

# MOST CLASSIC CONTEST Winner LF EURSOFAB

by Colleen Scott

*There are friends and faces that may be forgotten, but there are horses that never will be. —Andy Adams*

When Karin McMurtrie, Hawk's Flight Farm, got the phone call congratulating her for LF Eursofab's winning of the Most Classic Contest, her joy was bittersweet. Sadly, in May, the 16-year-old mare was humanely put down following complications during a routine breeding examination. "I still miss her every single day," says McMurtrie. "She was full of spirit and always eager to put on a show when asked. But she had a very personable and gentle side too. She was incredibly loving. When she heard me, she would come to the fence. I called her my little unicorn. She was just really special."

Having grown up reading Walter Farley's books, McMurtrie was enthralled with Arabians at an early age. Besides the books, she experienced Arabians firsthand when she visited Callenberger Arabians in her hometown of Williamsport, Pa. "I never could own a horse as a child, so I bartered riding horses in exchange for mucking stalls and grooming at a local stable to get my horse fix," she says.

As an adult, McMurtrie was able to finally indulge in her childhood fantasy of owning Arabian horses. A breeder and owner now for 25 years, she has been privileged to enjoy many fine horses. She still owns the now 26-year-old Cal Daaba, her very first stallion, who sired a foal even this year. Hawk's Flight Farm also boasts of a fine band of carefully selected broodmares, including Magnum Psyche, Padrone Psyche and Menes offspring along with a few straight Egyptian mares. Even with the exposure to all these fine horses, it was "Fab" who really stole McMurtrie's heart and ignited her imagination.

McMurtrie only recently discovered "Fab" in 2004 at a neighbor's farm. "I really wasn't interested in expanding my broodmare band

at the time, but when I was told she was by SHF Southern Whiz and out of Fabrice, an Eukaliptus daughter, I made an appointment to see her. I was looking at another mare that was for sale, when a jaw-dropping gorgeous mare stuck her head over a stall door down the aisle way and that was all it took! The owner let "Fab" out and her movement and presence screamed type," recalls McMurtrie. "I purchased her that day."

McMurtrie intended to breed "Fab" to Amir Jamaal (Ali Jamaal x Luz de Fe, by El Shaklan), her 14-year-old stallion. "I really thought the two of them would have produced what we strive for in breeding Arabian horses," she says. "Amir passes down incredible strength through his daughters. And his colts are equally as strong in their beauty and balanced bodies. Although we tried breeding "Fab" to Amir, it was not meant to be," she says.

Despite not having been able to breed the mare to Amir, McMurtrie is grateful for the time LF Eursofab spent at Hawk's Flight Farm. "She was one in a million, and I am blessed to have had her in my life," she says. "Even people who didn't know horses appreciated how special she was and knew she was an extraordinary horse. I once had photographers in town and turned her loose to 'perform' for them. She was like a runway model, knowing just what to do and how to do it. But, true to her very personable nature, when I told her we were finished, she came right over and let me put her



halter back on. She was an incredible mare. I've left her video up on our website, [www.hawksflightfarm.com](http://www.hawksflightfarm.com), so everyone can see just how lovely and special she was."

Despite the loss of LF Eursofab, McMurtrie has not only memories of the special mare, but also has recently acquired her last filly. "I am so lucky I was able to purchase this filly, who looks very much like her mother. I am looking forward to breeding her to Amir and continuing the legacy of "Fab." She is by Versace, and is showing a lot of promise already, both as a broodmare and show horse," McMurtrie says.

"I have lived through many ups and downs in this business," she says. "But the loss of 'Fab' was just heartbreaking. She will always hold a special place in my heart." 🐾