



Horses, Mules, & Donkeys Myths & Facts!!



Here are some fun Myths and Facts about horses, mules, and donkeys! For more fun information be sure to follow along at **Beast of Burden Recovery and Education Center!**

Mules & Donkeys are stubborn!

- MYTH!

Mules & Donkeys have high self preservation and like to think through situations before deciding on what to do- this can be perceived as stubborn but in reality they are trying to do what they think they're supposed to do- or doing what they think they have to do to survive. Patience is a key trait to have when working with all equines! Especially mules and donkeys!

Mules live longer than horses!

- FACT!

Mules are hybrids- therefore have something called "hybrid vigor" from their different parents. A horse's lifespan can get to 25-30yrs, a donkey can be 27-40yrs, while mules can get 35-50yrs! (These are all lifespans of DOMESTIC equines- wild equines average less)

Mules have an odd number of chromosomes!

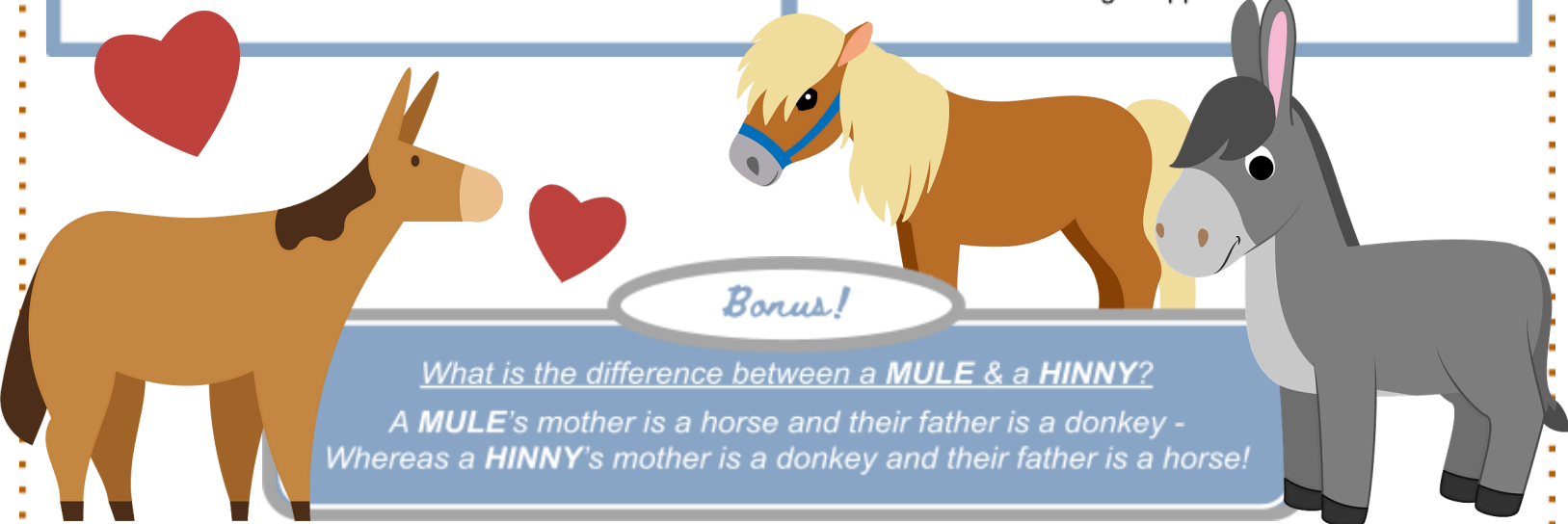
- FACT!

Mules are HYBRIDS - a cross between a horse and donkey- therefore they have a mismatch of chromosomes. This also means they are incapable of breeding as their sperm and egg cells cannot form correctly.

Horses are more trainable than mules or donkeys!

- MYTH

Horses, mules, and donkeys alike- are all trainable; with both pros and cons of their natural features (which are pros or cons are dependent on YOUR beliefs). Though there are some generalizations of differences- ultimately each animal should be approached at an individual level with their own personalities and physical capabilities considered when training is approached.



What is the difference between a MULE & a HINNY?

A **MULE's** mother is a horse and their father is a donkey -
Whereas a **HINNY's** mother is a donkey and their father is a horse!