

MARCHADOR NEWS

USMMA, Mangalarga Marchador Association for North America



Photo credit MD Photography. of Paris do Summerwind, owned by Cathy Pierce, TX

THE USMMA MISSION



The USMMA is the recognized affiliate of the Brazilian Mangalarga Marchador Association, the ABCCMM.



The vision of USMMA is to provide leadership for establishing and promoting the Mangalarga Marchador horse breed in North America, encouraging the pursuit of excellence in bloodlines, and the welfare of its human and equine participants.

Our mission is to:

- *Inspire and encourage interest in the Mangalarga Marchador breed.*
- *Provide a registration body to insure the purity of the breed.*
- *Publish a breed standard consistent with the Brazilian standard of the ABCCMM.*
- *Encourage participation and cooperation among breeders, owners, trainers and other equine professionals in support of the Mangalarga Marchador and the USMMA goals.*
- *Affiliate and coordinate with other organizations and associations in support of the vision and mission of the USMMA.*

Join us to learn more about the Marchador breed!

Join us to promote the Marchador breed!

Join us to register your horse!

Join us to connect with other Marchador owners!

Ideas, Suggestions or Questions: The USMMA Board Members and Committee Chairs are here for you. Contact us through our website

<http://www.namarchador.org/contact-us/>

or via email to usmmarchador@gmail.com to the President Tia Nelson, drtiadvm@aol.com



Submissions of News, Photos and Articles - send to the USMMA - usmmarchador@gmail.com

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USMMA Regional Directors

- Northeast Region - vacant
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- Pacific Region -
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- Midwest Region - vacant
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Fergus, the first Marchador mule born in the US! Bred by Valarie Giacalone, UT. Owned by Niki Gibbs. Marchador mules are very popular in Brazil for ranch work. Love those ears!

USMMA NEWS

President's Letter *by Tia Nelson, DVM*

Dear Fellow Marchador Admirers,

We're pulling shoes, trimming feet, doing dental work, deworming, and getting ready for winter here in Montana. We start making plans for 2024 and the endurance rides we will attend! We're also watching what happens with the proposed show in Arizona this winter; if the weather allows, we'll be there!

This time of year, with its wind-down from the busyness of summer, is so welcome. It's the time of year we check the health of our herd in general and examine each horse individually to be sure everyone is all ready for the coming winter season. The hay is in and the horses are ready for cold and snow.

On the sunny days, above about 15°F, you'll find us out riding! We stay mostly on the road as the trails get icy with the cold. The plumes of foggy mist from the horses' nostrils put a fine, festive feeling in the air!

I wish you all a lovely and joyful Holiday Season,

Sincerely,

Tia Nelson, DVM
USMMA President.



USMMA Secretary Election

Two great volunteers in Mary Rose Lombardi and Tammy Cruickshank. Thank you for wanting to contribute and run for this important position.

Mary Rose Lombardi was elected Secretary by the membership. Please welcome her to the new role within the USMMA!

Mary Rose is the owner of 3 amazing Marchador horses: Ibiza da Boa Fe, Danca Vista da Serra and Ibiza's foal Rio. She has been a USMMA member for 4 years and lives in Deer Lodge, MT.

She has owned horses for 25 years and also has over 30 years experience in 4-H clubs and the Future Farmers of America, both as a leader and a parent. For 36 years, Mary Rose was an educator in Deer Lodge Montana.

USMMA Regional Director Search

By Cathy Pierce, Vice President

The Board of Directors is calling for volunteers to serve as Regional Directors in 3 regions. The remaining term is from today through 2024. In 2024, there will be another election for a 4 year term.

Currently, we have openings for the following positions:

1. **Northwest/Mountain Region** - Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska
2. **Midwest Region**-Oklahoma, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, Missouri, Minnesota, Iowa, Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, Louisiana, Kansas, and Arkansas
3. **Northeast Region**-Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia

Please nominate yourself, or give us the name of a member to contact that you think would be a great candidate for these important positions.

October 20 - November 10 Nominations Open for Regional Director Members interested are asked to submit their name,



Mary Rose with her 1st Marchador mare, Ibiza da Boa Fe.



