

# Them Mules

“THE MARE WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDE WILL RAISE YOU  
THE RIGHT KIND OF MULE!”

By Tennison

I have spent a great many years around these wonderful Mules. Just maybe I've seen Mules, certainly Mule colts, out of about any kind of mare you might mention that lives in the lower forty-eight states. Being a Missouri boy, I can vividly remember seeing my first Mule Colt out of a Clydesdale mare. It was sure enough a big Mule Colt, its color was a solid chocolate brown. I'm ashamed to tell it, when it comes to Clydesdales, I am a victim of the dadgum advertising department at Anheuser-Bush. They have tainted my mind over these many years. I even have the blasted music playing in my head as I write this "Here Comes the King". I have an image in my head when the name Clydesdale is mentioned, the music starts playing and I can only see, "bay, four white stockings, blaze face and a black mane and tail". I can't get past it, even with the name, "Mule" attached, some, if not all those features must be present for me to be on board.

The famous country singer, "Leroy Van-Dyke," is a mule man if you're not aware; many years back, Leroy was raising some fine Mules out of some above average Arabian mares. I recall Leroy mentioning the practice was held in disfavor by some in the Arab breeder's circle. The pairing resulted in a mule colt with a mighty refined head, dished faces, and Teacup Muzzles that could only be described as, "Right Down Cute Mules". I liked 'em and so did many others. Leroy is still performing at the age of ninety-three.

Talking about the right kind of mare, I can't help but mention Woodrow Call's gray mare in the movie Lonesome Dove. She had a unique name if you recall. The gray mare was portrayed as being a one-man-horse. Anyone who tried her didn't get along. I've met a few of those kinds of mares. Few were a joy to be around. Dean Martin, well



known Mule Breeder, Dean Martin, not the actor, had as good a cutting Mule that has ever taken a breath, her name was "Kit". She was a mare Mule and much like Woodrow's mare; she would turn into an alligator if it was anybody but Dean walking up to step on. Lorretta, who may have fed her as much or more than Dean did, couldn't get close to her either. I know Dean Martin very well. He was trainer enough to get her over that. I believe he was perfectly content no one stepped up on his mule, and he had plenty of insurance it wouldn't happen.

These stories and a few thousand more like them have been practiced over the years. It's just one of many things that's so great and wonderful about these diverse Hybrids we have chosen. Any breed you might take a liking too, any mare of your choosing can be crossed with a Jack and the Mules of your dreams can be produced by that cross. While we might get the pulling power we desire from the cross, the gait we desire, the athleticism needed, or how tall we might like our Mule to be. It speaks nothing of our crosses personality type. Will the Mule be an extravert, an introvert, how will he or she take in information, what will this colt's intuition be like, how will the mules decision making develop, will he be a thinker, how will this little mule perceive you and your world? The best way to have any luck of knowing how this little fella might turn out in our world, is to know plenty about the mare. While I have seen many Mule Colts in my life, some being outstanding in looks, conformation, performance, highly trainable and perceives human as being head of its herd. I have seen, to many Mule colts anything but highly trainable, and lacked the ability to perceive any human being as a part of its life.

I want you to understand this part right here if you get nothing more from this article. I have seen many Mule Colts with problems, caused by human, or inherited, become good citizen of the human world. They became good mules because they were in the hands of qualified people who had years of experience, knowledge, the patience of Job, and a heart for such a task. I also want you to understand, I believe in our human race and in the animal kingdom,

there is such a thing as an immoral, scandalous, vicious, unlawful mind. These mules exist, and I've witnessed the miracle of patience, and good training, getting them out of there troubled mind. I have also witnessed when nothing helped.

I grew up in an era, where it was common practice to take an undesirable mare and breed her to a jack because she was, and I quote, "not good enough to breed to the stud horse". Many of these mules I was exposed too in the 50's, 60's, and 70's had all the traits of it's "undesirable momma". Momma spent a lot of time being argumentative and trying to hurt anybody or anything that got into an argument with her. Argumentative momma produced Hybrid offspring with that famous Hybrid Vigor, that stood a better chance of accomplishing what momma couldn't. And when you did get one trained, you had a trained idiot, that you best no turn your back on, riding between the bridle reins, that most everybody couldn't possibly get along with.

Not every Mare will raise you the mule of your dreams. Not all Mare's should be bred. You must take a hard long look at your

mare. I'm sorry to say, seventy, sixty, fifty years later, inferior mares are still being bred to stud horses and too jacks to this day. Without question, getting the same results, only being practiced by a more educated public.

In the Mule World, there's more to this cross than any other breed. Hybridization is involved and it is a wonderful thing, but I think understanding Hybridization, the Hybrid Vigor, takes experience and time. I try my hardest to keep all things simple. What Hybrid Vigor means to me in the mule is "MORE". If your observance is correct and the Mule Colt's momma is a sweetheart, and has a good attitude, Little Bitty full of Hybrid Vigo Mule Colt will be EVEN SWEETER, with EVEN MORE of a FANTASTIC ATTUDE! All the very reasons we love "Them Mules" as we do. The Mule Colt by the mare with a bad attitude, stands a chance of having MORE of a bad attitude than its momma.

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## Mule Thoughts...

Everyone has the right to be stupid, it's just that some **ABUSE** the privilege.

