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FEATURES



THE GAITS OF THE MANGALARGA MARCHADOR

A summary of the gaits performed by the Mangalarga Marchador and the differences to a Mangalarga Paulista. Author Bill Kambic.



HIGH SCHOOLING - It is the journey that Defines the Destination. Author Joe Ballou asks: When should such movements be taught?

GONÇALO OLIVEIRA

- A Master in His Own Right.

Author Christine Stern-Guptill's observations of a master at work bring insight to his art.



HEROES OF THE PAMPAS, Part II.

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VIA APPIA

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WORKING EQUITATION - An Exciting New Way to Show Your Iberian Horse. Author Hardy Oelke interviews the World Champion of this new event.

THE PERFECT MATCH

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CREATING THE WORLD'S LARGEST HORSE

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The Gaits of the Mangalarga Marchador

by Bill Kambic

The Mangalarga Marchador is unique in the gaited horse world as it shows three types of gait, which are all considered correct: the *marcha batida*, the *marcha picada*, and the *marcha de centro*.

The *marcha batida* is a diagonal gait, similar to the fox-trot or the *passa trote*. It is distinguished by moments of three-legged support as the horse moves. It is a gait that becomes smoother as the speed of the horse increases, presuming as always that the form stays correct. It permits a high level of maneuverability while not sacrificing smoothness. It can be maintained for long periods of time without causing the horse undue fatigue or stress. *Batida* horses are well suited to athletic and English-style endeavors, such as working cow horse, reining, dressage, mounted games, endurance, jumping, etc.

The *marcha picada* is a lateral gait similar to the stepping pace or rack. As with all lateral gaits, there is a fairly wide range of foot pickup and fall that can be considered correct. In the Mangalarga Marchador there is no requirement that



The author riding *Américo do Boi* performing the *marcha batida* gait.



Andante do Miami performing at the *marcha de centro* gait. Tom McCurry riding.

the gait fall at any particular point on the spectrum of lateral gaits. Rather, the gait is judged on smoothness and the ability of the horse to maintain the gait over a long period of time without suffering excessive fatigue. The *picada* horse is very well suited to Western-style riding, trail, and general pleasure riding.

The *marcha de centro* is an isochronal four-beat gait that is virtually identical to the classic running walk of the Tennessee Walking Horse or, at slower speed, to the Peruvian horse's *Paso Llano*. Correctly done, foot pickup and fall are evenly timed, resulting in a very smooth way of going. For many riders the *marcha de centro* is an excellent compromise between the sportiness of the *batida* horse and the solid comfort of the *picada* horse.

Or, put another way, if the *batida* horse is a Lamborghini and the *picada* horse is a Bentley, the *marcha de centro* horse is a Mercedes 560SL!

One of the reasons we are excited about this breed is its wide range of suitability. Not only can the horse do many things, it can do them well. One reason for this is the Brazilian registration system. When a foal is born to

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by Bill Kambic

permanently registered parents, a set of temporary papers is issued based upon pedigree. At a minimum of three years of age the young horse will be presented to an inspector, appointed by the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture, who will assess the morphology (conformation), the gait and the temperament of the horse. Numerical scores are assigned to specific performance points, with a minimum score being required in all three areas. If the horse is passed, then permanent papers are issued. The Association brand is applied to the right shoulder of the horse. Stallions receive only the Association brand, while mares also receive a series of letters and numbers, which reflect their origin.

Correct riding is very important if maximum performance and rider safety is going to be achieved. At

the lowest level, it is fairly easy to sit most lateral gaits on most horses. Gaited horses are often marketed to new riders with this as a major "selling point." While true as far as it goes, it sometimes leads to a false sense of security on the part of new riders and a belief that if they don't fall off they are riding effectively. The picada horse, being a lateral horse, does have a gait that is very easy to sit. The batida and marcha de centro horses will require a somewhat higher level of equitation skill to be effectively ridden. We have always suggested, as strongly as possible, that new riders take lessons from a competent instructor, no matter what type of horse they may be riding. This is the strongest shield against injury to either horse or rider.

There are other breeds that have the name "Mangalarga" in them, the most important in the U.S. being the Mangalarga Paulista. The Paulista horse was developed in the State of Sao Paulo many decades ago. The root stock is the Mangalarga Marchador, but grafted onto this stock we find American Saddle Bred, Thoroughbred and Arabian. As a general rule the Paulista horse is a true diagonal (i.e., trotting) horse. However, there are a very few Paulistas that will demonstrate a soft, intermediate gait. The name "Mangalarga" is used with either the Marchador or the Paulista horse.

The combination of temperament, conformation, and gait makes the Mangalarga Marchador well suited for many equestrian disciplines attractive to a wide spectrum of riders. This breed of horses has a bright future in the United States.

