



By Lizet Kotze / Photography by Tromp's Photographers

-A horse with a sixth sense

Janita and Van Duyn Doyer, owners of the famous Arkab Arab Stud, never imagined the birth of one of their many foals, Arkab Mirarti, on 24 October 1991, would have such a great influence on their lives and their success as Arab breeders. Arkab Stud has won 'Breeder of the year' award from the Endurance Riding Association of SA, no less than three times – in 2007, 2008 and 2010. A remarkable achievement!

Mirarti is one of a kind. Bred from his sire, Vlinkfontein Rakalé and mother, Arkab Neeli from the very famous Quimran bloodlines, he was destined to make a big impression in the endurance sport.

Mirarti started his endurance career as a six-year-old in February 1997, when he participated in the Premier 80 km event with Gendane Mtimunye in the saddle. They earned ninth place in the lightweight category in a time of 04h51. In his first year as an endurance horse, he participated in five 80 km rides, which he finished in times ranging from 05h30 to 06h30. In the same year, Gendane and Mirarti also finished the 201 km ride at Fauresmith in a time of 10:54:58 and earned an 11th place in the lightweight category.

As the endurance sport developed and adopted a new approach regarding novice horses, Janita realised that a young horse shouldn't have been ridden that fast in his first endurance year. But Mirarti was already showing his potential to become an exceptional endurance horse.

Initially his owners thought Mirarti was just another promising young horse, but Janita sensed that he could become a 100-miler horse due to his strong build and lovely free trot.

In Mirarti's second year of endurance, he did much the same as in the first year; three 80 km rides with lightweight rider, Gendane, and then two 80 km rides with the Doyer's heavyweight sons, Tobias and Wilhelm, at a slower pace in order to make him stronger.

Sadly, in 1998, a number of the Doyers' horses were accidentally poisoned. Luckily, Mirarti escaped harm's way, though this tragic incident meant the Doyers refrained from taking part in Fauresmith. Instead, Janita set her sights on the 100-miler at Hofmeyr in August that year. Mirarti exceeded everyone's expectations by finishing his debut 100-mile ride in 15th position, out of 57 entries, in a time of 11:40:59. Janita needed no more convincing – Mirarti had that special something that could make him an outstanding 100-miler horse.

A month after Mirarti's first 100-miler at Hofmeyr, Janita took him to Alma for his second attempt at this distance and he earned a third place in a time 10:03:15. He followed this with a string of successful 100-milers, adding up to an incredible 17 in total, most of them completed in the first position.

