

# THURSDAY

## DOG & PONY SHOW

□ A pair of animals in a West Bradford household share an artistic flair, their owner says.

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# PEOPLE



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## One dog with many talents

### Ammo, along with his owner, Kyley DiLuigi, perform tricks; sometimes they involve a pony

By JUSTIN MCANENY  
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It might be a cliché, but this story really is about a dog and pony show. A dachshund named Ammo and a pony named Chinco-teague Minnow, to be exact.

Both the dog and the pony are owned by Kyley DiLuigi. Ammo and DiLuigi live in West Bradford. The pony lives at a barn in Newlin.

Ammo is 1½ years old and has already accomplished much more than can be expected from a dog twice his age (and size). But credit should go to DiLuigi. It was while in dog training classes that she recognized his talents. There was just something about him that DiLuigi recognized. "I always knew

he was amazing," she said. "He always had some tricks up his sleeve."

But if it hadn't been for DiLuigi's work with trick ponies, she may have never recognized Ammo's talents. DiLuigi first developed an interest in trick ponies when she acquired Minnow. It wasn't that she was interested in developing a routine; it was that the routine developed out of trying to connect with the pony.

He had a troubled life before DiLuigi met him and after reading a book on tricks, she tried it with Minnow. DiLuigi said it changed him. "Until then," she said, "I had a troubled horse." He couldn't be ridden but he could do tricks.

And along came Ammo.



Above, Ammo, Kyley DiLuigi's dachshund, works on his scratch art. DiLuigi outlines what Ammo is going to create and he scratches it off, much like if he were digging a hole. Below, some of Ammo's creations are on display while DiLuigi and Ammo take a break in the shade.

Staff photos by Amy Drago

When DiLuigi posted photos and information on a Facebook page about Ammo, friends asked for more and he developed a following. DiLuigi was looking for new, creative ways to keep his fans happy. The dog had always been around the ponies (DiLuigi has more than one) and other horses and DiLuigi started wondering what Ammo could do along with the ponies. "I got more creative, I guess," DiLuigi said.

So, Ammo and DiLuigi began working on things that the dog could do with the ponies. But first, they had to start small, letting Ammo learn some tricks of his own. They started with the basics. Ammo learned to start on a pedestal that DiLuigi built for him (the ponies already had one).

Ammo already had the basics down, like sit and stay. But that's not that impressive. DiLuigi taught him to roll over, but with a twist. DiLuigi pretends her hands are six-shooters and says bang, bang. Ammo rolls over and plays dead. And of course, he then gets a treat.

Another trick in Ammo's bag is jumping through a hoop. Soon, hopefully, Minnow will also take part in



this trick. The idea is for Chinco-teague Minnow to hold the hoop in his mouth.

The duo just aren't there yet.

The dog and pony have always had a bond, DiLuigi said, adding that Minnow is Ammo's favorite pony. "He really likes Minnow."

The two have always gotten along, so much so that when Ammo lays down and rolls over, Minnow will rub Ammo's belly with his nose. And Ammo loves it. "It's not a trick. They just do it," DiLuigi said. It really is as cute as it sounds, cute enough that a video of it aired on Animal Planet's "America's Cutest Dogs."

Next up is a trick that could be equally cute: Ammo learning to ride while standing on Minnow's back. He just doesn't quite have it down yet. "He's a pretty fast learner," DiLuigi said.

If all Ammo and Minnow did were tricks, that would be impressive enough. But they do more. They're both

artists as well.

All of DiLuigi's ponies paint. DiLuigi puts a brush in their mouths and the horses create art. The artwork hangs in homes across the country, according to DiLuigi's Web site, [www.paintingpony.com](http://www.paintingpony.com), and the money goes to the charity The Chinco-teague Pony Association.

Of course, Ammo had to get in on the action. He creates scratch art. DiLuigi will create a template and Ammo scratches away, much like he's digging a hole, leaving a print. So far he's created dachshund shapes, a fire hydrant and dog bones. The artwork is auctioned off and the money from the sale of his artwork is then donated to a dachshund rescue. "It's pretty limitless to what he can do," DiLuigi said, joking that they collaborate.

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## How Michael Douglas gets away with it