

When I went to pick up Leona for her 2 weeks of training, Cate, her owner, handed me a piece of paper describing the pony.

"Leona's Story: - good natured, gentle little pony. Inquisitive, kind and intelligent. In need of a good education to make her the perfect pony for our family."

She went on to say - "lead pony only. Will shy every time she is taken out just to throw them off. Almost impossible to work on her hooves, so much so that farriers won't come. Becomes frantic if she is led away from the other horse."

Finally, "we believe that her goodness outweighs her naughty habits and with the right education for all of us she can become an enjoyable experience."

Leona spent 2 weeks with Kate at her training facility. The owner and her children came on a regular basis to learn with the pony. In addition to training the pony, Kate also gave the children riding lessons and taught the owner how to long-line the pony, which is such a useful training tool.





Some of the owner's comments after the pony went home:

"The 2 week training with Kate has changed our understanding of our pony. My children and I have gained horsemanship skills I have only ever read about. Kate has shown us that kindness, understanding and patience are the only real tools you need to build a relationship with your pony. We came to understand that communication is the key and consistency in its delivery is essential. This was the right time in my children's life to see the kindness that Kate shows her horses and I believe that in our journey with our pony this will now become a skill for life."

"We have been having fun with Leona. I have started long-lining her and when I have her concentration she is beautiful and light in the bridle (which is more often than not!). She is a different pony and we are very happy with her progress."

"We have just got back in from working Leona and are incredibly pleased with our results. Dan and I groomed her and then I helped him pick out her hooves - which was something I never imagined possible before she came to you. She then long-lined perfectly in my irregular shaped yard. I was able to get her attention back and get her in frame easily when she became distracted. So thank you for your efforts with ALL of us - hopefully this will now become a skill for life for the children."

"Thought you might be interested to know that the farrier has just been around to trim Leona. She stood perfectly still for him and the process was entirely painless - I am certain he will be back! She was completely unfazed by his presence - such a changed pony."

