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Biography

I am a third generation Seattleite, I graduated from WSU Magna Cum Laude and raised my family in Seattle as well as in on the Coast. 10 years ago we made the decision to relocate to the Family Farm in Oakville, Washington. It is here, nestled in the foothills of the Willapa Hills, that I started my adventure with farming. My focus was the gorgeous and practical Icelandic sheep of which I am now a top breeder in the NW.

I chose Maremma's to guard my flock. This is when I fell in love with the Maremma's and became a breeder of these amazing dogs. I have raised over 70 puppies over the past 10 years. I feel that each special puppy is deserving of a wonderful home and while I focus on working homes, I have made rare exceptions for companion homes. I am a hands on breeder and every owner has my consultation for the lifetime of their puppy.

I have long been concerned about the direction of the Maremma Club, as it has become increasingly exclusive and punitive. Breeders left, many offended, and who lost in the end and the biggest victim of this elitist club approach was our beloved Maremma Sheepdogs.

I am for the Maremma Sheepdogs first and foremost. I love these dogs, we have 13 of them. They are so much more than a working dog. They are the heart of our farm, they protect our livestock, our property and our family. They are our friends, our helpers and true members of our family. I have a great love for every single Maremma for they are a truly noble breed.

I am running in this election because I have a vision of a club that puts the Maremma Sheepdogs first. I want to see inclusivity and a camaraderie that is essential to every great association. I want to see networking and the ability of breeders to find amazing homes for their puppies. I want to see breeders to be self regulating to a large degree that allows them to design a program that truly works for them and their dogs and clients. I want to see education and support for the breeder on a myriad of issues. I want to see every single Maremma to have the home of its dreams!

My vision for the club is a different look than what we have seen for the past several years. If your vision is what I have described, I truly hope that you will vote for me to be on the board of the Maremma Club as a Board Member at Large.

Below, I listed the following questions we were asked by the board with my answers for your information. I want you to feel free to connect with me through email or a PM if you have any questions or thoughts. I am always accessible!

Experience you have that would be helpful in this Board position?

As I mentioned in my biography, I have had 10 years of experience raising Maremma's. I have raised over 70 puppies and I have 13 Maremma's here at our farm. I have a good relationship with other breeders that shows my workability, integrity and ethics.

I also have 10 years of experience breeding livestock, working with my dogs in training with my sheep and mentoring many, many people in this arena. I am a hands on breeder, I am always there for my clients and have helped innumerable people with their Maremma sheepdogs so that they could have a happy and healthy Maremma that is successful in their respective homes.

Why do you want to hold this position on the Maremma Sheepdog Club of America Board of Directors?

My goals for becoming a Board Member at Large is to enact the the vision that I and others have for this club. The key component of this vision is for an inclusiveness, to allow us to become a united association that puts the interests of the Maremma Sheepdog first. I want to see breeders feel welcome and to feel supported. I do not want to see exclusive, elitist behavior that alienated new breeders and members in the past and I want to be part of a new chapter for this club.

Any further information you would like the Membership to know about you?

I have a scholarly, practical nature that would greatly benefit the club in its future endeavors. I want to see this club flourish and I would like to be an integral part of that.

What is your vision for the future of the MSCA?

My vision for the MSCA is a vision of renewal and renovation, for a construct that people feel welcomed in and for a club that people will be truly excited about joining. This will bring about the overriding goal in having our Maremma population protected.

What are your top 3 priorities for the MSCA in the next three years?

- 1) Bringing back alienated breeders and members and making them feel welcome and bringing in new breeders and new Maremma owners.
- 2) Seeing to the top paramount needs that are present for the Maremma Sheepdog, such as rescue, etc.
- 3) Encourage and facilitate networking, marketing, education and supporting the breeders.