

# NK Nadeer:

## Blood Will Tell

The stallion NK Nadeer is not just a stroke of luck, but the result of a strategic breeding history.

**F**or insider of Straight Egyptian line breeding, NK Nadeer is no less than a star. For him, it doesn't take a website, it doesn't take photos published via Facebook or Instagram, and no video clips to be clicked a thousand times until he is finally remembered. He sports no more than a minimal presence in the media, and still everybody knows him. Observing the demand for his foals, you might come to the conclusion that all of that is an asset and may have served to create his reputation as an outstanding sire. After all, it's not pictures that advertise him, but the horse himself, his sire and dam, his grandsires and granddams, and his offspring that can be met by every visitor to his Katharinenhof stud located in a small village in Northern Germany. He is interconnected within the frame of a breeding project that is more than



just a list of names in a pedigree. In this project, the ancestry and the horse himself are noticeably connected, with genotype and phenotype in harmony with each other. His horse family is a real one, and the special traits of his line are genetically consolidated and easily recognized. NK Nadeer never attended a show, as this was never necessary – Katharinenhof stud is his stage where the actors present themselves as soon as visitors knock on the door. It was Hans Nagel, his breeder, who built this small world-renowned stage, and every interested visitor is highly welcome, be he a fan or somebody wishing to find faults. The latter is not a problem here, as the Katharinenhof project, with its closed studbook, is way beyond the

standards that measure „success“ on the occasion of shows. His project originated 50 years ago, and regardless of the fact that Hans Nagel is 86 years old now and only recently withdrew from his post as WAHO president on grounds of age, he has never been observed to be short of ideas for his breeding strategies. He is the author of several books on Arabian horse breeding, translated into three languages. As a long-time A judge with ECAHO and co-founder of the All Nations Cup in Aachen, he is thoroughly familiar with the Arabian show scene and with breeders all over the world from long years of co-operation. When working for the WAHO board, he would propose

NK Nadeer



*Sire and Dam of NK Nazeer*



NK Hafid Jamil (Ibn Nejdý x Helala)



NK Nadirah (Adnan x Nashua)

## NK Nadeer

2005 grey, stallion

		<b>SALAA EL DINE</b> GASB*5170 Grey 1985	<b>ANSATA HALIM SHAH</b> GASB*2797 Grey 1980 <b>HANAN</b> GASB*276 Bay 1967
	<b>NEJDY</b> GASB*8627 Grey 1988	<b>LOTFEIA</b> GASB*8364 Grey 1967	<b>ALAA EL DIN</b> EAO*352 Chestnut 1956 <b>BINT KAMLA</b> EAO*122 Chestnut 1956
	<b>IBN NEJDY</b> GASB*16524 Grey 1992		
	<b>GHAZALA</b> GASB*815 Grey 1973	<b>GHAZAL AV</b> *48 Grey 1953	<b>NAZEER RAS</b> *247 Grey 1934 <b>BUKRA RAS</b> *384 Grey 1942
	<b>NK HAFID JAMIL</b> GASB*23362 Grey 1996	<b>HANAN AV</b> *544 Bay 1967	<b>ALAA EL DIN</b> EAO*352 Chestnut 1956 <b>MONA</b> EAO*521 Bay 1956
	<b>SALAA EL DINE</b> GASB*5170 Grey 1985	<b>HANAN</b> GASB*276 Bay 1967	<b>*ANSATA IBN HALIMA++</b> AHR*15897 Grey 1958 <b>ANSATA ROSETTA</b> AHR*70167 Grey 1971 <b>ALAA EL DIN</b> EAO*352 Chestnut 1956 <b>MONA</b> EAO*521 Bay 1956
	<b>HELALA</b> GASB*13084 Bay 1992		
	<b>ANSATA GLORIANA</b> GASB*13434 Grey 1986	<b>*JAMILLL</b> AHR*268275 Grey 1975	<b>MADKOUR I</b> GASB*555 Grey 1971 <b>HANAN</b> GASB*276 Bay 1967
	<b>SALAA EL DINE</b> GASB*5170 Grey 1985	<b>ANSATA GHAZIA</b> AHR*237262 Grey 1981	<b>*ANSATA IBN HALIMA++</b> AHR*15897 Grey 1958 <b>ANSATA GHAZALA</b> AHR*137116 Grey 1976
	<b>ADNAN</b> GASB*13069 Grey 1989	<b>ANSATA HALIM SHAH</b> GASB*2797 Grey 1980	<b>*ANSATA IBN HALIMA</b> AHR*15897 Grey 1958 <b>ANSATA ROSETTA</b> AHR*70167 Grey 1971 <b>ALAA EL DIN</b> EAO*352 Chestnut 1956 <b>MONA</b> EAO*521 Bay 1956
	<b>GHAZALA</b> GASB*815 Grey 1973	<b>GHAZAL AV</b> *48 Grey 1953	<b>NAZEER RAS</b> *247 Grey 1934 <b>BUKRA RAS</b> *384 Grey 1942
	<b>NK NADIRAH</b> Grey 2000	<b>HANAN AV</b> *544 Bay 1967	<b>ALAA EL DIN</b> EAO*352 Chestnut 1956 <b>MONA</b> EAO*521 Bay 1956
	<b>SALAA EL DINE</b> GASB*5170 Grey 1985	<b>HANAN</b> GASB*276 Bay 1967	<b>*ANSATA IBN HALIMA</b> AHR*15897 Grey 1958 <b>ANSATA ROSETTA</b> AHR*70167 Grey 1971 <b>ALAA EL DIN</b> EAO*352 Chestnut 1956 <b>MONA</b> EAO*521 Bay 1956
	<b>NASHUA</b> GASB*9356 Chestnut 1990		
	<b>LOTFEIA</b> GASB*8364 Grey 1967	<b>ALAA EL DIN</b> EAO*352 Chestnut 1956	<b>NAZEER RAS</b> *247 Grey 1934 <b>KATEEFA</b> RAS*321 Grey 1938 <b>EL SAREEI</b> RAS*387 Bay 1942 <b>KAMLA</b> RAS*382 Grey 1942



