

Arabian U.S. Open Update -Arabian Horses are Headed Back to Central Park

(01-JUNE- 16) – **AURORA, COLO.** – The <u>Arabian Horse Association</u> (AHA) and <u>Aljassmiya Farm</u> are proud to present the 2nd Annual <u>Arabian U.S. Open</u>. The show will be held in Central Park, Manhattan, NYC, on Wednesday, September 21 – the opening night of the <u>Rolex Central Park Horse Show</u>.

In 2015, Arabian horses were showcased to the world on a platform with the potential to broadcast the Arabian breed into all corners of the earth. In 2016, this historic event will continue to be a marketing platform for the Arabian breed for the ages. Some of the details of the event have changed slightly, however the premise of breed promotion and allowing the world to experience the magic of Arabian horses will remain the same.

Event Details:

As stated in a previous release, the Arabian U.S. Open <u>schedule</u> has changed slightly. Yearling classes will no longer be offered. However, In-Hand/Halter classes will include: Junior Fillies and Junior Colts (2 and 3 years old); and Senior Mares and Senior Stallions (4 years and older). Performance classes will include Western Pleasure, Hunter Pleasure and Country English Pleasure, which will be ridden as Pro/AM classes – professionals will ride the first direction of the class and amateurs the second. Arabian Mounted Native Costume will also be offered, but will be an open class for either amateur or professional riders. With the limited availability of 50 stalls, each class will allow six (6) horses entered.

Corporate Sponsors have stepped forward to sponsor In-Hand/Halter teams, comprised of trainers, owners, handlers and horses from 2015, as well as others. The teams will be named by the Corporate Sponsor. Each team must bring four (4) horses of their own choosing, one for each halter class offered, allowing for the best horses in their selective classes to attend the event. Six teams will be sponsored and each horse that competes will receive points in congruence with their ranking in the class they show in. The team that collects the highest amount of points over the four (4) classes will be crowned the winning team of the Arabian U.S. Open.

Performance horses have been selected and invited by a committee, based upon their qualifications and ability to perform in Central Park's high stress atmosphere. The unusual environment and logistics of Central Park, along with the need to showcase extremely well-behaved horses with the breed standard for their particular class, required that the horses be selectively chosen. Additionally, the winners of the invitations in the Amateur performance classes at U.S. Nationals have already received their official invitation.

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The Arabian U.S. Open is truly an event that can be enjoyed by the entire world. Because of this, the show has selected judges to represent many countries and nations. Judges for the 2016 Arabian U.S. Open are as follows:

- Joe Polo and Steve Lieblang of the United States
- Murilo Kammer of South America
- Hassanain Al Nakeeb for the United Arab Emirates
- Gianmarco Aragno and Renata Schibler of Europe

The Arabian U.S. Open will be livestreamed in the United States and Europe via Arabian Horse Results. Further information, including the host hotel, ticket sales, and opportunities for purchasing a VIP/Patron Table and detailed information for exhibitors and visitors will be available around June 15, 2016.

Be sure to follow the Arabian Horse Association on Facebook, Twitter @AHAArabian and Instagram @arabianhorseassoc, using the hashtag #ArabianHorsesInTheCity for further information on the event and live updates from the show! Further details for exhibitors will be made available at www.ArabianUSOpen.com in the next few weeks. Watch for an official ten day countdown on social media until the website goes live!

After final selection and confirmation of the entries, an official news release will be sent, directing exhibitors to the website for all their necessary information regarding the show.

AHA and Aljassmiya Farm are excited to welcome you back to the 'Big Apple.' While Aljassmiya Farm has chosen to not have their horses participate in the event in order to support fair competition, they continue to support the show through sponsorship and the organization of the event.

Thank you for your patience as the details of this event are further organized, planned and executed. We hope to see you in Central Park in September!

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AHA is a major equine association serving 84,000 Arabian, Half-Arabian and Anglo-Arabian horse owners across North America. AHA registers and maintains a database of more than one million Arabian, Half-Arabian and Anglo-Arabian horses. AHA produces championship events, recognizes over 400 Arabian horse shows and distance rides and provides activities, education, and programs that promote breeding and ownership.