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Contact: Steve Stiert
stiert@hvc.rr.com<mailto:stiert@hvc.rr.com>

Donkey & Mule Show new at the Dutchess County Fair

Rhinebeck, NY - Donkeys, the long-eared and lovable cousin of the horse, have become increasingly popular in recent years. In recognition, the Dutchess County Fair is pleased to host its first-ever Donkey & Mule Show as part of this year's Fair on Friday, August 25, from 10 AM to 5 PM.

This show is both a competitive event for regional owners of donkeys and mules (a donkey-horse hybrid) and a fun, interactive, and educational opportunity for fairgoers to experience these amazing animals who have played such an important role in human history.

Did you know that donkey breeds can range in size from smaller than some dogs to as large as a horse? That they sport a wide variety of fur colors and markings? And that donkeys have a keen intelligence and are capable of doing everything a horse can?

The day-long schedule of over 30 events ranges from showcasing best-of-breed to demonstrating donkeys' great usefulness in activities such as riding and driving. The obstacle course and standing high jump are exciting crowd favorites. There are also just plain fun events like the creative and comic costume class and the human braying contest, open to fairgoers of all ages who want to take a crack at imitating the famous donkey "hee-haw."

You will come to appreciate the gentle and thoughtful nature of these animals along with their strength and hardiness, a combination that has made the donkey one of mankind's most important and cherished domestic partners.

This show is being organized and run by Donkey Park, a local nonprofit whose mission is to enrich the lives of donkeys and the human communities with which they interact, and to demonstrate the value of the donkey in our modern world.

For more information about donkeys, the show's events, and how to participate in this year's Donkey & Mule Show, please contact Steve Stiert of Donkey Park at 845-389-9159 or stiert@hvc.rr.com

For general information or to purchase tickets, visit www.dutchessfair.com.

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