



North American Shagya-Arabian Society

www.shagya.net

May 26, 2008

To: Mr. Al Samarraie, ISG President

From: North American Shagya-Arabian Society (NASS) Board of Directors and ISG Liasison.

Dear Mr. Al Samarraie,

We would like to thank you for your attention to the NASS Draft of Stallion Performance Requirements. We are pleased that you find it promising, and we appreciate your suggestions, which we will certainly consider. It will be very helpful also to discuss this in person in a few weeks with the NASS Delegates.

Also, thank you very much for your thoughtful reply to the May 18th letter to ISG BoD from NASS. However, we would have appreciated a more detailed response to the issues we raised in our letter.

Regarding the news you sent us that ASAV has sent ISG a proposal to become an ISG member society: NASS remains strongly opposed to the ISG adding more than one ISG recognized Shagya-Arabian organization/registry in the United States (US). With the threat of losing the Babolna National Stud Farm, Shagya-Arabian organizations need to unite more than ever for success and future preservation of this rare breed! We need help from the ISG to accomplish unification - not division.

We would like to again review our previous comments regarding the willingness of ISG to allow a second society into a country which already has a good and functioning Shagya Society. NASS maintains that allowing more than one Shagya-Arabian breed organization in the US is a mistake for the following reasons:

- 1) North America is a very big area geographically, and within these boundaries there exist only a few hundred Shagyas and an even smaller number of Shagya owners. This is a very different situation than the two German societies. Having two smaller societies spread out over a large geographical area does not effectively address our situation. On the contrary, it weakens the human, genetic, and financial resources rather than strengthen them. Other previously divided societies in America, such as the American Trakehner societies, have combined into one, which they decided was a better solution that has benefited all members – ATA now numbers over 1,000 members. People always find reasons to disagree, and it takes work, compromise and dedication to remain unified – adding new societies to accommodate disagreeing members provides no support or encouragement for people to work together.

2) The fact that ISG is now willing to allow a second US Shagya society to become a member society in ISG in such a situation with so few members (less than 150 in total) only encourages other discontented individuals to form new societies every time there is an alleged disagreement or somebody gets angry. This would encourage future divisiveness instead of problem solving. There is a current rumor that a third Shagya society is already forming in North America – will this have the support of the ISG? Go to - <http://www.shagya.us/> What will be the end of this, if the trend continues, four, five and six societies? We doubt that other ISG member societies will appreciate such a precedent being set, because then they also become vulnerable to this dilution of resources within their own countries.

3) We do not believe that the current situation in Germany can be compared to the current North American situation. Circumstances and the reasons behind the formation of a second society in Germany were of an entirely different nature. And, while at the moment it is really fortunate that the two German societies are demonstrating a cooperative trend, we recall that the entire controversy over two societies in Germany created a number of years of painful havoc for both the ISG (particularly at the Delegate Conferences during the 1990's) and in Germany itself.

Please compare this statement of the NASS Purposes, which have published since 1986 with those of ASAV:

The NASS Articles of Incorporation list the following purposes:

- Promotion, preservation and improvement of the purebred Shagya-Arabian horse.
- Establishment of a Shagya-Arabian Registry for purebred and partbred Shagya Arabian horses.
- Regulation and approval of breeding stock.
- Dissemination of information about the breed to the public.
- Establishment of an awards system for performance achievement.
- Promotion and cooperation with Shagya Arabian breeders around the world and in particular, with the International Shagya-Araber Gesellschaft (ISG).

If one looks at the mission statement on the ASAV website, it says that their purpose is to:

Establish a Shagya Registry for purebred Shagya Arabians and partbred Shagya Arabians. Govern and regulate the approval of breeding stock by ISG standards. Educate owners about the history and evolution of the breed so that they can make wise breeding choices. Disseminate educational information about the breed to the public. Establish an awards system for performance achievement. Promote and coordinate with Shagya breeders in the USA and throughout the world.

As can be seen, the ASAV statement is nearly the same in many parts to the NASS statement, and, in fact, many of the phrases are identical! While it is said that "imitation is the sincerest form of flattery", in this case, what is the possible purpose to have two Shagya breeding societies in the same country which have identical purposes?

