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Dear Guests
Dear Readers

Developed agriculture assumes animal husbandry of high standards, which requires conscious breeding and breeding management. Breeding management is a conscious activity comprising all phases of breeding. It includes registration that is the process of recording all inherited traits referring to productivity and all other factors influencing productivity. In this way, breeding values of animals can be recognized, and the productivity of the entire population can be enhanced. Without correct records and correct evaluation of data, no modern animal husbandry can be carried out. International animal trade is also based on animal registration.

Breeding management is undertaken by breeding associations whose main job is to maintain of the breeds. National – but also international – animal husbandry is based on the quality of breed maintenance activities of breeders’ associations. In Hungary, conscious breeding management began in 1785, when the Mezőhegyes State Stud Farm was founded. In 1867, Ferenc Kozma reformed all state stud farms and stallion farms to become the most important breeding places of the country. He introduced a system to test the performance of mares and stallions on state stud farms.

Classification of the horse population in Hungary into breeds and their mare registers was already done 70 years ago. Uniquely in Europe, this measure resulted in full-fledged horse registration in Hungary. It also made it possible to define traditional historical breeds, and today’s breeding associations are able to preserve this heritage for future generations.

Although breeding associations were discontinued in 1948, and animal breeding management was directed by the state between 1949 and the fall of communism in 1989-1990, the registration method of horses remained in place. After 1989 and in particular after 1992, the number of the breeding associations has grown steadily, and they have reassumed their responsibilities.

In the interest of high quality horse breeding, there is a need, perhaps greater than ever, for the activity and commitment of breeding associations, because breeding has been scattered among private breeders and there has been a scarcity of funds. Moreover, horse breeding has gone through a change of use over the decades. Tremendous efforts must be deployed by both breeders and breeding associations to find the best utilization for the breeds. Only those breeders and breeding associations that focus their breeding programme on this goal. This publication offers a true picture of breeders’ and breeding associations’ intention to maintain their breeds, and find the most suitable modalities of utilization for their horses amidst these changing circumstances. The publication presents current forms of use of horses, and takes stock of the performances of our old and new breeds.

The National Federation of Hungarian Horse Breeders is a civil organization established by national breeding associations with the objective to co-ordinate the tasks of breeding associations, and to undertake all the duties it is charged with. The Breeding Office of the National Federation of Hungarian Horse Breeders collects and pre-processes data for registering horses with the help of the county level horse breeding inspectorates. It organizes covering stations, operates the information system of horse breeding (lóENAR), and represents Hungarian horse breeding at national and international forums.

The ambitions of the National Federation of the Hungarian Horse Breeders are to expand and improve the efficiency of its services; to consider and appreciate the registered herd as genetically and morally more valuable than the unregistered stock; to judge traditional Hungarian breeds at their real values and prices; to deal with breeding and sport as an inseparable unit, and to follow a technical policy which offers alternative solutions for to current economic, financial, and moral situation.

Dr. Sándor Mihók
President
National Federation of Hungarian Horse Breeders
The Bábolna-Arabian breed, or Shagya-Arabian breed as it is known worldwide today, was developed on the stud farms of historical Hungary, later the Austro-Hungarian Empire, (Bábolna, Mezőhegyes, Radautz). Thanks to its expansion primarily in Europe, it has been bred in twelve countries based on closed stud books.

Bábolna, the cradle of the Shagya-Arabian breed, was founded in 1789 as a subsidiary of the Imperial and Royal Stud Farm in Mezőhegyes, Hungary.

On 16 March 1816, the Imperial War Council ordered the mares that already possessed a high percentage of Arabian genes to be bred only with Arabian Thoroughbred stallions to improve endurance and use.

The Shagya-Arabian breed has 41 mare families: 1 Thoroughbred, 27 Arabian Thoroughbreds, or Arabians, and 13 are entered as Transylvanian, Circassian, Hungarian, or of Radautz, indicating the place of origin. All the lines were founded by Arabian Thoroughbred stallions, the best known being Shagya, Gazal-Gazlan, O’Bajan, Siglavy, Ramzes (its dam is the Shagya-Arabian Jordi) is a good example to this, which opened a new chapter in the history of sport horse breeding. Other famous horses include Shagya-Arabian Bajar, which sired White Girl and Bachus. The former proved its excellence in eventing, the latter in jumping with their German riders at the 1966 Atlanta Olympic Games. The offspring (Hungaires) of the stallion Siglavy Bagdady VIII, bred in Bábolna, was gold medallist in endurance riding at the World Equestrian Games in Aachen in 2006.

Loyalty in breeding – success in sport

Despite their withers height, some individuals are able to produce incredible results in jumping and dressage riding. Heavier individuals are suited for driving. The endurance of the horse is excellent, this is why Shagya-Arabians excel in both endurance riding and driving.

Due to its characteristics and long life, the breed is very popular among hobby riders and drivers, particularly among young horsemen.

Shagya-Arabians possess a combination of qualities that are not found in either of the breeds. Thanks to strict selection criteria and purebred breeding, the above mentioned qualities are inherited reliably. Anglo-Arabian Ramzes is a good example to this, which opened a new chapter in the history of sport horse breeding. Other famous horses include Shagya-Arabian Bajar, which sired White Girl and Bachus. The former proved its excellence in eventing, the latter in jumping with their German riders at the 1966 Atlanta Olympic Games. The offspring (Hungaires) of the stallion Siglavy Bagdady VIII, bred in Bábolna, was gold medallist in endurance riding at the World Equestrian Games in Aachen in 2006.
Jussuf, Kemir, Kohelan, Mersuch, Siglavy-Bagdady.

