

Bucephalus

Byoo-sef-a-lus

Bucephalus is perhaps the first celebrity horse in history. The favourite of Alexander the Great, one of the greatest warriors ever.

Described by the historians as a massive creature, Bucephalus was the famous and well-loved horse of Alexander the Great and accompanied its master in numerous battles. Stories tell of how a 12-year old Alexander won the the beautiful black horse when a horse dealer offered the horse to his father, Phillip II of Macedonia. Since no one could tamethe animal, Philip wasn't interested, but Alexander was and promised to pay for the horse should he fail to tame it. Alexander had realised that the horse was afraid of his own shadow. Approching calmly he turned Bucephalus toward the sun so his shadow was behind him and slowing taking the reins in his hand, Alexander mounted him. Historians claim the taming of Bucephalus was a turning point in the young prince's life, demonstrating confidence and determination. The pair were inseparable and Alexander built a city named Bucephalus in memory of his favourite horse. It is situated in the modern day Pakistan.