

## Gene and Duke

Gene Pickett of Clarendon, NY enjoys riding his Mustang, Duke. Pickett owns two Mustangs. He adopted Reno in 2009 and Duke, a birthday gift from his daughter, Diane Pickett Hart and Jon Dodson, who was given to him for his 80th birthday. Pickett encourages anyone who is considering adopting a Mustang to do so without reservation. "Mustangs are gentle intelligent animals who can be affectionate and loyal."

My name is Gene Pickett and at 80 years old I would have never dreamed I would own and ride a Mustang. I first met and acquired Hugo "Duke" at Ithaca N.Y. adoption in July 2013 through the USWHBA.

When I was 9 years old I worked at a riding stable, cleaning the barn, feeding, watering and leading the kids younger than I around on the horses. I did enjoy that job because I was able to ride the horses.

When I was 16 years old I worked on a farm with work horses, working the farm hauling logs out of the woods and cultivating the ground, as they say they are Gentle Giants.

When I had kids, we bought a Shetland pony for the kids, everyone that knew about horses told me that Shetland ponies were mean but this one was not the kids could ride and climb all over her, she did not mind. My daughter use to get a step ladder and brush the ponies' teeth, if she minded you would have never known it.

When the kids got older we bought quarter horses to go trail ridding. We also had a buggy horse. That was a lot of fun also.

I have been and will be using Hugo "Duke" for trail riding. He is very quiet and well mannered, a very giving horse.

If someone were to ask me what I thought of owning a Mustang I would strongly recommend it.

Happy Riding  
Gene and Hugo "Duke"