

Zachary

Zach is my favorite horse at Reins of Change. After studying his breed and the background of horses in general, I am better able to understand his actions and why he looks the way he does.

Zach is an Anglo-Arab horse. Anglo-Arabs originated in Britain but were especially bred in France for more than 150 years. The objective of breeding an Anglo-Arab was to produce tough horses of the best riding type that will jump, race and go cross country. Anglos do not have the speed of a Thoroughbred, but the best of them are agile and very athletic. Their height can range from 15.3-16.3hh.

A Thoroughbred stallion and an Arabian mare were likely used to produce Zach because he is not very large. If an Arabian Stallion and Thoroughbred mare were used, Zach would exceed both of his parents in size. Zach got the head of his dad, a Thoroughbred. His profile is straight and his emotions are expressed through his eyes. Zach's eyes are my favorite part of him. His body is short, chest is deep, and his shoulders are very powerful. Zach's withers are more prominent than an Arabian and his neck is longer. His chest is as deep as it is so that his huge heart can pump and his lungs can expand when he runs long distances. His quarters are long

and, as in all Anglo-Arabs, tend to be horizontal and his frame is more solid than a Thoroughbred. Zach has gorgeous coloring. His color is bay (a reddish tint with a black mane and tail), and he has stocking legs, which means the coloring up to his knee is a different color than the rest of his body. He also has a beautiful white striped face.

Horses are a herd animal, which means they show great affection toward the other members of the group. Zach has shown his affection toward his peers in numerous ways. When he stands head to tail with another horse, it is establishing a relationship with that member of the group. The two can be “nuzzling” for up to 3 minutes. Also, horses are very territorial. If Zach feels that his territory is being threatened, he will begin rearing and stabbing with his front legs. Other forms of defense that Zach has shown, though not often, is kicking with his back legs. This means he and the other horse are not getting along or “threat biting” which is done by one horse to another to establish authority. I have noticed that Zach is usually on the receiving end of the biting threat when it occurs, and when he is bitten his ears are back in shock of the bite.

Zach also shows his personality in non defensive ways. He loves to roll on the ground which is important for him to do as a part of grooming and relaxing his muscles. It also helps remove any dirt and loose hair.

Zach, like many other horses shows great loyalty to his owner through obeying commands. Although charming, this trait can be destructive to a horse if his owner is abusive.

Anglos have the power and elegance needed for dressage and can be considered very beautiful horses. In the 1936 Olympic Games the French dressage placed in second, and out of three horses they had 2 Anglo-Arabs who were considered by many to be the most beautiful at the Games.

Zach's body is useful because it serves him as an Anglo horse. Zach may not be perfect, but he is beautiful because he is charming and charismatic. He is quiet and compliant, but his emotions shine through his eyes as well as his actions. Even if he is hard to place as far as his purpose because he is not perfect, he is still beautiful and he has purpose, it just might take a little patience to see what that purpose is.