

<https://doi.org/10.33472/AFJBS.6.10.2024.4753-4759>



African Journal of Biological Sciences

Journal homepage: <http://www.afjbs.com>



Research Paper

Open Access

## THE EMERGENCE AND GENEALOGY OF THE HORSE IN CENTRAL ASIA

**Oybek Kamilovich Komilov**

Doctor of Sciences (DSc) in History, Professor of Andizhan State University, Republic of Uzbekistan

**Turgunoy Akhmadjanovna Egamberdieva**

Doctor of Sciences (DSc) in Pedagogy, Professor of Ferghana State University, Republic of Uzbekistan

**Salimjon Valievich Yuldoshev**

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Pedagogy, Assistant-Professor of Ferghana State University, Republic of Uzbekistan

### Article History

Volume 6, Issue 10, 2024

Received: 29 Apr 2024

Accepted: 27 May 2024

doi: 10.33472/AFJBS.6.10.2024.4753-4759

**Abstract:** *In this article, the natural conditions and the appearance of the horse creature over the centuries, using the achievements of archeological research, their types and the history of the appearance of horse breeding, which have been polished in the stages of socio-economic development arising from economic traditions, are observed on the basis of scientific and field expedition records handling allows for a deeper understanding of the type of horses and the traditions of care.*

**Key words:** *Horses, large long-legged, cream blanket breeding farm, Tarpan, "heavenly horses", "Eguus Caballus Gmelini Antonius", "Tekeli-tepa", "Golden top", Kyrgyz, Karakalpak, Yuz, Kurama, Turks and Arabs, specialized farms, horse breeds such as Akhaltaka, Yovmut, Lakai, Karabayir, Arab, Kyrgyz, Don, handicraft industries, economic traditions*

## INTRODUCTION

A horse is a genus of herbivores belonging to the family of equines. In Central Asia and the southeastern part of Europe, domestic horses were known from the III millennium BC [1.P.4]. However, the question of domestication of the horse is very complicated and controversial, and according to most scientists, Western Europe and Asia are the homeland of the horse. According to M. O. Kosven, if the place of origin of the horse is Asia, it is very difficult to prove that Western Europe is its independent homeland. In Asia itself, the horse appeared not in one, but at least in two regions - in East and Central Asia, probably in the territory of Turkmenistan. This is

the homeland of the best-bred horses, with rather large long legs, a handsome cream coat and hardiness. The lineage of the above-mentioned horses spread from Central Asia to the West, Mesopotamia, Asia Minor, Palestine, Egypt, and later Arabia [2.P.84-85]. However, there is also information that the earliest horses were spread from the "Tarpan" type of horse that lived wildly in the area from the Danube River to the Ural Mountains[3.].

### **RESEARCH METHODS**

Methods such as Comparative analysis, Problem-chronological, objectivity, Structural-systematic analysis, Oral history were used in the article process. Here it is worth saying that N.A. Avanesova and N.A. Tashpulatova published in the journal "Uzbekistan archeology" many scientific opinions and valuable information about the problems of Central Asian civilization, ancient "heavenly horses" of Central Asia based on archaeological research, and their comments [4].

It is known that, until recently, science textbooks were dominated by the opinion that the first horses were spread from the wild species named after Prezhevsky. But later, as a result of the scientific research conducted by paleozoologists, it became known that the earliest horses were spread from the type of horse TARPAN, which lived wildly in the southern parts of Eastern Europe, from the Danube River to the Ural Mountains [5.P.28].

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

The scientific Latin name of Tarpan is *Eguus Caballus Gmelini Antonius*. The reason for the scientific community to come to this conclusion was the discovery of horse bones found in monuments dating back to the IV millennium BC in the southern regions of Eastern Europe, such as Keresh, Boyan, Karanovo, Kukuteni, Tripole, and showed that the first horses appeared in these regions. These bones were collected from paleozoologists V.I. Tsalkin and V.I. Bibikovas the studied and made a clear conclusion that they are trained domestic horses [6.P.107].

