



World Arabian Horse Organization
Registered Charity Nr. 278988

From the desk of Mr. Peter Pond, WAHO President
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His Excellency The President of the Republic of Poland
Mr. Andrzej Duda
The Chancellery of The President
ul. Wiejska 10, 00-902 Warszawa
POLAND

By Email. MOST URGENT.

Your Excellency

I write to you today with the greatest of respect in my capacity as President of the World Arabian Horse Organization (WAHO), the only internationally and officially recognized governing body for the Arabian horse studbooks worldwide. It has recently come to our attention that three employees of the Polish Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural State Property Agency, who have for many years held important roles in the world-famous Arabian breeding programmes of Poland, namely Dr. Marek Trela, Director of Janów Podlaski Stud; Mr. Jerzy Białobok, Director of Michałów Stud; and Mrs. Anna Stojanowska, Inspector of Horse Breeding at the Agricultural State Property Agency, were suddenly dismissed from their posts on Friday 19th February 2016. This action has reverberated around the world and caused great concern to our Members, on whose behalf I now write to you. We respectfully ask for your consideration of the points we feel are important and which we now wish to bring to your urgent attention.

Allow me to explain a little about our Organization. Founded in 1970, the World Arabian Horse Organization is a registered charity with its headquarters in the United Kingdom. WAHO has the responsibility of ensuring that standards acceptable to all our Registering Authority Members are established and maintained in the matters of regulations, methods of registration and production of Stud Books. There are now 82 countries affiliated to WAHO as Registering Authority Members, either in their own right or in the care of a neighbouring studbook authority, together with 2 Applying Member countries. We also have Associate Members, as well as very many Individual Members worldwide who have joined our unique international 'family'. The basic objectives of WAHO are, in brief, "To preserve, improve and maintain the purity of the blood of horses of the Arabian breed and to promote public interest in the science of the breeding of Arabian horses ...; To promote and facilitate the acquisition and distribution of the knowledge in all Countries of the history, care and treatment of horses of the Arabian breed ...; To advise and co-ordinate the policies and activities of Members of the Organization ...; To co-operate with any person or body of persons ... domiciled throughout the world in an endeavour to promote uniformity in terminology, definitions and procedures relative to the breed of Arabian horses; To act in a consultative capacity in discussion and negotiation with International, National and other authorities on matters concerning horses of the Arabian breed."

Poland was one of the 9 founder Members of this Organization and, since the beginning, 3 of the most prominent and respected Polish experts on Arabian horses have served in turn as highly valued WAHO Executive Committee Members. They are the late Mr. Andrzej Krzyształowicz, the late Mrs. Izabella Pawelec-Zawadzka and now Dr. Marek Trela, who is also the recently appointed Vice-President of WAHO. The importance of their commitment and service not only to Poland, but also to the Member countries of this Organization, to other international Organizations and to the preservation of the Arabian horse worldwide cannot be over-emphasised.

Equally important to WAHO is the fact that Arabian horses from Poland and their descendants can be found in all the studbooks of our Member countries, as foundation stock from well over a century ago, and also through the many hundreds of exports from Poland in the last decades, thus giving other countries the chance to utilize these unique treasures from Poland within their own breeding programmes. The world's Arabian horse studbooks would certainly be very much poorer without the contribution of the outstanding horses from Poland.

As everyone connected with the breed knows, the tradition of Arabian horse breeding in Poland is unique in the world, both in its history and in its ongoing success. The recorded pedigrees of Polish Arabians go back centuries, their heritage has been preserved and nurtured by the people of Poland through more than 200 years of turbulent and often dangerous times, rebuilt time and again from loss and indeed near total destruction. The history of Poland and of the brave and resilient Polish people is somehow intertwined with the well-known history of the Polish Arabian, in the minds of so many people around the world. It is a positive example to the rest of the world of what can be achieved through courage and perseverance, together with awareness of the importance of continuity and preserving traditions. As a result, we can safely say that today the Polish Arabians are the most sought after in the world.

