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Arab gelding 10 years





Example of a “Horseprofile” by Klaus Ferdinand Hempfling

Comments beforehand:

When I describe horses, as a rule, I try to avoid any kind of judgment. That belongs to the foundation of my work. In my eyes, each being is a complete, whole creation and should be seen in its universal connection. For example: One horse may appear less intelligent than another. This is

then a neutral fact – not a judgment. A less intelligent horse even can be much better for his owner. It is more forgiving towards its owner’s mistakes and it doesn’t pick up bad habits quite so easily. So, my advice to you is this: Please try not to judge.

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As I mention in my book “What Horses Reveal”, the 26 individual characters that I describe, only serve to clarify your approach towards a horse. I have dared taking this step so that it might be easier for anyone interested to understand what I’m doing. At the end of the day, each horse is, of course, a unique individual. The system of

characterization is a help towards understanding this. When I make a profile of a horse I seek to find the uniqueness in this particular horse. This is why I often describe more character types in one horse. Copies of the relevant descriptions from the book “What Horses Reveal” are included in the profile.

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The whole impression of this horse profile is meant to stimulate your creativity. It is meant to give you inspiration. Please be aware that all observations in this profile refer only to this

particular horse. They are not meant for any other horse, not even when some of the parts seem similar to another one. All observations around a Horse serve to create the total, individual picture.



The Horse – The Owner’s remarks:

It is a 10 year old Arab gelding. The present owner has had him since he was two years old. She describes him as very affectionate towards her - she has a very strong bond with him. The horse often comes to her in full gallop when he sees her. Up to now, it has not been possible for her to decide his character. She feels something like an unexplainable “inner conflict” by the horse. Her biggest worry is that the horse sometimes injures himself without

any reasonable explanation.

In one of these cases, the gelding injured himself so badly while being in the Stable, that he had to have medical treatment for several months. The horse has been behaving very aggressive towards one particular horse trainer. He warned the owner, that this horse has an aggressive attitude in general. But she has not experienced any other trace of aggression by her horse.



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(1)

The Profile:



1. General Observations

The most characteristic details:

These parts of the horse stand out most clearly for me:

From the shoulder joint down to the point of the elbow.

The area around the nostrils and the mouth.

The nasal bone with its characteristic wavy curve.

The area around the knee and its effect on the position of the hind legs. The area around the eye is especially important for the characterizing of this horse.

Please try by yourself to read these signs and let them work on you for a while. I come to the following conclusions:



How the Gelding Relates to People and Horses:

This horse is above average intelligence. He is playful, creative, receptive and very interested in life. He is a friendly horse and fundamentally not aggressive. Aggressiveness can arise when he does not feel understood and will appear spontaneously as a reaction caused by continued improper behaviour towards him. In that case the reaction may even be quite strong (biting rather than kicking).

This horse is very close to human beings and will open up towards a person very easily. It seeks and needs the attention and impulses from humans. This horse is suited for someone who has got a lot of time for this fellow and wants to be with him. Both his main characters need attention and affection. This gelding hardly shows signs of

stubbornness. He is learning quickly, even though he sometimes tends to pay great attention to things that do not belong to the training, and that requires patience and understanding. The charming playfulness in his always young mind will accompany this grey horse until the last days of his life.



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This horse is sensitive, delicate and compliant on the one hand, but at the same time he can have a high ranking within a herd. This can sometimes cause problems, which are directly related to the two main characters of the horse, because they create a certain division inside his psyche. This can be partly overcome if you approach this horse with great care and sensitivity. The other horses in the herd will occasionally have problems judging the ranking of this gelding, and that may lead to some quarrelling in the herd. Due to the two different characters of the horse's personality, he is not always acting clear towards the other horses.

It is therefore very important to have a care to what horses he is together with in the herd.





The expression, power and energy of this horse:

This horse has much power, both physically and psychologically, that he can and wants to express. His body appears harmonious, compact and strong. The neck is basically good, even though its ability to carry itself could and should be strengthened through specific exercises. The back is comfortably short and strong. This horse has good abilities both of body and mind and is suitable for training in the High School. On the photographs I recognize a certain kind of “holding

back” in the lines of his chest. Suitable exercises could change this (please see below). The limitations of this horse lie in the way his hind quarters are built. To me his knees seem not so well defined as they could be. It is important to take care that his food is balanced. Especially the phosphorus/calcium balance should be noticed. This horse will react to a deficit of Calcium with lameness and unwillingness to move freely.

2. Characterisation of this Horse: The Basics:



Please try to reflect on picture 1 and picture 4 for a little while and try for yourself to interpret the following features: the line of the nose, the nostrils and the muzzle on picture 1 shows above all naïve playfulness. The area around the eye, especially in picture 4, shows on the other hand deep seriousness (soberness), clarity and superiority of mind. I recognize the two main characters, evenly divided in this horse, as “The Child” and “The King”. Knowing this it becomes easy to understand him. On one hand he appears playful, naïve and youthful – just like a child. Picture 1 shows this clearly. On the other hand this gelding carries in him the superior, ruling

and leading “King” – that is especially clear in picture 4. Depending on the mood of the horse one or the other of these two characters will show themselves more or less clearly. This is the reason why the other horses will occasionally be confused by his behaviour and why people find it difficult to follow the ways of this horse. You can never be quite sure exactly where you’re at with this horse because the two

characters are so very different. It is not easy for the horse to “bring them together” and it is not easy for the humans to understand this.