VP Cathy Pierce with former USMMA President Jeff Bosley and ABCCMM inspector Dr. George Vilar. MM Caboclo da Piedade.

and a one page bio/statement of qualification. (This one page should be a statement of your qualifications as required by USMMA rules and should address such things as: qualifications, your previous USMMA activities, your plans for the USMMA; other job or horse-related experience that apply, particularly with the MM breed).

by November 30: Election held if there are multiple applicants.

December 10: New Regional Directors Announced

Thank you all for your considering this important position on the USMMA Board of Directors.

Members of the election committee are: Cathy Pierce email- cpierce@stx.rr.com, Jeff Bosley email-paboz24@gmail.com, and Carolina Peterson email-carolina11470@aol.com.

USMMA Annual Meeting

2023 Annual Member Meeting (via Zoom) to be held on **Sunday December 10** at 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time (4pm PT, 6 pm CT, 7 pm ET).

ABCCMM NEWS

Brazil Trip / Training Course Postponed

By Carolina Peterson, Chair



As you may remember, the USMMA and the ABCCMM worked together to create a training program and experience for the USMMA members to bring back and share with other MM owners, breeders and trainers here.

We would like to thank the members that showed their interest and desire to attend the ABCCMM Training Course in Brasil. We appreciate your enthusiasm!

We did not meet the required 6 eligible candidates to attend the course offered in Brazil. The dates for the November trip were set by ABCCMM/Brasil without them realizing it fell during the US Thanksgiving Holiday! And the time of the year also made it difficult for many interested members.

The USMMA núcleo is very thankful for the training opportunity offered to us by the ABCCMM, a value of \$1000US. We still would like to see some of our trainers, owners and breeders to go to Brazil, the birthplace of the breed, to improve their skills and knowledge of our Mangalarga Marchador horses.

In 2023, we will continue to organize the same event and hope to do it in early April. The dates will be confirmed at least 3 months before the class.





Cervantes Vista da Serra, MM stallion owned by Jean Allred. Painted for Halloween by Jennyfer Homem at Rancho Sr. Jua, NJ..

MEMBER NEWS

Marchadors and The National Cavalry Competition

by William J. Kambic

Introduction

The National Cavalry Competition (NCC) is put on by the U.S. Cavalry Association (USCA) annually. When it began the USCA was headquartered at Ft. Riley in Junction City, KS. The NCC was hosted in a different venue each year. In 2014 the USCA moved from Ft. Riley to Historic Ft. Reno, just west of Oklahoma City, OK. The event happens there in the last, full week of September each year.

Sandy and I began our participation in 2002 when we attended the event held in Fort Worth. We then were ground crew at the next three events at Fort Riley, KS 2003; Fort Robinson, NE in 2004; and Ft. Riley, again, in 2005. In 2006 we took our Marchadors, Apple Pie de Miami (Andante) and Inscricao da Boa Fe (Fay) to the event at Fort Knox, KY. We competed at all the NCC's (and some Regional Competitions) until 2015. The next year I became the Co-Director of our longest and most complex event, the Major Howze Mobility Test. As an Event Judge I was not eligible to ride any event for a score. I could ride a "schooling horse" and get judged on my performance and did so a few times. Since 2018 we have not taken horses but were strictly "ground crew." Getting old has some negative side effects.

Purpose

The purpose of the NCC is to remember, and honor, those troopers who have gone before us in service of the Constitution of the United States. It's not a game of "adult dress up." It's not a "re-enactment." It's respectful remembrance. We welcome participation of others who have their own Cavalry history. In the past we have had participation by troopers from Australia, Canada, and Great Britain. This international competition raises the bar for U.S. based groups. We all now must work harder!



Bill and Sandy Kambic in Dress Blue on their Marchador mares.

NCC Structure

There are six, major, judged events: Military Horsemanship (functionally a dressage test); Military Field Jumping, Mounted Pistol, and Mounted Saber (these last items are self-explanatory). Next is Combat Horsemanship, where the rider must complete a course of maneuver demonstrating full control of his horse while using the standard weapons of the U.S. Cavalry: the pistol, saber, and rifle. Last is my event, the Major Howze, which consists of a cross country ride of 6-8 miles over varying terrain and finishing with a saber charge against a target array. The Major Howze is a team event with 8 riders maximum on a team. All other events are individual. In addition to the main events, we have ancillary events such as Bugler's Competition, Wheeled Horse (wagons, ambulances, and artillery), Unit Drills, and Tactical Demonstrations.