Although there are epics glorifying the horse, hymns about its rise to the level of the most divine animal in its time, none of them mentions the country where the first horses were trained, or their lineage. Because the time of the first domestication of horses goes back much earlier than the written sources can leave, and therefore we can learn such information only from the results of archaeological research. According to the conclusions of science in the 1960s and 1970s, the discovery of horse bones in Eastern Europe in the 4th millennium BC raises the idea that the first horses appeared in this area.

Archaeological research shows that horses were domesticated in the Central Asian region from the Late Bronze Age. Horse bones were found in the "Kellili" and "Toir I" sites in the Marv oasis. Since the early Iron Age, the use of horses has become widespread in peasant and pastoral farms. Archaeological research provides the first reliable information about the emergence of livestock farming. Today, there are many epics, legends and fairy tales about the ancient "heavenly horses" of Central Asia, and despite the fact that hymns about the horse's elevation to divine status have been passed down from generation to generation, the training of horses goes back much further than can be traced in written sources. Therefore, it is important to rely on recent achievements of archeology in this matter in Central Asia. As a result of archaeological research, ceramic horse figurines were found in "Tekeli-tepa" and "Oltin tepa". The discovery of a lamp handle in the shape of a saddled horse, rider and horse ceramic figurines from the 1st-4th centuries AD in Erkurgan shows that the development of horse breeding began in the Bronze Age and became an important type of economy. Later, the identification of horse images

engraved on rocks in the Zarafshan and Nurota mountain ranges proved that animal husbandry has become the main branch of livestock farming in the Turkic peoples [7.P.209-214].

M. Isomiddinov [8] expressed his opinion on the same point of view. According to him, the Andronovo culture occupied the territories from the Don River to the Altai and from the Ural Mountains to Central Asia, and they may have been divided into different ethnic groups, the existing archaeological evidence proves that the ancient Sakas are the descendants of the tribes of the Andronovo culture. In particular, the inscription from the Sakas period found in the Issyk fortress in the eastern part of Kazakhstan, and the inscriptions found in the Aikhonim monument in the northern part of Afghanistan proved that the Sakas can also be divided into different ethnic groups [9. P. 65-67].

It is estimated that the horse may have existed in the Ancient East since the 4th millennium BC. At the same time, a rider and his horse are mentioned in a Sumerian parable [10.P.28-29]. So, the development of horse breeding in Central Asia also occurs as a result of the strengthening of relations between peasant communities and herders in the steppe regions.

A. Middendorf, a scientist who studied the valley, writes that "the ancient fame of the Ferghana valley is based on the fact that all its natural conditions made serunum agriculture comfortable" [11.P.10]. The natural conditions of the Ferghana valley are very favorable for the development of cattle breeding along with irrigated agriculture, and in the hilly and sub-mountainous regions, nomadic herdsmen Kyrgyz, Karakalpak, Yuz, Kurama, Turks and Arabs engaged in cattle breeding. In the summer months, the best pasture for livestock was considered to be the Aloy valley. In the winter, the Central Ferghana Desert (the local people called this region the Karakalpak Desert at the time of the study) was considered the most suitable area for raising cattle.

The Ferghana Valley is one of the cradles of highly developed farming and animal husbandry culture since ancient times. The development of livestock farming in the Ferghana Valley is largely related to the natural factors of this land. Without forgetting the aspect of the issue related to economic life, it is necessary to note the strong need for horses in farmers' and livestock farms and merchants, as the Ferghana valley consists of plains, lowlands, hills and mountains, sub-mountains. The climate in the region, cold winters and hot, dry summers, has increased the need to create breeds of horses suitable for the natural climate. As a result, the experience of yearling has expanded and developed over the centuries.

