



**North American Shagya Arabian Society**  
[www.Shagya.net](http://www.Shagya.net)

August 15, 2008

Dear ISG Board of Directors, ISG-Member Societies, and Individual Members of ISG,

As NASS ISG liaison I am forwarding along to you a letter from the NASS Board of Directors and the NASS ISG Delegates as a follow-up to the 2008 ISG Delegate's Conference.

Thank you very much for your attention, and we are all very much looking forward to any comments or questions which you may have!

Sincerely yours,

Adele Furby, NASS ISG Liaison and NASS ISG Delegate



## North American Shagya Arabian Society

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August 14, 2008

Dear ISG Board of Directors, ISG-Member Societies, and Individual Members of ISG:

Two months have passed since the ISG 25th Anniversary Meeting and, after some reflection and discussion, the NASS Board of Directors and NASS ISG delegates would like to provide feedback to the ISG.

The setting for the meeting at the beautifully-restored Topolcianky stud was inspirational, and the idea to combine the festival for the Shagyas with the Lipizzaners and the Huzuls was a terrific one. It was a pleasure to experience the wonderful results and activities of the traditional and modern horse culture in this part of the world. We would also like to congratulate the ISG for soliciting pamphlets from the various member societies - an excellent informational and promotional tool. Many thanks also to the Furrers for the folder's production.

We would like to comment on the ISG Delegate Conference Meeting:

1) It was very helpful to have a simultaneous English translator there – the translator provided was very good. However, it would be more helpful at future meetings to organize an area in advance where all English-speaking delegates can sit together so that all can hear the translator during the meeting. There were some delegates who could not follow the rapid German and also could not hear the English translator. As ISG grows, there may be even more member societies whose delegates' primary or secondary language will be English rather than German.

2) Regarding minutes from this and future meetings, it is important that member countries who do not understand German receive some type of translation of the minutes. This issue was discussed at Lauf several years ago, and there was concern expressed that there might be a liability issue if ISG published an "official" English translation. Could an "unofficial" version be made with a disclaimer attached to remove any possibility of lawsuits over an "incorrect" translation? We would be happy to help with a translation which could then be shared by all non-German speaking ISG delegates, societies, and members. This would definitely improve communication and be more transparent.

3) Regarding the ASAV resolution: The ISG Board is aware that NASS opposed the resolution to make an exception to allow a second American society into ISG; NASS has communicated its reasons for opposing such a resolution. We would like to point out that this is the second time in five years that this resolution has failed to pass, and it is the second time in five years that a great deal of time has been used during a Delegate conference to discuss the "American situation". The Delegates have spoken and the ISG board needs to listen and not belabor this issue by allowing it to be brought up time and time again at ISG Delegate Conferences.

It has become very clear that ASAV members and others with a complaint against NASS bypass NASS and go directly to the ISG Board. In the past, when a complaint was made to ISG, an ISG officer would contact NASS to investigate. This is the correct way for complaints to be handled. We strongly object to the ISG officers not communicating with NASS regarding these issues and request that this will change. NASS has not been able to respond to any accusations or mitigate any rumors because ISG has not communicated these to NASS. NASS is developing a grievance committee to address any concerns and difficult issues. Complaints and accusations must be investigated before action is taken or decisions are made. When this protocol is followed, a great majority of complaints could be cleared up through simple communication of the facts.

Again, we respectfully request that all complaints against NASS and NASS officers be shared with NASS. It could simply be a matter of forwarding all complaints directly to the NASS president so NASS can respond to the individual and to ISG. In the days of e-mail this is an easy way to keep an open line of communication and in the long run will save time. NASS has been a supportive and compliant ISG member for over 20 years! We know that we can work together to improve communications.

4) While it was stated at the meeting that "ISG cannot investigate", we disagree - ISG can and does investigate - in fact, in future years the ISG will be investigating all societies to confirm compliance with the RZBO. This is correct action for the parent organization and we support this function of ISG.

With regard to this commitment to the RZBO signed by all members at the ISG meeting, we would also like to share with you some excerpts taken verbatim from a letter posted this week by ASAV president Killian Dill on the North American Shagya Forum - HYPERLINK

"<http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/NorthAmericanShagyaForum/?v=1&t=search&ch=web&pub=groups&sec=group&slk=1>"

<http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/NorthAmericanShagyaForum/?v=1&t=search&ch=web&pub=groups&sec=group&slk=1> - which is moderated by ASAV BOD members:

*"Because of the uncertainties in Europe, ASAV cannot wait for ISG to determine the direction of the wind... we have decided to make Inspections optional....Why do horses have to be "re-inspected" every time one moves them from one ISG organization to another? It seems like a big headache for owners and sellers but also just a way for member organization to fill the coffers. The point is not that we don't approve the inspection of breeding stock, but that it does not have to be an ISG sanctioned Inspection..... We leave it to the owner..."*

*The ASAV BOD has also decided to make stallion performance testing optional. Currently there are two choices.... participate in a high performance 100 day stallion test at considerable financial investment ---or --- submit to a weak set of regulations/testing procedures.... we will not impose this on our members. ASAV favors voluntary performance tests ...."*

Nevertheless, on the ASAV homepage on their website - HYPERLINK "<http://www.shagya-arabian-horses-asav.org/>" <http://www.shagya-arabian-horses-asav.org/> , ASAV states that their purpose is to "govern and regulate the approval of breeding stock by ISG standards." Except when it comes to breeding inspections AND performance testing???

Mr. Dill goes on to say: *"In the future, if ISG would like to include ASAV into their network, we will consider their invitation. However, we will not actively seek membership. Our acceptance must be guaranteed."*

NASS stands ready, willing, and able to communicate with ASAV and to welcome ASAV members and horses into NASS if they are willing to comply with ISG regulations. In fact, the great majority of the ASAV-registered Shagya Arabians are already registered with NASS. We are also inviting ASAV members and anyone else interested to run for a board position in NASS. We are currently holding elections for four "at large" Board Members, thus expanding our BOD to nine democratically-elected individuals. This provides any "disenfranchised" individual the opportunity to be heard, to run for office, and if elected to help to shape the future of this organization.

We hope you will help us to mitigate the "American problem" by open and transparent communication among ALL the involved parties. Thank you very much for your attention. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

**North American Shagya-Arabian Society Board of Directors:** Email: [nass@shagya.net](mailto:nass@shagya.net)

Lori Baker, NASS President, NW Regional Director

Gwyn Davis, NASS Vice President

Elaine Kerrigan, SW Regional Director

Kathy Richkind, Rocky Mountain Regional Director

Terry Hey, Midwest Regional Director

Jamie Buck, Eastern Regional Director

Arlene Michaud, Treasurer and BOD Member

**North American Shagya-Arabian Society ISG Delegates:**

Adele Furby, NASS ISG Liaison, NASS ISG Delegate

Kathy Richkind, NASS ISG Delegate

Elaine Kerrigan, NASS ISG Delegate