In the beginning, the breed was known as Arabian breed, later called Bábolna-Arabian. The name Shagya-Arabian has been used since 1978, when the management of the Bábolna stud farm refused to allow the use of the Bábolna-Arabian name. The International Association of the Shagya-Arabian Breeders accepted the name of Shagya-Arabian.

Shagya-Arabians combine the beauty, endurance, firm constitution, and temperament of Arabian Thoroughbreds with excellent learning ability, good movement, healthy limbs, and firm but not too heavy bones.

The head is wedge-shaped, noble, and fine with a broad forehead, square nostrils and large, dark, intelligent eyes. The ears are small and thin. The neck is of moderate length, slightly arched and set high, and is decorated by fine mane. The withers is well-muscled, the back is medium long and supple, the loin is strong. The croup is big. It is typical of the Shagya-Arabian horse that its tail is set high and its carriage is also high. Shagya-Arabian horses must have a muscular, sloping shoulder, well-defined tendons in the lower limbs, and shapely hard hooves. The walk is active and fast, the trot is energetic, the canter is round and rolling with good ground cover. The stallions’ average height is 155-165 cm that of the mares is 150-160 cm (measured by a measuring stick).
The Lipizzan horse, a Baroque-type, intelligent, long living horse breed with excellent constitution, can deservedly thank its popularity to the representatives of the Hungarian driving sport as well. Lipizzan horses are excellent examples that a horse with a classic appearance can still meet the demands of modern sport. Pedigrees of the Lipizzans in Hungary are in accordance with the strict international rules based on traditions of the breed’s 400 years of history.

The breed is originated in the stud farm at Lipica (or Lipizza by its imperial name) on the plateau of Trieste, established in 1580 by Archduke Charles II, son of Emperor Ferdinand I. The aim was to breed an excellent horse, which was also a hallmark of wealth and luxury. Breeding was started with Spanish horses, but mares and stallions from other royal and imperial stud farms in Europe were also bought to accomplish the purposes. The life of the Lipizzan stock was not always easy through the centuries: during the Napoleonic wars, the herd had to be spirited away to Hungary twice (to Székesfehérvár for the first time, and to Mezőhegyes for the second time). After 1815 part of the stock remained in Mezőhegyes; and became later the core of the Hungarian Lipizzan breeding. In 1874, all the Lipizzans in Mezőhegyes were transferred to Fогaras, and remained there until 1912. Some years later, the herd was transferred to Bábolna. In 1951 Hungarian Lipizzans were relocated to Szilvásvárad, Hungary, an area that is most similar to its original breeding location, the karstic region of Lipica. The Lipizzan breed has been bred in purebred in all the countries of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The Hungarian bred Lipizzans have participated very successfully at European, and World Driving Championships and other important international events (Aachen, Riesenbeck, Donaueschingen),
The sport career of the Lipizzan horse dates back to 1920-1930, and several Hungarian drivers managed to compete successfully with Lipizzans since 1950, meeting the requirements of modern sport. Great Lipizzans included Conversano XX-14, two times European Champion and twice World Champion; Favory XX-19, three times European Champion and World Champion; Favory XX-14, three times European Champion and World Champion; Favory XX-12, three times European Champion and two times World Champion; and Neapolitano XVIII-3, two times European Champion.

Great Lipizzan heros of recent years are Siglavy Capriola X-6, Conversano XXIV-65, Favory Báró, Favory XXVII-11, Siglavy Capriola X-45, Siglavy Capriola X-51.

Based on these achievements the Hungarian bred Lipizzans are the most successful of all breeds in driving and are considered as a Hungaricum, a Hungarian specialty.

Hungarian Lipizzan breeders have set a dual goal: on the one hand, to produce a Baroque-type horse that is able to meet the demands of modern sport horses testing the horses’ ability and performance at events; and on the other hand, to maintain all the eight classical lines (Conversano, Favory, Incitato, Maestoso, Neapolitano, Pluto, Siglavy-Capriola, Tulipán) with special attention to the two Hungarian lines, Incitato and Tulipán.
The Nonius breed derived from the Anglo-Norman stallion, Nonius Senior is unique among the breeds throughout the world in terms of general impression and type. Heavy body weight, hard constitution, willingness and ability to work are all traits inherited from the ancestors used for artillery jobs. Considering its genetics, the Nonius breed is a Thoroughbred crossbred, the heaviest among the draught type warm blood breeds. There are two types in the breed: a bigger and generally black type from the Mezôhegyes Stud Farm, and a leaner, mostly bay type from the Hortobágy Stud Farm. The main characteristic of the Nonius is its convex profile. Nonius horses are calm, able to achieve lasting performance. They served proof of their stamina, endurance and excellent movement at endurance driving competitions of former years. Their willingness to work is unique. Nonius horses are all-purpose animals of the family; they can be used for both riding and driving. The most excellent ones are internationally successful at driving events.

The ancestor of the breed seized during the Napoleonic wars was in breeding in the Mezôhegyes Stud Farm from 1816. According to the records dating from the period, “the stallion without any particular beauty” sired offspring with very good values for use from the Spanish-Neapolitan mares of the herd having some Arabian genes. With the offspring of the ancestor of the breed significant and successful inbreeding was carried out. The homogenous character of the breed developed relatively fast, thanks to the strictly followed breeding goal to develop medium heavy military riding and draught horses. The emerging horse type met the requirements of Mezôhegyes, and it was also suitable for improving horses in Hungary. As a result of inbreeding, some breed specific defects occurred, which were improved by Thoroughbred horses. By the turn of the 20th century, the specific distinctive lines of the Nonius stock and the modern genetic base of the breed had been developed. It became possible to distinguish the breed from other breeds and to maintain if as a breed in its own right. After the Austro-Hungarian Compromise in 1867, the values of the breed - coordinated at that time by the ministerial counselor, Ferenc Kozma - were proved by successes achieved at different exhibitions. Individuals of the breed were used to improve other horses; land breeds were developed at Mezôhegyes and Hortobágy. Although the genetic distinction between the land breeds has decreased over the years, the difference in their types is still conspicuous. During the
two World Wars, a relatively large number of Nonius horses were taken to what is Romania and Slovakia today, where horses have been bred in purebred to date.

