

THE IMPORTERS

LAZY T Ranch - Written by Dr. Tresa V. Smith, owner Montana Mangalarga Marchador, at the Lazy T.

This article on Montana Mangalarga Marchador, Lazy T Ranch is the second in a series of interviews/articles for the USMMA about the history of importation of the Mangalarga Marchador to this country. The purpose of this project is to take a snapshot of what lines of Marchadors were imported, the names of the initial foundation stock and to trace the dispersion of their progeny in the U.S. and Canada. This will give us a baseline as of 2010 for our breed.

“Obrigada Brasil”. Thank you Brazil for giving me the love of my life.

Twenty years ago in 1990 I fell in love in Brazil -deeply in love - with the Mangalarga Marchador.

I was working for Ashoka an international foundation. Its Brazilian Director, Cindy Lessa and her husband, Dr. Sergio Lessa, invited me to their farm, Los Horas, to see their Marchador horses. There I saw and rode the Mangalarga Marchador. I marveled at its smooth fast gait, its calm disposition, and its athletic ability. For me, it was THE COMPLETE HORSE.

My first memories of the Marchador were riding from the Lessa’s farm in the evening along the country roads of Brazil, hearing the tic-a tic-a tic-a truck-a truck-a truck-a of the horse’s gait, smelling the sweet Brazilian flowers, listening to the country’s evening sounds, seeing the small dimly lit bars and homes of the villages. It was magic.

I was an immediate convert to the Marchador. Gone was my allegiance to breeds I had owned: the Thoroughbred, Arabian, and Quarter Horse.



Tresa happily riding MMs in Brazil! Companions Drs. Chris Schlegal and Tia Nelson were instrumental in getting MMs here. are Raul Junqueira and John Kelley.

And guess what? I instantly became a Marchador owner. Dr. Sergio Lessa GAVE me a Marchador gelding for my very own. I had not been as excited since I was three and my parents gave me my first pony. But reality set in, \$10,000 dollars worth of reality that it would take to ship one horse to the U.S. (Horses are shipped by air by containers which have room for three horses. The cost of containers and importation is roughly \$30,000.”

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It did not make economic sense to ship a gelding, but Vivian, my mother, had the solution. She suggested, “You love these horses so, why don’t you bring some mares from Brazil and breed them.”

So my dream began. I believed that as a breeder, I had an obligation to bring in high quality horses of the best blood lines. My initial idea was to import pregnant mares and a good stallion. I would call my business **Montana Mangalarga Marchadors** and base it at my family’s **Lazy T Ranch**. My target for marketing would be the state of Montana where I hoped to create a Marchador center of riders and breeders, a mini replication of the Minas Gerais/Rio area. I asked Dr. Sergio Lessa to help me with my dreams to become a Criadora (breeder).

In 2000, Sergio started me at the top by introducing me to Raul Junqueira of the Foundation Farm Tabatinga.

In the spring of 2001, I returned with a friend and colleague, Dr. Tia Nelson, to Brazil and made my final selections. For a week we visited famous Marchador breeding farms near Sao Paulo and in the Rio and Minas Gerais area. We rode, looked at, photographed and video taped hundreds of horses and took notes on our favorites.

Seeing so many beautiful and talented horses made choosing difficult. At one point I said to Raul Junqueira. “Raul, help me select a mare.” He replied, “No. Selecting a horse is like taking a lover. Only you can make the decision.” Keeping this suggestion in mind, I chose my horses.



Dr. Sergio and Cindy Lessa



Tresa on Tabatinga Chancela, with Raul Junqueira. (T. Rota’s dam)

I decided to import and feature horses of the Tabatinga bloodline for I felt they would be an ideal horse for my cattle ranch and its tough mountainous terrain. I selected all mares with Tabatinga bloodlines, one directly from the Foundation Farm, Tabatinga, and wanting to slightly vary the genetics, choose the other two mares from neighboring farms that featured Tabatinga lines; Santarem, and Libertas.