Individual Events

Horsemanship and Jumping events are Formal Events and are about as you might find them in a civilian horse show. Unique to the NCC, riders must appear in a Dress Uniform of a country and service of their choice. They can portray anything except Nazi Germany. They must be correctly attired and equipped according to the rules of the Service and era of their choice.

Saber, Pistol, Combat Horsemanship, and the Howze allow the rider to wear a Field Uniform appropriate to their time and service. These rules exist to continue to honor our predecessors and present a professional appearance. We understand that strict compliance with historical regulations would be very difficult, and very expensive. We are quite reasonable, particularly with first-time competitors. We are not "stich counters" (a derogatory term for some re-enactors with a "holier than thou" attitude). We do expect the competitor to be respectful in dress and in action.

Competition Structure

There are three levels of competition. Level I is Novice. Here the trooper is expected to have control of their mount and a functional familiarity with their weapons. Level II is Intermediate. Here, we expect to see very effective control of horse and weapons by the trooper. Level III is Expert. At this level we expect to see the trooper in full control of horse and weapons and be smooth in their riding and target

engagement. We expect them to be examples for Level I and II riders.

Each Class will have the three noted Levels and each Rider is expected to have prepared for their Class.



Bill On Course in Military Equitation Level I

Bill on Andante (Apple Pie de Miami)

In Horsemanship, the trooper rides a test from the archives of the old Cavalry School at Ft. Riley, which was dis-established in 1948. They may request a "caller," who will call the maneuvers rather than the rider having to memorize the Test. No penalty is incurred using a caller. This is relevant to riders of gaited horses. The U.S. Cavalry NEVER officially used anything but trotting horses. The tests all have variations of the trot. In our first NCC at Ft. Knox in 2006 we approached the Chief Judge and asked her what the gaited standard would be. She thought about it for a minute, and said, 'The test says "trot," so you must trot. Or accept a 5 pt. penalty.' After a bit more discussion, and watching us demonstrate the Marchador gait, she said, "My decision stands. But watching you it's clear you're reasonably good riders. You should have no trouble making up the five points in other areas!" We then said, "Yes, 'Mam!'" As we rode back to the barn, I said to Sandy, 'The Marines call this "just another opportunity to excel." Maybe the Army does, too!!!'



Sama Jaina On Course Mounted Pistol Level III

Jumping is next. It is a timed event with score being time, modified by faults. Again, we have Levels I, II, and III (18", 24", and 30" respectively). I have very little experience Jumping, so just how a Marchador might be managed on a jumping course is beyond my expertise. In the Saber, Pistol, and Combat Horsemanship classes these jumps are also utilized. This is a difference between some other comparable "weapons" classes, as one might find in the likes of Cowboy Mounted Shooting. Sandy and I just do Level I in our competition rides, as you step over an 18" bar easily.

Mounted Pistol is close to Cowboy Mounted Shooting, but with jumps and you use one pistol firing six .45LongColt blanks. The targets are balloons mounted at ground level, waist level (while mounted), or eye level, mounted. Timing is as in Jumping. Your horse must be "gun broke." Do this at home BEFORE the Competition! There are many reputable Mounted Shooting Trainers in the U.S. Find one near you. Not all horses will break to this event easily. In the weapons events you have the rule of "one hand for you, one hand for the horse." The ability to control your horse with your legs



and seat is very important. A missed balloon will cost you points. At Level I horse control and good pistol form is important. At the higher levels you can go faster and will face higher jumps. If you shoot your horse, you will be eliminated from the event. Black power blanks are dangerous at short ranges. Do some ground practice with the pistol before you mount up to shoot. Commonly used pistols are the Colt Single Action and Remington Single Action.



Mounted Saber requires a blade with at least a 24" length. The U.S. Light Cavalry Saber of 1860 is widely available in reproduction form. For an officer presentation the 1902 Officer's Saber is a good choice. If you want to impress people, get a 1913 Patton Saber (30" of cold steel). All can be found from multiple, internet vendors. You will ride a course similar to the Pistol course, but with "heads" made up of burlap sacks stuffed with straw. There are several videos available on U-tube that show the basic use of the saber while mounted. Many are from Britain or Australia. They are all good at showing the basics.