Horse care in Central Asia has its own characteristics, which have been formed over centuries in regional areas based on common economic traditions of Uzbeks, Tajiks and Kyrgyz. As a result of field ethnographic observations, it was found that among the Uzbek, Tajik, Kyrgyz population of the valley, a unique tradition and experience has been formed in the matter of breeding horses. Even in villages and settlements where Uzbek, Tajik and Kyrgyz people live side by side, differences in horse care are visible. Horse care in Kyrgyz is often based on the principle of strict manual labor. They use the experience of riding more of the breeds in the process of breeding and breeding horses. They did not take full account of climate change. Perhaps, the above method of care appeared in order to adapt horses to the mountainous region and the often changing mountain air, to create immunity. It is also important to follow the feeding ration of horses in horse breeding and to be able to choose fodder that serves to maintain them at the required level.

As a result of the observations, it was confirmed that the residents of the Ferghana Valley use more alfalfa hay, which has a high calorie content and ration, when feeding horses. In Chinese sources, it is noted that during the wide use of a special plant (alfalfa) for horse care among the Turkic peoples, it serves to keep the horse happy and its meat the same in any season of the year.

It is not accidental that the horse is given mostly barley instead of fodder. Maybe this type of fodder is aimed at not accumulating excess fat in the internal body of the horse and for fast digestion of the fodder. Also, excessive fat accumulation in the intestines can cause the horse to become exhausted and the fat in the intestines to break off during a jerky movement (sudden startle), rendering the horse unfit for use year-round.

At the first stage of horse breeding in Central Asia, new breeds were created based on the crossbreeding of wild and domestic horses. The fact that the creation of horse breeds became widespread in the Middle Ages created the conditions for the creation of horse breeds such as Akhaltaka, Yovmut, Lakai, Karabayir, Arab, Kyrgyz, Don [12. P.349]. With the increase of horse breeds, depending on their species, the care of the horse breeds that carry loads, join the cart, and ride on the horse was started. Riding horses are long-legged, very sensitive, prone to agility, fast, graceful, and were used more for military purposes in ancient and medieval times. Such horses are cared for separately from their mares, and serious attention is paid to their training.

During the existence of the Dovan state in the Ferghana valley (III - II centuries BC), the tradition of breeding domestic horses with wild horses was formed to obtain the breed of "heavenly horses". New breeds obtained from wild and domestic breeds are very agile and can save their owner from any danger.

The Lakai horse breed was bred by the Lakai clan of Uzbeks about 300-400 years ago with horses such as Yovmut, Akhaltaka, Karabayir and Arabi. Such horses were characterized by easy movement in mountainous areas and resistance to hot climate. There is an influence of Arab, Mongolian and Kazakh horses in the production of Yovmut horse breeds. In the Emirate of Bukhara, mainly black horses were raised [14].

So, in Central Asia, in particular, in the Ferghana Valley, the domestication and training of horses goes back to the distant past, fully confirmed by material and written sources. The presence of natural factors and specific ethno-social processes in the region determined the development of the livestock industry. As a result, the work carried out by the herdsmen and peasants of the valley on the breeding of the best breeds of horses shows that the strong interest in the horse breeds (heavenly horse) in the neighboring country of China and the repetition of military conflicts in this regard have made horse breeding a leading economic branch in the region. Residents of Ferghana Valley have accumulated rich experience over the centuries in horse care, crossbreeding of different horse breeds, and creation of new breeds.

Currently, the best galloping horses in Central Asia are more common in the mountainous and sub-mountainous regions of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Republics of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Usually, such horses are given names and different nicknames depending on their color (yellow, red, targil, brown, black, blue), appearance (hipcha, thick, long neck), mane and tail length. That's why it became a principle to call it "Blue Pigeon", "Blue Iron", "Chambilbel", etc.

Although the Karabayir is ancient among purebred horses, today their number has reached the level of extinction. Currently, measures are being taken to increase them, and good

results are being achieved. Effective work is being carried out on the care of such horses, improvement and breeding of such horses in the horse factories of our republic, such as Jizzakh and Karshi. Karabayir horses are found in Nurota ridge mountains, Bahmal, Gallaorol, Zomin, Bulung'ur districts of Samarkand and Jizzakh regions.

