

# *Revisiting Kuwait*

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*by Judith Forbis*

*Progress is born of love, dedication, and perseverance.  
Nowhere in the Arabian horse world is this more evident  
than among the Kuwaiti breeders.*

Having witnessed the devastation to the Arabian horse breeding program at the State of Kuwait's Arabian Horse Center after the first Gulf War, the positive changes that have occurred since that time are overwhelming. The Center, renamed Bait Al Arab, is now under the chairmanship of HH Sheikha Sarah Fahad Al Sabah, a charming young woman who appreciates all things beautiful and is dedicated to preserving the Arabian horse heritage of her ancestors.

HH Sheikha Sarah's Al Arab Stud, currently maintained at Bait Al Arab, demonstrates her love for typey traditional classic Arabians. Her elegant mares are carefully selected individuals from respected Egyptian Arabian bloodlines. They have produced excellent foals with her handsome, impeccably bred stallion, Ansata Osiron, and with other stallions standing in Kuwait. It is a pleasure to see a woman of her prestige in a leadership position within the Arabian horse world.

Bait Al Arab has undergone a dramatic change in concept due to the support of HH Sheikha Sarah, all the Kuwaiti breeders, and the vision of Mohammed J.K. Marzouk, whose respected Ajmal Stud is home to the prepotent sire, Ansata Hejazi. Under Marzouk's guidance, the plans for the future Bait Al Arab incorporate modern technology in all phases of horse management. The buildings thoughtfully include Islamic design elements, thus assuring a relationship to Arabian culture and architecture. This venture, when completed, will certainly draw Arabian horse enthusiasts from around the world. It is also exciting to witness various educational projects sponsored by Bait Al Arab that foster public awareness about Arabian horses. During our visit a photographic contest was underway that brought some 200 photographers to the Stud. Significant prizes were awarded to the winners depicting Bait Al Arab horses photographed in specific categories. What a wonderful way to inspire citizens to appreciate the Arabian horse as part of their heritage.

I am amazed to see the giant strides made by all the Kuwaiti breeders in the past few years. Their cooperative ventures with each other, as well as with other breeders in the Gulf, have fostered a remarkable camaraderie within the Arabian horse community. Having overcome the ravishes of war and established many new stud farms, their accomplishments are an inspiration to breeders worldwide.