

Meghan and Lily

Hi, my name is Meghan Young and I am the proud owner of Lily, a 2 yr. old mustang. I found Lily at the BLM adoption in Augusta, New Jersey at the Sussex County Fairgrounds on August 23rd, 2008. She was the only appaloosa there and despite looking at the other beautiful horses there, I was always drawn back to her. Lily was a buckskin color with a star and white spots on her hindquarters. Over the winter, she turned bay and now she is turning a chocolate color. She keeps changing so we are not sure what her final color will be. I have been so happy to have her in my life since that day.

Although I bought Lily that day, we arranged with Robin Ravello, a volunteer of the BLM, to have Lily go with her for the initial gentling since I had no previous experience working with mustangs and I boarded at a barn with no experience with mustangs nor the facility for them.

For the first month while she was at Robin's I would go down and visit Lily as much as I could. Robin did an extremely great job at gentling her and every week that I went down, she was better and easier to handle. Lily was getting used to people as well as everyday things, such as fly spray, brushing, walking, and going in to a barn. Lily came back to me with being able to stand for grooming, for picking her feet, as well as being trimmed by a farrier, and also had her teeth floated. Lily was, and still is, a joy to be around.

When Lily came to our barn she was put in a paddock with my older Appaloosa gelding. Since they have met, they are inseparable. My gelding took Lily under his wing and became her big brother. They bonded really well and still get along great to this day.

I started working with Lily right away. One of the things I would do is pony her along side of my older Appaloosa and she behaved very well. It was a great way to exercise Lily and get her used to having somebody above her while not riding. The first time I got up on my App with Lily by his side, Lily gave a look like, "why are you up there?" Lily has very expressive eyes. If she does something wrong she gives you those "puppy dog" eyes and if she should hurt herself in anyway (like hit her head on something) she gets embarrassed and won't look at you.

Lily learned to lunge immediately with no problems. I have had a saddle on her and recently have had my foot in the stirrup and my weight over her back. She has grown nicely and is almost 800 pounds and just 15 hands. We think she might top off at 16 hands, not sure yet, time will tell. I am also doing a lot of groundwork with her as well as some showmanship. She learned the Parelli seven games within a few weeks and will do anything you ask of her. She is very responsive to body language and has taught me many things about how I carry myself around horses that I would not have noticed with a domestic-born horse. Lily has made me a better horse person and has taught me how to work around problems that you would not encounter with your normal horse or even think would be a problem. She is very observant to changes in ground color thinking that there might be a problem, such as a hole there. With encouragement, she will walk over it and she is slowly learning how to walk through water. I take her on walks around the farm so she can get out on the trail and eat some grass. I am thinking about taking her to her first show this year and entering her in a halter class. Lily is a fast learner and knows what you want. And yes, she is still your typical 2 year old. If she is in her terrible two's, I'll take it!!! She is such a joy to be around and everyone loves her. I really enjoy the bond that we share and the trust that she has in me. I share a bond with my other horse, but nothing can compare to the bond that you have with a mustang.

I would recommend a mustang to anyone. They are blank slates that you can start your way, without any past experiences to "fix". They are fast learners and are really great to have around. Lily is an easy keeper, she gets a quarter scoop of grain twice a day and does not need shoes. I would also go with the "gentling" again because unless you have the time to handle them on a daily basis, or have experience with mustangs it really pays to use their services. It was a great jump start to have Lily exposed to everyday behavior that you take for granted, such as walking into a barn, a stall, or walking out to pasture. When Lily came up to my barn, she was still weary of a few things but quickly got over that due to the great start that she had with Robin.

I want to thank the BLM for bringing these mustangs to us for adoption and to Robin Rivello for her help, which is still forthcoming. Robin has a lot of knowledge regarding the mustangs and has been so helpful.

See Photos Below.

