

Patron Statement

August 2015

Ever since my early childhood in Iran, I have been fascinated by the tribal culture embedded with the different horse breeds surrounding our country. Each breed whether Turkaman, Badakhshi, Akhal Teke, Darashuli, Kurd, Jaf, Asil Arab, and indeed the Caspian horse, evokes a sense of deep rooted history and way of life by its native caretaker, whether nomadic , tribal, warrior. This is a testament to the many treasures of Iran's long and proud equine heritage and culture.

This year is the 50th anniversary of the rediscovery of the Caspian Horse by Louise Firouz. The 4th International Conference of this rare breed will take place for the very first time in Iran and especially in Rasht, the very region where this horse has been roaming since it was depicted some 2500 years earlier on the bas reliefs of Cyrus the Great in Persepolis. Louise Firouz has brought to the attention of the greater world, both within and outside of Mazandaran and Gilan, the significance of treasuring the preservation of this endangered breed and encouraging its popularity and growth.

I wish all the participants in the 4th International Conference on the Caspian Horse an enriching experience, taking home renewed enthusiasm for this rare and unique breed of the Caspian Horse.

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