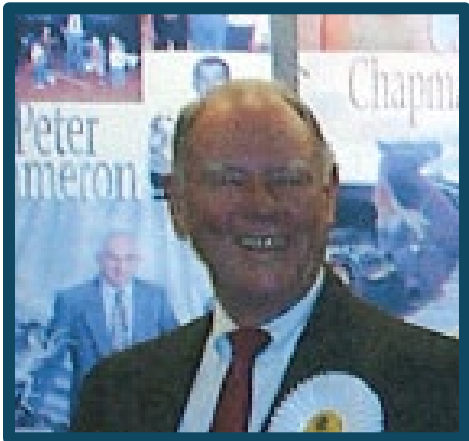




# Don Burt

## 2005 Inductee

- Licensed Arabian Judge 1968- 1993



- Information from 1982 AHA Judges' Directory

### Don Burt

Don Burt has worn many hats throughout his life – exhibitor, trainer, author, leader and, of course, judge, but the biggest has been overcomer.

Raised in Burbank, California, Don and his father earned a living training horses and during World War II when gas was rationed, a young Burt frequently rode his horses over the Hollywood Hills to show and hone his horsemanship skills with different horses – Arabians, Saddlebreds, harness, polo, jumpers and stock horses. It was during those years Don became acquainted with the rodeo cowboys who worked on movie sets. This ultimately led him to a job while he was in high school galloping racehorses at a ranch owned by film legends Barbara Stanwick and Groucho Marx. Don trained horses for a cast of Hollywood icons, including Richard Widmark, Bette Davis, Jock Mahoney, Debbie Reynolds, Eddie Fisher, Paul Newman, Ronald Reagan and Robert Taylor.

After high school, Don joined the Navy. When he was offered the chance to complete his military obligation by performing with the Gene Autry rodeo, he jumped at the opportunity and he saw the world on horseback. After his discharge, he met his wife, Ardys. Together they have three daughters who literally grew up on horseback.

No one ever said training horses was without danger, however, and Don experienced a fateful training accident which hindered his training career. Left with no alternative way of earning a living, he began to judge horse shows. He also began working with a horse called "Frosty." Don could work at liberty with Frosty and this talent led to television commercials and his own highly rated children's television show, "Frosty's Farm Club."

Don has judged the Arabian Nationals 7 or 8 times, judged most of the Regionals, and has given Arabian clinics in several countries. He also instructed at Judges Seminars. In addition to the Arabian world, Don has been active in the AQHA as a past president and has judged many of their national shows and been the recipient of many of their awards for excellence.

Don stated in an interview, "When I got hurt, I thought that was the worst thing in the whole world, but it turned out to be the best. It changed the whole direction of my life." Congratulations, Don, you are truly a gentleman who has clearly opened doors and changed the shape of the horse industry forever.



DON BURT

Born: Los Angeles, California on September 14, 1930  
Education: High school; attended college  
Present occupation: Professional horseman  
Horse club activities: serves as officer, chairman and member of committees of many horse clubs  
Horse interests: Showing; owns a large amount of various breeds