



Polski Związek Hodowców Koni Arabskich

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The Times Editorial Team
Mrs. Editor of The Times
Maria Wilczek

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Dear Madam / Dear Editorial Team,

It is with great interest that we read your article titled "Polish purge leaves Janów Podlaski stud in crisis" in the online edition of The Times from 18.05.2020. You write about Arabian horses bred in Poland and describe events related to our activities, which affects us directly.

This text, which was published for a very large area of the world and is in English, clearly suggests that the situation at Janów Podlaski Stud is synonymous with the state of the entire Arabian horse breeding in Poland, which is obviously not true. Even if bad things are happening in Janów Podlaski Stud and there is a crisis, this does not mean that Poland is no longer relevant in the field of Arabian horse breeding worldwide and "is not worth visiting".

In connection with the message that has been sent from the abovementioned article, we would like to provide you with more information on the state of Arabian horse breeding in Poland, according to our knowledge based on the many years of experience of Arabian horse breeders who are members of the Polish Arabian Horse Breeders Association (PAHBA).

After systemic/political changes resulting from the fall of communism in Poland, it became possible for private owners to purchase and own Arabian horses beginning from the early 1990s (earlier such a possibility did not exist and only state studs had Arabian horses.) In the following years there was a dynamic development of private breeding, which continues till this day due to enthusiasts and lovers of horses of this breed who invest huge money in the purchase of broodmares (including those of exceptional value), stallion semen etc. State owned breeding, on the other hand, generally fared quite well, although the average prices of horses varied over the years, so the selling of horses and stallion breedings was probably not always profitable. However these are large farms that also profit from the cultivation of land and milk production.

In 1998, the Polish Arabian Horse Breeders Association was founded, which unites breeders from both state and private studs. When assessing their work, one should pay attention to the number of broodmares, born foals, and the number of titles won at Arabian horse shows in specific years. Based on these factors, it is possible to estimate the position of a given stud in Poland or of the breeding of a given country in the world.

In Poland, the number of pure bred Arabian mares has remained more or less stable since 2010 and amounts to a total of approx. 1,100 heads, of which a total of approx. 250 broodmares

have been maintained in three state studs since then. Approximately 550-600 foals are registered every year, because not all mares are used in breeding. Analysis shows that private breeding has been larger than state owned breeding for many years. Janów Podlaski Stud informs on its website that 58 pure bred foals were born there this season as of May 22nd, 2020. It can be assumed that this will constitute for about 10% of all Arabian foals born in 2020 in Poland. Do you think the breeders of the remaining 90% should bear the consequences of bad opinions appearing in the press/television/internet about these 10% from Janów Podlaski?

The vast majority of private studs are not as large as those owned by the National Support Centre for Agriculture (KOWR), but there are many more of them than state owned ones. Thanks to a smaller number of animals, it is easier to ensure their well-being and raise foals, with breeders being more and more successful at horse shows. For example: at one of the most important shows in the world – the 2019 European Championships in Italy, private horses won 3 medals (Star Farid, Paprotnia, Ames JR) and won 2 classes (Psyche Kreuz, Ames JR), while at the 2019 World Championships the privately bred Eralda won the title of Reserve Champion Mare.

Based on the situation in one of the state studs, one cannot write that the Polish Arabian horse breeding program does not arouse interest in the world. By issuing such an opinion, you omit the successes of Polish Arabian horses from the last 3 years, the great effort of their creators, their money and time invested. What's more - by publishing such an opinion-forming article, you can harm the entire industry and indirectly contribute to a decrease in the prices of these horses. **We hope that this is not your goal and we ask you to publish a proper correction.**

Yes - well-known actors, fashion designers and singers came to Poland in the 1980s and 1990s and they actually made the Polish Arabian horse brand famous, but unfortunately in the last twenty years the only celebrities who came to purchase horses were Shirley and Charlie Watts. This does not change the fact that the Polish breeding program continues to arouse interest in the world and is valued by enthusiasts, experts and breeders of the Arabian horse, proof of which are numerous articles published on this subject.

We would also like to send you and The Times the "Polish Arabian Horse Breeders Association - 20 years" booklet, which was published by PAHBA on the occasion of our association's 20th anniversary.

The publication contains important knowledge about Arabian Horse breeding in Poland during 1998 -2018 and presents its achievements and successes.

Therefore, please provide the postal addresses where we should send it to. At the same time, we would like to inform you that our letter to both you and The Times will be made public by us, because our members and the PAHBA Statute oblige us to do so.

Yours sincerely,

the PAHBA Board