

Joseph Polo

Handler / Judge

Text by: Talitha Bakker

Pictures by: Various photographers

Joseph Polo, better known as Joe, has been involved with Arabian Horses since already a very young age. Growing up in Pennsylvania, where he left bounds on the age of 18 to work with the finest breed of all, the Arabian Horse...

When we met Joe Polo while he was showing horses at the annual show in Cairo, Egypt, we took the opportunity to ask him some questions.

TA: To all the people that did not hear of Jo Polo yet; could you give us a introduction on yourself, your lifestyle and family?

JP: I was first introduced to the Arabian horse by my aunt and uncle, who were Arabian horse breeders in Pennsylvania where I grew up. Until I graduated from school, I worked every summer at BruMarBa in California. After graduation I moved to California to work there permanently. There I mainly went out to groom, work on the farm and handling the foals.

*Around 1988, Bruce had imported *Simeon Shai and around one year after I arrived, he arranged for me to go work at Simeon Stud in Sydney, where I apprenticed with Glen North. So I went to work for Marion Richmond, and I learned a lot of horsemanship from Glen North.*

After a one year adventure in Australia, I moved to Europe to work for Ferdinand Huemer in Austria. At the same time I brought the stallion El Perfecto from BruMarBa in California to Austria, who soon became a legend in Europe.



I worked off and on for Ferdinand, and then he organized for me to go work in the south of Spain for a breeder. While working and schooling horses in Spain, the owner schooled me further on riding and vaulting.

When I arrived back in the states, I met Willis Flick at the Nationals in Louisville, in the early 1990's. He organized for me to go to South America to work in Chile. This was for Carlos Montt and later for Rohara Arabians.

When I was 23 years old I went to work for Four Star Arabians, the owners of Padrons Psyche at the time.

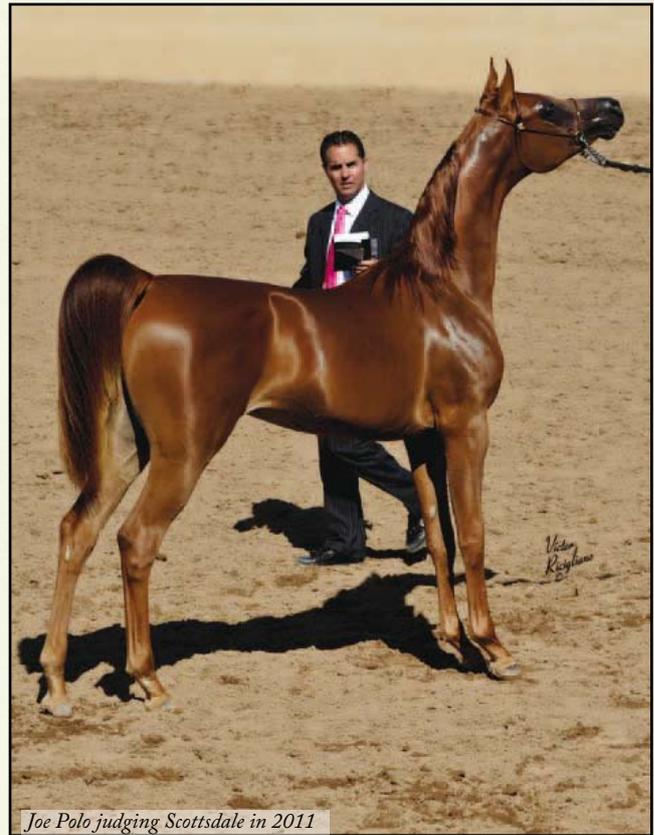
Today I live in Indianapolis, Indiana. Primarily I deal with the straight Egyptians and only show at the Egyptian Event.

I have had the opportunity to judge some of the greatest shows around the world. Personally, I have two beautiful daughters (Chiara – 4 & Calleigh – 3) and my wife of 11 years – Roshelle.

I am President of the State of Indiana's Arabian Association. Also, I am Chair for the By-Laws Committee of the Arabian horse Association.

TA: What made you prefer the Arabian breed over all the other breeds?

JP: I love all breeds of horses. Born into the Arabian horses



Joe Polo judging Scottsdale in 2011

has led me this direction. The history, character, and the Arabian traits are unique within all breeds.