breeding strategies and actions that would be based on scientific findings as well as on social commitment. Horses and Hans Nagel, that's a symbiosis. There is mutual need as well as love. Nagel's bond with NK Nadeer is a special relationship. In his book „The Arabian Horse – Nature's Creation and the Art of Breeding“ Nagel wrote about Nadeer: „NK Nadeer has that indefinable special aura that is sometimes called „personality, sometimes „charisma“ and often „presence“. Whatever it is called, he has a special quality that means one cannot take one's eyes off this charming and captivating stallion. All of these elements are expressed in his elegance, lightness, and noblesse, a horse which breathes all the flair of an environment which leads directly to the deserts of the Nejd.“

NK Nadeer was born in Katharinenhof Stud in Northern Germany and has lived on this farm for 11 years as a breeding stallion, never leaving his stud. Nadeer is an impressively looking horse who fulfills all requirements in type and

conformation, making a perfect example for an Arabian as his owner likes to see them. NK Nadeer is, at this time, one of the most well-known and the most used stallion in this particular breeding population. What's particular about this population consisting of about 25 breeding horses is the fact that it has been closed for 35 years now. During this time, no other horse, stallion or mare, was introduced into this herd. The total breeding process takes place within four female families and one stallion line. As there is nobody who's more qualified to talk about NK Nadeer than Dr. Nagel himself, I asked him some questions.

How did the decision for a closed breeding concept originate?

“The decision for a concept like this one is the result of comprehensive studies about the historical Arabian horse and his breeding in the Arab countries in the past, especially on the Arabian Peninsula which is considered the



photo by Monika Steiner



*Dr. Hans Nagel, breeder and owner of NK Nadeer*

original region where this type of horse developed.

As a consequence of the hard living conditions, the number of horses in this vast area was small. The economy and survival of the people were based on camels and sheep; horses were only needed in limited local conflicts and were a luxury outside of that, which is why the horses were mostly in the hands of the great Sheikhs who could afford such expenses. In addition, there were great geographical distances between breeders in the desert, and those people as such were quite suspicious towards everything they did not know exactly. So these were the small melting pots in which everything that was not apt for survival was culled by nature for hundreds of years. As a result, a comparatively homogeneous population with nearly no major hereditary shortcomings developed. This fact is confirmed by the clear dominance of Arabian horses for use in Europe for crossing with other breeds in former times.”

