

Dear ,

Maya, my mule, has her opinions.

She was mistreated before I got her and, among many other sometimes weird things, doesn't like being led on a lead rope. She'll do it if she must, but she resents it.

So when we move the horses to another pasture, we let her walk free. Our two horses on the lead rope, and Maya following on her own terms.

She sometimes wanders off to sniff something or check out movement in the woods, but when I call her, she immediately comes back. We've never met traffic here, but I'm sure she'd handle it. As long as I'm relaxed, she mirrors that.

What this reminded me of

Maya definitely needs guidance and training to overcome these issues. But forcing her never works. What does work is giving her space to figure things out and staying calm while she does.

It's the same during [my photo sessions](#). The more relaxed the atmosphere, the more your horse can just *be*. That's when I make the best photos: the ones that show who you are together.

Where we photograph matters too

As any horse owner knows, horses feel safest where things are familiar. This often makes your own yard a perfect location for your photo session. Don't worry about fences, wheelbarrows, or peeling paint. We'll work them into the feel of the shoot. As long as your horse is comfortable and the light is good, that's all we need.

Because light does matter a lot. I only work during golden hour—when the light is soft and flatters everything it touches.

If you'd like more thoughts on choosing a location, I wrote more about it [here](#)

Just a little reminder

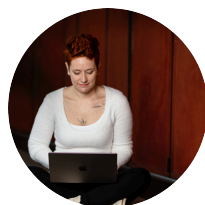
Fall is coming fast, and I'm balancing sessions with my psychology studies, which means availability is limited. If you'd like a fall session, now's the time to reach out.

What **caught my eye** on social media this month.

Sometimes you just need a completely pointless, very funny video. This was mine for the week.



My month in 3 images



As always, thank you for being a part of my journey.

Hold onto those small, everyday moments with your horse—they're the ones that matter most.

Caroline



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