

WA Miss Mirabell
1997 – 2005



Wintersteen Arabians is deeply saddened at the loss of WA Miss Mirabell on Thanksgiving Day. Mirabell suffered from symptoms of colic on Wednesday evening and was rushed to Littleton Large Animal Clinic. It was a long and difficult night, though at 2 am she seemed to be improving. Her condition then deteriorated. Mirabell had undergone colic surgery in the spring, which left on lesions on her colon, making her a poor candidate for a second surgery. She progressively worsened throughout the morning and was humanely put down on Thanksgiving afternoon.

WA Miss was foaled in 1997 along with WA Pejczyk in what is considered one of the best years for the farm. Arguably Mirabell is the greatest success of the farm's breeding program since she was the product of a somewhat obscure, though exceptional pedigree, being the daughter of the exotic *Aladdin son Elegant SA. Though little used, Elegant is full brother to National Champion Mare of Qatar Enchanted Evening. Mirabell's second dam was the Canadian TT Mare in Halter and English Pleasure, Mustamagic – dam of our foundation mare and Mirabell's dam, Melissa SA.



Mirabell as a yearling 1998 before shipping to Scottsdale for training with breeders Bob and Bonnie Wintersteen.

Mirabell was a supremely typey Kuhailan mare of extraordinary feminine beauty with well-shaped neck and exquisite dry and compact head. Standing only 14.2, the diminutive Mirabell was a constant reminder of what can come in small packages. Friend and mentor Tomasz Skotnicki of Magness Arabians Farms commented once, "she proves Arabians don't need to be big to be great." Though little, she was substantial bodied, wide across the chest, with a superbly smooth and balanced body and blessed with four perfect limbs and feet. She was as captivating in the stall as out, with a natural carriage and presence that never went unnoticed. Like most great mares, she instinctively understood her lofty station in life and demanded to be handled with the utmost respect and kindness she was due.

Obviously with such attributes, Mirabell was a natural for the show ring, but it was something she never relished. A difficult mare to show, she absolutely refused anything but the gentlest handling. Expertly shown her entire career by David Lowe – the duo accounted for 11 class wins and championships, the highlight when she was named Colorado Futurity Champion Filly in 2000.



Mirabell and David in the show ring.

We were understandably anxious to have her in the breeding barn, particularly with some rather exciting stallions coming from Poland. Despite the farm acquiring some mares of flashier pedigrees, Mirabell made it abundantly clear that she would be a crucial part of the farm's future breeding success. Though her breeding career was sadly cut short, it was remarkable in the two foals left behind – without question some of the best foals ever born on the farm. The initial, champion filly WA Miraczyk, was the first second generation Wintersteen Arabian foal and will remain carry on Mirabell's legacy for the farm. The Pejczyk daughter's quality and type was in large part responsible for Pejczyk attracting some excellent mares the following spring allowing him to prove himself as a sire. To Pejczyk's credit, he voiced his opinion daily that Mirabell was his absolute favorite mare on the farm. Mirabell's second foal by *Ganges stands as an unconditional testament to her abilities as a broodmare. She was scheduled to be bred to World Champion sire *Gazal Al Shaqab in the spring.

Thanksgiving evening, the family brought Mirabell's body home and she has been laid to rest in the only pastures she ever knew. WA Miss Mirabell would have been a valued member in any broodmare band,

but for small breeders like ourselves -- she was irreplaceable. Mirabell will always be regarded as one of our most treasured mares, and she leaves a hole in our hearts that time will not easily heal.



WA Miraczyk, Mirabell's 2003 foal by WA Pejczyk.



WA Maksimum, Mirabell's 2005 foal by *Ganges.