When characterising Arab horses it is important to remember the special features of this breed and to consider them when interpreting the observations as a whole. These Arab horse features are the reason why it is not very easy to recognize “The King” in this horse to begin with.



Particulars:

The gelding has another unique feature. On picture 1 it is relatively easy to see the wavy line below the area of the eyes. This particular “bump” above the nostrils shows me quite clearly that this horse can react very strongly, even sometimes hysterically, in extreme situations.

The concave line just beneath the eyes shows in the same way a readiness to react with panic in insecure situations. This explains the problem of the strange injuries that this horse brings upon himself when he finds himself in situations he is not used to.



3. Concluding remarks on this characterisation and the particular features of the horse:

This gelding is a playful but also very clear horse. Both sides have to be taken into consideration in the togetherness with him. This horse needs the affection and patience you would give a child and he needs you to approach him with respect. The exercises for this horse must be made clear to him and he should be challenged with care. It is important to keep the sequences and reprises short so that “the Child” in the gelding has time to gather himself and concentrate. Every now and then the horse should have the opportunity to let off steam through

games and play. A certain amount of absentmindedness should be allowed for in this horse as a part of the enjoyment of the true charm of this “kingly child”. This horse needs a gentle and devoted hand more than anything but that hand must at the same time be very clear. “The Child” needs intimacy and ruling clearness, “the King” needs dignified clearness. Being clear is a particular keyword for any relation with this horse. Please study for yourself the characters in my book – the relevant descriptions are included in this example.





Further advice and how to work this horse – in keywords:

Any naughtiness will easily be overcome with gentleness and clarity. In this way aggression will never appear. The horse can and wants to be taught the High School. It is important to teach this horse bit by bit. Keep an eye on the slight weakness of the hind quarters – go one step back if even the smallest sign of this weakness appears. Don't be too serious about the work – always remember to play from time to time. In order to free the front and strengthen the hindquarters gently I recommend training on a slight slope and eventually sometimes including small jumps. From walking directly into canter up the slope, then a small

jump and again a pause. These short reprises strengthen the horse very much, loosen the neck and the front and leave room for the playfulness of “the Child”.

Motto: Short effort, great effect. Then follow with short reprises either riding or leading the horse, calm shoulder-in as well as other exercises from the High School. The changing between calmness and concentration on one hand and playful performance on the other hand is to me the key to success and happiness with this wonderful horse. Then put him out to graze again or take him for a joyful ride.

What challenges does this horse present to humans?

This horse will challenge the ability in a person to bridge opposing forces and create harmony. It demands calmness and gentleness as well as the ability to remain positive throughout. The dividedness of this horse needs a person who has the will to look for solutions; someone who is either used to finding solutions or who would like to learn just this: not to give up in front of what seems to be a barrier but to develop trust and break through it. Together with this horse, the human can learn and experience that

opposites never stand alone – they carry always in them the key to their own solution - and at the end of the day the reward. This playful “Child-King” can show a person how to reach out for the stars while he has both feet firmly planted on solid ground. This horse can do both. He appeals to the clarity in the person and to the ability to communicate that clarity. This horse is born of Joy and in the human he appeals to exactly this: finally joy will carry the day.



Conclusion:

Basically this horse hasn't got a big potential for creating problems. For goodness sake, please forget the remarks about the horse being potentially aggressive – such thoughts can only disturb and create ghosts that do exist. When you intuitively show your horse that you recognize the childlike and kinglike parts in him and when you approach

him with gentleness and respect, he will also be able to bring the two characters in himself closer together. Then he will become more balanced in himself and his reactions will become more controlled. In this way you can avoid the extremes of that behaviour which can lead to a panic reaction.

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When you put him into a herd please take great care that your gelding isn't put together with a horse with a coarse personality, and a stronger

physics than him as well. Such a horse may damage both "the Child" and "the King" in your horse. Please take this very seriously.

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Please avoid situations that are totally strange for your horse. "The Child" doesn't like this and neither does "the King". And give him closeness and intimacy, children and kings like this. Do not leave your horse alone in an environment that is strange to him, because it may

provoke a strong reaction from him. "The Child" will then be afraid that his mother has left him and "the King" will fear to be left alone without his court. This will create havoc. Apart from this, everything is perfectly fine.



I wish you – together with your horse – a fulfilled and rich time.
Klaus Ferdinand Hempfling

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Passages from "What Horses Reveal" about „The King“ and „The Child“ are to find at www.hempfling.com in the section „Your Horse“.