As a Level I rider, if you don't own a pistol or saber, never fear. Find one near your house and practice with it there. When you get to Oklahoma for the Competition you will be able to borrow one for the class. If you want to go beyond Level I you will need to practice more and having one of your own is a Good Idea.

Combat Horsemanship has the same three levels of competition. In this event the rider must enter, be inspected by the judge, and then execute a series of obstacles (jumps, ground poles, and other simple challenges) while using each weapon against the targets on the course. It's a challenging event, but one of the most popular, as the trooper gets to demonstrate mastery of relevant skills with all his usual weapons. If you don't have the weapon used here you can also borrow from other competitors.

The Howze is another very popular event, as the trooper can escape the confines of the competition ring and demonstrate their ability to move with their horse on a course where their navigational skills are also tested. The saber charge at the end draws some of the biggest spectator interest as they see a very real demonstration of one of the truly unique capabilities of historical troopers. It also tests the leadership of the team commanders, in that they must control their team on the

course, properly array them for the charge, and then CONTROL the charge to inflict maximum damage to the targets (a BIG part of their overall score) and then quickly mustered their command, take a muster, and then report to the Event Judge. This is a timed event, and points can be gained or lost based upon the team commanders' actions. Time begins when the team crosses the start line and ends when they complete their report to the Event Judge. For those without sabers, they can be borrowed.

Laissez le Bon Temps Rouler

Taking our cue from that classic TV show, "F Troop," we recognize that troopers need to "relax in town" after a hard day in the saddle. Our event typically begins on Tuesday afternoon, with a full schedule of events each day following. The last event is the Awards Dinner on Saturday night. Each evening entertainment has a different theme.

Evening events begin on Thursday with the "Chuckwagon Dinner." By this we mean a decent meal with a good vendor. Sometimes it IS a real chuckwagon prepared meal. Sometimes it's not. It largely depends on the availability of vendors. On Friday we have a "sit down" meal. There is also a "silent auction" where items donated to the USCA are up for bid and proceeds support the Association. Impromptu "entertainments" have been known to "break out" during these dinners. Be prepared to be amazed and amused!

The Awards Dinner on Saturday is a "semi-formal" event where troopers are encouraged to wear Dress Uniforms (if they have them). Appropriate civilian attire would be a coat and tie, formal shirts (like a Guayabera which does not require a coat or tie), cocktail dress, or other equivalent attire. The ladies often wear period dresses, some of which are truly spectacular. We do not hold a "personnel inspection." We just ask folks to be respectful of our traditions.

Saturday

This is the biggest day of the event for visitors. In the morning there will be unit demonstrations, wagon rides, equipment displays, etc.

The final competition event is the "Bolte' Cup", named after Gen. Phil Bolte', a former President of the USCA. It consists of



a series of obstacles and targets, using all the weapons of the Cavalry. The course requires a very high level of skill in both rider and horse. Participation is by invitation of the Competition Director. There are usually 12 spots in the Event. The top three competitors in Level III Jumping, Saber, and Pistol are invited. It's not unusual to have one person do well in more than one event. The total number of available slots may exceed three. In that case riders in Level II who have shown particular skill may be invited to fill the remaining places. Former Event Champions may also ride this event.

After the Bolte' Cup there is a formal Pass In Review by all the units and competitors. This event begins with the muster of the entire regiment and the awarding of the Best Unit streamer. This is then attached to the guidon (flag) of that unit. The regiment then will Pass the Reviewing Officer at the three gaits of the Cavalry, while the band plays the "Gary Owen." This concludes the competition.



The Awards Dinner, discussed above, is held on Saturday evening. There is usually a guest of honor and a short speech. After dinner the awards are presented. Each judge of each Event and Level presents the Win, Place, and Show ribbons to the winners of their category. There are also overall awards, one of them being named Event Champion. That title was won this by British Army Capt. Jeremy Bushell, of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment.

Conclusion

This competition is THE most fun equine event I've ever participated in. The Competition is well organized and fairly conducted. The people are all there to have fun and show off their abilities. I mean, where else can you dress up in a period uniform and ride your horse through all kinds of challenges while carrying, and USING, a gun and saber?!?!?! There is no distinction between male and female competitors. There have been at least three women who won the Event Championship in the past few years. Poor sportsmanship is frowned upon. Level 3 folks are always ready to help out the new guys and gals. There is just NOTHING not to like!

