

New ponies at Chincoteague Pony Centre perform nightly

There's a host of new ponies at the Chincoteague Pony Centre, waiting to meet their fans and performing nightly except Sunday at the Pony Centre's 8 p.m. show.

The show features both one of the largest Chincoteague ponies and one of the smallest, with Little Red Mist measuring 11.3 hands (47 inches) and Big Red Desperado standing at 15.1 hands (61 inches). Big Red Desperado is a new addition to the Pony Centre since last Pony Penning.

Just 10 weeks old and stealing everyone's heart is Misty's Morning Glory, a fourth generation Misty family pony and daughter of Black Mist, granddaughter of Misty II. She greets visitors as if it were just another day on the farm and has been known to stand while fans gently stroke her face. Out in the pasture she is all business, racing from one end to the other, enjoying her exercise.

Joining her full sister Misty's MayDay Twister this year is Misty's HeatWave, another golden palomino and great granddaughter of Misty. Just one year younger than Twister, the mares are very similar to each other yet very distinctive in their own right. The sight of two palominos so closely related to Misty is a pretty sight to

see in the show every night.

Another new Chincoteague making its debut this year is Chincoteague Cowboy, a six-year-old chestnut Chincoteague gelding that stands 14 hands. Chincoteague Cowboy is known for his expertise in the jumping and dressage competitions and has competed in Nationals in pony clubbing as well as ridden the International Jumping Course at the Kentucky Horse Park and competed at the International event Equitana USA in Louisville, Kentucky. One noted horse expert evaluating the horse quoted his worth at \$20,000, noting the horse's exceptional athletic

ability.

Making his debut at the Centre and one of everyone's favorites is Chincoteague Minnow, who was bought at the pony auction seven years ago. He was named Minnow because he was the "smallest, wimpiest, shrimpiest" pony sold that year, according to his former owner and buyer. Today he stands 13.1 hands tall, and is a "stout" pony, ready to carry any load. His gentle disposition makes him a favorite at riding lessons and pony rides alike. Chance of Rain, a fourth generation Misty family pony, and a daughter of Rainbow, granddaughter of Rainy, is also at

the Centre this year. The chestnut and white pinto is beautifully marked, and a working member of the Chincoteague Pony Drill Team. She also is used as an English pleasure and hunter over fences pony.

The ponies at the Centre change from time to time as they are rotated to give them a chance to rest and relax on a farm in the mainland.

But you can always be assured that there will be a colorful beautiful sight of Chincoteague ponies for everyone to see at the Centre.

The Pony Centre is located on Chicken City Road, one block south of Maddox Blvd. For more information contact the Pony Centre at 757-336-2776. The Pony Centre offers riding lessons, pony rides, and nightly shows (except Sunday).



The Chincoteague Pony Centre has nightly shows at 8 p.m. except Sunday

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