



Board of Directors Candidate Biography

The Guardian's Promise

*Sleep sound my family for I am near
My duty to protect I hold so dear
The children are safe without a doubt
There is no danger in or out
No harm will pass my watchful sight
No sound will go unchecked this night
I am your guardian; I am your best friend
And I will be loyal until my life's end. ~ Author Unknown*

Kara Marx

Owner

2J 2K Maremma Sheepdogs ~ A Division of 2J 2K Ranch

Kara Marx is very active in the breeding industry. She is a Code of Ethics Breeder and a member of the Maremma Sheepdog Club of America. She is also a Bred With HEART breeder with the American Kennel Club, a member of the American Border Collie Association and the AKC, a Good Dog Certified Excellent Breeder, a certified BAB puppy evaluator, and a member of the Missouri Pet Breeders Association.

Kara continually pursues higher education by attending classes and seminars offered by BAB, Avidog, Good Dog University, Madcap University, Puppy Culture, the AKC Canine College, and the Missouri Pet Breeders Association. A sampling of the seminars she has attended include:

~ Genetics with Dr. Casey Carl of Paw Print Genetics

~ Immunology with Dr. Ben Hatler of NeoTech

~ Neonatal care with Dr. Marty Greer of Revival Animal Health

~ Savvy socialization with Dr. Gayle Watkins of Avidog.

Kara received certificates and badges of recognition from the AKC, BAB, Good Dog, and Avidog.

Maremma Sheepdogs are her passion. She loves their work ethic, loyalty, loving nature, intelligence, and graceful style. She also enjoys connecting Maremma's with new families. Kara loves traveling with her own family on occasion to deliver Maremma puppies to their new homes.

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

Social media skills: Kara actively engages the breeding community as admin of several Facebook groups focused on Maremma Sheepdogs and Border Collies. She also is an admin for a local homeschooling group and manages her own breeding business pages and website.

Marketing and management experience: Kara owns and operates a family farm. She handles accounting, purchasing, marketing, project management, and performance improvements. Her continuous marketing efforts earned her business top rankings with Google.

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

I am honored to be nominated for a board of director position. My family and I love the Maremma Sheepdog. I would love to work with fellow accomplished Maremma Sheepdog enthusiasts to secure a future for this loyal breed. It would be a privilege to serve the members and work together to rebuild the MSCA.

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

We first learned of the Maremma Sheepdog while living in Arizona from Greta Mills. She lived in a remote desert area, and the Maremma guarded their goats. When we moved to Missouri, we decided we needed our own livestock guardian dog after watching foxes carry away numerous chickens. We spent several years researching LGD breeds, their temperaments, and guarding styles. We narrowed our choice to the Maremma Sheepdog and began researching pedigrees, breeders, and genetics. We are so glad we chose the friendly and loving Italian Maremma Sheepdog to guard our ranch's chickens, guineas, lambs, and other animals.

What is your vision for the future of the MSCA?

I envision a bright future with a diverse and sustainable membership. The MSCA should attract and serve those interested in this magnificent animal: reputable breeders, hobbyists, owners, those researching LGD's, and those rescuing Maremmas. We should form committees focused on health issues, pedigrees, education for potential new owners, mentorship for breeders, rescue, and more.

We should increase the membership base. We should implement new bylaws and a new website. We should also look for ways to raise money to benefit the MSCA. It would be helpful to invest funds and utilize an open accounting financial statement, perhaps printed on the newsletter.

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

1. An advanced pedigree database that is accessible to all members
 2. Establish committees to preserve and protect the breed
 3. Facilitate an atmosphere of inclusivity, accountability, and fun!
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