th, Sabrina went to Heirloom Expo, Terri went to MN Horse expo and MN State Fair. \$150 per event is available. Jas and Betsy might do the Rocky Mountain Expo. Tish is open to suggestions, AT banners for sale? Amrita and Catrina will look into how to do this.

Membership Packet extra – ideas? Let Tish know. Talked about a large magnet, trailer decal. Michelle offers to do something up for membership packet.

Nomination and Elections Report – Jas Shearer-McMahon

Passing of Ballots, voting and announcement of New BOD members, Jas Shearer-McMahon – All three candidates were elected – New board is Catrina, Betsy, Tish, Cathy, Amrita, Jas and Pat Johnston, new board member.

Farm Reports during ballot counting

China report: Amrita reports that Chinese market for ATs is getting

good, conditions have really improved in the last few years.

Lunch, Terri called meeting back to order at 1:05 pm

Silent Auction-Amrita Ibold Will close at 6:55 pm

Old Business

Logowear for sale- Only sweatshirts for sale, no caps (embroider disappeared). Pat asks about an ATAA patch- Amrita's friend will look into it.

New Business

Proposal for streamlining registration from Betsy Wandler- talked about it in the morning

What else to do to retain members?-Survey, that Pat and Amrita will work on.

2016 Rare Breeds Show- outreach to all Teke people

2015 Annual Conference- Had THREE interested parties to host 2015's ATAA Conference. Jas suggests we go with the first reply and ask if the other two would like to do it in years to come. The three are: Eron Owens of Indiana, Rod Hunt of Minnesota and Sabine Desper of VA. Eron said yes first, so next year's conference will be in Indiana. Michelle suggests that university students might be interested in helping with photography

Watched HorseFlicks DVD – overall very positive feedback, a few small things still need to be fixed. Tish will contact Jon. Tish will contact the Kentucky Horse Park Gift store and see if they would like to sell the AT HorseFlicks DVD – if so, that amount could change how many we

order. Start with KHP and go from there.



Meeting adjourned at 2 pm



New Board Meeting, September 27th, 2014

Called to order at 6:55 pm
Roll Call: Cathy Leddy, Catrina Quantrell, Amrita Ibold, Jas Shearer-McMahon, Tish Saare, Pat Johnston. Absent: Betsy Wandler

Old Business: Amrita is still worried about treasury being transparent enough. Wants to make sure the accounts are looked at by someone other than her. Cathy will look them over, originals to go in Corporate Logbook. Any questions will go to Amrita.

Catrina is elected president. Pat talks about strategic plan, suggests that she will send us a process. We will work on membership retainment. Pat is happy to join us.

Motion to adjourn by Pat, seconded by Tish,

Meeting adjourned 7:10 pm



Survey will be coming soon!

One of our largest concerns is keeping our members happy and doing outreach to bring in new members. Patricia Johnston is working on an online survey that will go out to current and former members soon. Please give her suggestions as to what sorts of questions to ask at deepconsensus@gmail.com and then watch your email box for it. Results should be in the next newsletter and on the website.

ATAA Awards

Leadership Award: Cathy Leddy
Golden Achievement: Jas Shearer-McMahon
Publicity Awards: Cindy Sither for her work in search and Rescue and patrolling the Kentucky horse park with a Teke, Terri Fender, Amrita Ibold and Jack Saare all got certificates of achievement.
Volunteer Award: Jack Saare

Discipline awards

Dressage: Eron Owens, Catrina Quantrell, and Monica Bretherton
Endurance: Jas Shearer-McMahon and Monica Bretherton
Eventing: Amrita Ibold, Susan Presson, and Catrina Quantrell
Jumping: Catrina Quantrell, Erin Owens and Tiffany Deitchler

Farm and Competition Reports

Silver Hill Akhal-Tekes, Billings MT

Betsy and Erin Wandler

The Akhal-Teke breed was asked to be represented on Stallion Row at The Northern International Livestock Exposition (The NILE). People travel from a 5 state region (and many come down from Canada) every year to see the animal exhibits, auctions, horse demonstrations, and rodeos. Billings, Montana is definitely a “western” town, and it is not uncommon for people to have only seen or ridden Quarter Horses.

It was quite comical to see the expression on spectators' faces when they walked past the stall (and this was played out over and over again): stroll past with a quick glance and take another step or two, stop, back up, stare. Glance down at the “Akhal-Teke” sign on the stall door. Look back into stall, squint eyes and read sign again. Come to booth and ask questions. “So what line of Arabian is this again? He doesn't look like any Aay-Rab I've seen before!” I lost track of how many times I had to explain that an Akhal-Teke is a breed, not a “line” from another breed, or a cross-bred. Interestingly enough, it appeared that the old cowboys were the most fascinated, commenting that they had very rarely (if ever) seen a horse put together so well or so efficiently before...and you know these guys have certainly seen their share of horseflesh throughout their lifetimes.

