



North American Shagya-Arabian Society

To: H.E. Dr. Ferenc Somogyi
Hungarian Ambassador
3910 Shoemaker Street, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Dr. Somogyi,

We are taking the liberty to write you this letter, which we will send both via e-mail and hard copy in order to call to your attention to our concerns about reports which we have recently received with regard to the Shagya Arabian breeding program at the Babolna National Stud Farm in Hungary. These reports regard the recent dismissal of the director of the stud farm, Tamas Rombauer, from his position at Babolna, as well as rumors that plans may be underway to completely eliminate the Shagya-Arabian breeding program there.

The North American Shagya-Arabian Society (NASS) was founded 22 years ago to create an organization in the United States and Canada dedicated to the promotion, preservation, and improvement of the purebred Shagya-Arabian Horse--a 200-year-old Hungarian breed whose birthplace is the famous Babolna National Stud Farm. The NASS has established an American Registry for Shagya-Arabians, and a system for the regulation and approval of breeding stock, all of which are based on the principles and the genetic bloodlines which were developed by the gifted Hungarian Shagya-Arabian breeders at Babolna.

As a member organization of the Purebred Shagya-Arabian Society International [Internationale Shagya-Araber Gesellschaft (ISG)], the NASS is dedicated to dissemination of information about the breed to the public (our NASS website is: www.shagya.net), establishment of awards for performance achievement, and promotion and cooperation with Shagya Arabian breeders around the world. There is national and worldwide concern now regarding the future of Babolna.

Our purpose in writing to you is to state our strong support for the continuation of the Shagya-Arabian breeding program at Babolna. Over the past two decades we have witnessed a tremendous re-flowering of this breed at Babolna, after suffering a decline during World War II and the succeeding decades. Not only have the horses improved greatly, but the many shows, exhibitions, and educational seminars held there have enriched the lives of many equine enthusiasts, as well as providing the casual tourist with an appreciation of the Hungarian history of fine horsemanship.

The Babolna Stud and the horses produced there are known throughout the equestrian world as one of the last living, shining examples of the history and culture of the Austro-Hungarian period, and the horses

produced there are seen as historical, cultural, and genetic treasures which are valued simultaneously for their desirable performance and their reproductive abilities. Furthermore, the historic grounds of the Babolna Stud are a living museum of Hungarian history and THE place to visit for horseman from around the world.

The continuation of such a high quality program requires that truly well-educated and experienced equine experts continue to be utilized as the managers of such an important project, and that the establishment be adequately funded. Your government will be funding not just a horse breeding farm but a living museum which is an historical and cultural treasure of Hungary. Once such a treasure is lost, it can never be regained.

It is our sincere hope that you will pass along our thoughts in support of the continuation of the Shagya-Arabian breeding program at Babolna to the relevant decision-makers in the Hungarian government.

Thank you very much for your time and attention,

Sincerely,

North American Shagya-Arabian Society Board of Directors;

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

Cc via email: Ahmed Al Samarraie, President Internationale Shagya-Araber Gesellschaft c.V. (ISG)

Forwarded to: NASS Membership; Kilian Dill, ASAV President