Attached is an addendum showing minimum uniform and equipment items and some information on places where these items can be obtained.

If you have an interest in this event, or any questions, I'd be happy to answer them. I strongly encourage you to come to next year's event and watch. When you get there find me, or any other member at Headquarters, and introduce yourself. You will be welcomed and then given a work assignment! We follow the "see one, do one, teach one" theory of learning. You will not be asked to do anything that you can't do. You will be given every opportunity to learn.

An alternative learning experience would be the **Regional Cavalry Competition being held at Historic Fort Concho, in San Angelo, TX. This event will be held 17-20 April 2024.** If you Google "Historic Fort Concho" you will find details, there. They, too, will be happy to meet you and give you every opportunity to learn.

So, come on down in April, September, or both!!!



Addendum

The following is a list of the various equipment necessary for participation in the NCC. It's divided into sections, with a basic, intermediate, and full listing. I've also listed additional and alternative items. Google the vendor's name to find current information. This seems like a lot, but if you subtract the weapons and weapons-related gear there is little that you can't wear on regular basis at home. Or for Halloween.

| <u>Item, Minimum Kit</u> | <u>Source</u> | <u>Cost</u> | <u>total</u> | <u>Notes</u> |
|---------------------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Hat, Campaign | Multiple | \$70 | \$70 | Multiple vendors |
| Cord, Cavalry, Hat | What Price Glory | \$9 | \$79 | |
| Shirt, Enlisted, Khaki | What Price Glory | \$55 | \$134 | |
| Tie, Khaki | What Price Glory | \$12 | \$146 | |
| Breeches, Enlisted, Khaki | What Price Glory | \$95 | \$241 | |
| Belt, Trouser, Enlisted | What Price Glory | \$12 | \$253 | |
| Boots, Brown Riding | Rider Provides | \$0.00 | \$253 | Brown or black English boots OK |

Item, Intermediate Kit

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|------|------|---------------------------------------|
| Gloves, Brown, Riding | What Price Glory | \$28 | \$28 | These items add to Minimum Kit, above |
| Spurs, 1911, w/Strap | What Price Glory | \$38 | \$66 | |

Item, Full Kit

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|-------|-------|--|
| Boots, Riding, 1931 | What Price Glory | \$213 | \$213 | Can substitute with Patton Boots or Low Cut w/ Puttees |
| Belt, Pistol, Web | What Price Glory | \$32 | \$245 | |
| Holster, Revolver | What Price Glory | \$40 | \$285 | |
| Revolver, .45LongColt | Multiple | \$450 | \$735 | |
| Saber, Light Cavalry, 1860 | Atlanta Cutlery | \$179 | \$914 | |
| Saber Frog | Atlanta Cutlery | \$15 | \$929 | Attaches to belt and saber fits in carrying slot |

Optional Items

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|-------|--|
| Boots, Low Cut | What Price Glory | \$135 | |
| Puttees, Leather | What Price Glory | \$85 | |
| Boots, Patton, 1941 | What Price Glory | \$335 | |
| Saber, M1913 Patton | Atlanta Cutlery | \$269 | |
| Carrier, Patton Saber | What Price Glory | \$60 | |
| Carbine, 1874 Sharps | Taylor & Co. | \$199 | |
| Carbine Carry Sling, 1874 Sharps | Dixie Gun Works | \$30 | |
| Cartridge Box, Carbine, .45/70 | Multiple | \$25 | |
| | Full Kit, All | 1,248 | |

MEMBER NEWS


In Memory - MM Owner Mary Meyer

Our sweet, sunshine Mary took her ride to heaven on Wednesday November 1.. Some of Mary's greatest memories were riding Cooper. Mary gave more to us as her friends and family than we ever gave her. She had so, so many dear friends and she knew no stranger. We love you and we will miss you forever Mary Grace.

Mary saw good everywhere in the world and now our world will never be the same.

Loving my Marchador!

by Carolina Peterson

Kharisma do Summerwind is a true MM sport horse! 
This summer, along with his teammate Servando Garcia, Kharisma participated in 4 Novice Level USEA Area VII shows and brought home 4 ribbons.



They also qualified for the Regional Novice Level Championships! I am so proud of this team and excited for what the summer 2024 might bring at the next level!

What is truly special is the belief that he is doing the job he chose to do and so lucky to have Servando show him the way

Loving your horse is an incredible feeling but watching them perform with so much excitement is truly magical.



