

Donovan and Tucker -- Pair of Mini Donks for Adoption

6/7/19 Robin Yandell Williston, VT

Description: Donovan and Tucker are a bonded pair of 20 yo mini donks. Though unrelated, they have been together since they were weanlings, coming from the same breeder and being with only one owner their whole life.

Reason for Surrender: It is with great regret that I am putting the donks up for adoption. They have been with me their whole lives and we have enjoyed many adventures and activities together. I have a large farm property to maintain with other animals and gardens. Having had multiple joint replacements I have to make some tough decisions about realistic workload. The donks are reasonably healthy and are too good to be put down. They deserve more years with someone who can do more with them than I can at this time.

Ownership History: Donovan is a gray dun, 36", born Oct 16, 1998. His dam was a dun, G. Roseanna and his sire was a spot, G. Rolando. Tucker is a brown and white spot, 34", born Oct 18, 1998. He came from Texas and his sire was a spot named .007, his dam was a frosted white named Nicky. I obtained both donks from Marshlyn Reed, owner of Ass-pirin Acres Mini Donks in Addison, VT. They came to me in April, 1999 and have never lived anywhere else. There is no known history of abuse or neglect.

Activities and Training: The donks have always been pastured separately from the boarding horses on my property, as their fencing and pasture needs were different. They respect electric fencing. For 2 winters I boarded 2 additional minis with them. Mine were possessive of their space and ate most of the others' food. For a number of years, I had an ancient red Belgian draft mule who lived in with Tucker and Donovan. The 3 of them adored each other. I think Rosie thought they were her babies and she hated being separated from them.

The donks have had an active and full life in Vermont. They get taken on long hikes, with packs for picnics, love children, have been in parades and donkey

shows, coon jumping, county fairs and birthday parties as entertainment. They also have been used for therapeutic activities with children and teens with mental health challenges (my career back ground.) I tried to teach them to drive. They didn't mind bits and harness, but I wasn't skilled enough to follow through and then they got too fat for their harnesses, so we abandoned that project. They were featured on the cover of Miniature Donkey Talk magazine twice playing with my very young nephews.

Temperament/Quirks: Sweet and loving, seek people out. Love to be groomed. Get attached to "their person." Bray for attention. Hold onto your clothes gently so you won't leave. Untie your shoelaces. I used to tie them on dog stakes on the lawn so they could garden with me. Though a bonded pair, Donovan tends to be rough on Tucker playing and competing for attention. They are also sexual with each other, humping and excited in both directions. Tucker has a huge sense of humor and picks up everything in his mouth, opens doors, pulls blankets off the wall in the barn to drape on himself and parades around dressed up. I think you could do clicker training easily with him especially for tricks. They love parades and crowds and people. Not scared. I admit they are spoiled with too many treats (my fault) so can get nippy at times. They don't kick, bite, pull back when tied, none of those vices. OK for vet and farrier, if the person is quiet and gentle. Donovan can be fussy about his hind feet. They haven't been trailered enough to be very comfortable with loading. They are cautious, especially Donovan can be hard to load. Once loaded, they travel fine. One thing about their bonding that is hard is that you have trouble separating them for different activities. They get upset without the other. I should have done better with that when they were young.

Medical/Care: Tucker and Donovan have always had annual shots and fecal checks in the spring. Teeth and sheaths were done this year. Tucker had a sharp molar the vet is coming back to file down some more. Farrier trims every 6-8 weeks. Because fecals have been negative for worms, my vet recommended just seasonal worming, 4 times a year. They are due for worming again this summer. All shots done in April 2019, fecal negative, Coggins negative (will give Ann the list.) The donkeys are easy keepers and prone to laminitis on too much grass. They

are overweight and were checked for Equine Metabolic Syndrome years ago. That lab wasn't definitive but thyroid was low so they have been on Thyroid powder supplement for years. They have had a few hoof abscesses in the past. Their hooves are fine now, but need regular attention from an experienced farrier.

I use fly masks and fly spray all summer.

They like to be groomed. Sometimes in summer I clip them. Tucker loves to be clipped, likes the vibration of clippers. Donovan is more cautious, tolerates clipping, EXCEPT around his face and ears.

They have always had large pasture space to run and play and access to run-in shelter year round. In winter, they are shut in an enclosed barn at night. Always have access to heated water in winter.

I never used to blanket them in winter, but in recent years, I have found they are more comfortable blanketed in severe weather. Tucker especially gets cold and shivers.

Tucker has also been known to have a reaction to sedation with shivering and malaise afterwards.

They are both very hard to worm or medicate orally—too smart and know what's coming.

A safety issue to be aware of: though it hasn't happened for a few years, when they have been fatter and flat-backed, they can get cast rolling. I have had some scary moments finding one of them cast flat on their back for too long.

Feed and Supplements: The donkeys are easy keepers and prone to weight gain. They get plain grass hay, a flake twice a day in summer and 2-3 flakes twice a day in winter (that amount covers both of them.)

Grain: ½ cup oats and ½ cup hay stretcher AM and PM with supplements and a little water (that amount covers both of them in one tub; they only get grain to get supplements into them, we tried every other way without success.)

AM—Thyroid

PM—Thyroid and Multivitamin

Placement Suggestions: The donks would be ideal for a therapeutic equine facility where they'd get a lot of attention. I tried giving them to 2 different therapeutic places in Vermont last year, but they already had mini's and didn't want more. They would also thrive with a family or owners who give them a lot of time and attention and adventures.