

Congratulations to the 2007 *TAHSSD* Scholarship Recipient, Kara Larson! Here is her essay about the Arabian horse.

The Arabian

By: Kara Larson

The Arabian breed is really known for their intelligence, high spirit, and outstanding stamina. Arabians can be great starter horses, have exceptional bone structure, and also have very colorful personalities. There are many aspects of the arabian that make it different from the other horse breeds.

The first aspect of the arabian is their unique beauty. They have an exclusive confirmation with delicate features and refined bodies. With a distinctively dished head, broad forehead, large eyes, nostrils, and small muzzles, the ideal arabian has a very distinguished look. They also have high tail carriage, and an arched neck that make them extremely striking.

Another aspect of the arabian is their naturally good disposition. Although arabians are in fact hot blooded animals, and can be very spirited, they can also have a sweet, good tempered side that all arabian owners are very familiar with. Arabians can be trusted with small children. When I started riding arabians at age six, I started out on the most well mannered half arabian mare; She was so trusting and just plugged me around the arena. She never took advantage of my limited experience. She taught me how to ride and gave me a great start to build on. As I grew to need more of a challenge in a horse, my family bought my very first arabian at age eight, and that's when the beginning of a life long bond began. I soon grew into much more energetic and bold horses in the years after my first arabian, and I've been through quite a few since. I can tell you that every one of them is so different from the others. But one thing that they all have in common is the fact that they all showed me a challenge. At the time, I may have seen these challenges as burdens that my spunky horses were throwing at me, but without the challenges my past arabians gave me, I wouldn't be the rider I am today.

In addition, arabians are notably versatile horses. They can exceed in so many different areas, whereas most breeds are specialized to one area in the equestrian field. They participate in several disciplines including horse racing, horse shows, dressage, cutting, reining, endurance riding, and show jumping. They also make reliable pleasure, trail, and working ranch horses. Arabians do

especially well in endurance competitions because of their incredible stamina. Their fit bodies, once utilized in the ancient deserts of the middle east, are made to dominate these strenuous distances with their speed, natural balance, and impulsion.

There are so many things about the arabian horse that never cease to amaze me. Arabians are truly extraordinary horses with personalities like no other animal on earth. They have given me so much more than just the ability to ride. They have shown me how to bounce back from failure, how to have patience, and how to appreciate all the gifts God has given me. Arabians have definitely had a huge effect on my life and I plan to be around these gorgeous animals for the rest of my life.