So what you did was, more or less, imitate the kind of closed population of the Arabian Peninsula that gave rise to the Arabian breed?

“Well, yes. However, it requires a lot of patience and effort, and the necessary knowledge of where to find horses which have undergone a process of genetic purification similar to the one in the desert. This was true in the past and this is even more true in our days.

The Egyptian State Stud of El Zahraa seems to be and was in fact a suitable and favorable place to look for such horses. The historical records of many of their root mares, on whom this stud is based, go right back to the Peninsula. Many Arabian studs worldwide which have based their breeding on horses from El

Zahraa confirm that valuable historical gene material is still present and not yet lost.

The small closed breeding population of Katharinenhof stud from which NK Nadeer emerged, comprising of 18 to 20 females and 6 stallions, has now reached its 6th generation and there is, surprisingly, nothing to indicate that the variation in this herd is exhausted, since each new foal crop still displays improvements and permits selection in a positive direction.”

The inbreeding concept you maintain is subject to lots of discussion. What’s the scientific position on this topic?

“It has to be accepted that certain people, when becoming aware and confronted with such a concept, will immediately see “the writing on the wall” warning of the dangers. Some of these people belong to a group which never looks into details, just quoting the opinions of others who voice serious concern in this matter. Others acquired some knowledge of principles that were valid until now and that form the basis for the definition of inbreeding and of how the respective indexes and coefficients are calculated. Many of those principles are beginning to lose their validity due to improved knowledge about inheritability. The normal procedure for calculating the make-up of some offspring, based on percentages of sire, dam, and the relative grandparents, is just a mathematical calculation, but there is nobody who can present facts and figures obtained from a well-established realistic and well-tested breeding program. Today biological data can be obtained by analyzing DNA results which will make for precise calculation of which parents will transmit the most influential share of genes to the offspring they produce.

*The Two Sons of NK Nadeer and his Full Brother NK Nizam*



*NK Nabhan (NK Nadeer x NK Nerham)*



*NK Nizam (NK Hafid Jamil x NK Nadirah), full brother to NK Nadeer*



*NK Naeem (NK Nadeer x NK Bint Bint Nashua)*

*The Daughters of NK Nadeer*



*NK Nachita (NK Nadeer x NK Bint Bint Nashua)*



*NK Nounou (NK Nadeer x NK Bint Bint Nashua)*



*NK Habiba (NK Nadeer x Ansata Ken Ranya)*



*NK Nazli (NK Nadeer x NK Nasrin)*

The Arabians of Katharinenhof have been well examined and results of such DNA tests are available and carefully observed when breeding decisions are taken. This is a unique procedure which is seldom or even nowhere yet applied in other breeding programs. Until now, there is no comprehensive literature on Arabian breeding that concentrates on these new technologies in particular. It's just here and there that one finds scientific publications about this subject. Maybe there is not enough interest yet or people are extremely careful, for as a side line, which leads eventually to delicate discussions, might need to be launched.

However, it is just a matter of time until we will have to accept that certain procedures and facts that are valid nowadays will be outdated, and replaced by new scientific findings, which will open much more comprehensive, but also much more complicated views on breeding."

Nadeer's parents and many of his ancestors are well-known breeding

horses at least in the sphere of Egyptian breeders, and all have proven their potential by their gets. Tell us more about his tail lines and offspring, please.

"His sire Hafid Jamil has produced males and females of excellent quality and is one of those stallions who are in fact able to produce both sexes. His sons can be found in many countries, like Egypt, Kuwait, Qatar, Italy, and Great Britain. They all display and also reproduce this special look of Hafid Jamil, whose strongest part is his very particular Arabian type. It's not easy to find another horse anywhere which is comparable to him in this respect. A lot can be said about shortages in his conformation - however, by breeding him to well-chosen mares, offspring of the highest quality in both type and conformation will be produced. NK Nadeer's mother, NK Nadirah, is considered the "pearl" in Katharinenhof's herd. She is a mare which knowledgeable breeders would rate as a broodmare of the highest quality: this means a mare who will



*NK Nina (NK Nadeer x NK Bint Bint Nashua)*



*Dr. Nagel and Judith Forbis in Syria*

produce good foals consistently with different stallions. NK Nadirah, when bred to NK Hafid Jamil, produced e.g. NK Nadeer and two full sisters of his, who went to Kuwaiti and Bahraini breeders. When she was bred to NK Kamar, a NK Hafid Jamil son and one of the additional breeding stallions at Katharinenhof, two fillies were born, the beautiful bay NK Nawal and her full sister NK Nakybia, a sister of the same quality, who is owned by breeders in Great Britain.