Historical sources provide a wealth of information regarding the selection of horses and what to know about their qualities. In "Nightmare" it is said that the good and bad qualities of a horse can be known by its head and color. A good-looking horse is called a "baitara" coat. His teeth are thin, soft and white. The lower lip is longer, the nostrils are higher and wider, the forehead is wide, the ears are long and open between the ears, the neck is straight, the base of the neck is thick and the back is high, the spine (chest) is wide, the back of the front and hind legs are open, the tail (legs) is firm and long, the tail is thin and short, the inner part of the back thigh, the eyes and eyelashes are black, which is observed in every good horse [15.P.81-84 ].

Along with taking into account these qualities in "Kabusnoma", when choosing horses, it is necessary to pay attention to the fact that their head is not fleshy ("gok kalla" in the vernacular), and that there is little white color in the eyes. A clear appearance of red color in the eyes is a sign of his intensity, intelligence and vigilance.

Umar Khayyam's work "Navruznoma" contains information related to determining the endurance, agility, and ability of horses based on their color. For example, "Xing (red)" color is the most capable horse. Among the horses, "Xing", whose forehead, legs, belly, muzzle, testicles, tail and eyes are all black, is good" [15. P.43-44.] it is said. Popular scientific books and articles about the selection of such horses and their naming based on their age provide consistent opinions [16].

Choosing a horse and raising it is done in several stages. Consistency and duration of these activities are carried out in the following order: first of all, horses are selected and trained according to the purpose of use, mainly from foaling to 4-5 years. This is the transition stage for a young horse from foal to adolescence to adulthood. The ability of a horse to live for many years depends on its rational and regular care.

Based on the above information, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- Material and written sources fully confirm that the domestication and training of horses in Central Asia goes back to the distant past. The presence of natural factors and specific ethno-social processes in the region determined the development of the livestock industry. As a result, the breeding of the best breeds of horses was carried out by the herdsmen and farmers of the valley, which indicates that horse breeding has become the leading economic branch in the region.

- The people of Central Asia for centuries have accumulated rich experience in horse care, breeding of different horse breeds and creation of new breed species, and local features are clearly visible in the activity of establishing livestock farming.

- The development of horse breeding in the region made it possible to choose a horse very widely. Not only choosing a horse, but also raising and raising it was considered an important step. That is why special attention is paid to horse breeding throughout Central Asia. In connection with this process, fields of cultivation of alfalfa, barley, and corn have also developed together in agriculture. The experience of raising horses was also formed and inherited from generation to generation.

Material and written sources fully confirm that the domestication and training of horses in Central Asia goes back to the distant past. The presence of natural factors and specific ethno-

social processes in the region determined the development of the livestock industry. As a result, the breeding of the best breeds of horses was carried out by the herdsmen and farmers of the valley, which indicates that horse breeding has become the leading economic branch in the region.

### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it can be said that the inhabitants of the region have accumulated rich experience in horse care, crossbreeding of different horse breeds and creation of new breed types for centuries, and local features are clearly visible in the activity of establishing a horse farm. Among the Uzbeks, Tajiks, Kazakhs and Kyrgyz peoples living in Central Asia, serious attention has been paid to the selection and training of horses since ancient times. When choosing horses, elements such as their breed, color, shape, even from the horse's head to the hooves were taken into consideration. Horse feeding and preparation for foaling, strict adherence to the rules and regulations of feeding, season, day, and hour standards have been established. These procedures and experiences have reached the present day for many centuries.