After the wars, when military use of the horses ceased, Nonius horses became popular as draught horses on the Great Hungarian Plain, but they also played an important part in urban transport. In the 1970s, crossings were made to create sport horses from the Nonius breed, but the concept did not spread.

The Hungarian Association of Nonius Breeders was founded in 1989, and set the goal of purebred breeding and gene preservation. Future roles of the breed can be determined by the horses’ specific appearance, origin, and their excellent traits as carriage horses. The breed represents significant values as a gene reserve population. The traditional stud farms – Mezőhegyes and Hortobágy – have always played a major role in breeding Nonius horses, but the roles of private breeders having only a few mares have also increased recently in order to maintain the genetic base of the breed.

Association
Breeding of Nonius horses is coordinated by the Hungarian Association of Nonius Breeders founded in 1989.

The breeding stock consists of 650 mares and 80 stallions; 11 from 20 foundation mare families have been maintained over the years. Breeding goals are set as follows: carry on the centuries-old breeding traditions, maintain the uniqueness of the breed, and create a quality that meets modern requirements.
After World Wars I and II, the number of Furioso North Star horses was dramatically reduced, and regeneration of the breed had to rely on only a few horses. However, the goals were clearly set and consistently followed through. The breed had survived two world wars, and as the old breeding culture was followed, it was regenerated at its cradle at Mezőhegyes. Sadly, the breed has not been able to fully recover from the dramatic losses suffered during the wars and the restructuring of the Mezőhegyes Stud Farm in and after 1961. Several foundation mare families were lost, and stallion lines also suffered irremediable losses. Breeding stocks on the co-operative farms in Orosháza, Szentes, Abádszalók, Jászboldogháza, Karcag, just to mention a few examples, founded in the mid-1960s somewhat mitigated the losses. Horses originating from the above mentioned breeding stocks are still found in the breeding today. Furioso North Star horses regularly featured in equestrian disciplines over the years. Excellent dressage horses included the stallions North Star“A” XIX and Csapláros (669 Furioso VII-14 x 814 Baba). Among jumpers, 306 Ürmös (Furioso “A” XXVII x 42 Mátészalka Labda), Kártya (Furioso III x Szentes Kártya), and Katyusa (5280 Furioso XIX-5 x 1281 Kati) and the offspring (Nárcisz, Nóra) of the stallion Furioso “B” XX inherited excellent abilities, and the offspring of Blokád xx (Bálvány, Irisz, Parafa, Párkány, trained for the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich) excelled. In the 1990s Ramzes Furioso I Merán, Furioso XXIX Fáraó, Jutka (Furioso XXVI x 1553 Furioso XIII Júnió), and Mályva (Furioso XIII x 1449 Marina) were successful in jumping. Furioso North Star horses did well in carriage driving as well: between 1952 and 1957, Furioso North Star horses participated regularly in 100 km competitions. In 1957, at the last such competition in Csongrád, 16 of the 66 horses running were Furioso North Star. In the turnover of Sándor Fülöp, who was...
Hungarian Derby winner and Hungarian Champion, as well as winner in Aachen, and fourth at the Hamburg Derby in 1969, there were horses sired by Furioso North Stars (3 offspring of the stallion Furioso “B” XX, 1 offspring of the stallion North Star “A” XVIII, and 1 offspring of the stallion North Star “A” XX).

There have been successful Furioso North Star horses in recent years proving the genetic value of the breed. Excellent horses in jumping are: the Bart Furioso I Igor, Aranyági Kisaranyak (Aldato Furioso I x North Star III-3 Aranyos), Aldato Furioso II Talizmán, and Ideál (Furioso XXIX x Furioso XXVII-11 Ibike). A promising pair turnout at driving competitions has emerged this year with horses from the stallion the Bart Furioso II. In 2005, the Grand Prix winner mare of the Hungarian Agricultural and Food Industrial Exhibition (OMÉK) in Hungary was a Furioso North Star mare.

Furioso North Star breeding has been coordinated by its association since 1989. After the political changeover in 1989-1990, state farms and co-operative breeding stocks ceased. Today, there is no state stud farm of the breed, however, the number of registered mares is 550.
World War II and the post-war years were also hard times: the numbers of Gidran horses dropped perilously. To counter the dire trend, in 1975 the National Animal Breeding Inspectorate established a stud farm in Borodpuszta with mares of Gidran origin from private breeding and three mare families from Mezőhegyes, with the aim of generic preservation. The Borodpuszta stud was later relocated in Marócpuszta. The mares of the Sütvény stud that was wound up at that time were also transferred to Marócpuszta.

Thanks to the political and economic changes in Eastern Europe, mares representing all the original mare families were bought from stocks outside Hungary.

