

HORSES, DONKEYS, AND MULES

The horse is a distinct species and the donkey is a distinct species. A stallion horse bred with a female donkey will produce a hinney, which is small and not too strong. A male donkey mated with a mare horse will produce a mule, which is larger, stronger, and has more endurance than the donkey, but retains its sure-footedness and braying voice. From its mother, it inherits a large, well-shaped body and strong muscles, as well as a horse's ease in getting used to harness. From the donkey it also receives the quality of saving its strength when it has to work hard and for a long time. Mules also resist disease well. Properly cared for, mules can do as much work as horses, but under harder conditions.

Mules are half-way between two species, so are sterile. Rarely does a female mule give birth, but when that happens it is because the mule was bred to a male horse or donkey. In such cases, the offspring will be three-fourths horse or donkey; it will not be a mule.

