



FEATURING: **The Mangalarga Marchador** September, 2010

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BREED SPOTLIGHT
by Tracey Buckalew, editor

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La Paz Jivago, dunskin (dun + creme gene) Favacho and Tabatinga bloodlines, owned by Rox Rogers in Montana

The national horse of Brazil, the Mangalarga Marchador, originated in Brazil over 200 years ago. Each breeding farm, having chosen a specific bloodline from which to perpetuate the breed with a unique genetic contribution, would use their farm name as part of the horse's name. "Mangalarga" was one of the original breeder farms during the period of time when the Marchador started attracting local attention, and the name was adopted overall. The horses were known for having a smooth rhythmic cadence to their gait, not unlike a march, lending further description to the name of this new breed, becoming Mangalarga Marchador. Reminiscent of Arabian breeders, meticulous written breeding records were kept and today's Mangalarga Marchadors can often be traced back to more than 20 generations.

It is said that when Napoleon invaded Portugal, the King, D. Joao VI, fled to Brazil by ship in 1808, taking with him his cavalry and some of his best stallions. Then, in 1812, Prince Pedro I (later named Emperor of Brazil) gave as a gift to his good friend Gabriel Francisco Junqueira (the Baron of Alfenas), one of his prized stallions. This stallion, an Alter Real (a branch of the Lusitano breed based on Spanish mares) named Sublime is considered the foundation sire of the Mangalarga Marchador (MMM) breed. Sublime was bred to the native Spanish Jennet and Barb mares, many of

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marchador (MM) breed. Sublime was bred to the native Spanish Jennet and Barb mares, many of whom naturally exhibited a smooth, ambling walk.

Gabriel and his sons are accredited with being the founders of what is known as the "Campo Alegre" or "Favacho" bloodline, named of course, after the family horse breeding farm. Even these early Marchadors were said to be very expressive and smooth gaited. Gabriel's sons continued the tradition by founding different MM lines throughout Brazil.

Joao Braulio Fortes Junqueira, grandson of Joao Francisco Junqueira later founded the "Campo Lindo" bloodline which were well known for having great movement, smooth gait and refined features. Interestingly, the modern Campo Lindo line boasts the current leading number of top ranking breeding stallions and market pricing, exemplifying the success of selective breeding. It is said that at least up until the early 1900's, the Junqueira family and other breeding facilities used the Baron's original guidelines for perpetuating a marching gait, hardiness, endurance, great health and temperament. Later, when the Mangalarga Breeders Association was created in 1934 an attempt to establish a standard for breeding efforts, to define the function and the use of the horses, and to describe the desired standard of physical characteristics and gait, it is said that the founders of the association had largely adopted the objectives already set in place by the Junqueira family.

Local breeders, having chosen specific bloodstock from which to establish future lineage were acknowledged as "foundation" lines, and breeding programs developed in an attempt to perpetuate specific genetic traits. For example, the Tabatinga bloodline is known for producing Andalusian characteristics in its progeny, with a powerful hind end and an enthusiastic work ethic. The Herdade bloodline is known for its consistently smooth gait and refined head structure. For those breeders looking for an even more refined bone structure, the Abaiba bloodline carries Arabian-like genetics. The Angahy bloodline is known for having good bone structure but not a very refined head. However, within the Angahy herd bloodstock, stallions historically significant in terms of MM evolution can be found.

Aside from the delicate nuances which differentiate between the bloodlines, borne from topographical necessity or work usage, the breed also became known for having an exceptional disposition, intelligence and athleticism.



Azenha de Maripa and Lynn Kelley, Summerwind Marchadors

Mangalarga Marchadors excel at cattle work but are appreciated in a wide variety of disciplines ranging from stock horse to sport horse and everything in between. Their friendly disposition, willingness to please and tendency to form strong bonds with their humans have surprised and delighted owners and trainers alike.



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Tabatinga Jobim, owned by Felipe Ribeiro (part of the Junqueira family) of Montana Marchadors

Although the MM most commonly reaches around 15hh, it is possible to find them spanning heights between 14.2 and 16hh, and in a wide array of colors including paints, palomino and buckskin, although some bloodlines do tend toward specific colors.

The MMHAA (Mangalarga Marchador Horse Association) was founded in 2000 and began importing foundation Marchador horses in 2001 and is no longer viable. In 2005, another US registry, the USMMA (United States Mangalarga Marchador Association) was founded and became the official North American MM registry, closely affiliated with the ABCCMM, the Brazilian Association.