Although not bred as a sporting horse in today’s sense, Gidran horses have been excellent jumpers from the beginning. Nowadays, Gidrans show their remarkable qualities in eventing both nationally and internationally. In 1891, newspapers reported the awesome jump of the stallion Bibor Gidran over a ten metres wide water channel close to Kispest, Hungary at a hunt meeting. Elliot, gold medallist in show jumping at the Amsterdam Olympic Games in 1928 was alleged to be a Gidran purchased in Cegléd area in Hungary. Magyaremlék was placed tenth in eventing at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin. Between the two world wars several Gidrans proved their superior qualities: Gyergyő (half-bred of unknown origin) and Medve (Gidran XLIX x Bakony Gidran) in jumping, and the mare Legszebb (387 Gidran Bakony II x Pacsirta) in dressage, ranked high at St George Prize and Grand Prix international competitions.

In 1955, 7 Siglavy Gidran I-4 was a gold medallist at the national jumping competition in Hungary. In 1966, 488 Inka (Gazal Gidran I x Pereg Arany) won a bronze at the international jumping competition in Poznan, Poland. In 1967, 755 Igyál (Gidran B VII x 98 Gazal Gidran) was fifth at the CHIO, second in the individual ranking and third in the team competition at the CHI event in Budapest, Hungary.

In the 1980s and ’90s, Gidran Maxim I-78 (Ibolya), Gidran IV-62 (Gibraltár) – the later Gidran XIX stallion, and Gidran IV-21 (dam: 14 Regöly Gidran (Iram)) from one of the most successful new mare families, later Gidran XI stallion, were qualified
as members of the Hungarian jumping team several times. The latter achieved several Olympic qualifications.

The offspring of Gidran XI (some examples are Gidran XI-16 (Ima), 3832 Gidran XI-32 (Regőlő), Gidran XI-39 (Nimfa), Gidran XI-4 (Sóha)) are outstanding eventing horses. In 2004, Gidran XI-4 (Sóha) won the tile of The World’s Best Cross-country Horse at the World Eventing Championships for Young Horses. His rider was William Fox Pitt.

But it is not only the offspring of Gidran XI that are successful and excellent sport horses.

In 1992, 99 Gidran VI-3 (Obelisz) was Hungarian Champion in pairs driving. 4543 Gidran XIII-43 (Fáraó) was second placed at the breeding competition open for 6 years old horses. Déva Gidran-30 (Hûtlen/Torkos) one of the most outstanding eventing horses of recent years, was the only horse in Hungary which qualified for the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games. Andor Gidran-10 (Noé) ranked second at the CIC** competition in Breda with his rider Balázs Kaizinger, and was qualified for the World Eventing Championships for Young Horses in 2006.

In 2008, Gidran Razbeg I-12 (Kis Mitok) was the winner of the National Eventing Competition in the Netherlands. At the European Amateur Riders Championships, 2009, Andor Gidran-1 (Oktogon) was the winner at CCI*. His rider was Brigitta Szabó. At the European Young Riders Eventing Championships, 2009, Gidran XI-50 (Sovánka), the most successful member of the Hungarian team, won the cross-country competition. In 2009, he was member of the National Eventing Champion Team in Hungary.

Gidran XXIV-9 (Habanéra) competing in the Netherlands qualified for the Global Champions Tour, a world class show jumping competition with a total prize money of six million euros. 4883 Gidran XXIV-26 (Széptevő) participated in jumping at the OTP World Cup in Budapest in 2010.

In recent years, Gidrans have been ridden by very successful eventing riders including William Fox Pitt (GBR), Harald Ambros (AUT), Jan van Beek (NED) and Alice Naber Lozeman (NED). Hungarian riders on Gidran horses include László Bálint, sometimes Pál Tuska, Tibor Papp, Gábor Schaller, Eszter Schaller, Balázs Kaizinger, who has already achieved excellent results, as well as László Egedy, Tamás Szeder, Vanda Pintér, Zsanett Gelencsér, Brigitta Szabó, und Attila Szász.
Today Kisbér horses have high percentage of Thoroughbred genes and meet the requirements of modern sport horses besides preserving traditional breeding and genetic values.

The Kisbér was named after the town Kisbér in Komárom County, Hungary, where the titled Batthyány family ran a modern farm, confiscated after the Hungarian War of Independence in 1848-1849. In 1853, Emperor Franz Joseph I ordered a new stud to be established here for military use relying on existing imperial stud farms and private studs having horses of good quality. The carefully selected breeding stock was bred with Thoroughbred stallions with correct constitutions and excellent performances through generations.

To improve homogeneity and increase body weight, only crossbred stallions from the best Thoroughbreds were used in breeding. Some Mezőhegyes crossbred horses were also involved in order to increase body weight. Breeding mare candidates were first tested at fox hunts. The result was a crossbred breed closely related to Thoroughbred horses with primary use in riding, but the individuals are calmer and somewhat heavier, willing to work, have an elegant appearance, and a firm constitution.

In 1942, three Trakehner stallions (Formás, Széplak and Lobogó) were imported to the stud farm at Kisbér to improve movement and use. In World War II, significant numbers of the breeding stock were captured as war spoils. After the war, all the important former lines were re-created and breeding was directed to produce horses able to meet requirements demanded of sport horses.

Many Kisbér horses achieved excellent results on national and international levels, among them Széplány (Széplak I x 94 Fortis), ranked 10th at the Rome Olympic Games in 1960; Szertelen (Széplak I x 74 Ganeleon), Szépfő (Széplak I x 146 Fortis), winner of the steeplechase competition for crossbreds in Warsaw, Dezentor (Deutscher Michel VII x 117 Szössz), successful participant in gallop racing in Pardubice, Bíboros (406 Furfang xx x 15 Manci), horse of the eventing team participating in the Olympic Games. Aranyálom (Maxim VI x 16 Gidran VI), Szépike (Széplak I x 59 Maxim III), Szeglet (Széplak I x
two-times World Pairs Driving Champion with Zoltán Lázár. Founded in 1989, the National Breeding Association for the Kisbér has coordinated all breed related issues since. In 2005, the breeding association was admitted to the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses (WBFSH) and thus managed to join the international equestrian life, potentially increasing the opportunities to sell Kisbér Crossbreds abroad.