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My horses came with famous ancestors. Marchador stallions Tabatinga Cossaco and Tabatinga Predileto were ranked as Principal stallions of the race (Principais Pais,) and Moleque Tabatinga was chosen for Elite Status. Two mares, Tabatinga Alhambra and Violeta Tabatinga were ranked as Principal Mares of the Race, (Principais Maes.)

I purchased my mares in July of 2001, but the process of importation and quarantine was difficult. Though the horses cleared Brazilian quarantine without too much medication, paperwork with the ABCCMM and flight availabilities caused the process to become so long that two of my pregnant mares foaled on October 25 and actual shipping by air did not occur until January 2002. During this time, I made lasting friends; Raul Junqueira owner of Tabatinga and Olavo Monteiro de Carvalho, owner of Santarem became mentors. Doctors Jose Eduardo Teves and Christine Schlegal helped me through the actual quarantine and importation process.

Finally on January 27, 2002 two containers with my Marchadors arrived via Varig airlines in Los Angeles. Dr, Chris Schlegal who accompanied them, called me. “Congratulations, you are now the owner of Marchadors in the U.S.

My five Marchadors who came in 2002 were: Tabatinga Rota (Pregnant with Tabatinga Jobim; sire Tabatinga Etereo); Brauna Libertas, (Pregnant with Samba de Lazy T: sire Tabatinga Suez) and filly at her side, Helga Libertas and Pupila de Itajoana colt at her side Bambino de Itajoana.



Tabatinga Rota, Tresa’s favorite mare.



Tresa riding Brauna Libertas on a cattle drive

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Pupila de Itajoana, one of Tresa's original selections..

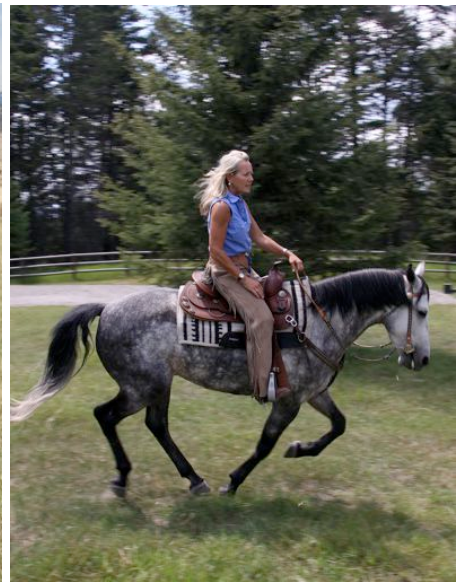


Helga Libertas, ridden by Kindle Mc Cauley

In February 2002 my horses arrived in Montana, USA and gave new meaning to the "Horse without Frontiers" tagline of the ABCCMM. They braved two new frontiers: Cold and Snow. They went from plus 80 degrees in Brazil to a minus 21 degrees in a snowy Montana. Initially the horses were housed in a heated stable, but when they were first turned out into a paddock with cold and SNOW, the mares refused to leave the stable. They stood terrified, snorting. It was the colts that ran out into the "White Stuff" and played and showed their mothers their new life would be great!



Samba de Lazy T (Brauna Libertas x Tabatinga Suez)
Ridden by Eliza Frazer



Bambino de Itajoana (Pupila de Itajoana x Acai Tabatinga)
Owned and ridden by Rox Rogers Haras Cayuse

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My original plan was to import frozen semen from Brazil and begin a program of embryo transplants. But it soon became apparent that it would be difficult to get frozen semen from Brazil in a timely fashion and I decided to import a Tabatinga Monitor, a stallion who could boast both a principle mare, Tabatinga Alhambra and a principle stallion, Tabatinga Cossaco on his papers.

On September 21, 2004, at 8:00 a.m., Tabatinga Monitor, my foundation sire, arrived in Los Angeles. He is a grey stallion 14.3 hands. He is an extremely athletic horse and is trained in working cattle, jumping and dressage. He has a beautiful head (outside and inside) and does both Picada and Batida gaits.