It is of great interest to mention a full brother to NK Nadeer, NK Nizzam, who is kept in the stud. He is now two years old and is expected to develop into a second chief sire with extraordinary potential within this line. He is an elegant bay stallion who resembles his sire, NK Hafid Jamil, more than his dam NK Nadirah. NK Nizzam has a sensational wide head with dark big eyes and white open round nostrils, an ideal topline and exciting movements. He looks quite different in type from his brother, which is proof once again of how much variation there is still existing in this Katharinenhof breeding program. NK Nadeer, however, the son of NK Hafid Jamil and NK Nadirah, got a large part of his looks and his genetic make-up from his dam Nadirah. He has started on his own breeding career already, but his



*Dr. Nagel with Mrs. Babary in Cairo*

sons and daughters are still very rare and limited, due to the fact that every stallion is expected to pass the Katharinenhof testing period before he is employed on a larger scale.

At present, his two oldest sons, which have been kept for further breeding, are just entering their testing program, just as are NK Nabhan and NK Naeem, both of them stallions from the Hadban family, which is a very important section in the broodmare band. On the female side, several NK Nadeer daughters just became a part of the breeding herd at Katharinenhof, others have been shipped to Kuwait to the El Adiyat Stud of Mr. Al Zubaid, and to Egypt. The German breeders Robert Schlereth and Volker Wettengl of Al Qusar Stud and Mrs. Tietze from Austria, have also used NK Nadeer for breeding in the past and are now proud of foals which NK Nadeer has produced for them.

The following Nadeer daughters are kept for the stud: the oldest is NK Nefisa, 5 years old, then the mare NK Habiba, and last not least three full sisters, NK Lina, NK Nachita and NK Nounou. Some other daughters of NK Nadeer have left for Kuwait to El Adiyat Stud, among them the outstanding filly NK Aya. Also in Egypt there is a beautiful NK Nadeer daughter living in Rabab Stud. Her name is NK Hebba out of the



*Dr. Nagel with his wife Nawal with the beduins in Khuzestan, Iran*

Jamal el Dine daughter NK Hind. NK Nadeer will definitely go on being one of the important stud stallions, bred at Katharinenhof, just as are Jamil, the son of Madkour I, Salaa el Dine, by Ansata Halim Shah and NK Hafid Jamil, a son of Ibn Nejdy.”

To get a good idea of the potential of NK Nadeer, it is quite useful to look somewhat deeper into his history of Egyptian breeding. What are the origins of NK Nadeer?

“Naturally the Egyptian State Farm El Zahraa was and is an ideal place to study in order to find traces which are very useful to make proper breeding decisions. Specifically in the 1960ies, not many exports out of Egypt have been made and their best horses were kept in the stud. So many members of the same horse family are still to be found there. Such families trace their history back to the establishment of the El Zahraa herd. There were not many of them, and at that time the whole population was easy to survey, since these families were not actually large, and there was just a limited number of different stallions used for breeding. This fact made it possible to recognize the basic characteristics of a family quite clearly. It could be noticed that certain mares within a family were

very important and were dominating the whole group. They had the best foals, even from different stallions. Other families did not have such outstanding mares and their females might be considered “incubators”, to put this somewhat rudely. They did not develop an identity of their own.

On the stallion side it was Mansour and his two sons, Nazeer und Sheikh el Arab, who had the strongest influence on the stud as a whole, possibly only supported by Shahloul, the third sire which might be named as creative stallion.

Katharinenhof’s choice of mares for purchase were those who connected, as close as possible, immediately to those mares and stallions whose family’s picture was very clear and transparent.

