

The National Horse of Brazil!

Mangalarga Marchador

One of the largest breeds in the world is the Mangalarga Marchador. Say what?

(For simplicity, you can say just Marchador (pronounced MARSCH A DOOR). In Brazil, it is their passion: there is a Marchador song and a Marchador Museum. In 2013, the Marchador was featured and celebrated during Carnival in Rio de Janeiro!

In its native country, the Brazilian Association of Breeders of Mangalarga Marchador, the ABCCMM, has 6,000 breeders and over 500,000 registered horses that live in approximately 22,000 farms! In Brazil, Marchador horses break records in agri-business, selling over \$60 million (U.S.\$) a year in only 75 auctions across the country. Their National Exposition, held every year in July for 11 days, is one of the biggest equestrian events in Latin America with 1500 purebred MM horses competing.

Recently, exportation of this national treasure began



and now there are populations of Marchadors in many countries! After Brazil, Europe has the most Marchadors. Here in the U.S. and Canada, we have almost quadrupled the numbers in ten years time, from an initial importation of 60-plus horses.

Origin

The Brazilian Mangalarga Marchador appeared over 200 years in the County of Rio das Mortes (River of Death), in southern Minas Gerais (General Mines) state, when horses of the Alter Real breed, brought from Alter do Chão, Portugal, were crossed with other local horses selected by breeders of that region. The result of the breeding efforts resulted in a large, elegant animal, with aesthetic beauty, docile and excellent for riding.

The Mangalarga Marchador birthplace was Fazenda Campo Alegre, owned by Gabriel Francisco Junqueira, the Baron of Alfenas, who is credited with the creation of the breed. A prized Alter Real stallion named "Sublime" was a gift from the King to the Baron. The "foundation farms" were often sons or nephews of the Baron. He created the breed, and also the breeders too! The new breeders branded their horses with their initials and thus, the bloodlines of the Marchador began (JB, JF (Favacho) etc. Many of their foundation bloodlines are still around today. The original breeders were gentlemen, often noblemen. They became ranchers, but they were also sportsmen, expert deer hunters who valued the Marchador as a mount that was tough, agile and able to carry them on long journeys.

Built in Quality

The Brazilian breeders are passionate about breeding. Each generation improves toward their ideal. The Marchador is a working breed - versatile and able to perform for the task-at-hand. Because of their discipline in breeding, the horses are consistently impressive.

In Brazil, all Marchador horses must undergo an inspection by the ABCCMM breed judges to be approved for permanent registration and breeding. Foals are inspected



before weaning for disqualification (genetic defects). Then at age three, when the horse is trained under saddle, the horses are inspected for conformation, gait and temperament. Approved horses are branded with the trademarked Horseshoe M brand of the ABCCMM. Only approved horses are allowed to breed.

Because of the long tradition of the Brazilian breeders and the inspection process, the Marchador has solid conformation, a lot of bone and good feet, with wonderful intelligence and a calm, willing temperament. The Marchador horse is easy to train, gentle and kind. Small



children in Brazil commonly ride them because of its easy-going nature and smooth gaits.

Description

The Mangalarga Marchador averages 15 hands and weigh between 850 and 1100 pounds. Gray is prominent, but chestnuts, blacks, bays, buckskins, palominos and pinto horses may also be found. They are a medium-sized, well-proportioned horse built to be strong and agile. They have a vigorous and healthy appearance with smooth skin, silky hair and shining eyes - a regal appearance! The temperament is docile, easily trained smooth and very gentle.

A sure-footed horse with plenty of cow sense as well as stamina, this breed holds the Guinness book of World Records Endurance Ride of 8,694 miles in 1994.

Gaits

The Mangalarga Marchador is a versatile working horse breed that is also gaited. It is named for the gait - the

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