



## The Role of Training in the Domestication Process – Traditional Nubian Methods and Ideas about Training Donkeys

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**ABSTRACT** This study involves a survey conducted among Nubian people settled in Nubia, a region of northeastern Africa that provides a habitat for the wild ass (*Equus africanus*). The aim of the survey, which involves interviewing community members, was to clarify the effects of early donkey training in order to assess the impact of human intervention at the initial stages of the donkey domestication process. The interviews covered the methods of capturing and training wild asses (by imaging) and donkeys, their ages, and the time needed for packing and riding training. Most respondents stated that they would capture wild asses and begin their early training when the animals were 1–1.5 years old, following a period of socialization. The early training, which starts by tying up donkeys in huts, is conducted when they are 1.5 years old, for approximately 2 weeks. However, foals that were reared with their mothers until they were around 1.5 years old are deemed to have mainly completed the early training; they do not need the early training by humans.