There were other stallions at El Zahraa at that time, but none of them ever created a sireline. Some were kept for a double purpose, for breeding race horses and for breeding the traditional historical type as a heritage which was one of El Zahraa’s purposes as a governmental stud. Finally it was Nazeer, the “Stallion of the Century”, who created the only powerful sireline until today, with branches in many breeding programs in different countries.

NK Nadeer fits perfectly in this family picture, certainly due to the similarity to his ancestors. It starts with the Nazeer

son Ansata Ibn Halima, followed by Ansata Halim Shah, then Salaa el Dine, and finally NK Hafid Jamil as NK Nadeer's direct sire. In examining Nadeer properly, he has a lot of features which compare to those of Nazeer: The same size, the gray color, an elegant neck, and a square horse overall. And what about the features of his head which is so much worshipped today? Fortunately, Nazeer did not have the extremely dished head that is so popular today. Some of these heads have the tendency to look strange and come close to a shape which is on the brink of being abnormal. One might fear that in the Arabian world, we might come close to the world of dogs, where abnormal features became normal and where "make-up" and fancy attributes, such as clothing and overdone leashes, have reached a ridiculous level. All the famous Nazeer sons - Ibn Halima, Morafic, Hadban, Ghazal, Alaa el Din or Aswan - all of them showed the typical Arabian look overall, and above all, they continued to be elegant and correctly built impressive horses.

On his dam's side as well, NK Nadeer and Nazeer have important points in common. Both had a Hadban mare as their dam, as Bint Samiha is the dam of Nazeer, and NK Nadirah is the dam of NK Nadeer. Their common female line tails as follows: Samiha - Bint Samiha - Kamla - Bint Kamla - Lotfeia - Nashua - NK Nadirah. These are all brilliant names, and each of them made an enormous contribution to the fame of the Egyptian Arabian population today. On Katharinenhof Stud, this Hadban family had the greatest impact up to now. There are three other families on which the breeding program is based. In principle, they all had the same chances to develop, but the Hadban developed into the largest group, followed by the Siglawy group going back to Moniet el Nefous, then the Obayan group with Hanan as their root mare, and finally the Dahman Shawan group with Bukra as the representative of this family in El Zahraa. It is quite astonishing that the four original mares which were chosen in the 1960ies were able to continue as valuable



*Majd Al Qusar (NK Nadeer x Mashabana Al Qusar), bred and owned by Al Qusar Stud*



*NK Aya (NK Nadeer x NK Aziza), owned by Mahmood Al Zubaid, El Adiyat Arabians, Kuwait*

broodmares for 6 generations. None of them needed to be culled or replaced by another mare family for displaying traits which were not liked or which would create doubts as to whether the horses were fit or sturdy enough and were actually eligible for a breeding program which was designed to be closed sooner or later.

To this day, you can still allot each one of the existing mares to the original family picture which was once recognizable in the El Zahraa population. Any major deviations from the standard family type are easy to explain: it was the dominance of the sire which created that difference, that notable deviation.

In order not to lose these family resemblances, and at the same time to maintain a certain variation in the stud, knowing each horse and its genetic make-up is an indispensable requirement. When studying the DNA results and evaluating the horse individually, knowing his history very well including the features of stud's horses, there is astonishing evidence that the results of both procedures match each other in an unexpected way. For all that is explained above, NK Nadeer himself and his offspring, daughters as well as sons, appear as a

generation which can be considered a further upgrade if compared to the previous one, and at the same time, a valuable source for maintaining and fostering good and positive features."

This was an in-depth expert look into the history and future of Egyptian Arabian horse breeding, and in particular, into Katharinenhof stud with its breeding methods which Nagel himself has come to call his "long-term experiment in breeding". After all, with the possible exception of El Zahraa, there is not a single stud in the world that dares to engage, on a long term basis, in what is called „inbreeding”, a general term which is considered to be a very narrow concept, but in reality is of a wide complexity which needs to be much better understood. The Arabian horse stock of Katharinenhof poses a unique chance to study the concept, which is why Hans Nagel is readily available for any open discussion about the positive as well as the critical results of his experiment. Horses such as Nadeer, a result of 6 generations of breeding within a carefully selected closed genepool, are living proof of quality of the breed and of the breeding method that produced him. Blood will tell, after all. ○

*The broodmare band at the Katharinenhof*