Arkasab Mirarti

Highlights in Arkab Mirarti's incredible endurance career						
Date	Ride	Rider	Distance	Time	Position	
160 km's						
08-08-1998	Hofmeyr	Janita Doyer	160 km	11:40:59	15th	
05-09-1998	Alma	Janita Doyer	165 km	10:03:15	3rd	
03-04-1999	Platorand	Janita Doyer	160 km	11:23:52	1st	
28-08-1999	Hofmeyr	Janita Doyer	160 km	10:41:51	1st	
25-09-1999	Alma	Janita Doyer	165 km	09:59:45	3rd	
23-10-1999	Potchefstroom	Janita Doyer	170 km	09:32:49	1st	* Best conditioned
17-03-2000	Platorand	Janita Doyer	165 km	11:43:36	1st	
18-08-2000	Hofmeyr	Janita Doyer	160 km	11:02:47	1st	
16-09-2000	Alma	Janita Doyer	165 km	10:09:25	1st	
13-10-2000	Gauteng	Janita Doyer	161 km	11:20:50	1st	* Best conditioned
19-04-2001	Platorand	Janita Doyer	163 km	12:10:35	1st	
06-10-2001	Gauteng	Janita Doyer	161 km	09:58:16	1st	
08-06-2002	Okahandja	Janita Doyer	160 km	09:23:51	1st	* Best conditioned
14-04-2003	Platorand	Janita Doyer	160 km	11:28:14	1st	
16-08-2003	Hofmeyr	Janita Doyer	160 km	10:15:13	3rd	
25-08-2004	Hofmeyr	Janita Doyer	160 km	09:46:51	3rd	
02-10-2004	Gauteng	Janita Doyer	160 km	09:55:43	1st	
120 km's						
28-08-2001	Walvisbaai	Janita Doyer	130 km	07:26:54	3rd	
16-03-2002	Platorand	Janita Doyer	130 km	08:14:00	1st	
29-08-2002	Walvisbaai	Janita Doyer	130 km	06:59:34	1st	* Best conditioned
05-10-2002	Botswana	Janita Doyer	120 km	06:17:03	2nd	* Best conditioned
04-10-2003	Gauteng	Van Duyn Doyer	120 km	07:55:00	3rd	
31-08-2005	Walvisbaai	Van Duyn Doyer	130 km	08:02:25	15th	
201 km's Fauresmith						
08-07-1997	Fauresmith	Gendane Mtimunye	201 km	10:54:58	11th	Lightweight
06-07-1999	Fauresmith	Gendane Mtimunye	201 km	09:07:16	1st	Lightweight
11-07-2000	Fauresmith	Janita Doyer	201 km	09:17:45	15th	Standard weight
10-07-2001	Fauresmith	Janita Doyer	201 km	11:22:17	42th	Standard weight
09-07-2002	Fauresmith	Janita Doyer	201 km	12:18:06	58th	Standard weight
Number of 80 km rides completed : 42						

When asked what Mirarti's strongest characteristics are, his owners say it's his unbelievable competitiveness, his ability to pace himself according to conditions and terrain and his phenomenal memory of every course he has completed with details of every water point, turning point, etc.

A proud Janita told me she never had to use a strong bridle on Mirarti during the first legs and he is a master performer to pace himself through the first part of the ride. But whenever he sensed any kind of competition on the last leg, she had to put a special, strong bridle on for the last loop. Even on his 100-mile rides, he would show his incredible competitive spirit right to the very end!

Mirarti's outstanding memory earned Janita a first place at the 130 km ride in Walvis Bay in 2002. On that particular August day, a very dense fog-bank made the marked route in the desert totally invisible. There were already a few horses in front

of Janita and at a specific point, they turned left. Janita followed them, but Mirarti kept turning out his right ear as if he wanted to go in the other direction. Janita stopped, let the reins loose on his neck and decided to follow his instinct. He immediately turned right with no directions at all and disappeared into the dense fog. A few riders decided to follow Mirarti; an unlikely decision for riders to follow a horse blindly, relying on his feeling and senses. About 20 minutes later, the fog suddenly lifted and a water tank appeared right in front of them as the turning point en route, proving that Mirarti's instincts were 100% correct. Mirarti had participated in the Walvis Bay ride the previous year and it was clear to everyone that he'd programmed the route in his memory. This incredible ability earned Janita a first place in a time of 06:59:34 and furthermore, Mirarti was allocated the Best Conditioned Horse trophy!

One of Mirarti's less favourable characteristics is his fright factor. His owners can tell endless stories about his fear for "maybe lions", "maybe stones", "maybe



A LONG-DISTANCE
ENDURANCE LEGEND IN
HIS OWN TIME – 8 055
COMPETITIVE KMS AND 17
COMPLETED 160 KM RIDES!



stumps", and so on! He tends to get more frightened on the shorter 80 km rides, but he surely knows when he is doing a 100-miler; then the fear factor is just to keep the ride interesting for his rider and himself. The Doyers are still stunned by Mirarti's ability to 'read' the circumstances of a road and he proved this on various occasions. When asked by his rider to turn into a gallop in the dark, he would regularly refuse to do so and all of a sudden a rocky or rough patch would appear and it all made sense ... that area wasn't suitable for a gallop. Mirarti's sixth sense makes him an amazing horse in so many ways!

