

NASS Announces New Inspection Policy

As the North American Shagya-Arabian Society (NASS) prepares to celebrate the Thirtieth Anniversary of our founding and of our membership in ISG in 2016, NASS celebrates the completion of its tenth inspection tour in September 2015!

Three years after its founding in 1986 NASS organized and executed its first Inspection Tour. The purpose of the tour was to inspect horses which would be used for Purebred Shagya-Arabian breeding in order to comply with the international Shagya-Arabian breeding rules which were developed by the Purebred Shagya-Arabian Society International, the "ISG". During our first tours in 1989 and 1991 we established, with the help of our ISG-certified Shagya-Arabian judges and ISG officers many of the procedures which we have used ever since. This was a pretty new idea in American at that time. The ISG uses a "team" judging approach for breed inspections, and judges are required to be certified to judge Shagya-Arabians by the ISG. (This process involves being nominated by a national ISG-member society, attending an ISG judging course in Europe, and apprentice judging at three Shagya-Arabian shows or inspections.)

During our early years since NASS had only one ISG-certified American judge in residence, NASS needed to invite foreign ISG-certified judges to assist us, and in order to make these tours affordable we scheduled them every three years beginning in 1991. In 2012 NASS was able for the first time to utilize an all-American ISG-certified judging team because by then NASS was fortunate to enough have three ISG-certified judges.

Historically NASS has inspected NASS-registered Purebred Shagya-Arabians as well as Purebred Arabians and horses whose pedigrees consist of a mixture of Shagya-Arabian and Purebred Arabian blood for breeding approval. These are the horses whose pedigrees qualify them for entry into the Shagya-Arabian studbook. (International breeding rules for Shagya-Arabians do not allow for any non-Arabian blood into the Shagya breed.) NASS has historically also offered evaluations for offspring of Shagyas and horses of any other breed (i.e. "partbreds") as well, and in 2012 NASS decided to also offer inspections for mares of any breed whose owners are considering breeding to a Shagya-bred stallion. This has proven to be an interesting addition to our NASS inspections.

NASS is now instituting a new program for future inspections which will further expand the scope of our inspections. We will begin to have regionally-organized inspections in 2016, and we plan to have them at any time during the year when a group can organize such an event (and NASS judges are available), and to have them every year.

Since NASS now has 3 internationally-qualified judges living in the US, (plus one apprentice "in the pipeline"), NASS anticipates that we will be able to accommodate the increase in inspections on shorter notice and more often than in the past. We also plan on further emphasizing evaluations as well as inspections for breeding at every event and encouraging more exhibition of the horses as well as educational opportunities in conjunction with inspection/evaluations--more of a "festival of Shagya-Arabian horses".

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And we can welcome folks with Arabian-bred horses as well as Shagya-bred horses. It gives people a chance to participate with their horses even when they have no plans to breed, and in this day and age there are more owners who are not breeders. Also, it gives a chance to include partbreds as well as non-Arab breeds which may be used as outcrosses to produce partbreds. And it gives a breed society information about how each breeding horse/bloodline is producing and influencing the breed. At the end of the year the NASS Breeding Committee will prepare an "Inspection/Evaluation Annual Issue" similar to the recent inspection issues we have published which will be mailed to all NASS members.

We are excited about our ability to open up more possibilities to utilize our Shagya-Arabian inspections and evaluations to benefit both the Shagya-Arabian breed and NASS Registry, and to possibly include more participation and involvement with other owners and breeders of Arabian horses suitable for sport riding and driving. Since our system of judging and evaluation of Shagya-Arabian horses is essentially a system which has been developed in Europe over more than 200 years with the goal of producing a superior Arabian-bred "calvary" horse, this system is very appropriate for modern "sport horse" breeders, as all of our competitive sport horse disciplines are essentially disciplines that were originally developed for calvary use.