This modern success and the international importance of the renowned State Studs of Janów Podlaski and Michałów has been no accident, of course not forgetting the achievements and excellence of the younger Białka Stud. Breeding consistently top quality Arabian horses while at the same time preserving historically important bloodlines is both an art and a science, even with the best horses available it is not at all easy. Unless the breeder or, in this case, State Stud Director has years of experience of that particular group of horses, it would be impossible. It is our strong opinion that one major reason for the success of the Arabian horses of the Polish State Studs, especially in the last 70 years, is undoubtedly due to the selfless lifetime service and devotion of the remarkably small number of Directors of the State Studs, together with the work of the Inspectors of Horse Breeding, who themselves learned through long apprenticeships with their experienced predecessors. Even in their retirement, previous Directors often stayed on at the Studs, acting as mentors to their younger successors. This passing on of knowledge has provided a unique continuity, unmatched anywhere else in the world. This has undoubtedly led to the world-famous status of the Polish Arabian horse today.

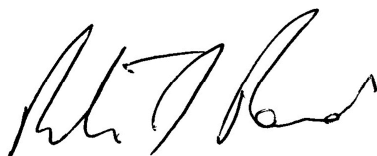
Returning to the matter of the three individuals who have been dismissed from their posts, it is beyond doubt that Dr. Marek Trela, Mr. Jerzy Białobok and Mrs. Anna Stojanowska are all held in the highest respect throughout the world. They have earned this respect over the past decades through their knowledge, integrity and hard work, as well as for their service to organizations such as ECAHO and WAHO, and of course for the many accolades the horses from their visionary breeding programmes have earned on the international stage, not only in the show ring but also on the race track and in the breeding barns. These 3 individuals and their achievements are without a doubt the main reason that international owners and breeders still turn to Poland as the source of the best Arabians in the world, knowing they have been produced by experts. They are also the reason that other breeders around the world have been prepared to lease their own valuable stallions to these State Studs, trusting in the knowledge and reputation of the Directors and the care and expertise provided by the staff they have trained. This international exchange of bloodlines is of the utmost importance in keeping a wide gene-pool throughout the studbooks of WAHO's Member countries, something that is extremely important for the health and welfare of the breed.

It is our further understanding that both Janów Podlaski Stud and Michałów Stud have been operating successfully in financial terms, which is no doubt in part due to the extraordinary sales figures achieved year after year at the annual auction at Janów Podlaski. This is truly unparalleled anywhere else in the world and brings so much favourable publicity and prestige to Poland. We also note that the growth of the private breeding farms in Poland over the last few decades has been built, in part, on the horses originating from these State Studs. The increasing success of Poland's privately-bred horses and the hard work of their breeders has also been internationally applauded. However, the rest of the world has remained confident that the priceless heritage of all the existing mare lines and sire lines would always be preserved and carried on into the future at Janów Podlaski Stud, Michałów Stud and Białka Stud. This important task has always been entrusted to the capable hands of acknowledged experts, who have seen and evaluated every horse in those pedigrees going back 6 and even more generations, thus giving them sufficient experience to take the necessary breeding decisions to ensure a positive outcome.

The reason for this letter is, of course, not to question the decisions and right of the Polish Government with regard to their recent actions. We simply and courteously wish to highlight our grave concerns that it is a great risk to lose, overnight and in such a sudden way, the accumulated decades of experience of these 3 highly qualified individuals, all of them ranked high among the world's leading authorities on the breed. Allowing inexperienced people to take the many and important decisions which are necessary for the successful and sound future of these world famous establishments could, without a doubt, lead to the rapid and serious diminishing of their present high standards. This potential loss of such an invaluable and unique heritage - the great National Treasures that are the Polish Arabians of which the Polish people are so rightfully proud and which have been nurtured for so long - is unthinkable to the international community of WAHO.

In closing, therefore, we respectfully urge that your due consideration be given to allowing Dr. Marek Trela, Mr. Jerzy Białobok and Mrs. Anna Stojanowska the opportunity to return to their posts, in order to be able to pass on their wealth of expert knowledge to their successors in an orderly and timely fashion, as has always been the case through the long and illustrious history of Arabian horse breeding in Poland.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter J. Pond', written in a cursive style.

Peter J. Pond
President, World Arabian Horse Organization