

# Striving for Realism in the Arabian Model

By Julie Poremba

The Arabian horse is one of the most popular breeds seen in model collections today. Because the showing of model Arabians is highly competitive, it is the detail, the realism of the model that counts. There are many methods to make your miniature Arab be a winning representation of the real thing.

For starters, when you think "Arabian," think "type." The word "type" refers to desirable characteristics an Arabian may possess. The head should have a wide "jibbah-ed" (domed) forehead, with large eyes and small, shapely ears. The profile is dished and tapers to a delicate muzzle. The entire structure of the head is sculpted with sharply defined veins and bones, otherwise known as "dry." Overall faultless conformation is the final characteristic of a typey Arabian. Few Arabs can achieve such perfection, but if an Arabian has most of these specifications, it may be described as "type."

Secondly, classifying your model as "Arabian" is not enough, especially if you are using it for breeding purposes. There is more than one type of Arabian: Egyptian, Polish, desert-bred, Russian, and Spanish are the types most frequently seen.

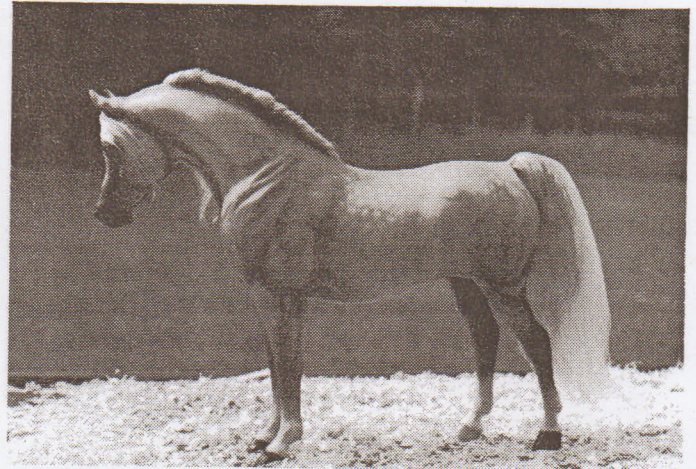
An Egyptian Arabian is a picture of refinement and elegance. It possesses a slender frame, thin neck, and delicate type-y head. The Breyer Classic Arabian Mare is definitely of Egyptian descent.

The Polish Arabian is more robust than the Egyptian breed. It has a larger muzzle, thicker neck, and overall a heavier frame, but it is *not* coarse in the least, and has its own degree of refinement. Choose a Polish strain for your Proud Arabian Stallion.

Modern desert-bred Arabians are those whose lineage can be proven to descend directly from desert tribes. The largest and best known group of desert-breds being bred pure are the Davenport Arabians. These horses are less refined than the above mentioned strains and resemble the hardy, tough, "war horse" Arabs seen in "Arabian desert" type movies. The Breyer Family Arabian Mare is a good example of a desert-bred.

The Spanish and Russian Arabs are based on Polish bloodlines, though the two types have been refined more than the pure Polish breed, less than the Egyptian breed.

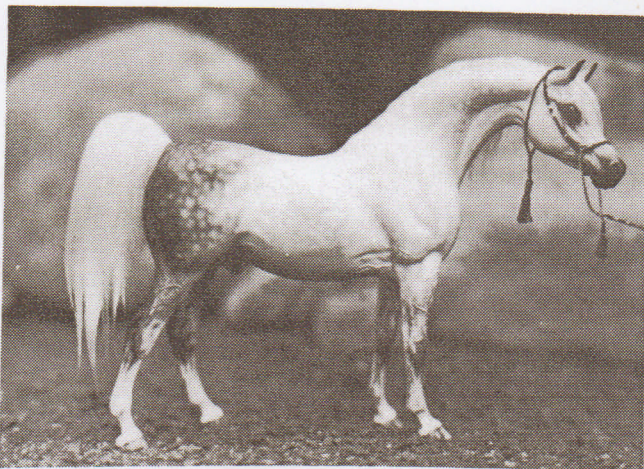
Purebred Arabians can be any shade of grey, bay, or chestnut. Blacks and roans are also acceptable, and while brown Arabs are seen, they are registered as bay. The true white Arabian, which has



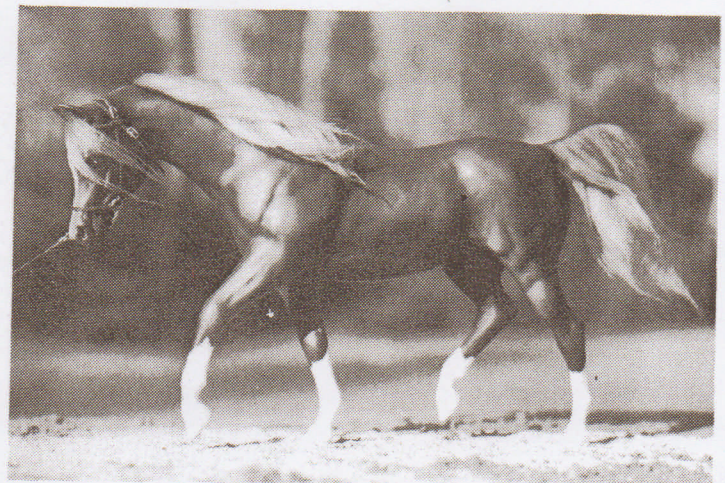
*Angel Queen, Proud Arab Mare RRH by Julie Froelich.*

been *born* white, is a rare find. True whites have dark eyes and may have mottled skin rather than the usual black. They are not to be confused with the albino coloring (pink skin and pink or blue eyes) which is not a permissible Arabian color. The "white" Arabians one sees so often are grey horses born a dark color that have matured into a milky-white coat. Today the Arabian Registry registers true white Arabs as gray, though in your sire/dam list, it is to your benefit to describe your model as a true white if that is indeed its color, instead of grey.

Arabians appear with the usual facial and leg markings, but can possess more uncommon markings as well. Sometimes purebred Arabians are born with spots which may occur as dark or light areas on a solid colored body, or as white spots. These markings are called "body spots." The bedouins believed there were meanings behind body spots. For example, white markings located behind the shoulders, called "wings," were a symbol of swiftness. Body spots on Arabians are often a single patch of white on the belly, or can appear as small round or oval spots on the side of the body or under the jaw. Stockings over the knee are classified as "high white," especially when the horse also has a wide blaze. These markings used to be "permissible but not desirable" in the registry, but this statement has been excluded since 1970. Extremely rare is the



*Monsata 'Il Shijar, stallion by Sarah Minkiewicz.*



*Wizard's Vale Silmarien, mare by Karen Gerhardt.*

#7 Dec '89-Jan '90