**Latest achievements:** Tangó (2712 Hódmezővásárhely-136 Kópé x 1125 Titok), bred by Dr. Lajos Szabó of Hungary, was bronze medallist at the World Single Driving Championship in 2010. The horse has an Italian owner at present. In 2010, at the OTP World Cup in Budapest, almost all placed horses were Kisbér Crossbreds in the competition for traditional Hungarian horse breeds. In 2011, Rakéta Remény (Rakéta V x 1719 Formás) with his rider Tamás Mráz was the most successful horse in the Hungarian team at the European Showjumping Championship for Children, Juniors and Young Riders.
Development of Hungarian Sport Horses began in the 1960s in the Mezőhegyes Stud Farm, with excellent mares of the period (e.g. Pillangó, Esthajnal). Not much later, the first excellent stallions, among them Ramzes Junior and Aldato, also arrived. Thoroughbred stallions were also used in the breeding such as Krózus and Kemál (bred in Hungary), and Korembleem (imported). Besides Mezőhegyes, some other stud farms such as Enying and Rádiháza, as well as private breeders undertook to breed Hungarian Sport Horses.

A good example of the development of the sport horse in Hungary is Póker (sired by Toborzó), which participated at the World Cup Jumping Final in San Diego, California, and after its sale, it continued a successful career in Germany.

The National Association of Hungarian Sport Horse Breeders was founded in 1990 with the aim of breeding a horse type which preserves the traditional values of the Hungarian horse but relies on a broad genetic basis.

The most important objective of the National Association is to breed a high quality sport horse, which is competitive both in national and international markets: a healthy and fearless horse that is able to perform reliably and achieves the highest results. At the same time, the wider riding public is also offered a horse which is impressive in appearance, easy to handle and versatile in use. The Association lays great emphasis on breeding without hereditary defects.

Selection for future performance begins at breeding shows while judging phenotype, and continues at competition courses. Competition results are the most important data in the breeding program.

Because of the length of horses’ generations, the fruit of breeders’ efforts appear after as many as
8 or 10 years. However, we do our best to support our breeding decisions with important pieces of information (phenotype judging, estimation of breeding values, competition results, inheriting values).

Waiting for years demands perseverance. This makes the contributions of all private breeders and stud farms that contribute to the successes of the Hungarian Sport Horses all the more valuable. There are increasing numbers of young horses participating in international age-class competitions.

The ambition of the National Association is to support breeders with competitions, thus giving them opportunities to show their performance and prove their achievements, and to support them in the competition in the horse market.
The Hucul breed was developed in the East Carpathian Mountains of Eastern Europe, in the region where the rivers Tisza, Prut, Cheremos, and Brodina have their source. The indigenous breed was named after the Hutsul people living at the border area of Bukovina, Galicia and Hungary.

Hard work in the mountains, extreme weather conditions (very hot summer and very cold winter) at 2000 metres above sea level and poor feed resulted in an incredibly hardy and undemanding and resistant breed with great endurance. Serving as pack horses of hunters in the mountains, Huculs also had an important military value, so until World War I, they were used in the Austrian military stud farm, Lucina, which belonged to Radautz, today’s Rîdânu. After World War I, successor states shared the breeding area of the Hucul and founded stud farms for the breed. The stud farm at Turjaremete (in Ukraine) played a major role in the breed’s survival, as the individuals dispersed from Lucina were collected in Turjaremete. Breeding work was also continued when the Hungarian Upland (today’s Southern Slovakia and Zakarpatska) was reconnected to Hungary.

There were several stallions of excellent inheriting qualities in the breed that founded lines including Hroby and Goral (both born is 1898), Gurgul (born in 1924), Ousor (born in 1933), Polan (born in 1929), Pietrosu (born in 1933), and Prislop (born in 1936).

The mare families also played an essential role in avoiding inbreeding and maintaining genetic variability. There are almost 40 foundation mare families, half of which can be found in Hungary.

The Hucul has been characterised by its unquestioning willingness to work. Primarily it was a pack animal. Military forces also used Huculs as pack horses of hunters in the mountains. The primitive character of the Hucul horse is conspicuous by its small stature, its heavy and bony yet nicely shaped head, thick muzzle, undemanding character and great resistance. Despite their small stature Huculs do not seem to be underdeveloped horses. A fully grown animal’s height at the withers is 137-143 cm; chest girth is 160-170 cm, and lower limb girth is 16-18.5 cm.

Typically, Huculs’ colours are several varieties of bay, but black and grullo also occur. Bay or grullo animals often have dorsal stripes and zebra stripes on the legs also occur. Sometimes, transverse shoulder strips can also be found.
INCREASING POPULARITY IN NEW USES

