

FROM VP CANDIDATE CATHY PIERCE

1. What are your main priorities as (for your elected position) President/ Vice President/ Secretary / Treasurer?

As a candidate for Vice President, my main job is to support the organization in all ways possible. I would work to complete all tasks requested, and would support the President in all their duties and responsibilities. I would like to focus on developing the Regional activities by having productive discussions with each Regional Director. My goal would be to promote 1-2 activities in each region every year.

2. As a candidate for being elected to the USMMA board, what do you think the purpose and goals of USMMA should be moving forward?

The purpose of the USMMA is to promote the breed, introduce the breed to more people, and then convert them to become owners. The USMMA maintains a registry to assure that anyone who owns a registered Mangalarga Marchador has dna proof of parentage, and that their horse is indeed a purebred MM.

One of the goals of the USMMA is to make sure that trainers in the US know how to ride the horses to demonstrate their correct gait. We are working with the ABCCM and hope to be able to send trainers to Brazil for education and practice with accomplished trainers.

Another goal is to provide educational videos to all members, showing them how to encourage the correct gait, correct collection, etc. Dr. George Vilar is helping educate us on these topics.

3. What can you personally contribute to achieve these goals?

I want to be a facilitator for action on all these items.

Through my discussions with the Regional Directors, I hope to facilitate MM participation and promotion at many different horse functions (competitive trail riding, western equitation competitions, mounted archery, etc.)

4. How can the USMMA become more active and promote the Mangalarga Marchador in North America to a wider audience?

We need to encourage our members to show their horses at local and regional open shows. Inviting people to "come meet a Marchador" is a great way to introduce the public to our kind and gentle steeds. Create news stories about the horses and their accomplishments. Promote these stories with local newspapers and tv stations. Try to

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obtain a tv interview. Take the news staff to your barn, and introduce them to your horses.

5. *Do you value our affiliation with the ABCCMM? If yes, how would you like to strengthen this connection?*

I value our affiliation with the ABCCMM very much. This is the official registry with very high standards for the horses' conformation and temperament. They certify the judges who know the standards and requirements to be approved for the horses' definitive registry. They are helping us to become a Nucleo-which will mean that they focus more attention to helping us promote the breed, and promote the standards of the breed in our horses.

6. *How are you going to support members who have different viewpoints, interests, and levels of experience?*

I have respect for people with different interests and viewpoints. I think that conversations need to be civil and courteous. I think the instructional videos will help people with less experience learn how to ride/train their horses.

Optional:

1. *Where do you see the USMMA in 5 years?*

In 5 years, I would like to see double the number of Mangalarga Marchadors in the US. I would like for more horse people to recognize the breed and thus maintain an interest in owning a MM horse.