

# D & M FARM KENNEL

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## Keeper from Canada

Keeper is a marvel. She started out as a cream puppy in a litter from Misty and Kaiser. She has now morphed into a beautiful apricot color.



Keeper making sure all is well in her area.

Her mother tells me that she is a joy to behold. Full of energy and free to love all who are willing to



Enjoying the snowflakes.



Keeper on patrol.

lavish her with attention. She is very much her own personality and is the keeper of her domain.

Keeper now lives in Canada with her family. She enjoys taking care of her human charges and

rules all the comings and goings of her domain. When left for a few days she will ignore the offending deserters to show her displeasure. But eventually she will forgive and then all is right with the world once again.

## Anesthesia

Chows often do not do well under anesthesia. It is imperative that your veterinary be aware of this before putting your Chow under for any surgical procedure. If a Chow is anesthetized to deeply they often will not come

out of it after the surgical procedure.

Most veterinarians are aware of this fact about Chows but, just as in human doctors, they can't be expected to know everything. By bringing this to your veterinary's

attention it may prompt them to do some research if they were not already aware.

It may just save your pet so don't be afraid of offending your vet. Most professionals welcome the information.

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### Special points of interest:

- Grooming and Summer Heat
- Hot Spots and Allergies
- Anesthesia

## Those Blue/Black Tongues

Chows are unique in that their tongues are blue/black in color. No one seems to know why this is so. Bears have the same blue/black tongues and there is speculation that there is some connection way back in history. I don't know how much of the speculation is based on facts but it's fun to think that Chows and Bears have some common ancestry.

There is also a story that God spilled ink when he was making plans and the Chow lapped up the ink changing it's tongue to the blue/black color. Just another fanciful explanation of this wonderful trait.

All chow babies are born with pink tongues and their tongues darken as they mature. By the time they are six weeks old their tongues are normally



blue/black in color. Some puppies, especially the ones with a lighter colored coat, take a little longer for their tongues to darken. There are also some puppies whose tongues remain spotted. Unlike what some believe, this does not neces-

sarily mean the puppy is not a purebred. We have had puppies with spotted tongues on occasion. They are usually cream or cinnamon in color. Blacks, blues, and reds normally have the blue/black tongues.

Some puppies spotted tongues will fill in with the blue/black color over time.

This is only unacceptable in puppies that are going to be shown. We also don't recommend breeding dogs with spotted tongues. But, those spots certainly don't prevent any puppy from being a wonderful pet and a great addition to your family.

"Chow puppies tongue's start out pink then turn the blue/black color ."

## Aspen Pike

Aspen Pike lives with his family in Pennsylvania. He is attending puppy training classes and his dad says he is the smartest one in the class.

Aspen is one of Misty and Kaiser's babies.

Keep up the good work Aspen. Make us proud!



Aspen Pike

## Hot Spots/Allergies

Dogs can develop hot spots which are normally caused by some type of allergy. Hot spots are areas on your dog where he will scratch and often times will result in hair loss. Allergies can be caused by many things just as in humans. Dogs can develop food allergies or allergies to different soaps or detergents.

Of course fleas can also cause incessant scratching. Once you have determined fleas are not the culprit, determine if anything has changed in the environment. New dog food? New treats? New detergent used on bedding? New shampoo? If nothing has changed but your dog definitely has a hot spot/spots you might first begin by changing

the food. Food allergies are one of the primary reasons for allergies in dogs. It will take up to thirty days to completely clear up but you should notice a difference in 7-10 days.

If all else fails you will have to make a trip to the veterinary. Don't let your pet suffer with this miserable condition.

## Parasites

There is just no way of avoiding those pesky parasites. Worms are common in dogs and Chows are no exception.

We worm all of our adult dogs twice a year and the mother's are wormed an extra time when they whelp puppies. Even with all this, we still fight the never ending battle of the parasites.

