

Spike – Email Updates from his New Family

May 15, 2011 – “All is well, Spike joined the herd of mares today without much to worry about. Echo the 2-year old is in love with him (they mutually groom each other); the alpha mare has no concerns at all, and Bunny the pasture babysitter charged him once or twice but decided to leave it at that and eat her hay. Amber the Rocket is offended entirely but thinks dirty looks are sufficient. Spike is not at all intimidated and is completely pleased to be with the herd. He did relax before being put with the mares and has been the friendly little guy we met since. He was also groomed today and the girls led around on him a turn or two, no problems. Whoas on voice command. No sign of any buck. Lifts his feet for cleaning. Thought it was so much fun he followed us around as we pounded posts to get rid of that barb wire fencing for a neck scratch or two after he led the girls around.”

Update! June 3, 2011 – “He is doing just great. Our girls dote on him and he leads with Sarah on his back no problem, good with feet etc. He is the STAR of the pasture. Our mares just ADORE him. (I don’t know what it is that some guys have, but he has it!) When we bring him back to the pasture after a brush or something like that all four mares line up over the fence and whinny at him like he’s been gone too long. I think they are all in love with him. And Spike fully believes he is deserving of such admiration! What a confident pony! We have been busy in the mean time replacing the barb wire fence (DONE!) and next week or sometime before the 15th, we have someone coming in to final grade the arena, plant the posts and dump in the footing! So I have a sneaking suspicion we are going to start asking Spike to show us his stuff soon! We also think he has been ridden with a saddle before at this point. He is familiar with both voice and leg commands, we’ve noticed. (We did get a saddle for him but we are not going to try that out until we have a routine going in the ring.”

Update! June 5, 2011 – “Just wanted to let you know, Spike is far more advanced in the riding department than we hoped for. We couldn't wait for the big arena to try his saddle on, it was such a nice morning. It turned out he was absolute doll to saddle and put a bit in. No buck, no fight, and actually rode around like he has had a saddle and a child on him all his life! And with Sarah, he was patient, patient, patient!!!! But we kept the ride very short just to let him know we aren't going to ask too much of him yet. His trust of us is the priority right now, improving his skills will come later. Anyway, the girls love him (mares and mine)! He is so adorable with a charming personality. He also seems to have taken a shine to us. He will walk up to us in the pasture for a head scratch or just to see why we are there, if the mares aren't busy doting on him. (I still can't figure out why they are so affectionate with him.) Will keep you updated! “