

affiliations

Arabian



North American Shagya-Arabian Society

Shagyas – Naturals for Eventing and Combined Training!

Three-Day Eventing evolved from the traditional testing of military horses and their riders. Cross-country jumping, stadium jumping, and dressage were disciplines that every cavalry officer and his mount needed in war. Now horses are no longer used as a wartime "vehicles" but, luckily, much of the equine genetic heritage which was developed by the European military has been passed on in the form of the modern-day "sport horse" breeds, of which the Shagya-Arabian is a stellar example. Developed for over 200 years by the Austro-Hungarian cavalry utilizing performance testing, careful culling, and systematic outcrossing to Oriental desert Arabian bloodlines, the resulting Shagya has the size and frame, trainability, stamina, and dressage and jumping talent necessary for "military" riding – "ready-made" eventing prospects!

After World War II, when horses moved from war into sport and pleasure activities, the Purebred Shagya-Arabian Society International (the "ISG") was created to preserve and perpetuate Shagyas that would continue to meet the traditional sport abilities of this breed. The North American Shagya-Arabian Society ("NASS"), founded in 1986, along with other ISG-member



Photo: Sheri Scott

The German-bred Shagya stallion "Oman successfully completing the 100-day test at Rancho Murietta. He has many NASS-registered purebred and part-Shagya offspring in the U.S.



Photo: Reinhard Koblitz

German-bred Shagya stallion Ghazzir placing 10th in the German National Championships for young horses in 1990.

Shagya societies world-wide, have continued to utilize a shared method of quality control to ensure that the breed retains its sport horse qualities. NASS also maintains a registry for part-Shagyas.

A number of Shagyas have excelled in eventing. The purebred Shagya, Ghazzir, by Bajar, qualified for the "Bundeschampionat" – the German national championships for young horses – in 1989, placing 11th, and in 1990 placing 10th. At 15.3 and one half hands, he was the smallest horse, but had the fastest time in the cross country phase. In the U.S., the most notable Shagya currently eventing is Shagya's Sprite AF; this small (15.1 hands) mare first demonstrated her career preference by jumping over the four foot wall of an arena while being free lunged. A focus shift from dressage to eventing rapidly ensued, and with her owner Gretchen Aycock, she has successfully competed both at the novice level of eventing (qualifying for regional finals) and at open jumping (3'-3'6"). And, like Ghazzir, "mighty Spritey" consistently posts the fastest time on the cross country course!

Shagya blood is utilized in many sport horse breeds to improve endur-



Shagya's Sprite AF, purebred Shagya mare, currently eventing successfully the USA.

ance, tractability, and intelligence – the "interior" qualities so necessary for an eventing horse. The Trakehner White Girl, a Part-Shagya also by Bajar, represented Germany in eventing at the 2000 Atlanta Olympics.

So, if you are looking for a good partner for eventing, consider a NASS-Registered pure- or part-bred Shagya-Arabian!

Submitted by Jamie Buck