Parasites engorge themselves into the muscle of

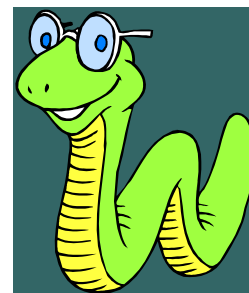
a female dog and become dormant. When the female begins lactating (producing milk) the parasites become active and are passed to the puppies through the mother's milk. Worming doesn't affect the dormant parasites. Pretty ingenious of a lowly parasite and it ensures their survival. It also sounds pretty gross!

Unfortunately, puppies cannot avoid getting worms. We worm a mini-

mum of three times before the puppy goes to their new home. Your vet should check for parasites each time you visit.

Parasites can also be picked up from the ground where an infected animal or bird has been.

So, worms are a fact of life and your pet needs to be protected. Your vigilance is the key.



Worms are a fact of life. Periodic treatment is required.

## Muli from Pennsylvania

Muli is a puppy from Ginger and Sampson. She was born in November '06. She was the only black puppy in a litter of



seven with six red sisters.

Muli now lives in Pennsylvania with her big sister McCrary who is showing her the ropes.

She attended her first Red Hat Ladies Club meeting but refused to wear a silly hat.



All in all, Muli says life is great. She is doted on by all. What more could a girl ask for?

"No hats for Muli. A Chow can only go so far!"

## Summer Heat

We get questions about how Chows fare in the summer heat. The two most important things are plenty of water and shade. As long as they have that they will do fine.

A Chow's coat insulates them from the cold but also from the heat. Dark coats absorb the sun which can increase the body temperature. So,

owners should pay extra attention to their black chows.

We know people who clip or shave their Chows when the temperatures are high. This is fine but beware. I have had three different veterinarians tell me that when you shave or closely clip a Chow the coat may not come back in the same. Sometimes

the length and/or texture changes. The vets also tell me clipping isn't necessary.

We keep all of our Chows' coats "au natural" and they do fine. Keep them brushed, a nice cool drink and some shade to lay in and they will be quite content.

## Grooming

Grooming is an important part of your dogs health. Keeping your pet's coat clean and brushed makes him feel better and is a great socialization tool. His appearance affects how people will receive him.

It is best to begin grooming while your dog is still a puppy. It is much easier for them to get used to it and come to like the process. It is important that the grooming is gentle and is a pleasant experience.

Chows really don't need to be bathed often unless they get into something. A good brushing once a week usually will suffice. Clipping their nails is also required. You can have your veterinary or a groomer show you

how to clip nails if you are unsure.

When it is time for a bath I prefer to use baby shampoo to most dog products. It is gentle and won't sting the eyes. The most important thing is making sure you get all the shampoo rinsed out. If you don't, it can cause itching. Some dogs will dig themselves raw. Chows have a very thick undercoat so rinse and rinse until you know he is squeaky clean.

Be careful if you use a blow dryer. Keep it moving and use a warm or cool setting. The hot setting can burn the skin. Again, if you begin this while a puppy it will be much easier.



Just brushed and looking pretty! Jewel is a new addition to our kennel. She is from Daisy and Leo. She is cinnamon in color.

We prefer to use a block brush, also known as a slicker brush, that has short wire bristles that are slightly pointed toward the handle. This gets through that thick coat and mats without pulling.

Once you are all done you will definitely notice how proud your Chow is of his looks!

## Graduation Day!

Tippy graduated from her beginner training class with flying colors. Everyone that meets her loves her. She has turned out to be a great ambassador for the breed.

Her family loves her and she has become an im-

portant, and very much loved, member of their family.

Tippy is from the June '06 litter of Khan and Gypsy and now resides in Taylorsville, Ky.

Keep up the great work Tippy!



"Puppy training classes are great for socialization as well as obedience."

## Tzar

Tzar is also from Khan and Gypsy's June '06 litter. He and Tippy are litter mates. See any resemblance?

Tzar is a much loved family member now living in Cincinnati, OH.

He is another great ambassador, adored by all. His family says he couldn't be a better dog al-

though no one is sure he realizes he is one!

His family sends us updates from time to time so we can keep up with his progress.

What a handsome fellow!