Apart from his competitive side, Mirarti also loves to be scratched and pampered. He loves to feel 'owned' and cherished by the people who care for him. As Van Duyn put it, Mirarti became a lifelong friend of their whole family.

When he earned his 8 000 competitive endurance kilometres award, Janita made this important statement: "Each extra competitive kilometre award, after Mirarti's 6 000 km awards, were a special point for us to reach. It goes to show that, if you restrict speed, there will surely lie ahead unlimited kilometres of joy for you and your beloved horse." Wise words for every endurance rider who wishes to share a long endurance career with his/her horse!

Today, at the age of 19, Mirarti's years of glory on the endurance track have come to an end. He is enjoying his retirement on the Doyers' farm, Eerstelingsfontein (in the Belfast district in Mpumalanga), where he is still treated as a hero and where legendary stories of this long-distance veteran will be told for generations to come. Mirarti, you are surely one of a kind – we salute you!

REGISTRASIESERTIFIKAAT		The Arab Horse Society of South Africa	
Arabierperd Genootskap van Suid-Afrika		REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE	
Hiermee word gesertifiseer dat hierdie HINGES aangeneem is vir inskrywing in die Arabierperd Genootskap van Suid-Afrika		This is to certify that this STALLION has been accepted for entry in the Arab Horse Society of South Africa	
Naam Name	ARKAB MIRARTI ZA	Rekenaar Nr Computer No.	0009963018
Gebore Born	24/10/1991	Gradering Grading	SP 85
DNS DNA		ID Nr ID No.	
Skyfie Chip		Registrasie Nr Registration No.	3739 SASB
VAAR SIRE	VLINKFONTEIN RAKALE 261 (Vol.2)	Deel Volume	15
MOER DAM	ARKAB NEELI (KEHEILEH DAJANIEH) 2152 (Vol.10)	RYNET FIKELE 169/1 (Vol.1)	QUANTOCK II (KEHEILAN RODAN) 44 (Vol.1) [IMP]
	VLINKFONTEIN NIGHTINGALE II 48 (Vol.31)	FATHIA 132 (Vol.1) [IMP]	RAKTHA (KEHEILAN RODAN) 21 (Vol.1) [IMP]
	QUIMRAN WODKA (KEHEILAN RODAN) 162/1 (Vol.1)	RABIYAS 33 (Vol.1) [IMP]	CHOCOLATE CREAM 64 (Vol.1) [IMP]
	QUIMRAN ROSELEEN (KEHEILEH DAJANIEH) 718 (Vol.3)	START REVERENCE 3RD 85 32/30 (Vol.1)	HAJI
		MEADOWOOD ZACHARIA 85 19/28 (Vol.1)	DEWI
		QUIMRAN ETRESIA 168 (Vol.1)	RAHAS
		QUIMRAN VULCAN (KEHEILAN RODAN) 289 (Vol.2)	RABIYAT
		QUIMRAN MOOI MEISIE (KEHEILEH DAJANIEH) 171 (Vol.1)	JIDDAN
			NIGHTINGALE 22 (Vol.1) [IMP]
			INDIAN RED 15 (Vol.1) [IMP]
			NIGHTINGALE 22 (Vol.1) [IMP]
			SUN BRILLIANT (KEHEILAN DAJANI) 137 (Vol.1) [IMP]
			LANISA 147 (Vol.1) [IMP]
			MEADOWOOD ZACHARIA 85 19/28 (Vol.1)
			QUIMRAN ETRESIA 168 (Vol.1)
			SUN BRILLIANT (KEHEILAN DAJANI) 137 (Vol.1) [IMP]
			INDIAN GLORY 146 (Vol.1) [IMP]

Teler (0305300) **MEV J.M. DOYER**
Breeder **POSBUS 673, BELFAST, 1100**

KORREK GESERTIFISEER
CERTIFIED CORRECT

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