

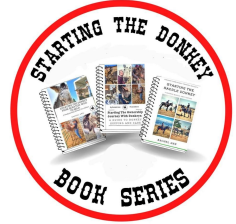


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NONPROFIT



Integrating Long-Ears Into Equine-Assisted Activities

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Who am I? Besides The "Crazy Ass Lady"

Fall 2022
Non-Traditional
Equines Issue
"The Unique Talents
of Donkeys and
Mules"

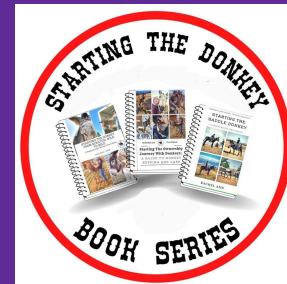


Director/Head Instructor of the Adaptive Riding Program at Friends of Laughing Buck Farm NonProfit. Fort Collins, CO.

Head Instructor/Barn Manager Non-Adaptive Riding Program at Laughing Buck Farm. Fort Collins, CO.

Director Of Hee-Haw Halfway House Donkey Rescue and Education LLC. Wellington, CO.

Author of "Starting The Donkey Book Series":





← Donkeys →



Hinny
Jennet
+Horse
Stallion



What is a Long-Ear?



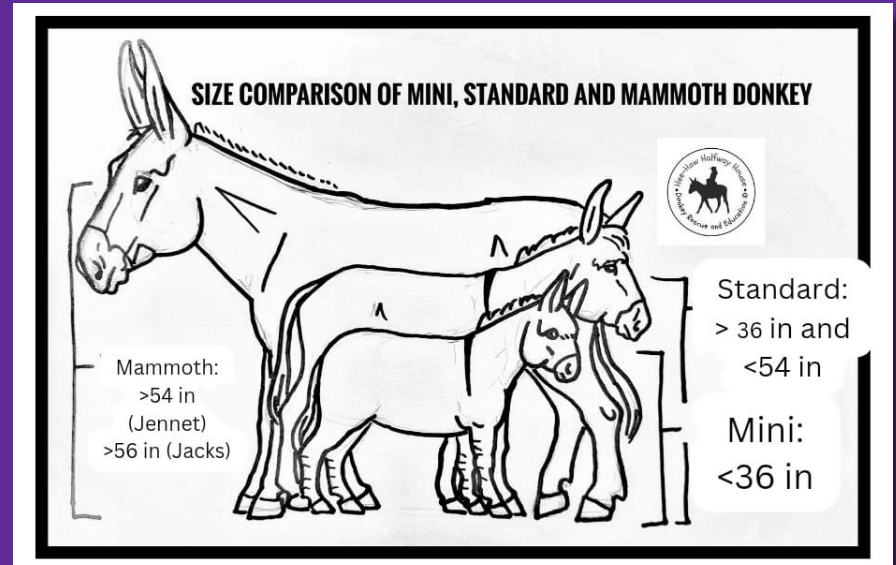
← Mule
Horse
Dam+Donkey
Jack →



Ass And Half-Ass Vocabulary



- **Donkey:** Equus asinus- Mare: **Jennet**, Stallion: **Jack**, Gelded Stallion: **Gelding**
- **Mule:** Sterile Hybrid- Jack+Mare = Mule. Mare Mule: **Molly Mule**, Gelded Mule: **Gelding or Horse Mule**.
- **Hinny:** Stallion + Jennet = Hinny. Sterile hybrid. Rare.



Unique Evolution of Donkeys (And Therefore Half of the Mule)



Note The Lack of Green Pasture On Which These Feral Burros Are Thriving

- Horses- Flight Animal- Plains
- Donkeys- arid, desert environments, in the mountains and canyons of Africa and Asia.
- Running blindly in fear most likely would have been taken out of the gene pool by coming off a cliff or mountainside.
- Use the donkey's innate sense of self-preservation to our advantage in training, in a way that would not work with a horse.