The author Bill Kambic breeds, raises and trains Mangalarga Marchador horses on his Farm, Haras Lucero, in Kingston, TN.



Famoso do Crocoto performing the marcha picada gait. Sandy Kambic riding.



Author riding his mare Andante performing the marcha de centro gait. Observe momentary three foot support.

(Continued from page 100)

to 15,000 ft. and temperatures ranging from zero to 115 degrees Fahrenheit. Marsha Sicbeck believes that the Marchadores impact on the equestrian world will be fantastic. The American public has been waiting for a horse this versatile, she says. From endurance to dressage, jumping or polo, they are extremely intelligent and easily trained. The Marchador comes in all colors including pinto.

Also fascinated by this naturally gaited breed, Bill Kaubic, owner of Haras Lucero (formerly known as Bright Star Farms) in Kingston, Tenn. states. As a former breeder of Tennessee Walking Horses, my wife and I have long prized the qualities of the gaited horse. For many reasons, we started looking for alternatives in 1995. It was then that I ran across a small article on the Mangalarga Marchador and was very intrigued. I have always admired the Iberian horse and the Mangalarga Marchador horse seemed to be the perfect combination of gait (lateral picada and/or diagonal batida) and presentation. We finally met the Gaeta family in Florida. They were the first to import these fine horses into the U.S. in the early 1990s. I have visited them on a couple of occasions and had an opportunity to see and ride such fine horses as Hypan, sire of

Bataque Do Regal and the dominant sire of horses born in the U.S. prior to the new importation by Regal Legacy). Sally Hypan died in a fire in 2000, along with a young Mangalarga Marchador stallion and some other horses.

After spending time educating and promoting the breed throughout the country, including the Del Mar Nationals, Equitana and regional Equine Affairs by representatives of Regal Legacy, the Marchadores became recognized by dedicated equine professionals seeking to fill a need for Americans who desire a larger, naturally gaited horse with a calm temperament. Bataque Do Regal was selected to be the featured stud in all the clinics presented by Linda Tellington Jones at Western Horse Expo in Sacramento. This breed is very intelligent and truly a pleasure and joy for all to take part in, she remarked.



Noted natural horseman John Lyons summed it all up. Thank you for bringing these horses to the United States.

Author Linda Holte is owner of Rancho Linda Marchadores, a Western States regional representative for the Mangalarga Marchador Horse Association of America. She can be reached at 858 212 6650, via e-mail at rancholinda@vixen.com or the website www.rancholinda.com.

The MMHAA serves as the exclusive registry for the breed in the USA, in support of the rules and regulations of the Associação Brasileira dos Criadores do Cavalo Mangalarga Marchador, ABCCMM, the Brazilian organization founded to preserve, regulate and register the unique bloodlines of these horses. Careful selection of the imported foundation stallions and mares ensures the quality necessary to establish the breed in the U.S. All horses registered with the MMHAA must meet high standards for conformation, natural gait, performance, and temperament.

For additional information on horses, breeding, or embryos, contact MMHAA toll free at 1-866-Marchador, e-mail horses@mmhaa.org website at www.mmhaa.org

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Mangalarga Marchador Horses



Verão de Ouro do Lucero (Ouro) \$9,500.00

Born: July 23, 2003

Sire: Ritmo A.J. • Dam: Andante do Lucero

Ouro is a golden palomino filly. She will add grace, elegance, and athleticism to any barn. Her sire, Ritmo A.J., produced multiple gait champions in Brazil prior to his importation. Andante, a strong center-march mare, has transmitted this way of going to Ouro.



Ouro Preto do Lucero (Preto) \$7,500.00

Born: July 6, 2003

Sire: Nirja de Sao Joaquim • Dam: Inscricao da Boa Fe

Preto, a true black and excellent example of the breed, shows a tendency to a picada gait. He shows excellent conformation and docile temperament. Nirja was the winner of multiple gait championships in Brazil prior to his importation. Fe demonstrates a smooth batida gait.

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Foligo do Lucero (Foligo) \$7,500.00

Born: August 5, 2002

Sire: Jalao do Passo Fino • Dam: Formosa do Cocoto

Foligo is a very fine bay yearling colt with excellent temperament and showing a smooth batida gait. His dam, Formosa, has a strong picada gait. His sire, Jalao, performs the batida gait. The three-legged support essential to a smooth way of going is shown in his photo. He will make a fine saddle horse suitable for any athletic endeavor.



Abraco do Lucero (Chip) \$7,500.00

Born: June 22, 2001

Sire: Nirja de Sao Joaquim • Dam: Formosa do Cocoto

Chip, a black, turning to gray stud colt, will make a fine center-march stallion. He shows a willing and docile temperament along with excellent conformation and a smooth way of going. He will be at home on either the trail or the performance arena.



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