

# DUBAI

# POLO CLUB

ISSUE 16  
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# MAGAZINE

**OCA**  
**PHOTO SPECIAL**

**MEET**  
**MEMBERS AND**  
**GROOMS**

**INSIDE:**  
**THE ART OF**  
**DRESSAGE**

**THE ARABIAN:**  
**ENDURANCE**  
**ATHLETE**

£4.50 / \$5.85





**5.00am:**  
*It's an early start. Only 5am at the Dubai Polo and Equestrian Club, and the staff are getting ready for another long day.*

*As the sun rises the temperature is already approaching 30 degrees centigrade. Within 2 hours the temperature will be 40'C+ and humidity approaching 80%.*

DUBAI POLO &  
EQUESTRIAN CLUB



نادي دبي  
للبولو والفروسية

**Play time:**

*One of the grooms takes the first of the horses out of the stables for morning exercise.*

*With more than 20 breeds, in excess of 300 horses and various training and riding facilities, the staff are kept busy 24 hours a day seven days a week.*



### ***Dancing with horses:***

*Horses in general need a leader. This young Arabian is being trained and exercised by a groom. The training sessions are used to warm up the horse both mentally and physically. This time allows it to loosen its joints and warm its muscles and gain confidence with the trainer. Once a delicate balance has been met, the groom will start to place small items on the horses back and build up until a person can ride without being thrown or the horse becoming scared for any reason. Groundwork is important before this final process of riding can take place. Training begins at around two years old. Foals can learn how to behave around people from a very early age. Other horses in the stables to the rear watch in anticipation, waiting their turn for some exercise and fun.*



*In the show ring the Arabian is exceptional in competition. The Arabian is well known for its balance and agility. Combined with its high intelligence and skillful footwork, it is more than capable in driving and reining events. For speed, agility, and gracefulness the Arabian is always the first choice. Arabians are known to compete in over 450 all Arabian shows as well as in numerous open shows around the world.*

*The Arabian is an endurance horse and come in the top ten most popular breeds in the world.*



**Showing off:**

Two Arabian horses (brother and sister) play and show off to the crowd behind. All horses at the Dubai Polo and Equestrian Club get chance daily to stretch their legs and enjoy the cooler weather early morning and evening during the summer months. You could almost see the smiles on the faces when the horses are let into the paddock as they enjoy the sunshine and open space. The original purpose of the Arabian was as a desert warhorse. Although camels provided meat, milk, leather, and transport for the desert people, the Arabian horses were much faster and more maneuverable. Past history shows that the horses used to live off camels milk and dates. The Arabian can live happily off less food than regular horses of similar size.



### **Dressage training (cover shot):**

This club member holds steady her thoroughbred in the evening sunset as they both navigate the delicate moves required in the sport of Dressage.

Originally developed for training military horses, the French term actually means 'training' and is used to increase maneuverability and obedience in cavalry mounts and also has been known to be used in battle techniques.

Dressage skills help develop the horse's natural ability and maximize attentiveness and suppleness while producing harmony between horse and rider.

Dressage is recognized as one of the three equestrian disciplines in today's modern Olympics.

### **Smile for the camera:**

After playing, this Arabian horse comes up close for a quick pose. Horses also need regular dental work and visits from the farrier. The discoloration is normal and the horses at Dubai Polo Club get some of the best care and attention



**Palermo restaurant (below):**

The Palermo has a passion for tradition and excellence to create a fine dining experience that is elegant and unique. The restaurant offers some of the best seafood, meats and grills with signature dishes specially prepared to the guest's tastes. The perfect location allows diners to overlook the polo fields and view spectacular sunsets. During the polo season members and guests can dine while watching the competitions held weekly.

**Equestrian statue (right):**

Within the club members and guest will come across opulent statues, fine art paintings and ornaments that would not be out of place in any stately home or palace. Some of the statues are especially picked to complement the each room, restaurant or office or in this case the main reception and entrance area. This solid wooden horse, expressing power and elegance, is made of black walnut and stands almost 50cm high.



**On the ball:**

Members enjoy the facilities and take time to practice one of the most difficult sports between human and horse. A large majority of the horses here are privately owned, many belonging to ruling families of the UAE.

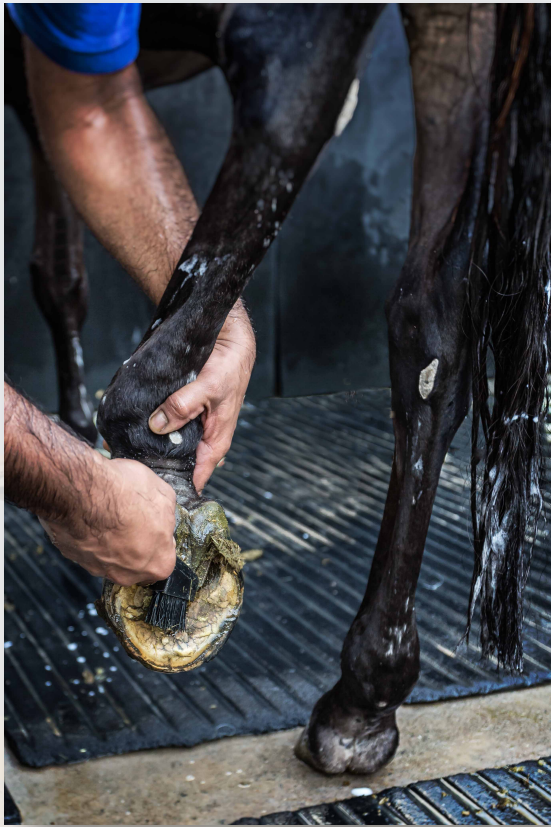
Polo is believed to have emerged from ancient Persia dating back over 2,500 years ago. Polo was also originally used as a training exercise for the cavalry.

During the polo season the Dubai Polo club will host a number of national and international events. Competitors will travel from far including other GCC countries.

**Set-Up:**

A member tacks up her horse as she gets ready to ride in the main paddock, which even includes a full viewing arena.

This particular horse is privately owned, but the club also can supply a large selection of horses and breeds that members and visitors alike can use, such as this wonderful thoroughbred.



**Check-up (above):**

A full check of the horses health is made after each and every ride or training session. This groom is making sure no sharp objects remain in the hoof and that the area is clean before returning to the stables for the day.

**Bath time (right):**

Once an overall check is complete the horses enjoy a bath and wash to remove all sand and dust. Each horse will also get a full shampoo of coat and mane.



**Heading home (above):**

The first sessions of the day are coming to an end. This is the time where the grooms tasks and workload continue to increase as they care for the horses.







**Last man standing:**

The final group of horses and grooms arrive after a walk around the main polo playing field. Often grooms will take half a dozen horses in one group to save time and help escape the intense daily temperatures of 40°C plus during the summer months in Dubai. Tomorrow will bring another early start, where grooms, horses, members and guests will exercise, train and ride at Dubai Polo and Equestrian Club.