We are also so excited that Kharisma became a daddy in September! Little Zoro is adorable!



MEMBER NEWS

Event Spotlight and Calendar

Past Events:

September 8-10 and September 15-17

MM Training Clinic, Rancho Sr Jua, Bridgeton NJ.

Instructor was Alan Villaca, from Brazil. Wonderful weather and hosts at Rancho St Jua, home to their St. Jua MMs and also Monarch Marchadors.

September 15-17 Labor Day Classic Horse Show - Multi-Breed. Delmar, CA

Daniel Pulliam, MMBR organizer for many MMs from the CA area to show, including MMBR horses, Rancho de los Cielos, Rancho Linda Marchadores.

November 4-5 McCulley Farm Fall Endurance Ride, Jasper, FL

Congratulations to Brooke Little and Cheveyo do InMotion for finishing 25 miles in first place!

November 10-12 Angers Horse Show, France

Congratulations to Haras Kabayo for showing their Mangalarga Marchador horses to crowds of over 20,000 people.

Upcoming Events:

December 10 USMMA Annual Meeting via Zoom

February TBA - MM Training Clinic and Show, Silver Stables, Phoenix AZ.

June / July TBA - MM Event , Rancho Sr Jua, Bridgeton NJ.

August TBA- MM Event and ABCCMM Inspection, Haras Vista da Serra, MT

November TBA- MM Event and ABCCMM Inspection, Summerwind Marchadors, AZ, CO and TX.





Flying Oaks Pedro, MM gelding in BC, Canada owned and trained by Dana Johnsen, Rocke Ridge Ranch

SPECIAL FEATURES

Estate Planning for Your Horses: Protecting Your Horses if They Outlast You

by Hodgson and Russ LLP, Attorneys- published in the Arabian Horse Association of NY Newsletter.

Editor's Note - Requested by an USMMA member, we included this article about planning for your horses.



It is 8:00 on a brisk, summer morning. You just finished your morning barn chores — the horses are fed, their stalls are clean. Your mare is peacefully grazing outside while her one-month-old filly prances around her; your two geldings look on. As you start your second cup of coffee, you catch up on the daily news. An article about horses catches your eye — “Horses Seized from Property After Owner Dies.” You read on. Twenty horses were seized following the unexpected death of the man caring for the horses. The man’s widow, not a horse person herself, asked for the horses to be taken away. The horses will be sent to auction. There will be no reserve. Some of the horses are old, others are malnourished from improper care since the man’s untimely death. The horses that don’t sell may be euthanized if they cannot find suitable foster homes. You are in disbelief. How can this happen? Will these horses really be euthanized? Will others be sold to killer buyers? How did the man not plan for this? You look out the window at your small herd and realize that this could happen to them — you do not have an estate plan. You never even thought about a will. If something happened to you, your horses could meet the same, sad fate.

What Happens to my Horses if I Don't Have an Estate Plan?

If owners do not take appropriate steps to provide for their horses, the consequences can be dire. Without a will, your horse will become the property of whoever is entitled to inherit from you in accordance with state law. Like the story above, these family members may have no interest in inheriting your horses, and no knowledge of how to care for your horses or how to go about selling your horses in a fair sale.

What Can I Do to Protect My Horses if They Outlive Me?

With careful planning, and sound legal advice, your horses will be protected if they outlast you. The first consideration in



estate planning for your horse is “who” – who among your family, friends, or fellow equine contacts has the desire and knowledge to properly care for or sell your horse? The next consideration is the “how” – how should this person take ownership of your horse? The most simple option is stating in your will that the horse be given to a specific friend or relative. You may want to consider leaving a bequest of cash, or other property, to the person taking the animal to help cover the care of the horse. If your will names specific horses to various individuals, you will need to continuously revise your will, as most people have a succession of horses during their lives.

