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Rare Breeds Highlight

Western States Horse Expo

The 21st Western States Horse Expo, May 9-12, 2019, will feature a variety of rare breeds, along with “Stewardship Awards of North America” (SANA) classes specifically for these breeds. The host organizations, the Akhal-Teke Association of America and the Equus Survival Trust, focus on conservation through education. Horse Expo has always made a concerted effort to educate its attendees, whether through veterinary science, breeding, alternative modalities, training, camping or riding. To have SANA and the host groups parallel the Expo’s mission statement of education, plus showcase these horses in sanctioned classes at the Expo, is an exceptional opportunity.

Where else can you visit with and watch these rare and endangered horses perform? And of course the exhibitors and breeders will gladly tell you about the unique characteristics of each breed including the traditional type, movement and temperament that these horses have displayed for centuries.

This year the Horse Expo will be housed at Murieta Equestrian Center, the largest equestrian center in California. The expanded number of arenas allows the endangered breed classes to include Jumping, Dressage, Obstacle, Western Dressage, In-hand, Ridden, Costume and classes specifically for Akhal-Tekes.

The Akhal-Teke horse is believed to be one of the oldest surviving and purest of horse breeds. The Akhal-Teke is a descendant of the ancient Turkmene horse that originated from Asia and was used by

nomadic tribes as a war horse. Later the Turkmene horse was brought to Russia and the best breeding stock were taken to the first Akhal-Teke Stud, Zakaspiisky, near Ashkhabad where the breed was developed and used by the Russian Military.

The Akhal-Teke horse has amazing stamina. This was proved in an endurance ride in 1935 when Anglo-Teke, Yomud and Akhal-Teke horses were ridden 2,600 miles from Ashkhabad to Moscow over 84 days. The ride included three days traveling 215 miles across the Kara Kum desert without water, with the purebred Akhal-Teke horses arriving in Moscow in significantly better condition than the other horses.

In 1979 Phil and Margot Case, of Shenandoah Farms in Virginia, were the first Americans to import Akhal-Tekes to the United States. Two of these horses were stallions purchased at a Moscow auction in September 1978. Phil and Margot went on to produce many purebred Akhal-Tekes who competed to the upper levels of three-day eventing, jumping, and dressage.

Current entries in the Western States Horse Expo Rare Breeds Show include Akhal-Tekes, Hackney Horses, American Cream Drafts, and a number of ponies. If you own a horse whose breed is listed on Equus Survival Trust list, you are welcome to participate in any of the Rare Breeds classes.

These pony, donkey and horse rare breeds include: Dartmoor, Exmoor, Kerry Bog, Gotland, Dales, Fell, Highland, Newfoundland, Caspian, Abaco Bara, Alberta Wildies, Akhal-Teke, Canadian Horse, Cleveland Bay, Hackney Horse, Irish Draught, Lipizzan, Lippitt Morgan, Mountain Pleasure Horse, Baca Chica, Banker Wild Horse, California Vaquero, Carolina Marsh Tacky, Cerbat, Cherokee, Choctaw, Florida Cracker, Glaiceno, Ojibwe Horse, Sulphur, Wilbur-Cruce, American Cream Draft, Clydesdale, English Shire, Suffolk Punch, American Mammoth Jackstock, and Poitou.

More information on the Equine Conservation List can be found at www.equus-survival-trust.org.

For a list of clinics at the Horse Expo all four days (jumping, dressage, obstacles in-hand, obstacles ridden) and rare breed classes for all four days, visit www.horseexpo.com/sana-west-rare-breeds-show/

The Horse Expo has a great line-up of activities, including hands-on clinics like leather braiding. Come and participate! For a complete rundown of all the exciting events and competitions at the Expo, visit www.horseexpo.com or call 530.672.7490.

EDITOR: Professional photographs available.

About Western States Horse Expo: The 2019 location for the Western States Horse Expo will move to Murieta Equestrian Center, 7200 Lone Pine Drive in Rancho Murieta, CA. The event will celebrate its 21st anniversary May 9-12, 2019. The Western States Horse Expo Pomona, California will celebrate its eighth year in 2019, and Pomona dates are November 8-10. Founded by horsewoman and entrepreneur Miki Nelsen, the Western States Horse Expos are the largest equine expositions in the United States.