

WHAT IS MACHO



When the men are asked, what is a macho?

They respond in the following manner: “El macho is violent, arrogant, savage, rebellious, stubborn, a womanizer, one who makes decisions on his own without consulting anyone.” The Latino media are filled with images that in fact reinforce this blatant character of el macho.

However, when the discussion is directed toward the learning of masculine behaviors in the native countries the men are from, el macho, in contrast, is portrayed in a completely different manner: “El macho is a man of his word, a responsible man, a provider, honest, respectful, admirable, humble, faithful, loyal to friends, family, and community, a man of integrity.” Most men in treatment will agree that in the countries of origin, the previously described values are reflective of “macho” men.