

Chincoteague

CHINCOTEAGUE

ENTERTAINMENT

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PONY PENNING 2009



Want to see the annual swim July 29? Find out all you need to know to enjoy this

Painting pony will make its return to Island

CHINCOTEAGUE — Kyley DiLuigi knew that she always wanted a Chincoteague Pony, but she wasn't quite sure what to do with wild-born Chincoteague Pony, Minnow, when she began training him six years ago.

She was given the pony on lease and started to work.

She started to ride him and train him for Pony Games competitions.

She started to work with him more around people — then she found a book about teaching horse tricks.

And as soon as Minnow learned that first trick — giving DiLuigi a kiss — everything fell into place.

“He learned it so fast and after that wanted to learn more and more,” she said.

Minnow's eagerness to learn tricks soon left DiLuigi with no more tricks to teach him. Then she spotted some painting supplies she was using as an art major at the University of Delaware.

And so, on Jan. 5, 2007, Minnow picked up his first paintbrush and began a career as an artist.

“It was rewarding because it was an accumulation of everything I had been working on with him,” DiLuigi said. “He can create this wonderful thing. It's as if he is saying now I'm happy and can create something out of this.”

Minnow favors the bright colors, which he picks himself out of a selection DiLuigi offers him.

He normally paints two to three times a month, and Minnow takes



Kali Wallace photo

Kyley DiLuigi hands her pony, Chincoteague Minnow, a paintbrush so Minnow can continue to paint a shirt for a Fox Meadow Farm Pony camp member. DiLuigi and Minnow are from Iron Horse Farm in Newlin, Pa.

between five and 20 minutes to complete a painting.

“He'd stand at his easel for hours if I let him,” DiLuigi said.

Minnow has completed upwards of 200 paintings since he first picked up the paintbrush, and he paints things that are “very abstract, but you can see something in them sometimes. I see flocks of birds or wild horses. Its really up to the imagination,” DiLuigi said.

He will be traveling back to his birthplace for the annual Pony Penning Swim in Chincoteague. Minnow was born in 1993 into a band of wild horses on Assateague Island and

was rounded up and auctioned off as a colt.

“I'm not sure where he went exactly, but he ended up for a little while at the Chincoteague Pony Centre,” DiLuigi said. “He was sold and that didn't work out so he was sold again and then I ended up with him.”

DiLuigi used Minnow for her horse sports until the previous owner gave the horse to her as a wedding gift.

He will debut his talents at the Chincoteague Pony Centre twice a day from July 27 to 31, painting and performing other tricks while his creations are auctioned off as part of the daily Pony Show.

“What makes him really special to me is him and I share this special bond that I've never had with any other horse,” DiLuigi said. “Basically he'll do anything for me and he'll follow me around forever.” Minnow was the “flower pony” in DiLuigi's wedding.

“He threw petals out of a basket and walked down an aisle,” DiLuigi said. “I'm pretty sure my guests have never seen anything like that.”

Minnow's paintings are on sale at DiLuigi's Downingtown, Pa., fame shop, Studio 3, and through the DiLuigi's Web site, ponypaintings.com. Some of the proceeds from

the paintings that will be auctioned off in Chincoteague will go to charity.

“He's my best friend,” DiLuigi said.

Minnow will be at the Pony Centre Pony Show

Monday through Friday the week of Pony Penning. The Pony Centre is located on Chicken City Road, one half block south of Maddox Boulevard on Chincoteague. Call 757-336-2776 for more details.

Misty and Stormy live on in our hearts...

Come see them in their preserved state.

MISTY OF CHINCOTEAGUE & STORMY

Stop by and visit the original old barn and our gift shop.



MAY 20 - SEPT 5

REGULAR HOURS:

Wednesday – Saturday 11am - 5pm

PONY PENNING HOURS:

Monday – Thursday 11am - 6pm; Fri 11am - 2pm

ADMISSION: For ages 6-Adult - Call For Information

757-869-0294

LOCATION: Beebe Ranch

3062 Ridge Road, Chincoteague, VA 23336 **757-336-6520**

From the bridge: Right on South Main Street, Left on Beebe Road, right on Ridge Road, about half-mile down on the left-hand side.

Come See Misty's Great, Great Granddaughter

ANGEL

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I'm writing a book about the auctioned Chincoteague ponies. Would you like to...

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