It certainly helped that Salamdor was a perfect gentleman for the entire expo. People could not believe he was a young stallion, and I saw a few take a

“peek” just to confirm! This was Salamdor's first time off the ranch since he came to me as a weanling. He had never been around traffic, large groups of people, flags, banners, etc. He had never been in a building or an arena before, and the last time he had been in a stall was as a newborn. We were not allowed to bring in horses or set up the booth until an hour before the doors opened to the public, so I was not sure how Salamdor would handle it all since he wouldn't have any time to “adjust” (I was hoping to bring him in the day before!). Not even a single “spook”. He stood posing quietly at the front of the stall, greeting everyone with a gentle sniff of the hand. Eyes lit up like Christmas trees as people (kids and adults alike) gazed at him. It was definitely quite the spectacle to see first-hand! Did my eyes do the same thing the first time I gazed upon a Teke?



To get from the stall to the arena for the breed presentations, we had to walk by another (talkative) stallion, between sales booths, out a narrow door, past the main spectator entrance, over 100 feet of sidewalk next to the main parking lot, then through a wash rack. The first day we had to wait for 10 minutes right next to a mare and another stallion at

the in-gate. He “looked”, but didn't make a peep and stayed quietly at my side. Quite the obstacle course to get through for a 15 minute presentation, but he took it all in stride. Everyone was very impressed with his temperament.

Overall I would say that this expo was a success, as I am certain that Akhal-Tekes gained many more fans! Unfortunately, I did not do a very good job “instructing” my husband Erin to take lots of pictures (I thought it would be a given!), so sadly only got a few okay pictures...next year the camera card better be filled up!

Picture: “Salamdor” (Salam x MV Elfia) 2010 Fakirpelvan line stallion, owned by Silver Hill Akhal-Tekes in Billing, Montana

Sweet Water Akhal-Teke, Friday Harbor, WA

Amrita Ibold

Sweet Water Farm's report is well overdue. In the beginning of the summer Jenny Rice went to work for her brother on the island and so we dissolved our partnership. I am back to being a sole proprietor, and with a full schedule of competing, teaching and breeding and some tasks like writing and updating websites just did not get done. Competing is my passion, and Paktaly and I finished the season of 3 day eventing at Aspen Farms horse trials with a 6th place. I had a working student for 2 weeks from England and we took photos of the horses, made a new cross country jump, and rode a lot.

Also, Ulrike Ruppelt visited and she did a fabulous job at photographing the horses, not to mention the first day on her arrival I was still getting our hay in picking it out off the field. I have 4 mares confirmed pregnant with the frozen semen from Kambarbay, all 4 conceived first try including 2 maiden mares. And I have 2 mares in foal to Pan Tau. Now it's catching up with farm work that did not get done this summer...the replacing of rotten fence posts...and so on. I already miss competing and soon I'll have next year's show schedule worked out.



Amrita and Paktaly



Alex (working student) and Sherezad



Amrita and Pan Tau, now 19 years old



Alex and Kegas over one of the new jumps.

Kopet Dag Akhal-Tekes, MN

We have just received word and pictures of our new colt, Yuri, born on September 30, 2014. The dam is Allegra Steck's Guana-Kostela (Posman line) and the sire is AI from Phil Cases's mighty Sengar (Peren line). Guana and Yuri will be brought to us from Allegra's breeding facility in Lexington, Virginia in late October and then we will take Guana to Terri Fender's (Shad 'Zadeh) following weaning.

Judy Wegenast and husband Jerry have set up and carried out two photo sessions featuring four of our Akhal-Tekes. The first of the two series was at our Kopet-Dag location and the second took place in our nearby Smoky Hills State Park along the riding trails amongst



the beautiful autumn colors of the deciduous trees. Judy is an artist and will be painting pictures from those photos while in her winter studio in Arizona.

Tiffany was awarded the ATAA honors and commemorative plaque for her jumping in registered competition over the past year and most notably at Otter Creek where she took 6 ribbons with Ivan. Tiffany has also recently received jump training and schooling with Irish jumping champion and trainer Derek McConnell who conducts classes during a two day classic in Delano, MN on Ivan. Our plans for

2015 include another trip to Ireland for Tiffany to train with Derek for a two week period.

Our leased mare of Terri Fender's, Gabrielle who produced our filly Gella (Gabrielle x Goblet) is now pregnant with foal by AI sire Arim. We are all excited to see if Gabrielle can outdo her previous golden beauty.

