

“Cowards die many deaths,  
but the brave at heart  
only die but once.”  
Shakespeare

text by: Oliver Wibihal © straightegyptians.com  
photos by: Gigi Grasso, Gregor Aymar, Doris Meltzer, Scott Trees, Michaela Weidner

# PVA KARIIM





PVA Kariim

*I*t was a sunny day, a day Michael Ponnath will always remember because he had to make a decision. It was not an easy one. He stood right beside his stallion PVA Kariim, he talked to him and looked him in the eyes, like he always did. Kariim answered with a soft nicker. It was their usual „morning talk“ but Michael noticed that this time something was different...

For most of his life Kariim had been in pain, but this stallion was a gentleman and had a tremendous amount of heart to endure the amount of pain he was forced to live with. Always calm, always ready to please his two-legged friends, Kariim hid his pain more often than not. The only

way to see how he really felt was to read his eyes. And this time Michael knew that Kariim's time had come. The glimpse of confidence had disappeared. „This brave stallion always had given his best. He had fought to the very end, but this battle wasn't to win“, Michael says. „On this day in September I knew I had to release him from his pain.“



*I*n 2006, after two years of negotiation, Michael Ponnath was able to buy PVA Kariim and bring him home to his German studfarm. For many years he had admired him, mainly for the exceptional foals he



PVA Kariim with Michael Ponnath



HMT Princess Karima (by PVA Kariim), owner Al Waab Stud, Qatar



Imperial Baarez  
(by PVA Kariim)

owner:  
El Farida Stud,  
Egypt

had sired. His daughters, like *Shahboura* or *HMT Princess Karima* were famous for their exceptional beauty and nobility. And though Kariim had produced just a handful of foals, he was able to sire not only one, but TWO Champion Stallions of the prestigious Egyptian Event in Kentucky. These two sons were the late RZA *Orient Express* and the ever-popular *Imperial Baarez* (x *BB Ora Kalilah*), who is without any doubt Kariim's most successful son to date. Much has been written about *Imperial Baarez* but it is sufficient to say that he is one of the most exciting straight Egyptian stallions to come along in years. He was named champion and reserve champion in the US and in Europe numerous times and has proven that he can compete with anyone. Of course, he has sired champions as well. Owned by *El Farida Stud*

in Egypt, *Imperial Baarez* currently is writing his own chapter of the history book of the Arabian horse, and chances are it will be not a small one!



As his name implies, *PVA Kariim* was born at *Penn Valley Arabians*. By Reserve National Champion *Imperial Imdal* (*Ansata Imperial* x *Dalia*; see last *Desert Heritage Magazine* for *Imdal's* story) out of *BKA Rakiisah* (*The Egyptian Prince* x *AK Radia*), he was one of the elite. People who saw him, never could forget him. His extreme type and exquisite beauty was all it took to win people over. His dam was a chestnut daughter by *The Egyptian Prince* out of the *Ibn Moniet El Nefous* daughter *AK Radia* who in turn was out



PVA Kariim



PVA Kariim

*of Monisa RSI (Rashad Ibn Nazeer x Bint Moniet El Nefous), one of three own daughters of Bint Moniet El Nefous owned by Bentwood Farms (formerly known as „Al Karim“ Arabians hence the prefix „AK“ for all Bentwood bred horses).*

*AK Radia was an elegant, stretchy mare with long legs and a pretty head. Her daughter BKA Rakiisah was a bit more extreme in the head, and had a deeper body than her. Together with Imperial Imdal she produced Kariim and with this foal, everything had fallen into place.*



**A**s a young horse, PVA Kariim was sold to Brazil and later came back to the USA. Dawn Martin (manager of Al Bidayer Arabians in Sharjah) knew Kariim very well and tells his story: „PVA Kariim was truly a wonderful individual and a great sire who, unfortunately, has never really been able to reach his full potential. He had some success as a young show horse after being exported to Brazil, but then continued to have recurrent and severe laminitis, especially in one hoof. They were not able to discover the reason for this, but Eileen Verdieck saw the horse and had enough foresight, concern and belief in the stallion that she convinced the owners to allow her to bring him to the USA at her cost. During the resection they discovered a very small chip in



PVA Kariim



Imperial Imdal



**Muranas Amir (x Shem El Princess Malikah)**

*the pedal bone that had not shown up on x-rays but was abscessing out and was the cause of the severe recurrent founder. Once that was cleared and they started breeding, he kicked out with a hind leg as they left the breeding shed and the metal sunk to the bone in his hock. After some surgeries to clean up the injury to his hock, they were finally able to breed with him. But his first year or more in the States was pretty much lost.*

*Once when he was with „Cabreah“ (then Eileen Verdieck’s training stable) they attempted to promote him by taking him to the Egyptian Event for the stallion exhibition, and during each of these exhibits he would trot in with only a slight limp, tail up, snorting and blowing. But although he hid the pain, it was extremely noticeable*

*once he returned to the farm and it was decided he should not travel again.*

*What he has done as a sire is very consistent. Long legs, tremendous charisma and movement, refinement, long necks and elegance. His foals as youngsters look very gangly and take time to grow into themselves, much like a model. But as they mature and fill out they stay elegant, just like their sire.*

*Either way, the straight Egyptian breeding community owes Eileen Verdieck a huge vote of thanks in my opinion for bringing this stallion out into the public. Had she not brought him to the States and paid for all of his care, he surely would have died in Brazil as a young horse, his*



Muranas Jameel (x Jana El Bri)



Malik Halim  
(x Bint Moufisa by Al Kidir)



Nagda Halima  
(x Moufisa Al Kidir)





Nile Halima  
(x Nashua Halima  
by Al Adeed Al Shaqab)



PVA Kariim

*founder was that severe. Even though he was still very limited compared to what it could have been, at least he was able to produce some tremendous offspring, who are also turning into great producers themselves, which is the mark of a great sire."*



**I**n Germany PVA Kariim was only able to breed a handful of mares. At Michael's farm he had left three very promising foals this year. His son, Malik Halim (x Bint Moufisa by Al Kidir) is an exciting young

*fellow. Everyone that has seen him can't help but be impressed with what they have seen. He has a high set neck, long-sloping shoulder, smooth, level topline, the ability to move and this certain look that distinguishes him from the rest of the crowd. Kariim's daughters Nagda Halima (x Moufisa Al Kidir) and Nile Halima (x Nashua Halima by Al Adeed Al Shaqab) are Michael's hope for the future. They will carry his name into the next generation.*