

[NOTE: We did not get Libby (Maddox) at auction, but mentioned that she had come from an auction and was given the name Maddox arbitrarily when she joined a large group of horses - so there was some confusion on Danielle's part there.]

### **Danielle's communication with Libby**

"At first Maddox seemed a little shy. I reassured her that I mean her no harm and that you asked me to communicate with her because you want to get to know her better. I could feel her relax some and then I could tell that she was curious about communicating with a person.

I explained to Maddox that because she is part of your family now, you would really like to get to know her better. I told her that because you got her at an auction, you don't know about her history. I asked her if she'd tell me about her past.

Maddox told me that when she was young she went to a new home and that's where she got a chance to play until she was a little older. She then told me that she did have some training. She said that she liked some of the training but disliked other parts. Maddox said that sometimes she got confused and one of the people who trained her (this was a man) did not seem to have much patience with her. Maddox said that she didn't mind being disciplined but this man was too harsh.

Maddox told me that there was a girl who she worked with too and she liked her much better. (Maureen, I got the feeling the father of the girl was the main trainer and that Maddox was the girl's horse. She seemed to bond well with the girl, who appears to have been in her early teens.)

Maddox told me that she was the girl's horse and the girl really loved her. Maddox said that they did a lot of things together. (She sent me pictures of them riding in an arena and also out on the trail by themselves and with a group of other girls and their horses.) Maddox said that she lived with the girl and the girl spent a lot of time down at the barn with her. Maddox said that it was very nice to have someone love her so much.

I asked Maddox how long she was with the girl and she told me that the girl grew up and moved away and that's when the man got mad at her and sent her to a new home. I asked why the man got mad at her and Maddox said that he just didn't want to take care of her any longer since the girl was gone. Maddox said that at the new home she didn't really have anyone special like she did when she was with the girl. She told me there were people there who rode her but not very frequently. Maddox said that after this home she came to you.

I told Maddox that you plan on riding her and you would like to know how she would like to be trained and ridden. Maddox said that she always did like to go on trail rides because she enjoyed seeing new sights. She told me that she hasn't really felt like she has been used well since her girl left, so she really doesn't care how she is used, just as long as she is used.

Maddox said that she doesn't want to waste her life, so it's important that she work at some sort of job. Maddox told me that she would like to learn some new things but right now she is a little

nervous in general about what is going on with her life, but she does feel that she can get focused with a little bit of time.

I told Maddox that you'd like to know the best way to reassure her that you won't hurt her. I explained that you want to make her feel comfortable so that you can touch her and halter her.

Maddox said that sometimes she is just wary of people because not everyone has been kind to her. Maddox said that she doesn't want you to think that she had a very bad life because she didn't, but she is just wary of people.

I stressed to Maddox that you love her very much and you're very glad that she is part of your family. I told her that you want to reassure her that you won't hurt her and only want good things for her life. I explained that in order to work with her, you need to touch her and be able to put a halter on her.

Maddox said that the best thing to do is to start working with her like she is a young horse who needs to be taught about trusting people. Maddox said that she does know that she can trust you in her mind, but her instincts are so strong and they tell her to be wary.

I told Maddox that I know she wants to have a useful life since this is what she told me, however, in order to do this, you will need to help her and this requires you to touch her and halter her.

Maddox said that she just needs to have some good experiences again with people. She told me that she was left alone quite a bit with her last family, so she got out of the habit of how to be with people. Maddox said that she hopes you can be patient and help her because she knows she really does have a good home now.

I mentioned to Maddox that you are wondering if she has a preference for a name, since she was just given the name Maddox without any real thought given to it by the people who had her before you did.

Maddox said that if she could pick her name she always liked the name Libby. Maddox said that if you want to leave her name as Maddox or if you want to change it to something else, that's fine too. She told me that she has just always liked Libby but if you prefer something else, she will be happy with that name. Maddox said that it's not the name that will make her happy, but knowing that she belongs to someone who cares about her.

I told Maddox that those are all the issues you have today and asked if there is anything else she would like to tell you before we close.

Maddox said that she wants you to know that she feels much better since she has come to live with you. She told me that she was always hungry before and now she feels much more satisfied with her food. Maddox told me that she feels badly that she doesn't look very pretty. I told Maddox that I saw her picture and I think she is a very pretty horse. Maddox said that I should have seen her when she had a good home and good care because she was much prettier then.

Maddox told me that she knows being pretty isn't all there is to life, but she does like to look nice. I told Maddox that you can help her to look pretty if she allows you to touch her and groom her. Maddox said that she will think hard about this because she would like help. Maddox also told me that the longer she has good food, then the better she will look too.

Maddox said that she is looking forward to the warmer season because she thinks by then she will look much nicer. Maddox told me that she really wants you to be proud of her in how she looks and also because of the horse that she will be. Maddox said that she likes it when her person is proud of her.

And with that, the communication ended." *Danielle Sender*