At last the miles of pasture fencing, installing the proper gates, wood paddocks, building the Comfort stalls, the electrical work and rubber brick runways is all near completion. Tiffany's house is also near completion and we are on line, Wi-fied and nearly fully communicative. Our website, kopetdag-akhalteke.com is gaining hits and we are nearly ready for the winter. Or so we hope!



Scott Sears, CT

Over the last six weeks, Aeolus and I have competed in 4 area Hunter Paces. We got off trail on the first one and ended up repeating a couple of miles. The next three went much smoother. We were fourth at the Pomfret Hunter Pace, second at Tara Farm, and third at Ayer Mountain.



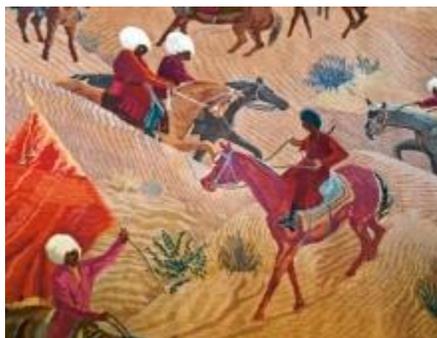
Scott R Sears DVM
drssears@yahoo.com

Pleasant Grove Akhal-Tekes, CA

Pleasant Grove Akhal-Tekes had a nice buckskin colt (Arin x Asalari) born on July 17, 2014. This guy is super sweet and very inquisitive. He has three tall white stockings and a white face - plenty of chrome. We think he will be a nice colt - he has good conformation and a great disposition. He will be for sale upon weaning.



Weaved canvas of history



24 October 2014 - 1:23pm

By Turkmenistaninfo.ru

The All-Russian Decorative Art Museum has invited Moscow residents and guests to see a unique Turkmen carpet, the only show-piece at the exhibition. The carpet named "Endurance Riding" was made at the Ashkhabad Carpet Factory in 1937 and dedicated to events of the endurance riding of Turkmen equestrians from Ashkhabad to Moscow in 1935. Organizers of the exposition had every reason to create the exhibition of just one show-piece, the story of the carpet and the events related to it have no analogies in history.

A group of Akhal-Teke and Yomut horse riders left Ashkhabad and headed to Moscow in the summer of 1935. Thirty riders travelled 4,300km in 84 days. They travelled 350km through Karakumy, the Ustyurt Plateau, the crossing of the Kazakh steppes, the Russian forest zones.

The rally had military goals: cavalry was still part of the armed forces then, the endurance and strength of Turkmen horses needed testing. All the participants of the rally succeeded. The Akhal-Teke horses proved their endurance and reliability. Newspapers then had proof of the joyful meeting of equestrians in the capital of the country. Moscow residents were

waiting for them at the Abelmanovskaya Zastava, forming a line along the street. People threw flowers to the riders.

The participants of the rally became national heroes. No wonder they were chosen as the story for the carpet made by talented Turkmen weavers using designs of the artist A. Savostin.

77 years later, staff of the All-Russian Decorative Art Museum decided to show the unique Turkmen carpet to the public. The carpet had never been demonstrated to Russians before. It was only seen at the 1939 New York World Fair.

Organizers of the exhibition gave the event a symbolic, original tone. The appearance of a real live Akhal-Teke horse in the yard of the old Moscow 18th-century mansion of Count Fedor Osterman, where the museum is situated, allowed people to feel the breath of the events.

The stallion from the Moscow Agricultural Academy named after Kliment Timiryazev amazed people with its natural perfection. The horse was warmed by horsecloth made from Turkmen felts, a koshm, when the temperature in Moscow was -17 degrees Celsius. The stallion was posing for photo and video cameras, demonstrating its unique gracefulness that could not be left without applause.

The single exhibit was given a separate hall, where chronicles of films and photos of the 1930s were demonstrated on screens, taking visitors into the historical atmosphere.

The unique carpet has a size of 331 x 202 cm, with a total area of 6.72 square meters. The artist wanted to show participants of the rally in motion, which is complicated on carpets with naps. The central field consists of 15 equestrians pictured in a complicated *continued on page 10*

line with a curve going upwards. It is evident that the weavers were trying to make detailed features of people, many equestrians are recognizable.

Despite technical norms, the carpet was made from cotton paper threads, due to their durability. The carpet has naps only 2-2.5mm long, 4,800-5,000 knots per square decimeter, giving such a realistic depiction of the equestrians and the liveliness and individuality of the horses. The picture has a linear perspective with oriental elements: the figures in the background were made smaller in contrast with the ones closer.

