

5 Gaited Crossbreeds

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"The sweetness and intelligence of Gaited Curlies is endearing," Lisa says. "We've found that discerning riders want something special: smooth gait and good temperament, and the curl and color are like icing on the cake."

If you wish to buy a Gaited Curly, "Seek out owners and breeders for information," Lisa says. "There are only about 400 Gaited

Curly Horses in the world — they're very rare — and many people won't part with their well-trained adult horses. So consider a young horse; youngsters are very sweet, trainable, and a joy to watch grow.

"Find a mentor who understands the conformation and gaits of Gaited Curlies, and learn as much as you can," Lisa continues. "Most Gaited Curlies can perform a variety of soft gaits and will prefer one or two naturally."

On the trail: Diane Mitchell, owner of Curly Country Ranch in Caldwell, Texas, breeds both Gaited Curly Horses that descend from wild herds and those with Missouri Fox Trotter in their background. She's a trail rider who also competes in endurance events.

"We may not have been the first to finish," says Mitchell. "But the ride veterinarians always commented that my horses finished events better than most horses started. Gaited Curlies have sturdy constitutions and stay sound even over tough terrain. Their easygoing temperaments and intelligence make them a breeze to train."

One of Mitchell's favorite trails rides with her Curlies is in Arizona's Coconino



PHOTO BY PEGGI

Diane Mitchell notes that some horses shed their curls every spring, while others retain a "marcel wave," shown.

National Forest, on the Mogollon Rim. The Rim is a rugged escarpment at the southern edge of the Colorado Plateau that offers an extensive trail system. There's high desert and forest, with lakes, creeks, and expansive views.

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Gaited Curly Horse Resource Guide

American Bashkir Curly Association
(775) 289-4999; www.abcregistry.org

Curly Country Ranch
(979) 535-4426; www.curlycountry.com

International Curly Horse Association/ ICHO Gaited Curly Association
www.curlyhorses.org/gaited.html

Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association Inc.

(417) 683-2468; www.mfthba.com

Zion's Gate Curlies

(435) 635-1140; www.zgcurlies.com

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Gaited Trail Horses for Sale in Colorado



Star: 4 yr 15.2 hh
Palomino Mare
Tennessee Walking Horse

Star has breath taking beauty & outstanding conformation. She is show quality & will give you an exceptionally smooth ride.

Price: \$8,500



Bee Gee: 10 yr 15 hh
Blk/Wht Tobiano Gelding
Tennessee Walking Horse

Bee Gee is truly a people pleasing horse. He stands, loads, & has the smoothest rocking chair canter.

Price: \$8,000



Aspen: 4 yr 15 hh,
Buckskin Mare
Missouri Fox Trotter

Aspen is a super trail horse that is smooth as glass, fun to ride, learns quickly, wants to please her owner & rides in a loose rein.

Price: \$4,900



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