



North American Shagya-Arabian Society

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Dear Mr. Samarraie & ISG Board of Directors:

I would like to introduce myself as the new President of the North American Shagya-Arabian Society (NASS). I am the proud owner of three Purebred Shagya-Arabian breeding mares. My particular interests are in endurance and dressage. I would like to share some thoughts and concerns that our NASS Board of Directors have.

I am pleased to report that NASS has **102 members** with the following Officers and Board of Directors, all elected democratically by the NASS active membership:

Gwyn Davis – Vice President. Board Member at Large
Arlene Michaud – Treasurer, Board Member at Large
Kathleen Warren – Eastern Regional Director
Monique Vincent – Board Member at Large
Kathy Richkind – Rocky Mountain Regional Director
Adele Furby – Board Member at Large, ISG Liaison
Terry Hey – Midwest Regional Director
Elaine Kerrigan – Southwest Regional Director
Patty Betts – Northwest Regional Director

In addition the Board of Directors has appointed Stephany Seay as Secretary.

There are currently **462** living horses registered in the NASS SHARONA (**SH**agya-Arabian Registry of **North America**) Registry of which **247** are Purebred Shagya-Arabians ("Book I").

As many of you may know, NASS has gone through many challenges these past couple of years and we are very pleased to report that we have successfully added growth, strength and stability to our Shagya organization here in the United States and Canada.

NASS is very proud of our Officers, Board of Directors and Committee Members who with dedication, honesty, commitment and hard work along with legal advice from the NASS attorney have overcome the many challenges presented with professionalism and integrity. We at NASS believe in running this organization in a transparent and business-like manner. NASS Officers, its Board of Directors and its Committee Members are commended for stepping up to recent challenges by tirelessly maintaining NASS' honor, reputation and integrity throughout these years.

Over 22 years ago NASS chose to abide by ISG Standards and Guidelines for the preservation and promotion of the Purebred Shagya-Arabian. NASS will continue to do so through the NASS SHARONA Registry in the United States and Canada.

NASS continues to be successful as a qualified and accurate registry for Shagyas. NASS' Lifetime member Carol D. Neubauer was given an honorary Lifetime Membership from ISG for her thoroughness and accuracy of pedigrees. What a wonderful honor to have her in our organization and as our Registrar!

As you are aware, NASS has always supported the ISG resolution for "*one country, one society*". However, we at NASS are also aware that the current ISG BOD is in favor of allowing another Shagya Society from the United States (ASAV) to become an ISG member. If ISG is seriously considering disregarding its own resolution "*one country, one society*" (which was approved by the vote of the Delegates at a recent ISG Delegates' Conference), then NASS would like to suggest the following:

- 1) If the ISG is willing to grant membership "by exception" to a second Shagya society in ANY country in the world, in order to be fair, transparent, democratic and consistent, it must change its bylaws so as to grant membership to ALL Shagya societies in ALL countries of the world who apply, regardless of the number of Shagya societies already in existence in that country.
- 2) If a Shagya society in ANY country applies for membership in ISG, this society must, at least two months prior to an upcoming Delegate Conference, present a copy of their Society Bylaws, their Society Breeding Regulations, and their Society Studbook to each ISG member Society which sends Delegates to the Delegate Conference. (*This could easily be done electronically*). This would provide each Society and its Delegates the information they would need to make an **informed decision** regarding granting membership to any applying society.
- 3) Furthermore, in any country where there is more than one ISG member Shagya Society, it is necessary that a regulation be adopted whereby each horse which is in a Society's Studbook (including both Stallion and Mare Books) is only represented by a vote from only one of the two societies, and not both. It would be the choice of the owner of the horse which society would represent each breeding horse at ISG meetings. This would insure that no breeding horses would be represented twice.

We would like to point out to you, in reference to the issues discussed above:

- We note that ASAV, (the "second" North American Society) now has a stallion listed in their "on-line studbook" as "Approved for Shagya breeding, 1997". This stallion was inspected during the NASS 1997 Inspection Tour (by Bruno Furrer) and was **NOT approved for Shagya breeding. We would expect that ISG would require ASAV to correct this falsehood as a precondition for ISG membership.**
- The ASAV is also listing another NASS approved stallion with a "new" name which has no relationship whatsoever to his original NASS-registered name or NASS-registration number, and with no information regarding his breeder. While the term "Studbook" is used, it appears that the ASAV "Studbook" is actually a list of all horses registered with ASAV, whereas the word "studbook" should be used to list horses which are approved for breeding. Furthermore, there are no registration "books" named on the registration papers for the horses, and there is no list of approved horses. One might easily infer that all of the horses listed are approved breeding animals, since no distinction is made. This is very confusing to everyone and it will damage the integrity and reputation of the breed ISG lends its good name to by an organization that utilizes these practices. Once again, we would expect that ISG would require that these issues be addressed as a precondition for ASAV membership in ISG.

- We might point out, at this time out of **138** approved breeding horses in the NASS Studbook there are only **5** horses approved for breeding by NASS that are owned by members who have withdrawn from NASS that are in the ASAV "Studbook". Therefore at this time NASS represents **138** approved breeding horses and if ASAV were to obtain ISG membership ASAV would be representing **5** approved breeding horses.

NASS does not object to other organizations in North America promoting the Shagya breed but we do object to other organizations trying to be an ISG recognized registry, listing a "studbook" with "approved horses" when they have clearly stated that they do not believe in inspections, have no published breeding rules which other ISG societies can review, and are listing horses as "approved for Shagya breeding" when they either have NEVER been inspected by ASAV in an ISG conforming inspection and/or were NOT approved by NASS when they were inspected.

We would also like to point out that we have heard that there is now a third Shagya Society in the US called the PShR, and, of course, the NASHR may still be in operation too.

We believe that the concepts we suggested in items one, two, and three above represent a possible solution to this confusing situation. We are considering presenting our proposals to be included as resolutions for consideration by the ISG Delegates at the upcoming Delegate conference in June 2009. NASS prefers one registering organization in North America due our relatively small total number of Shagyas; however we understand that there are others in ISG that have a different perspective.

NASS also has another concern that our Board of Directors would like addressed: Every three years NASS has an Inspection for approval of our Shagya breeding stock. Currently NASS pays approximately **2991 Euros (\$ 3967 US)** in cumulative annual dues to ISG over a three year period. Our NASS membership would appreciate it if some of these dues could be utilized to support and benefit NASS. In this context we request that a portion of these dues be credited to offset travel expenses for the ISG European judges who so generously donate their time to travel to North America and assist us in judging NASS horses during NASS Inspection Tours.

Please note the NASS Treasurer has received approval from the NASS BOD in our January 21, 2009 BOD meeting to release funds for NASS' 2008 ISG dues. The Treasurer will wire transfer the funds next week.

As NASS President, I hope you have the opportunity to seriously consider our concerns addressed and stated above.

Some of our Board Members will be attending the ISG Annual Meeting in Germany this June. We hope to announce our Delegates and attendees soon.

Kindest Regards,

Jamie Buck
NASS President
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Cc: NASS Officers and Board of Directors