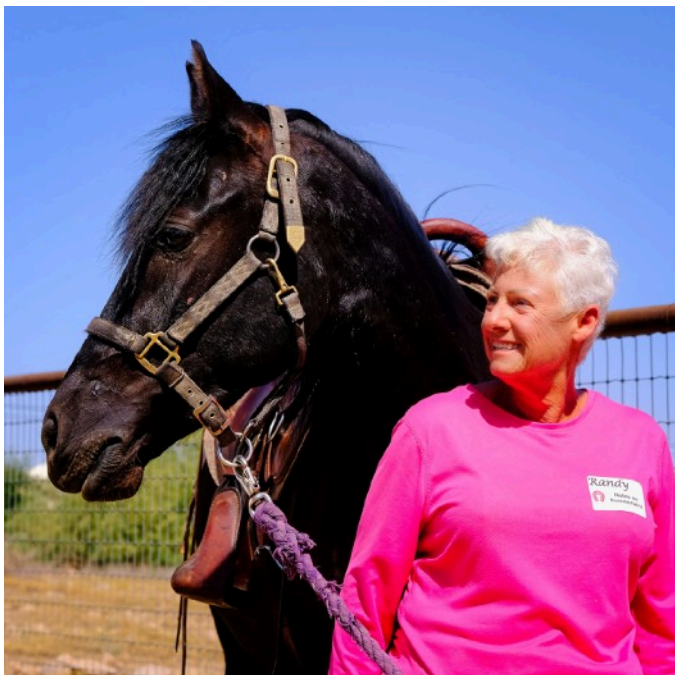
You can also create a trust for your horse. An increasing number of horse owners are opting for a horse trust. A horse trust is a written declaration of how the horse owner wishes their horse to be cared for after the owner's death. A horse trust ensures care for the horse if the owner gets sick or dies. A trust can be inter vivos (created during the lifetime of the horse owner) or created under your will after your death.

In a horse trust, you will name a trustee who will carry out your wishes for the horse. You can provide detailed instructions for the distribution of trust funds for the horse's care. The trust will mandate how the funds will be administered and where the remaining assets should go following the horse's death. The trust can contain information about your horse's conditioning, health issues and food preferences. When selecting your “horse guardian,” you ideally would want a person who currently owns or has cared for horses in the past. The horse guardian will care for your horse in accordance with your instructions set forth in the trust. When preparing the trust, you should carefully consider the cost of care for your horse, and fund the trust accordingly. A horse trust terminates upon the death of the animal. If the trust is established to provide for the care of more than one horse, the trust will terminate upon the death of the last surviving horse.

What Are the Benefits of Establishing a Trust as Opposed to Making a Simply Bequest of a Horse in Your Will?

If you want to give the person who will care for your horse cash to pay for expenses, a trust structure offers more oversight, particularly if there are two trustees. The trust





assets must be segregated from the trustees' personal assets, and must be used for the horse's upkeep as directed in the trust document. If the cash is simply given to the horse's new owner outright, the cash can be used by the owner, even on the owner's personal expenses, without limitation. You take your chance that your horse will receive proper care. In addition, using a trust allows for succession of your "horse guardian." If you leave your horse to someone outright as part of a bequest, and that person dies shortly thereafter, that person's estate plan determines what happens to your horse. Instead, if you had left your horse to a trust, and the trustee dies or becomes incapacitated, the person that you name as your back-up trustee will take over, and the back-up trustee will continue to administer your trust and to carry-out your wishes.

Conclusion

Although proper estate planning can be daunting, having a knowledgeable equine attorney to guide you through the process will relieve much of that burden. The time and effort to think through and plan these complex issues will assure that your equine family will be protected after your death.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Virtual Competitions for you and your horse!

Virtual is a fun way to practice and demonstrate your skills and progress without leaving home! Here are some we found:



International Liberty Horse Association -
[https://www.libertyhorseassociation.com/
online_competitions](https://www.libertyhorseassociation.com/online_competitions)

Western Dressage recognized online shows.
<https://betterdressagescores.com/>

Cowboy Dressage World Virtual
<https://cowboydressageworld.com/cowboy-dressage-world-goes-virtual/>

Virtual Horse Sport
<https://virtualhorsesport.com>

USMMA Virtual Competitions

The USMMA will host competitions from time to time. We are considering seasonal competitions. Here is an example of what we are thinking. Let us know if this format sounds good to you.

Spring 2024 Scavenger Hunt
Requires photos and journal entries.
20 Tasks to do or Things to find with your MM (riding or walking in hand)
Take 20 days or do them all in a weekend! Concludes with a Zoom meeting and prize drawing.

We recognize and thank Dana Johnsen, Regional Director, Canada for starting this initiative and for creating and judging so many for us!