Pack horses, as they are sure-footed mountain animals. Huculs were duty horses of hunting parties in the mountains as well. They had to do all kinds of work: pulled mountain batteries, brought rations, and were used as riding horses. They were involved as pack animals even after World War II but this use has become obsolete by today. Huculs’ temperament makes them ideal leisure horses; their performances in both riding and driving are equally valuable. Riding on a well-schooled Hucul horse is a great experience. Their achievements are proof of their ability to cope with their tasks in carriage driving as well. A mare turnout from Aggtelek has been competing successfully at Polish Championships these days. A pair turnout was driven all the way to participate in the International Show of the Hucul Breed in Gladyszow (Poland). The 302 kilometres journey between Aggtelek and Gladyszow mainly in high country was completed in four and a half days. There was also a turnout that showed excellent performances when completed the journey on the former salt merchants’ road between Kazincbarcika (Hungary) and Kraków (Poland). Huculs have showed excellent performances on the Hucul paths, the endurance test of 2000 to 16,000 metres long course with 16 numbered obstacles, both natural and artificial. Huculs do not require much in the way of expertise of their drivers and/or riders even when used irregularly. As is the case with indigenous breeds, the feed metabolism of the Hucul horse is excellent. Individuals are easily kept in good condition. They are long living and fertile animals.
The Hungarian Coldblood breed was developed from the Austrian Noric, brought to Hungary mainly by trade, and later other coldblood breeds imported from Western Europe from the second half of the 19th century. Two versions of the Coldblood breed were developed, the so-called Pinkafői in the region of Northwest Transdanubia, especially Vas County, and the Muraközi in Southwest Transdanubia. Both stocks were heterogeneous. Because of their economic use and versatility, Coldblood horses became popular and gradually spread in Transdanubia. However, their breeding was limited by different measures.

After World War II, thanks to the unique registration of the stock and the import of Belgian Ardennes stallions a homogeneous Coldblood breed was developed, which was recognized as the Hungarian Coldblood in 1953. (In general parlance, however, all Hungarian Coldblood horses are called Muraközi, or Mura.) Where the Belgian Ardennes did not prevail within the breed, a type with lighter appearance and finer constitution emerged. It is called the Muraközi land breed and is Hungary’s indigenous animal breed.

The Hungarian Association for Breeding Hungarian Coldblood Horses was founded in 1989. The Association has more than 300 members, 800 registered mares and 220 stallions, which is proof positive of the breed’s popularity.

The Hungarian Coldblood is of a firmer constitution, less demanding, and more nimble than the Western European Coldbloods. Hungarian Coldblood horses have a calm temperament and mature fast. They are excellent workers, good-natured and easy to handle. Traditionally they have been reliable and friendly work fellows of farmers that learned fast and did not require special livestock skills. For this reason, it has recently become popular as a leisure animal.
While the agricultural use of Hungarian Coldblood horses has been on the wane they are still used as draft horses. The main role of the Hungarian Coldblood mares has become their foal production. On good quality pastures mares nourish their foals very well without any supplement. Foals can be sold at good prices, as in many Western European countries horsemeat has been popular for its nutritional values and no fat content.
Leaders of the conquering Hungarian tribes probably possessed Akhal Teke horses. Comparison of the DNA extracted from grave findings dating back to the time of the Hungarian Conquest with today’s horse breeds have proved considerable similarities between the horses of the conquering Hungarians and the Akhal Teke breed. Since the 15th century, the “Oriental horse” had had a significant role in horse breeding in Hungary, and even more in Transylvania as the Ottomans occupying the land for a century and a half brought along their Akhal Teke horses, their favoured breed. Among the foundation mare families in Mezőhegyes, Hungary, Moldavian and Circassian (Caucasian) horses dominated, from the Black Sea region, and the southern parts of Russia respectively.

The most important trial for Akhal Teke horses is the endurance riding over short, 500-1000 meters distances, and the long-distance trials of scores of kilometres, both highly popular in Central Asia. In 1935 the Akhal Teke horses excelled in the famous 84-day endurance ride of 4300 kilometres between Ashgabat in Turkmenistan and Moscow, remembered to date. Although today’s Akhal Teke does not significantly differ from the Akhal Teke horses that lived several thousands of years ago, they excel in many equestrian disciplines. Absent, for example, won the gold at the Rome Olympic Games in 1960 in dressage, followed by an Olympic bronze in Tokyo in 1964.

To our information, Hungary first imported three Akhal Teke stallions in 1975 to improve palomino horses. Later, several stallions were imported privately. The National Association of Akhal Teke horse breeders in Hungary was founded in 2003. The Hungarian association is a founding member of the International Association of Akhal Teke Horse Breeding founded in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan in 2010 and enjoying the particular attention and support of the Turkmen State. There are approximately 2000 purebred Akhal Teke horses bred worldwide. The Akhal Teke stock in Hungary (30 individuals) is among the most significant populations in Europe in both numbers and quality. Stud farms in Hungary can be found in Varbó (Mahóca), Ópusztaszer, Mezőgyán, Kecel, and Sopron. The excellent Akhal Teke stallion Karakum achieved a record result on the course of Pyatigorsk (Russia).
Arabian horses first appeared in Europe in the period between the 16th and 18th centuries. Breeding from the stock left behind in the wake of the conquest of the Ottoman Empire was the first step; then expeditions set out to Arabia to buy additional horses. It was the time when today’s most popular Arabian stud farms were founded. In Bábolna, breeding started in 1816. The first expedition from Hungary was lead by Eduárd Herbert in 1836, when the Arabian Thoroughbred stallion named Shagya Senior was brought to Bábolna.

Beauty and endurance
The World Arabian Horse Organization (WAHO) was founded in 1967. The founders agreed on the definition of the Arabian Horse: “a purebred Arabian horse is one which appears in any purebred Arabian stud book or register listed by WAHO as acceptable”. Breeding is in purebred, and is aimed at preserving the classic beauty and endurance of the Arabian horse.
In Hungary, it was Count István Széchenyi who recognized the importance of horse racing and Thoroughbred horse breeding. He and his friend, Baron Miklós Wesselényi imported the first Thoroughbred horses in 1822. Horse racing in Hungary was introduced by Count István Széchenyi in 1827 to establish the nation’s unity and develop horse breeding. In the same year he founded the Animal Breeding Association (Állattenyésztési Társaság), the predecessor of the Hungarian Jockey Club (Magyar Lovar Egylet). The first stud book for Thoroughbred horses in Hungary was published by Count Tamás Nádasdy in 1832. Until 1918 stud books for the Thoroughbred horses were published jointly by the Hungarian and Austrian Jockey Clubs. After World War I, in 1921 Volume 1 of the Hungarian Stud Book was published again. At present, Volume 29 is under preparation.