TA: What is your ideal image of the Arabian horse?

JP: To give my ideal Arabian a name – based on type & structure – I would have to say Ali Jamaal.

Besides him, there have been so many great horses I have loved. Arn-nette Perlane, Padrons Psyche, NH Love Portion, FS Mystique Lady, and many others.

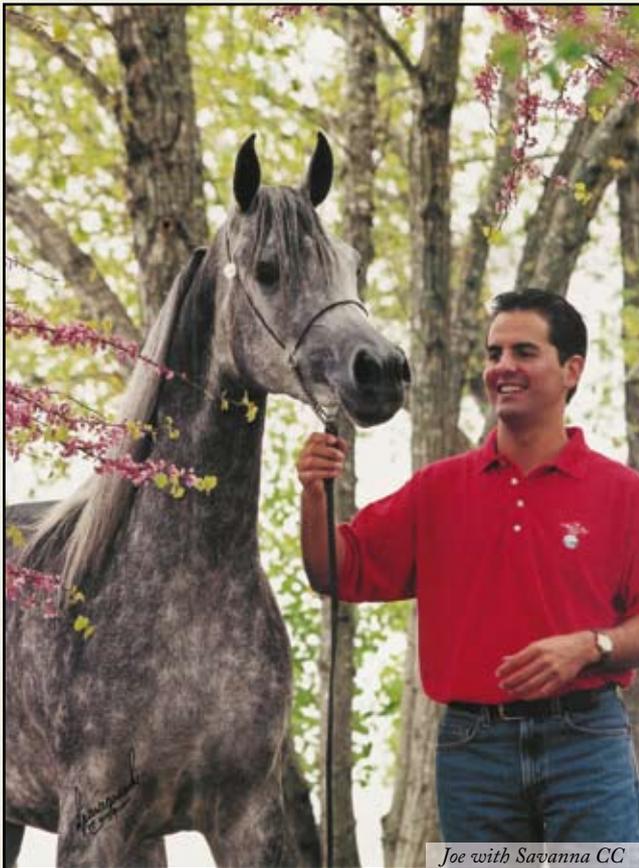
TA: We are seeing your face everywhere in the world!

Judging, handling or visiting. When did you start showing horses for clients?

JP: When I was 18 I had the opportunity to show for my first clients. But when I started working for Four Star Arabians is when my showing experience matured for clients.

TA: What was the most memorable horse that you ever shown?

JP: I believe most trainers have a memorable horse they have shown. Some trainers have had the opportunity to name several. My most memorable because of emotional involvement and achievement would have to be FS Mystique Lady (Padrons Psyche daughter) when she won the title of US National Champion mare, US National Top Ten



Joe with Savanna CC



Joe showing Sahara bint Naser

Futurity filly as well as Brazilian Gold champion filly.

I prepared and showed this filly as a yearling. She was then sold to Brazil and was named Gold Champion there. I then organized to buy her back to the USA where I prepared her again for her Futurity year. A great horse with a tremendous amount of heart and attitude. She was a lot like her sire Psyche and grand-sire Padron.

TA: You are also a worldwide respected judge. When did you start judging? And how do you combine this with your job as a handler?

JP: Since passing my judges exam in 2004, I have judged Scottsdale twice, Colombian National Show, Brazilian National Show, Egyptian Event Europe, Australia, Uruguay, and many other wonderful shows.

As a judge you learn how personal some exhibitors react

to your decisions. An example of this is when I judged a friend's horse at a prominent show in the US. The horse did not go Top Ten and my friend never spoke to me again.

TA: Which show is still on your list to judge?

JP: There are several shows worldwide that I would still love to judge. Paris, Dubai, Egypt, Aachen, Poland, to name a few.

TA: How/Where would you see yourself, 10 years from now?

JP: 10 years from now I hope my daughters are showing their horses. For fun!! I also want to be breeding straight Egyptians and continue the opportunity to visit other countries. The horse world is changing at the moment. I look forward to seeing where this will evolve to within the next 10-20 years.

After the interview Joe went back in the ring to show the horses. He is a real horseman and it was a pleasure to hear his story!



Joe winning the reserve championship title with TS Vivian Leigh at the Egyptian Event, USA in 2010