### REFERENCES

1. Kholmizaev D (1988). Horse riding.-Tashkent: Mekhnat, P.4.
2. Kosven M.O (1960). Essays on the history of primitive culture. -Tashkent: Fan, P. 84-85.
3. Kuzmina E.E (1977). The spread of horse science and the cult of the horse among the Iranian-speaking tribes of Central Asia and other peoples of the old world. Central Asia in antiquity and the Middle Ages (history and culture). -Moscow: Nauka, P.28; Frechkop.S. La Specifitedu Chevat de Prjewalsku, Bulletin de Institute des sciences naturel Belgigue. -Bruxelles.1965, vol. XLI,-№29; Громова В.И. История лошадей (Eguus) в старом свете.//Труды полеонтологического ин-та.Т.XVII. 1949; Её же. О скелете тарпана.//Труды МОИП, 1963.С.234.
4. Avanesova N.A., Tashpulatova N.A (2012). On the problem of horse breeding in Central Asia.// Uzbekistan Archeology. No. 1(4)., Бернштам А.Н. Араванские наскальные изображения и Даванская (Ферганская) столица Эрши// СЭ.1948, №4; Беленогов М.И. Ахалтекинская порода лошадей, её морфологические особенности, Автореф... докт. дисс.М.: 1957.С.56;
5. Kuzmina E.E (1977). The spread of horse science and the cult of the horse among the Iranian-speaking tribes of Central Asia and other peoples of the old world. Central Asia in antiquity and the Middle Ages (history and culture). М.: Nauka, 1977. P. 28; Frechkop.S. La Specifitedu Chevat de Prjewalsku, Bulletin de Institute des sciences naturel Belgigue. -Bruxelles, 1965. vol. XLI. -№29
6. Бибикина В.И. К изучению древнейших домашних лошадей Восточный Европы./Бюллетень МОИП. Отделение биологии.-М.:1967.Т..LXXII.Вып.3. С.107.; Цалкин В.И. Древнейшие домашние животные восточный Европы.М.:1970.-С.123.
7. Аванесова Н.А., Ташпулатова Н.А. К проблеме коневодства Средней Азии.// Ўзбекистон археологияси.2012.№1(4)., Бернштам А.Н. Араванские наскальные изображения и Даванская (Ферганская) столица Эрши// СЭ.1948, №4; Беленогов М.И. Ахалтекинская порода лошадей, её морфологические особенности, Автореф...докт.дисс.М.: 1957.С.56.
8. Field notes: Isomiddinov M. Doctor of Sciences in History professor, born in 1946 in the village of Kochkarchi, Kuvasoy city, Ferghana region, Tajik nationality.

9. Van Loon. M. New Sites in The Eutharates Valley. Arxeology. 1969. Combrige.- Mass, vol. 22, N1. p. 65-67.
10. Thureau –Dangin F. Tabletus a Signues pictures, - “Revue dassyriologie”.-Paris, T. XXIV. 1927. p. 28-29.
11. Миддендорф А. Очерки Ферганской долины.-Спб., 1982.-С.10.
12. National Encyclopedia of Uzbekistan. Volume 4.-P.349
13. Тимаев К. Сантонии и люцерна. Туркестанский сборник. 1900. Т.510.; Анарбоев А. Довоннинг самовий отлари. Откуда произошло лошадь. Кони, достойные оды. //Фан ва турмуш. 2008.-№3-5
14. Диваев А.А. Известия общество. Спб. 1879. - С.186; Миддендорф А. Очерки Ферганской долины.-Спб., 1982.-С.10-329; Туркестанский сборник. 1882. Т.431.-С.161-163; Фирсов В. Туркестан и Туркестанские породы лошадей. Туркестанский сборник. 1895. Т.479.-С.218; Хўжаназаров М. Қоятошга мухрланган тарих. //Фан ва турмуш. 2008.-№3-5.; Анарбоев А. Довоннинг самовий отлари. Откуда произошло лошадь. Кони, достойные оды. //Фан ва турмуш. 2008.-№3-5/
15. Кайковус. Қобуснома. Тошкент: Истиқлол, 1994. –Б. 81-84
16. Умар Хайём. Наврўзнама. -Тошкент: Мехнат, 1990. –Б. 43-44
17. Бернштам А.Н. Древняя Фергана.-Ташкент: 1951.-С. 10-11; Таджики Каратегина ва Дарваза. Вып.1. Под.ред. Кислакова Н.А. и Писарчик И.А. -Душанбе. Дониш, 1966.-С. 159-161.