There are approximately 200 Mangalarga Marchadors in the United States and Canada, a strikingly small number as compared to over 375,000 which are registered in the ABCCMM (Brazilian Mangalarga Marchador National Association), making this breed one of the biggest in the world. Amazing, since the breed is not widely known in the United States and Europe.

The ABCCMM is the biggest registry office [of any breed] in the state of Brazil and was founded in 1948. It was developed in order to resurrect the original objectives of the Mangalarga Breeders Association after it closed its stud book in 1943 when the genetic gene pool of the original Mangalarga horse began to be mixed with Arabians, Thoroughbreds, Lusitanos and American Saddlebreds. This genetic mix was intended to adapt the Mangalarga breed to the neighboring "Paulista" topography (the Sao Paulo state topography) which was forested and lent the necessity to hunt deer; forcing them to develop a horse with different characteristics. That bloodline remains only in a few female lines, but makes the "Mangalarga Horse" a different breed from the Mangalarga Marchador breed perpetuated today.

The ABCCMM holds annual competitive testing wherein type, gait and performance are judged. Cash purses and national ranking points are awarded.

In 1994, two 60-year-old Brazilian men completed a 8,694 miles trail ride to prove the stamina of the Mangalarga Marchador. For one and a half years they rode the same horses during the day and resting at night, earning an entry into The Guinness Book of World Records.

Functional performance testing is rigorous and includes reining, cross country and endurance competitions covering 32 to 62 miles. There is also a stadium competition similar to a timed extreme cowboy race wherein the obstacles include gates, barrels, poles and jumps. Gaiting competitions are designed to showcase carriage, brio and consistent timing of footfalls at varying speeds, and judges will often mount the horses to determine the final placement of the winners!

In Brazil, all Marchador horses must undergo an inspection by the ABCCMM breed inspectors to be approved for permanent registration and breeding, a process similar to PRE Andalusian horses and European warmbloods. Horses must be three years old or older and are inspected for conformation, gait and temperament. Approved horses are branded with the horseshoe M brand of the ABCCMM.

The U.S. Mangalarga Marchador Association is also dedicated to maintaining the breed's purity and high standards. They invited the ABCCMM's inspectors (trained as vets and judges) to travel the U.S. to inspect our U.S.-born Marchadors. This was the first inspection ever performed outside of Brazil! Since that first visit in 2005, there has been an inspection again in 2008 and 2010.

The Mangalarga Marchador horse is known for being fast and smooth, its two unique ambling gaits each with moments of "triple support". This means that there are times when there are three hooves on the ground at a time.

The Marcha Batida (roughly translated as "march" and "to hit") is a diagonal gait wherein the legs move in a four beat sequence similar to a broken trot in pattern of footfalls, but with no suspension. The longer and more frequent the moments of triple support; the more comfortable the gait. This gait has been compared to the trocha gait performed by the Paso Fino. The Marcha Picada (roughly translated as "march" and "light touch") is also a four beat gait and is usually the smoother of the two MM gaits and is characterized by lateral leg movements. The hind and front footfalls of one side following one another before the other side makes contact, each footfall a fraction of a second before another in a broken pace movement.



Kunst do Cheyenne, 1993 mare owned by Joyce van Leuken, NE

The triple hoof support of this gait combined with the over-reach of the hind hoof make this gait exceedingly smooth. This gait is similar to the paso llano performed by the Peruvian Paso. Additionally, a third gait is often acknowledged in the MM community. As the Marcha Picada is on the "pacey" side of the gait spectrum and the Marcha Batida is on the "trotty" side, the Marcha do Centro is often described as the gait that a Mangalarga Marchador can perform that is executed at the center of the spectrum. Although there are no formal classes in shows to exhibit Marcha do Centro, it is used to describe a very smooth gait.

The Mangalarga Marchador has been described as being the "Porsche" of the horse world, with imported horses boasting not-unheard of prices of \$30,000 to \$40,000 per



Seamus da Boa Fe ridden by Luis Trujillo at the Fiesta of the Spanish Horse in CA

horse and in Brazil, MM royalty is auctioned at hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars. Worth it? Let's see. The Mangalarga Marchador is a breed literally developed and cultivated by royalty. Very intelligent and easy to train and smooth as silk, the MM excels at nearly every discipline it has been used in including Dressage, Hunter/Jumper, Polo, Trail riding and ranch work. In addition, it holds a place in the Guinness Book of World Records for endurance. Porsche? Indeed.

Special thanks to Lynn Kelly with [Summerwind Marchadors, USA](#), Sandra van den Hoff of [Pleasure Gaits](#), Denmark and Stewart de Windt, Netherlands for their consultation and photos.



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