

# Pony Centre offers range of activities

Submitted by Chincoteague Pony Centre

**CHINCOTEAGUE** — Back for its 14th season promoting the island of Chincoteague and its ponies, the Chincoteague Pony Centre continues its dedication to Chincoteague and showcasing the ponies as an amazing equine.

“The Chincoteague pony is an athletic animal that is really smart,” owner Richard Conklin noted. “They can do almost anything.”

And the ponies of the centre can do almost anything. They can ride and they can race, they are proven show ponies, they can do tricks and they can trace their heritage back to the original Misty or to the wild herds of Assateague.

They look beautiful and are talented. And they are all ages at the Pony Centre, from a foal less than one month old to the 22-year-old great-grand-

daughter of Misty, the beautiful palomino May Day Twister, who will appear in the daily pony show.

The Pony Centre is doing its best to make it clear how special the Chincoteague pony is all Pony Penning Week, offering a wide assortment of activities and shows for visitors to see and do.

Young foals to seasoned veterans of the show circuit will be on hand for the public to meet, with pony rides, pony day camps, riding lessons on a Chincoteague pony, foal seminars, special book signings, “meet the pony sessions” and the very special pony show offered on a daily basis.

Pony rides are for youngsters under 100 pounds only. Ponies will be hand-led around the outside paddock.

Riding lessons are given under the coaching of a qualified instructor and are for those who are visiting Chincoteague and



Juniper, a 3-week-old foal, will meet her public at the Pony Centre and will be part of the daily show. PHOTO COURTESY KENDY ALLEN

want to know what it is like to ride a Chincoteague pony, or to those seeking to further their knowledge of riding. Lessons are offered both English and Western, beginner to intermediate, daily on a half hour basis. The lessons are open to anyone under 150 pounds.

The Chincoteague Pony Show returns this year with new ponies added to the lineup, along with updates and information on old favorites. The show features some of the tal-

ented ponies and their riders at the Pony Centre, including special guest star Minnow the Painting Pony, who will create an original work of art before each show (except Saturday).

The painting will be auctioned off as part of the show. Proceeds from the auction will go toward supporting the wild ponies and the Chincoteague Pony Drill Team.

The Pony Show also features the Chincoteague Pony Drill Team

and the original “Extreme Chincoteague Pony Race.”

Pony Care Day Camps are designed to introduce children to the world of the Chincoteague pony and their care. Not only will attendees learn about the ponies of the centre, they will gain a unique glimpse into what it is like to own a pony.

The Chincoteague Pony Centre features the largest herd of Misty family ponies on the Eastern Shore, along with several

## IF YOU GO

### PONY CENTRE

**Where:** Chicken City Road, Chincoteague

**When:** Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m.-10 p.m.

**Info:** 757-336-2776

outstanding Veterans of the Swim.

“Our ponies are show ponies, with proven records in the show ring,” Conklin said. “They have been trained by members of the Allen family for years and reflect the quality that the Chincoteague pony can reach. They really are special.”

The Gift Shoppe at the Pony Centre is filled with treasures. Unique items that will bring special memories of the trip to Chincoteague, as well as rare and unusual Misty and Chincoteague pony items, fill the store.

The Pony Centre is located on Chicken City Road, about a half block south of Maddox Boulevard. It is open 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

For more information about the activities or to make a reservation for pony camp, riding lessons or the foal seminar, call the Pony Centre at 757-336-2776.

ISLAND THEATRE  
PLAYING  
JULY 26- AUG. 1  
grown ups 2

## MERMAID EXTRAORDINAIRE

Katherine Kiss  
ARTIST