Thanks to the endeavours of Count István Széchenyi, Thoroughbred horse breeding and horse racing became more and more popular. Established in 1853, the military stud farm of Kisbér was charged with the task of breeding Thoroughbred and crossbred horses. This concept was maintained after the Austro-Hungarian Compromise in 1867, when the stud farm was passed into the ownership of the Hungarian State. The stud farm’s operation brought the golden age of Thoroughbred horse breeding in Hungary in the late 19th century. Thanks to conscious imports, Hungary ranked among the most successful Thoroughbred breeder countries in Europe. The massive investment into importing excellent Thoroughbred stallions paid off and made it possible for private breeders to engage in breeding at the highest international standard. As a result, the amazing unbeatable mare Kincsem was born in 1874: she ran in 54 races in 12 towns in six countries and won all 54. Kisbér, another Hungarian Thoroughbred won the Epsom Derby and the Grand Prix in Paris. Thanks to the excellent Thoroughbred stallions, crossbred horse breeding in Hungary also became internationally recognized by the end of the 19th century. Due to well-organized horse races of high standards betting was popular. The Hungarian Jockey Club thus had no financial difficulties and bought Alag puszta in 1890 to establish one of the world’s most modern training centres. On 9 May 1925 the Club opened Kincsem Park in Budapest, one of the most beautiful racecourses in Europe, where office blocks and residential buildings were also built. Moreover, the Club also supported human sports.

After World War II, horse racing and breeding took a new start in 1946 with some Thoroughbreds and crossbreds. Ten years later Roppant and Imi, then Imperial achieved international success, and races reminiscent of past glory were organized in Kincsem Park. The years of crises and hardships affected the

The Thoroughbred is the fastest horse breed in races of 1000-5000 meters. The breed originated from England but is bred worldwide today. Breeding rules and methods, as well as horse racing testing the abilities of Thoroughbreds are based on a standard system throughout the world. The breed was developed persistently since the early 1700s from a horse population in England of all kinds of origin based on racing achievements. All Thoroughbreds living today can be traced back to the ones registered in the first stud book of the Thoroughbred (General Stud Book) in 1793. Thoroughbreds registered in the General Stud book are derived from only three foundation sires and about 60 foundation mares.
Thoroughbred horse breeding negatively. A new boom, another golden age can only be expected when horse racing and with it, betting is renewed and starts a new ascent. After two decades without diligent ownership there is now a definite commitment to the development of horse racing.

Because of their athletic abilities, fast reaction time and outstanding intelligence, Thoroughbreds have a great potential for being successful in equestrian disciplines and improving other breeds. Developed through Thoroughbreds, breeds Kisbér Felver, Furioso North Star and Nonius put forth individuals sired by Thoroughbreds that were successful in equestrian disciplines. Among popular sport horse breeds worldwide – Holsteiner, Hanoverian, Trakehner, Selle Français – offspring of excellent Thoroughbred stallions can always be found. Some Thoroughbred horses, for example Antaryl, Fáklyás, Francia, and Kemál achieved outstanding results as jumpers or in other disciplines after their racing careers.

Racecourses (Kincsem Park, the Alag training centre) are owned by the state-owned National Horse Racing Ltd (Nemzeti Lóverseny Kft.), whose job is to operate the racecourses and to organize races.

Supervision of breeding Thoroughbred horses in Hungary is carried out by the Hungarian Gallop Racehorse Breeders’ Association. The purpose and tasks of the Association are to improve the quality of Thoroughbred horse breeding and to co-operate with organizations involved in staging race meetings and other aspects of horse racing.
Racing with carriage horses, especially with pairs in trot began to spread in the middle of the 19th century. The first trotting race, or road cart race, as it was called in the time, was organized for pairs in 1857 and was won by Ernő Blaskovich. Later, several trotting races were staged in the City Park (Városliget) in Budapest, until finally in 1883, the trotting race was moved to the horse market and trotting race course on Kerepesi Street. (Currently it is the site of the National Riding School and the shopping mall Arena Plaza.) The official trotting race and trotter horse breeding dates from this time. Over the decades, organizers of the races changed, and the place of the races became the course next to the City Park. In the early 1930s trotting races were held at Kerepesi Street again. More recently they have been organized by the National Horse Racing Ltd. (Nemzeti Lóverseny Kft.) in Kincsem Park.

The Trotter is a horse specifically bred for racing. Its development has been highly influenced by racing. The Hungarian Jukker, a light carriage horse has played a major role in the development of the Hungarian Trotter. Jukkers were crossed with American Trotter stallions. Thanks to the conscious breeding policy, Hungarian Trotters excelled in the early 20th century. In later years, the American Trotter was still used, as it is the most widely spread and successful trotter worldwide.

As Trotters start racing at two years of age, breeders have always bred horses that mature early and develop intensively. International experience shows that only horses raised and kept in appropriate conditions are able to achieve peak performances.

After World War II, trotter races restarted in the summer, 1945. Until the fall of communism in 1989-1990, breeding in the stud farms was carried out at the highest possible standard. The principle that an American Trotter stallion sired by the most successful stallion in the world should always be in breeding has been observed to date. Artificial insemination makes it possible to have several offspring from good stallions; and successful offspring serve proof of the efficiency of the method. Our breeders pay particular attention to the persistently developed, recognised mare families since they are the most solid genetic basis of high performance.