How Do Long-Ears Differ From Horses?



Horses

- More Dynamic Lateral Movement, Wider Base and Wider Body
 - Higher Energy Diet (If Not On Specialized Diet)
 - Less Stoic, More Flighty
 - Most Mainstream Training/Care/Veterinarians/Farriers Cater to Horses
 - More Tolerant of Mistakes in Training
 - "Neurotypical" in Equine World
 - Slightly More Prone to Injury and Illness
-

How Do Long-Ears Differ From Horses?



Photo used with Permission of Rich Kenney of Peggy/Raymond



Long-Ears

- Generally narrower body (if not obese), Narrower Based.
- More front-to back movement than side-to-side (Lateral).
- "Desert" Diet/Hoof Care/Health Care Needs
- More Stoic
- Generally Less Flighty, Prone to "Balk" If Unsure
- Specialized Training
- "Neurodiverse" Equine in A World That Caters to Horses
- Teaches More Precise "Donkeymanship" and "Mulemanship"

Why Add a Long-Ear (Or More!) Into Your Program?

- They Bond and are Affectionate
- Intuitive Without Being as Flighty or Reactive
- Can be Less Intimidating, Bring Sense of Humor With Big Expressive Ears, Funny Voice, and Often Smaller Size
- Unique Body Type And Movement
- Get Good "Grass Mileage"
- Long-Ears Can Do Anything A Horse Can Do



Special Considerations for Long-Ears



- Diet Restrictions (1.5% of Ideal Body Weight in Low Quality Forage Daily for Donkeys), No Green or Short Grass, Dry Lot
 - Pair Bonding
 - Bringing Everyone Up a Notch in Equine Handling Skills
 - Slightly Different Farrier Needs
 - Stoic
 - Wood is Tasty
 - Potentially Different Tack Adjusted Differently
 - Education To Volunteers, Staff, Participants and Families When They Ask " Why a Long-Ear?"
-

Finding Appropriate Long-Ears For Your Program



- Tolerates Multiple Knowledgeable Handlers (Not One-Mannish) and Mellow/Curious Personality
- Oftentimes Easier to Train Your Own (Lawyer Contract)
- Kind, Affectionate, But Not Pushy
- Open, Not Shut Down
- Has Sound, Rhythmic Movement (Conformation Differences)
- Isn't Impossible For Saddle Fit
- Can Be Difficult to find, But Worth It!

Photo Used with Permission of Angie Pierce "Equine Wise Services" in Alberta Canada.

So I Found A Long-Ear Suitable For My Program, Now What?



Photo Used With
Permission of April Ocasio



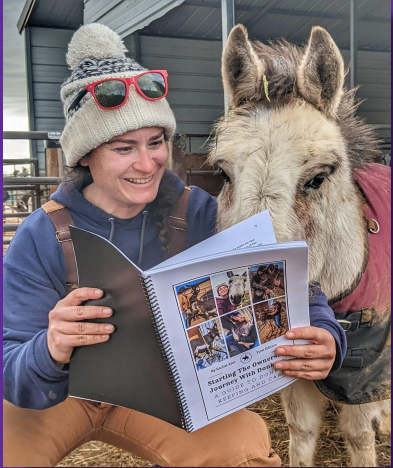
- Long-Ears Can Be Litigious, And Require Remuneration For Efforts, Especially At First
 - Balking = Slow DOWN
 - Watch Behaviors, Signs Of Stress Are Subtle At First (Tail Switch)
 - Be Sure To Have Enrichment, Dry Lot, Correct Diet, Slow Feed, Good Companionship (Donkeys Get Bullied by Horses)
 - Training/Education for Staff and Volunteers on Handling and Tacking
 - Ear Rubs And Tail Rubs are the BEST
-

Training Long-Ears

If It Works, Is Repeatable,
And Safe, It is Good.
The Value of The Release.



The Affectionate and Curious Nature of Long-Ears



The "Tail" End Of The Presentation



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Questions?



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