Yulia Kuznetsova, a member of the Horse-Breeding Museum of the Kliment Timiryazev Moscow Agricultural Academy, studied the carpet scrupulously a few years ago and can tell a lot about the characters depicted on it: "In the left bottom corner of the carpet, in close up, there is the commander of the rally S. Sokolov. He wears the uniform of the border forces – a white coat, with belts of a map-board and a revolver. The horse of the commander has an officer's saddle, without bags and holsters, the horse has a halter-bridle. It is typical cavalry equipment, it can be seen on all the other horses.

The other equestrians wear national clothes: red silk quilted robe (don) and fur sheepskin hat (telpek) of white, black and brown colour. All equestrians are equipped with rifles, as it was during the rally."

The commander is followed by a seif-dune, a brigadier of the Aytakov collective farm of the Tezhensky District Gabysh Mamysh. He is 55 years old, he is easy to recognize by his grey beard. The third rider on the orange horse is Nepes Karakhan from the Voroshilov collective farm of the Yerbentsky District, the best expert of the Karakum sands. The fourth is Ak Telpek Nagy, a rider from the Kunya Urgenchsky District, nicknamed for constantly wearing a white telpek. The fifth one on the white horse is probably Sapar Kuli Sakhat Berdy, the elder of

the rally, a native from the Stalin collective farm in the Tejensky District. The sixth rider is obviously Yanar Anna Oraz, an equestrian from the Udarnik collective farm in the Geoktepinisky District. The faces of the other riders do have individual features, but they are hard to recognize. Other features, such as horse colours, cannot help identify them.

Concerning the depiction of the horses, it is hard to consider them authentic, although it is apparent that the weavers were trying to show different shades, individual elements on the head and hooves and even features of the exterior. Some circumstances are still dubious. It is well-known that the commander of the rally had a chestnut horse named Orlik with a big white line on its head. The commander's horse is depicted as orange without any line. The same goes for the horse of Gabysh Mamysh, he had a grey stallion named Kir At, yet the horse on the carpet is chestnut. Considering the fact, we will not try to guess the names of the horses. Perhaps the authenticity of the rally was sacrificed for the artistic idea of the carpet.

One of the horses had an amazing fate. The horse was expected to show the best results in speed and endurance during the rally, it was given as a gift to Kliment Voroshilov. It was a grey horse named Arab, he was left in Moscow after the rally. The stallion had great riding qualities and exterior, it became the forerunner of a special line of Akhal-Teke horse-breeding and produced many elite offspring. The horse was chosen by Marshal Georgy Zhukov for the Victory Parade. The grey tone of Akhal-Teke horses gets lighter with time, so Zhukov was recorded riding a light-coloured horse in films.

For many of the visitors gathered at the opening of the exhibition at the All-Russian Decorative Art Museum it was the first time they had heard and seen this. Formally an element of decorative art, the unique carpet became an important historical document capable of lifting a huge stratum of time, describe an astonishing event. Yelena

Titova, the director of the museum, told the guests about the great work done by the organizers of the unusual exhibition: enthusiasts and researchers, connoisseurs of horse-breeding and carpet-making.

The Moscow show-piece has a twin brother. Two years after the weaving of the first carpet at the Ashkhabad Factory, existing designs and schematics were used to create another carpet which differed from the first one in big differences in ornamentation. The carpet is still stored in Ashkhabad.

Officials of the Turkmen Embassy in Russia told participants of the exhibition about the cult of Akhal-Teke horses in modern Turkmenistan. Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, a fan and expert of Akhal-Teke horses, controls development of equestrianism and horse-breeding.

Information about the opening of the unusual exhibition quickly spread around small diasporas of Turkmen students studying at Russian higher education centers. Collective requests to see the expositions enthused museum staff with sincere interest expressed by young people in the legendary history.

Thanks to Donna Haselow for finding this article!

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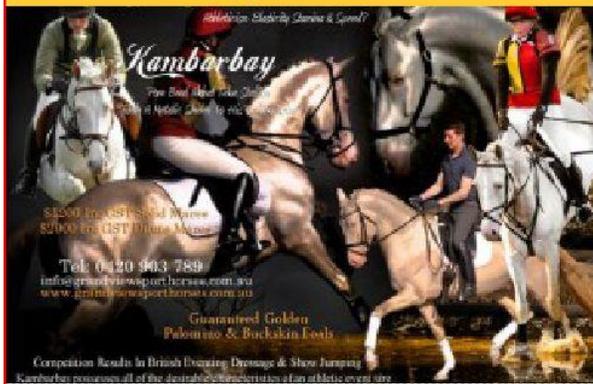
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