

Pet Education Partnership

Bella the pony

Bella was a happy pony, but this changed when she went to live with a new family. She seemed worried by everything. Her new rider called Poppy often squeezed slightly too hard with her legs. She also pulled Bella's mouth a little too sharply when using the reins.

One very windy day, Bella didn't want to go out with Poppy. "Don't be so lazy, Bella!" said Poppy. Bella refused to move, and put her ears back and snorted. She was showing Poppy that she was scared, but Poppy didn't understand. Poppy's brother, Max, took the reins and said, "Don't worry, Bella, you can do this".

Max told Poppy that Bella was just scared. Poppy felt terrible because she hadn't realised. She listened to how Max spoke to Bella and watched how he gently gave her a scratch on her neck. This made her feel safe. Poppy did the same and Bella seemed much happier to go out with her.



Everything changed once Poppy had a better understanding of Bella's needs. She also started being more careful with her on their rides. **They became best friends and had great adventures together!**

1

How do you think Bella the pony was feeling at the start of the story?

2

How was Bella affected by the actions of people?

3

Why do Bella's feelings matter?