NASS has made many offers for ASAV to join or merge with NASS. In 2006 NASS inspected their horses (which had previously been inspected at an "ASAV" inspection which ISG ruled was not ISG-conforming) for free to encourage unification of NASS and ASAV. In 2008 NASS enlarged its board of directors (BOD) from two to four "at large" directors elected by membership – this added to the five elected regional directors, gives ASAV supporters an opportunity to

participate as decision makers on the NASS BOD. All of the decision making process in NASS is in the power of the elected BoD. ASAV members could have a major impact if they would choose to work together instead of dividing further away.

One possible source of resistance by ASAV to joining or merge with NASS is that their founding members have lifetime appointments to their BoD, and this may be a sticking point for some of them, since no such life time appointment is possible with NASS, which is a democratic society with Directors elected by its membership for three year terms.

On a more specific note, in reference to the ASAV application, unfortunately the ASAV has not shared any of their application information with NASS, nor can it be found on the ASAV website, so we really are not well-informed as to their Breeding Regulations, their Studbook Rules and Procedures, etc. All of this information should be available to the public.

NASS strongly believes that any Shagya organization/registry must show that they are following all ISG breeding standards and guidelines in the strictest manner before they are even to be considered for ISG membership. This should not be a quick approval process. If the ISG chooses to consider the ASAV application for ISG membership, we request that you provide both NASS and ASAV organizations with a detailed written description of the requirements, standards and conditions that would have to be complied with before a second organization would be allowed to be approved in the US and copies of the ASAV application demonstrating that they comply with these requirements.

We are very concerned about ASAV members who are NOT following ISG-approved procedures regarding stallion approvals. While it has not been the practice nor the policy of NASS to criticize other societies, in this case we feel that we must point out some important the facts supported by evidence, and we must begin to bring your attention to examples of ASAV actions which are NOT ISG conforming. As other examples appear, we will forward the evidence to ISG.

We have attached a few pages from the current ASAV website in which a stallion named "SW Daniel" is being advertised. As background, the last known ASAV inspection occurred in July 2004. This was the inspection which the ISG said was "not ISG conforming". To our knowledge this three year old stallion, "SW Daniel", has never been inspected and or approved for breeding by any Shagya Society (including ASAV). The ASAV website lists this stallion as an "ASAV stallion", and ASAV is advertising SW Daniel as being at stud, and that the stud fee will be donated to ASAV. **Note:** This is not an attack on the individual horse. But, advertising an un-inspected and unapproved stallion for stud services as an "approved ASAV Stallion" and advertising him for breeding as a fund-raiser are both practices which should not be acceptable to ISG! This is not only bad breeding practices, but is also bad for the Shagya-Arabian breeding reputation and promotion throughout the United States. You can easily confirm this situation viewing attachments of the ASAV website saved as .pdf files or by going there directly - <http://www.shagya-arabian-horses-asav.org/>

In closing, we must restate our strong opposition to the ISG allowing for the possibility of more than one US Shagya-Arabian organization as a member of ISG. Every successful breed organization is under one registry in the US. Potential buyers and breeders may turn away from

this breed due to the appearance of instability within the organization. Why would someone invest in a horse whose registry and society cannot unite under one organization and, whose International Member Society will not back the foundation organization 100%? Shagya-Arabian organizations need to unite more than ever for success and future promotion and preservation of this rare breed! We need help from the ISG to encourage unification not division.

Thank you very much for your attention. We look forward to further communication.

Sincerely,

NASS BoD and ISG Liason

President Lori Baker

Vice President Gwyn Davis

Treasurer Arlene Michaud

Assistant Registrar and Midwest RD Terry Hey

Rocky Mountain RD Kathy Richkind

Western RD Elaine Kerrigan

Eastern RD Jamie Buck

ISG Liason Adele Furby

Two Attachments: ASAV Website Homepage and Stallion Page

Cc: ISG Board of Directors: Tamas Rombauer; Walter Huber; Diether von Kleist jun; Franz Hoppenberger; Carin Weiss, ASAV President – Kilian Dill

Forwarded To: NASS Membership