Main herd stallion, Tabatinga Monitor.



Tabatinga Jobim, (T. Etereo x T. Rota) Ridden by x Kat Imhoff

Tabatinga Monitor has been the father of 14 foals. The current break out of his progeny is the following:

- With Tabatinga Rota (3) : Rosa Passos de Lazy T and Regina de Lazy T-fillies-Shannon Ford and Dennis Pelletier of Canada: Nazare de Lazy T: filly- Vista de Serra, owned by Derek Brown and Dr. Tia Nelson of Helena, Montana;
- With Brauna de Libertas (3)-Bethania de Lazy T-filly- Vista de Serra, Montana: Jorge Bengelding Kathy Friedman, Montana., and Marisa- Monte de Lazy T-filly-at Montana Marchadors.
- With Pupila de Itajoana,(4) Chico de Lazy T-gelding- Vista de Serra –, Montana; Astrud de Lazy T,-filly- Eliza Frazer; of Helena, Montana and Lo- Borges de Lazy T –gelding and Joao-Gilberto de Lazy T-gelding at Montana Marchadors.
- With Samba de Lazy T (1) Milton- Nascimento de Lazy T-gelding-at Montana Marchadors,
- With Vicosa de Itajoana (1) Caetano de Lazy T –gelding-with Eliza Frazer, Montana.
- With Helga Libertas (2), Zeca de Lazy T –gelding_Montana Marchadors and Carmella do Dream Catcher-filly-Susan Gabriel, California.

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Of the imported horses, Tabatinga Monitor, Tabatinga Rota, Pupila de Itajoana, and Brauna Libertas and their Brazilian bred foals, Tabatinga Jobim (gelding) and Samba de Lazy T (mare) remain at Montana Marchadors. Two of the imported horses have been sold: Bambino de Itajoana to Rox Rogers of Montana and Helga Libertas to Susan Gabriel at Dreamcatcher Ranch in California.

Life on the Lazy T at Montana Mangalarga Marchadors has been great. My horses run freely in herds in big pastures, as in Brazil. They work cattle as in Brazil. They are loved and treasured as in Brazil. The colts are called after Brazilian musicians, Jobim, Astrud, Gilberto, Caetano, Rosa-Passos. And they even have a Brazilian trainer, Felipe Ribeiro, who travels to Montana from Brazil and prepares them for their ABCCMM Registration process.



Brazilian friends at the Lazy T: Dr. Getulio Vieia, riding Pupila, Felipe Ribeiro riding Monitor and Dr. Jose Eduardo Teves on Brauna.



Tresa Smith and Tabatinga Monitor survey the herd.

Our main focus continues to be in developing Montana as a center for Mangalarga Marchador breeders and owners. This is happening. Today, in 2010, the state of Montana has the largest number of Marchadors and breeders/owners of any state.

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The culmination of a dream – Criador do Mangalarga Marchador in Montana, EAU!

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To learn more about the Tabatinga family, here is an excerpt from the article by Brazilian Horse Historian , Ricardo Casiuch on “ Mangalarga Marchador Bloodlines”. The excerpt tells of the **Tabatinga** Bloodline, the major family of **Montana Mangalarga Marchador at Lazy T Ranch**.

Tabatinga

The farm began with Mr. Severino Junqueira de Andrade, who brought from his father’s farm at South of Minas Gerais old mares with blood from Baron of Alfenas´ herd. The typical horse breed at Tabatinga farms is strong with solid bones, refined head and good on gallop and working with cattle, but its Marcha Batida gait can be poor.

Most frequent colors: bay, dun and grey.



Tabatinga Predileto (Tabatinga Nero x Tabatinga Cachoeira II) – born in 1958

Moleque Tabatinga (Tabatinga Cossaco x Tabatinga Tabatinga)

