# [Mule](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/mule/" \o "Mule) :

A mule is the result of the mating of a male [donkey](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/donkey/) (jack) and a female [horse](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/horse/) (mare) to produce a hybrid. The much rarer hinny is the result of mating a female [donkey](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/donkey/)(jennet) with a male [horse](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/horse/) (stallion) although the hinny is much harder to produce than the mule. The jennet's reproductive system is more efficient at detecting and eliminating foreign DNA than the mare's is. The hinny conception rate is lower and the miscarriage rate is higher. It really isn't possible to distinguish a mule from a hinny by appearance. Mules are anatomically normal and show normal breedingbehaviourr unless gelded (castrated) early in life.  
  
Mules are sterile due to an uneven chromosome count. There are have been a very few rare cases since the 1500s where female mules have been known to produce a foal when mated to a stallion or jack. Males are completely sterile, and as an old muleman said, "Ain't nothing meaner than a stud mule".  
  
Mules are commonly found around the world in any area where there are [donkeys](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/donkey/) and [horses](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/horse/)inhabiting the same [environment](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-environment). Mules have been bred by [humans](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/human/) for use as riding and pack [animals](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal), and for ploughing or any work one does with horses.  
  
The mule's body [type](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-type) and [temperament](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-temperament) depend on the breed of mare and jack used. Huge draft mules are created by breeding draft [horses](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/horse/) such as Belgians to Mammoth jacks. They have the [size](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-size) and power of the draft [horse](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/horse/) with the mule's ability to tolerate heat and less feed. Racing mules are produced using Throughbred mares, and trail mules are often produced from Quarter [horses](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/horse/), Paint [horses](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/horse/), and Appaloosas. Mules come in any [horse](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/horse/) or [donkey](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/donkey/) color or combination of both. A mule is easily distinguished from a [donkey](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/donkey/) by looking at the tail. A mule's tail is haired all the way to the top like a horse's tail; a donkey's tail has a tuft on the end like a [cow](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/cow/). They compete successfully with [horses](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/horse/) in all venues including dressage.  
  
The mule has the patience, endurance, sure footedness, sense, and drought tolerance of the [donkey](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/donkey/), combined with the [size](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-size), speed, strength and courage of the [horse](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/horse/). Operators of working [animals](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal) generally find mules preferable to [horses](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/horse/) as mules have harder skin that is less sensitive than that of [horses](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/horse/), meaning that mules can deal with climate extremes such as strong sun and rain more easily. They require less food and water than a [horse](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/horse/) of the same [size](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-size). The mules hooves are harder than [horses](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/horse/) hooves, and both the mule and the mules hooves show a natural resistance to disease and [insects](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/insect/).

# Mule Facts :

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| [**Kingdom**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-kingdom)**:** | Animalia |
| [**Phylum**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-phylum)**:** | Chordata |
| [**Class**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-class)**:** | Mammalia |
| [**Order**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-order)**:** | Perissodactyla |
| [**Family**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-family)**:** | Equidae |
| [**Genus**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-genus)**:** | Equus |
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| [**Scientific Name**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-scientific-name)**:** | Equus Mule |
| [**Type**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-type)**:** | Mammal |
| [**Diet**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-diet)**:** | Herbivore |
| [**Size**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-size)**:** | 1.2-1.5m (47-59in) |
| [**Weight**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-weight)**:** | 350-450kg (771-992lbs) |
| [**Top Speed**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-top-speed)**:** | 24km/h (15mph) |
| [**Lifespan**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-lifespan)**:** | 15-20 years |
| [**Lifestyle**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-lifestyle)**:** | Herd |
| [**Conservation Status**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-conservation-status)**:** | Least Concern |
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| [**Colour**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-colour)**:** | Grey, Brown, Black |
| [**Skin Type**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-skin-type)**:** | Fur |
| [**Favourite Food**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-favourite-food)**:** | Grass |
| [**Habitat**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-habitat)**:** | Arid forests and deserts |
| [**Average Litter Size**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-average-litter-size)**:** | 0 |
| [**Main Prey**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-prey)**:** | Grass, Weeds, Vegetables |
| [**Predators**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-predators)**:** | Fox, Wolf, Lion |
| [**Special Features**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-distinctive-features)**:** | Stocky body and long snout and ears |