

Chapter 3

Factors Contributing To The Unconfident Mule



Being Raised By A Nervous Dam will no doubt, have an affect on a mule baby. From birth, the mule foal will follow its *mother* and learn to *mimic* all of her behavior until the time he is weaned. Since the mare's temperament plays an important role in a mule baby's life, in breeding programs it is critical to select a dam with a good disposition as well as excellent confirmation. If your young

mule was raised by a mare from one of the "hotter" breeds such as Thoroughbred, Arabian, Tennessee Walker or Missouri Fox Trotter, chances are he inherited an excitable or nervous disposition. For you to take ownership in a mule of this nature, you will have to be a patient and skilled trainer. Occasionally, you will come across a mare that may have been culled from the herd because she did not measure up to the ranch or farm requirements in their particular breeding program. An example would be



a Thoroughbred filly that would not run fast enough on the track and in turn, would more than likely make an excellent broodmare for mule stock and or Quarterhorse cross babies. If you desire a get up and go mule or have a need for a hot blooded animal, to match your advanced riding skills, then you can appreciate an animal that is sensitive and ready to burn some energy.

