



THE MANGALARGA MARCHADOR



"This is, without a doubt, one of the most outstanding horse breeds in the world."

Bonnie L. Hendricks, International Encyclopedia of Horse Breeds, University of Oklahoma Press

ATTRIBUTES

The Marchador averages between 14.2 and 16 hands in height and weighs between 850 and 1100 pounds. Although grays are common, chestnut, black, bay, buckskin, palomino and pinto horses are also present. The horses have a silky coat, prominent withers, deep chest, a proportionately-long back, muscular hindquarters, a sloping croup and hard hoofs. Its head is triangular in shape with a straight profile, large nostrils, ears pointing slightly inwards and large, expressive eyes. As with many Iberian breeds they are good cattle horses. A perfect trail horse, they also excel in other disciplines that require agility, stamina, and speed. With less than 300 horses in North America it is a rare breed, but Brazil has over 500,000 registered Mangalarga Marchadors and it has been exported to 21 countries, making it one of the largest breeds worldwide. An adept and extremely versatile horse, the Mangalarga Marchador is fast becoming one of the most sought after breeds.

HISTORY

The Mangalarga Marchador was developed in Brazil during the 1800's to create a horse with an extremely balanced, comfortable gait, suitable to cover the long distances between the Brazilian farms which were located on rough and mountainous terrain. An Iberian-based breed descended from a careful blending of Portuguese Alter-Real horses, Lusitanos, Spanish Jennets, Spanish Barb and local Brazilian mares to produce the modern Marchador horse. They are valued for their beauty, intelligence, disposition and smooth gaits.

QUALITY

The Brazilian Marchador association (ABCCMM) has set the breed standards and maintains the highest authority worldwide, overseen by the Brazilian Government. Very strict rules must be met for horses to receive Brazilian registration and the breed brand. A great mind is one of the attributes that the creators of the Mangalarga Marchador consider important and it is a mandatory trait in addition to beauty, conformation and performance. Inspections include measurements of bone length and joint angles for conformation, demonstration and riding to evaluate the gait. A Brazilian ABCCMM inspector personally evaluates the horse's gait, training and mind at age 3 or older. This fact ensures that the quality of ABCCMM registered and breeding horses remains high. The North American Marchador association, the USMMA, is responsible for maintaining the North American official Registry, and is directly affiliated with the ABCCMM.

THE GAIT

The Mangalarga Marchador's two special gaits are marcha picada and marcha batida. Both are four beat gaits and provide moments of triple hoof support. The picada is more of a lateral gait and the batida is more diagonal. Personal preference, riding discipline and riding terrain determine which one is better. The Marchadors all possess a wonderful canter, which does not disturb their natural marcha. The gait does not require training, as the horse is born with the gait and it can be performed for very long periods of time.

A GREAT ALL AROUND HORSE

Here in North America, owners are riding their Marchadors in endurance, ranch work, trail riding, cowboy dressage, working equitation, fox hunting, eventing, dressage, reining, hippotherapy, mounted shooting and mounted archery. Regardless of your desires, the Marchador's beauty, calm temperament and people-loving personality will win your heart.