The racing system has developed over a period of almost 150 years. Today the main breeding goal is to breed a Trotter with early maturity and attractive appearance that is able to achieve peak performance. Accordingly, races mostly cover short (1600-1800 metres) and medium (1900-2100 metres) distances, and performance is determined as the average time calculated for 1 kilometre. The Hungarian record is 1.13,6, achieved in 2009 on the course at Vincennes by a bay stallion, named Merengô (Belami x Derengô), born in 2006.
The American Quarter Horse was developed in the region along the east coast of North America in the territory of Carolina and Virginia in the United States. The breed was developed from the horses and their descendants brought to the American continent by the Spanish Conquerors in the 16th and 17th centuries. Later, these horses were also crossed with those of new immigrants. As settlers preserved their own traditions in their new homeland, thanks to the English immigrants, horse racing and as well as Thoroughbreds soon appeared in the American continent. To improve racing performances of ordinary work horses, an increasing number of Thoroughbred stallions were imported. Races were organized between two horses over a distance of a quarter mile, hence the name of the breed.

The American Quarter Horse Association was founded in Amarillo, Texas, in 1940 to register the stock and carry out conscious breeding. Since then, Quarter horse breeding has been purebred, however, Quarter-Thoroughbred crosses can be registered. The American Quarter Horse is the largest breed in the world considering the number of registered horses.
The Shetland Pony is an ideal first horse for the youngest children due to its size and friendly nature. Children learn easily how to handle and mount them, and achieve security on their back. Driving Shetland Ponies is an even more memorable experience.

The Welsh Pony is known for its statue-like beauty. For all its varieties based on their withers height it is a versatile and good-tempered animal with energetic movement, excellent capacity to work and ease of handling. It is an ideal riding horse for children of 9-14 years of age and is equally indispensable in jumping and driving competitions for the age group.
TO BE HORSEMEN AND BREEDERS

The *Connemara Pony* is particularly popular for its excellent jumping skills. It also copes very well with hunting rides and its crossed individuals do well at eventing competitions. Nevertheless, Connemara Ponys' primary use is jumping. Because of their excellent nervous system, good temperament, and easy handling, they are highly recommended for children sport and leisure riding.

Breeders of the *Haflinger* (also called Avelignese) were the first to change the breeding concept World War II when they decided to breed a universal horse. The Haflinger's chestnut colour and white long hairs also contributed to their popularity and spread. The breed is bred in 22 breeding associations of 17 countries. Hungary can also be found among the breeding countries. Haflinger horses are excellent leisure horses for short and tall, young and old, experienced and inexperienced riders alike. They are also widely used at driving competitions.

*Fjord horses* are known as calmness personified. This is the main reason for their popularity among breeders. As they are well-balanced and even tempered, they are eminently suited for therapeutic riding and are equally applicable for all purposes except for competing in equestrian disciplines or races. Fjord horses are very reliable and trustworthy. The breed's popularity has spread in Hungary as well.

*Sport ponies*: they are ponies for children of young age having particular abilities and good education. Sport ponies have all values that are also owned by good sport horses. Excellent movement, elegance, noble constitution and character are coupled with good working capacity. Due to a minimum of 25% pony genes, individuals are of very tough. They are capable of high achievements, which they maintain over a long periods. It is perhaps sport ponies that are missing the most among pony breeds in Hungary.
The first donkeys were domesticated around 4000 BC in Africa. Donkeys spread in the coastal regions of the Mediterranean, and later around the world. There is archeological evidence that donkeys were brought to the Carpathian Basin in the largest numbers by the Romans in the first centuries AD. Donkey bones also featured in findings of Celtic settlements. There is good reason to suppose there is a genetic relationship between today’s herds and those of the Roman Era can be suspected, as only a very small number of donkeys have been imported to Hungary over the centuries.

Donkeys played an important role in the life of itinerant merchants, and were an asset in transportation around castles and monasteries besides driving mills. The economic role of donkeys in the Carpathian Basin, however, was not significant. Although donkeys were generally known to be poor people’s animals, their use in farm work on large estates and guarding sheep spread from the 17th century.

After World War II, the donkey became a pack beast in household and was also used in subsistence farming. Recently, keeping donkeys as pets have gained ground.

The Hungarian Association of Donkey Breeders was founded in 2002 with the goal to make a survey of the donkey herd in Hungary, register the individuals and, in co-operation with the breeders, to establish a herd whose individuals have pedigrees. The Hungarian indigenous donkey was officially registered as a breed in 2003, and in 2005 it was granted the status of protected indigenous domesticated animal breed.

Individuals of the Hungarian donkey population are of medium size (withers height is 130-150 cm) but small as well as larger varieties also occur (below 110 cm and above 130 cm at the withers respectively).

The colours of donkeys is grey, and all shades of brown or black. Dorsal stripes, transverse shoulder straps and leg bars are common but individuals without any markings also occur. In all varieties of colours, the coat of the abdomen is light.

The most valuable traits of the Hungarian donkey are its undemanding nature, long life, resistance to diseases, endurance, excellent working abilities, versatile usage and a peaceful character. It is friendly, learns fast, and is a very loyal companion for its master. The donkey is a real social animal.

Donkeys create not only an excellent atmosphere on farms, but can play an important role in carrying out different works, and grazing weeds on and around the farm. In economic terms donkeys are one of the most useful domesticated animal breed for children to learn how to treat and relate to animals.
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