

# Private facility home to Arabian horses

What do you do if you've got 30 world-class Arabian horses?

You build them one of the most modern equestrian facilities in the country. At least that's what Burlington entrepreneur David Ryan did.

Recently, Mr. Ryan purchased a 28-acre parcel of land on No. 14 Sideroad (Main Street) and Tremaine Road on the west side of town. Over the past year, he built an ultra-modern private facility rivaling almost anything in the country.

And it's all just a hobby.

Mr. Ryan owns Ultapet, a company involved with pet foods. However, for many years he's loved Arabian horses, considered the top of the line in horse breeds. His hobby started relatively small but it's

grown into a first-class private operation.

The facility is named Ryanna Arabians and features 23 stalls, an indoor arena, an outdoor arena, a viewing room, a tack room and enough extras to please any horse lover.

Most of the duties of keeping up the facility fall on the shoulders of Debbie Reed, the manager. Along with two part-timers, she ensures it runs smoothly. Ms. Reed and her husband live in an apartment on the second floor and she acknowledges keeping horses is a full-time job.

"You've got to have a neutral respect for them," says Ms. Reed of the horses. "You can't bully them. They're too intelligent."

She's quick to identify illnesses in horses and can solve most problems.

"Being around them, you just know what they're up to."

Although the operation is a hobby, Mr. Ryan's goal is to have it pay for itself. Boarders aren't permitted, although some Arabians belonging to friends are kept at the facility. Seven mares gave birth to foals this year. He intends to sell them later.

Arabs are becoming increasingly popular in racing, at thoroughbred tracks as well as in long-distance racing.

They're already the most popular dressage and show jumping horses. In fact, Ms. Reed spends many summer weekends attending horse shows in the northeastern United States and Canada.

Recently, an open house attracted 300 people who were treated to a fine display of the horses in the indoor arena.



Photo by JOHN WARREN

Debbie Reed shows off one of 30 Arabian horses kept at Ryanna Arabians, a new privately owned facility on No. 14 Sideroad (Main St.) near Tremaine Rd. The facility is owned by David Ryan, of Burlington.



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