

# Kid's KOrner

## I'm The Luckiest Girl In The World

**Kerra Allen**  
Age 9

So here we sit in the center of the show ring, I, on my pony, and 23 other young equestrians on theirs, each waiting for the judge to finally make up her mind.

Who would ever think that I would end up here on Misty II, a

wild pony that at 14 years of age had never been gentled to ride? Now, here I am, nine years old, showing this granddaughter of Marguerite Henry's famous pony in open horse shows and loving every minute I spend with her. Who would have ever thought it was possible?

How do you think I felt when

my mom and dad announced that they had just bought Misty II, a Chincoteague pony that just happened to be the true-life granddaughter of Misty of Chincoteague, the beloved pony made famous in the children's books by Marguerite Henry. I couldn't believe it. It was like having a movie star move to your house.

The "Misty family" of ponies had been kept on Chincoteague after the Beebe family (the original owners) had sold them to Paul Merritt, who had his own pony farm. But now he had decided to retire and was selling some of the ponies, and he had decided that he would sell Misty II to us.

Wow! Misty II, named Misty II because she looked so much like her famous grandmother. She had almost the exact same markings as the original Misty, even the map of the United States on her side.

And so we went down to Chincoteague to pick up this 14-year old large pony, and reality set in. We knew that she had never been ridden, or hauled in a trailer, or actually had much work done to her other than to be trained to lead, so it was much like buying a wild pony — a 14 year old wild pony set in her ways. But that didn't stop us.

Back at home it was a whole new way of life for Misty II. First she had to get used to life away from the sleepy island of Chincoteague. There was more traffic on the road in front of our barn, there were rolling hills and meadows, streams and ponds to get used to. Electric fence strung around the inside of the rails was a shocking



**Kerra hoped Misty II would have a black and white foal. She did! Kerra named her Black Mist.**



**"Since Misty II has come to our house, I think I'm the luckiest girl in the world," Kerra Allen said.**

experience and taught her respect for our fences.

But "a horse is no good if you can't ride it" my parents always said, so at the advanced age of 14, Misty II began training.

My mom and dad worked her with the saddle, getting her used to the girth. We quickly discovered she was one of the most intelligent

horses we had ever had. She wanted to please you, and if you took your time and were very gentle, she quickly learned what you wanted.

When it came to getting her to accept the bit, it was a slightly different matter. That snaffle bit was a foreign object that didn't taste

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## Birthday Party To Raise Money For Beebe Farm

Suppose horses were your absolute favorite animal and you loved Chincoteague ponies most of all. Then suppose that you were fortunate enough to own a granddaughter of Misty, the most famous Chincoteague pony of all, and she lived right there on the farm with you.

And suppose that she even had a foal two years ago, a beautiful black and white filly who loves people and likes to race around her pasture pretending that she is running up and down the sand dunes down on her island home in Virginia.

This is what happened to Kerra and Katye Allen, two of the four children who live on the farm where Misty II, the granddaughter of Misty lives near Manheim, Pennsylvania. Along with their two brothers, Andy and Kenneth, the farm has six Chincoteague ponies who reside now in the rolling hills of Lancaster County.

Kerra, at age 9, is the real horseperson of the family right now, although Katye at age 5, is busy trying to catch up with her and riding her own pony. Kerra competed in horse shows last year with Misty II both in and out of the state of Pennsylvania and won two reserve championships with the 16-year-old mare. What makes that more amazing is until the fall before, Misty II was an unbroke mare, and last year was the first year of showing for both Kerra

and Misty II.

Last year also saw the start of a national non-profit organization, The Misty of Chincoteague Foundation. With the help of Marguerite Henry, the children's author who made Misty of Chincoteague famous, the organization is working to try and raise enough money to buy the Beebe Farm where the stories took place and the characters in the book really lived. Today the Beebe Farm is in need of repair and the Misty Foundation, after buying the property, plans on turning it into a museum telling the story of Misty and the Chincoteague pony.

Kerra and Misty II, (who was named Misty II because she looks so much like her famous grandmother) received many invitations last year to represent the Misty Foundation and tell the story of Misty and what the foundation is trying to do. They travelled to the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky, where Misty II either frolicked in front of her audience in her special pasture or performed in the Parade of Breeds. While there a special ten minute pony ride on Misty II was auctioned off at a benefit auction for the Misty Foundation and two youngsters pressed the bidding to \$85 when the Allens stopped the auctioneer and awarded a ride to both children.

Misty II and Kerra were also invited to the Washington D.C.

International Horse Show, one of the largest horse shows in the East. There they were part of an educational exhibit, and Misty II had so many fans waiting to see her that the head of the exhibit asked Kerra to take her out and ride her so that everyone would have a chance to see her.

And Misty II and Kerra also travelled to the Pennsylvania National Rodeo last year where Kerra traded her English riding habit in for Western jeans, boots and a cowboy hat. At each performance, she and Misty II rode around the arena for their fans, telling of the Misty Foundation.

Since then Misty II has been on maternity leave, since on May 1 of this year she gave birth to her second Pennsylvania foal, Misty's May Day Twister, a palomino filly with a wide blaze on her face resembling a tornado funnel cloud.

There are two events coming up in the near future that you should know about if you are a Misty or Chincoteague pony fan.

There will be a special birthday party for Black Mist at the H & H Tack Shop in Annville on June 17 from 4 to 8 p.m. there will be games and food, and Black Mist will be on hand to greet her guests. There will be Black Mist T-shirts for sale at the event.

Anyone bringing in \$50 of donations for the Misty Foundation will receive a special hard-

bound edition of the book The Pictorial Life History of Misty, autographed by Maureen Beebe, the true-life character in the story. All profits made during the evening will go towards the Misty Foundation.

And on July 13 and 14 there will be a Regional Breyerfest at the York Fairgrounds (on the 13th) and the Wild Horse and Burro Center (on the 14th). Breyer Horse Model collectors from all over will be travelling to the event for many different events.

At Breyerfest, Misty II and her

new foal, "Twister" are scheduled to make their first appearance at the event, leaving the farm for the first time to help raise funds for the Misty Foundation.

Anyone interested in helping the Misty of Chincoteague Foundation can send a contribution to it at: Misty of Chincoteague Foundation, Inc., Box 4352, Charlottesville, Va. 22905.

**Black Mist's Birthday Party** (Misty of Chincoteague's great-granddaughter is two years old)  
**June 17th — 4 to 8 p.m.**  
**H & H Tack Shop, Annville, Pa.**  
**Come and help us celebrate!!!**



**A special birthday party for Black Mist will raise funds to buy the Beebe farm where the stories of the famous Chincoteague ponies took place. Plans are to turn the delapidated property into a museum.**