

ADMC news, Nov. 2015

We get quite a few people emailing our club website with specific questions regarding mules and donkeys. By the way there are lots of informative articles on breeding, raising and training to read on our site[[www.albertadonkeyandmule.com](http://www.albertadonkeyandmule.com)]

Recently we heard from some folks that had raised a mule foal out of a lovely fiord mare and were keen to not make mistakes with the 3 month old foal regarding handling her. Thankfully, with their prior horse experience, they had pretty much done all the correct things in working with their cherished mule baby.



3 month old mule foal Jaja, belonging to Deb Robert

That included lots of handling all over her body but they were leery of how to introduce her to the halter. I suggested that, unlike horse babies they are actually easier to teach to tie first, before teaching to lead. Mules being as smart as they are soon figure out that pulling back on the rope does not work, and it's a lesson that they remember when teaching to lead. Of course, as with any equine, the first few times they are tied, NEVER leave them unattended. Horse babies are much more prone to panic first and can very easily be hurt, so

it is imperative that they be taught to lead first. And as with all equines of any age, they should never be left with a halter or even worse also dragging a halter rope. Some folks still cling to this very unsafe notion that this will break them to lead. Unfortunately it can actually lead to injury or death and does not actually teach them to give to the pressure but to find ways to get away from it. Please never do this!

One of our new members is Jo Turley from Sundre, AB. She recently purchased Maker's Mark, a 5 year old john out of a TW mare and a gaited jack. Jo says, "Mark was born on April Fool's day and acts the part. He's registered with the American Gaited Mule Association. His breeder was Mike Pemberton, of Tennessee.

On my first trail ride with Markie, he wowed me with his smoothness and surefootedness. I don't have to ask for 'gaiting', he just does it; if I ask for speed, he just lengthens his stride - the smooth ride is uninterrupted. I haven't tried out his lope yet. This isn't a finished mule by any stretch of the imagination. He has a lot to learn, as do I! However, he seems to really enjoy the trail experience. His equine running mate is my Rocky Mountain mare - he's very attached to her, but he led the ride until we came to the pole bridge. A true gentleman, he let the mare go across first - that way, he could watch for trolls."



Jo Turley on her john mule Maker's Mark2

Old and new members will again have the opportunity to progress with their mules and donkeys in our series of Jerry Tindell Clinics that will be scheduled from southern AB right up to northern AB. and points in between! Watch for the 2016 schedule soon. In the meantime, enjoy your longears!

Marlene Quiring