

Kids Korner

Misty II Of Chincoteague Dies

MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.) — Misty II of Chincoteague, the only remaining grand foal of the legendary Misty of Chincoteague, and a celebrity in her own right, died Thursday, Aug. 24 due to complications from cancer.

The 26-year-old pony had been under treatment by two veterinarians for the disease. She was spending the summer at the Chincoteague Pony Centre on Chincoteague Island, VA.

Owned by the Keith Allen family of Lancaster County, the mare had spent the last 13 years with that family. Bought by the Allens when she was 13, and gentled to ride at age 14, she went on to become a representative of the Chincoteague Pony breed at horse shows, equestrian events, schools, and special functions.

During her lifetime, she was invited and appeared at many events and places, including, the Washington D.C. International Horse Show, Pennsylvania National Rodeo, Pennsylvania National Horse Show, Breyerfest, Kentucky Horse Park, Virginia State Fair, Equitana USA, the Wayne, Illinois Celebration of Marguerite Henry, Hartford County Maryland Fair, Chincoteague VA Seafood Festival, and of course, Chincoteague Pony Penning.

She traveled to about 200 schools during her stay with the Allens, where she made the story of Misty of Chincoteague by Marguerite Henry come alive. More than 20,000 students were given the opportunity to come

and pet her while she would patiently stand. She would also shake hands with selected students and stand on her stool just as her famous grandmother did.

She was a member of the Chincoteague Pony Drill Team until this year, a group of 10 Chincoteague ponies that performed intricate drills set to music. She loved to perform and always was ready to go in the show ring and do her best for her rider.

In the show ring, the pony was known for her winning ways. She brought home many trophies and blue ribbons for the Allen children, and was often used by children who did not own a pony of their own, who rode her in competition. Countless children in 4-H and open competitions rode her for their own personal moment of being a part of the story of Misty and brought home a horse show ribbon.

The pony was well known by the late author Marguerite Henry, who owned her famous grandmother, the original Misty of Chincoteague, until her death. Ms. Henry kept a framed picture of Misty II in her home where she could see it while she wrote. One of her favorite stories to tell visitors was the story of the success and joy of Misty II carrying on the tradition of Misty to the world.

The daughter of the pony Stormy, made famous in her own Marguerite Henry book, Misty II has four foals of her own at the Allen Farm. Black Mist, Misty's



Misty II was a Chincoteague pony made famous by Marguerite Henry's popular books on the real-life adventures of the island ponies. Although the Allens have 15 Chincoteague ponies on their farm, Kendy said, Misty II was the family favorite.

May Day Twister, Misty's Heat-Wave, and Misty II's Henry, have all already been part of the tradition of telling the story of Chincoteague Island by making personal appearances at public events and they will continue to do so.

Misty II received fan mail from all over the world — even getting boxes of oat cakes sent to her from school children. The Allens kept a guest book for visitors at their Pennsylvania farm for people who would come to see her, and the book is filled with names from all over the country and around the world.

She was buried at the Chincoteague Pony Centre in Chincoteague and will have a stone marking her burial place there.

"We spent 13 wonderful years with a pony that was one of the

best in the world." Kendy Allen commented. "We wanted her to return to the island of her ancestors, and are thrilled that this was possible. This way there will be a permanent remembrance of a pony that truly was one in a million."

The mare was diagnosed with cancer in June of this year, and had two surgeries over the summer. Up to the end, she kept her friendly attitude and met her public, daintily accepting treats from her youngest admirers, and greeting her public in her stall.

"She was a wonderful representative of Misty and of the Chincoteague breed," Allen noted. "She showed all the wonderful qualities that make the breed special, she was very intelligent, loved kids, and would do anything you asked her. She has

been such a part of our lives, it is really hard to believe that she is gone."

Her grandmother, Misty of Chincoteague, also died at age 26. Of all the Misty descendants, Misty II has been the only one to show the same markings, including the famous map of the United States on her side.

"The only way we could have a Misty III would be for one of Misty II's descendants to have that map on her side," Allen noted. "We're looking forward to some foals next year. I guess we'll just have to wait and see if there ever is a Misty III."

Those interested in remembering Misty II may send contributions in her name to the Chincoteague Pony Drill Team, in care of Mrs. Fay Varner, 339 Oak Tree Road, Manheim, PA 17545.



Misty II lived for 26 years, the last half of her life on the Manheim farm of Keith and Kendy Allen. Son Kenneth Allen, 11, rode the pony in the equestrian events of the Chincoteague Pony Drill Team. The Allens often took Misty II to invitational events to which the famous pony was invited.

Smart Stuff

WITH TWIG WALKINGSTICK

Why are there cobwebs in the trees?
Those cobwebs in the trees aren't made by spiders at all. In fact, they're not really cobwebs. They are actually the homes of thousands of bagworms. Bagworms are caterpillars that weave houses resembling cone-shaped silk bags. The worms try to hide their homes by camouflaging them with bits of leaves, bark and other debris.

Bagworms can be found all over the country, from the New England states to Nebraska and south through Texas. They attack trees like pine, spruce, apple, maple, elm, oak, and many others. Bagworms are dangerous pests. They cause a great deal of destruction to our trees each year.

Bagworm females cannot fly. Instead, they stay in the host tree producing eggs. These eggs eventually grow into larvae. The hungry larvae feed on the tree, eating new buds and leaves and causing dead areas. If enough decay is caused, the tree will die. The females lay their eggs in the fall. These eggs will overwinter inside the bags until they hatch in May or June. The females may lay as many as 300 to 1,000 eggs in each bag. That's a lot of babies!

Scientifically yours,
Twig

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