

# Ute Lehmann, in Harmony with the Horse



Ute Lehmann, despite her almost girlish appearance, has already a very long and diversified international career as a trainer of gaited horses. Since as a child, she showed great fascination towards horses. Her first experience with them was a ride during a vacation in Norway. That's when her love story with horses began. She then started with

classic 6-year training in the traditional military style - dressage, show jumping and initiated her participation in tournaments.

## Education and years on the road

It followed a long period participating of Western tournaments and her eyes still light up when she looks back to that time. Amongst her teachers, there is the well-known and recognized Peter Kreinberg. Ute is also focused in the social aspect of the riding. For several years, she specialized in teaching children to ride and, happily, she remembers how her work helped children with a migrant background, to pave their way into society. Later, working in a large stud, she could learn and develop the new project of a riding school and took over management positions. At that time, her contact to a greater range of breeds was also expanded and included the Mangalarga Marchador. This time was mostly fulfilled with intensive treatment of the young horses of the stud, as well as the gymnastic training of the already ridden horses - a broad array of horse training. For this training Ute worked according to some aspects of the theoretical principles of Linda Tellington-Jones.

## Launching her own business

As early as 1995 - not yet 30 years old - she took the challenge of opening up her own business. The name indicated the business purpose: "Mobile horses' school". For many years, she rode more than 50,000 km per year to bring to her customers the basic understanding of being with a horse. If in the beginning rider and horse could get lost in complete despair, she was able to bring happiness to many of these odd couples and make sure that they would create a mutual understanding. During those years, Ute would accept any competition as a challenge. Numerous trophies and badges from this period showed that she certainly enjoyed being on the podium. Very early she achieved success in the show business and her performances were often booked internationally.

## Denmark calls for a new beginning

In 1998, a large reorientation in her life. She falls in love with the wild beauty of Denmark: sand, dunes, fjords, pine forests. She sells all her belongings in Germany and leaves everything behind. Less than three months later, she made her dream come true 1,000 km away from home. Again, a complete reconstruction. Happiness is perfect as soon as her daughter Kim is born. Then, it comes the breakthrough in Denmark. In 2004, she founded "Horse in Harmony", her own philosophy that directs her work as a coach and trainer. Easy, direct, individual, result-oriented, everything without stress.



The objective is that horse and rider form one unit, completely in harmony, not only in riding but also in the day-to-day joint work. In many cases, her mission is to be the guide of the animal because horses that seem to show unwillingness or are even mean, turn out to simply have a poor education. In 2006, Ute accomplishes an international certificate as a coach in Hamburg and finalize her education.

In Denmark, she, one more time, returned to her roots: gala shows, even television appearances and the horse-therapy with socially disadvantaged groups, as well. Furthermore, she is active as a book writer. In 2009 her first book was published, with the title "In harmony with the horse," in which she describes her philosophy and experience, how to form a perfect team with your horse.



## The Mangalarga Marchador in Ute's life

It was more than 20 years ago that Ute had her first contact with this fascinating race. This was when she had the opportunity to ride the breeding stallion Apache de Tucunduva. This magnificent animal had won several gaited horse tournaments, but at the same time he was also well trained in dressage. Ute could never forget this experience. All her other experiences with the Mangalarga Marchador solidified her impression. A unique breed, an impressive



coolness, combined with an enormous presence and sensitivity. After various trips to Brazil, Ute could understand better and better how the MM is evaluated by Brazilian referees. A very important element for them is the comfort in riding. A tense and carried high tail and an exaggerated high movement of the front legs mean deduction of points in a competition. In Europe, in many breeds, the opposite is targeted. Here, breeders and riders are rewarded when, in presentations, they show lots of action and, as a consequence, the horses develop more tension, meaning a higher mental and physical pressure.

In Brazil, this type of unnatural tension is not rewarded in the judging process. The superior expectation is the comfort of the rider and the endurance of the horse. Superfluous actions of the horse are not welcome. Because this philosophy is in line with Ute's personal attitude, it is easy to conclude that in her ranking, the race Mangalarga Marchador occupies the first position.

## Inspiration

Today, Ute develops her work inspired in world renowned trainers such as Mark Rashid ([www.markrashid.com](http://www.markrashid.com)) and Andrew McLean, the inventor of the horses training method that follows the Learning Theory ([www.aebc.com.au](http://www.aebc.com.au)).

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