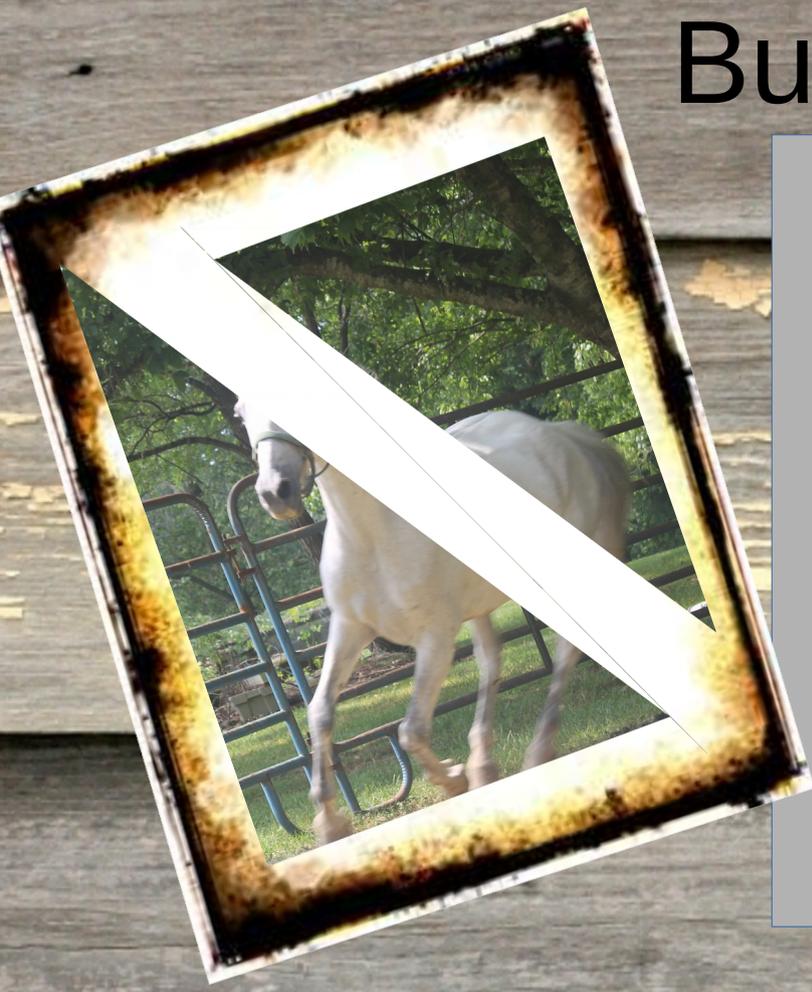


Buck



Buck came to Hope Reins with Katie. Although they had a good owner who loved them, she had become fearful of getting hurt by them and was the sole source of income for her family. She had taken Buck to a stable in hopes that it would be a good thing for both she and him. The goal was for Buck to receive training and more attention and to help her become more confident as he was a bit spirited. While at the stable, he was improperly handled, making him extremely frightened of people.

Even though he removed and returned to her farm, Buck remained mistrusting of people. Due to human error, during feeding one day Buck ran from Katie (his field mate) to avoid being kicked but in the process clipped his owner's shoulder – knocking her down. This resulted in the owner reaching out to Hope Reins. She requested we take Buck and Katie as a pair = thinking that Buck would never be able to be ridden or used with children, but knew Katie would.

Upon meeting Buck, he was so frightened his knees would tremble over the slightest movement of even the wind blowing the grass. After working him into a lot, then the barn, then a small area of the barn, I was able to get a rope around his neck and eventually a halter on him. The process took over an hour. The first couple of weeks at Hope Reins resulting in him being a spectator as children would groom and love on Katie in the round pen with him. This soon changed as he would hang his head over Katie's back to force people to acknowledge him. That then changed to him placing his entire body between them to hog all the attention, and shortly after that he began licking people with the bottom side of his tongue and has never stopped! Buck is an active member of our riding and ground activities. He not only is very loving to all – he likes to follow everyone around like a puppy. It is hard to image him once being so fearful.