

D & M Farm Kennel

April 2012 Newsletter

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Special points of interest:

- Grooming
- Colors and Coats
- Allergy Season
- Farm Happenings

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Time to Get Grooming

Many of you are noticing that your Chows are blowing their coats. Our winter was so unseasonably mild and they may have been losing their undercoats for awhile now. It's time to break out those grooming tools!

Spring is an excellent time to check your pets overall health to include skin, paws, ears, etc. While giving your dog a good brushing, check for lumps or bumps. Inspect any abnormality and decide if it needs further attention by your veterinarian. Make sure you check all the way from the nose to the tip of its' tail and down each leg. You should pay particular attention to your female's mammary glands. Make sure there are no hard places that could possibly be cysts or tumors.

Next, check each paw. Spread the toes and check in between. If there appears to be a lot of hair, consider trim-

ming. Do not shave between the toes. If you do, whenever the hair begins to grow back it will be prickly and can cause discomfort. Check the nails to make sure they are in good shape. If they need trimmed, take care of it now. If any of the nails are cracked, try filing them smooth with an emery board to prevent it from getting caught on something.

Check the ears. Are they clean? Do they have any black deposits? You can use mineral oil on a Q-tip to loosen and then clean out the ear. You can also purchase products specifically for cleaning ears. If you smell a foul odor you will need to visit the vet to see if it is an infection.

Look at the eyes. Are they clear? Do they look healthy? You can tell so much about your pet by looking at their eyes. Any excessive tearing, or if the eyes look dull re-

quires a trip to your veterinary for a checkup.

Check the teeth and gums. Gums should be firm. You will know if they look healthy. If the teeth have a lot of plaque buildup, purchase some dental



chews or dental sprays to loosen and dislodge the tartar and plaque.

It's important that we take time out of our busy schedules to regularly focus on our pet's health. They don't have a voice so it is up to us to be vigilant about the mainte-

Sumo in Indiana

Sumo continues to delight his owners. They say he is the best dog they could ask for.

Sumo is a puppy from Gracie & Khan



Pure mischief!

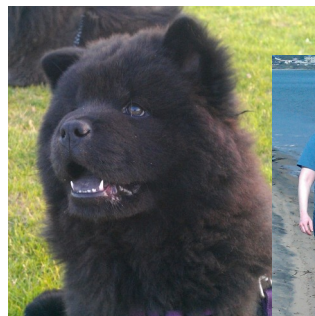


Guinness in California

Smart, playful, and loving is the description of Guinness by his family. He continues to bring lots of joy to his new family.

He is slowly winning over the older Chow in the house. How can you resist the antics of a puppy and he plays it to the fullest.

He practiced in the backyard pool before going to the beach. He loves the beach, but isn't too sure about the waves.



Guinness is a puppy from Shadow & Khan.



"Colors and coats are different from Chow to Chow."

AKC Chow Chow Colors & Coats

There are five colors of Chows recognized by the American Kennel Club; three primary & two dilutes. The three primary colors are red, black and cream. The two dilutes are cinnamon & blue.

Reds can vary more than any other color. A solid dark red, or what we sometimes refer to as a mahogany, is a dark rust-colored red. There is also a solid light coppery shade of red. The mane and tail may often be a shade lighter than the body coat. A light-shaded red is what we refer to when a light red has a lot of cream in their coat; i.e., mane, tail, feathering, and sometimes on the face. Once in a while, we have a puppy that is an apricot shade. Reds can sometimes sport a black mask. Typically, the mask dissipates as dark red as they mature, but not always.

Blacks don't have much variation. If they have the red color gene, they often take on auburn highlights when left out in the sun. This is called "rusting". Blacks that do not have the red gene and are what we refer to as "true blacks" often have gray in their skirts and tail. Our Char is a good example of this. From behind, she is gray from the lower half of her back

legs all the way to the tip of her tail.

Crems should be an off-white, eggshell color. Daisy, one of our breeding females, is a very recessive cream. She is a white cream. Kaiser, one of our breeding sires, is just as cream, but he has caramel or buff color on the backs of his ears. And, during the winter the saddle of his back also takes on this color. During the summer, he bleaches out to a solid cream again from the sun. Creams have pink skin and often have a liver-colored nose. The liver nose is considered a fault in showing, but is normal in most creams. Once in awhile you will see a cream Chow with a black nose. This is the exception rather than the norm. Cream is considered a recessive color. One should never breed a cream to another cream. An albino may result.

Cinnamon is a dilute of the red. But the name is a misnomer. Cinnamons are born a bright gray, have dark skin, and lighten to a fawn color. Many have difficulty differentiating between a cream and a cinnamon. But there are definite differences when viewed together. Cinnamons have dark skin and a black nose.

Blues are a dilute of the black. They can range from a light silvery gray to a dark charcoal. Their noses are often gray as well and this is accepted by the registry.

Of all the colors, blacks are the ones you must be most careful with in very hot weather. The black coat absorbs heat and if left out in the sun too long, they can suffer heat stroke. The unfortunate thing about heat strokes is once the dog collapses it is very difficult to cool them down quickly enough before they succumb. All dogs can be affected by heat, but the black ones pose the most risk.

The double-coat protects the Chow against cold and heat. So, shaving or excessive trimming is not a good idea! Without the undercoat, they are susceptible to sunburn and skin irritation. Their skin is just not meant to see the light of day. Shaving also will cause the coat to change when it grows out again. It will never be as it was before. They have developed this coat for a reason.

Chows are beautiful no matter what color they are. You can see why they are referred to as the lion dog!

Samson in Montana

Samson continues to be a great dog at the age of two. He hasn't decided to grow up yet, still acting very much the puppy. He weighs in at a whopping 100 lbs.

Samson is a puppy from Pixie & Khan.



Allergy Season

Just like we humans, dogs can suffer seasonal allergies. Fortunately, the vast majority of dogs are not afflicted, but if you are the owner of one who is ... you know how difficult it can be.

Pandy is our allergy girl. She is fine all winter, but with the onset of spring her eyes begin to water. Many immediately assume a Chow with watery tearing eyes has entropion. Actually, entropion would be easier ... since it is correctable. But, with many, it is allergies.

What can you do? Your veterinary must be involved. There are medications he can

prescribe to alleviate some of the symptoms. Antihistamines will alleviate the symptoms, but often cause drowsiness. Allergy shots are available now, but often take up to a year to build up in their system.

Other things you can try include bathing with a medicated shampoo. This removes the allergens from the coat. Moist towels used to clean around the eye and eye washes can often also be beneficial. Steroids may be prescribed, but should only be considered as a last resort, due to their side affects.

Seasonal allergies usually

present themselves with watering eyes and sneezing. In some cases, skin irritation may occur. Although, skin irritations by themselves are not a result of seasonal allergies.

Your pet can suffer just as we do when allergy season is upon us. Do what you can to manage the symptoms to make your pet as comfortable as possible.

Remember, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure! Remain attune to the needs and health of your Chow.

"Seasonal allergies can afflict your pets just like it does with humans."

Cooper in West Virginia

Cooper and Zoe are best of friends. Growing up together is great. One is rarely seen without the other.

Cooper is a puppy from Ebony & Kaiser.



D & M Farm Kennel

Primary Business Address
617 W. Dayton-Yellow Springs Rd.
Fairborn, OH 45324

Phone: 937-767-7075
Cell: 937-369-8425
Email: dnmfarm@aol.com

Quality Chows with Exceptional
Temperament

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*"The goal of D & M Farm Kennel
is to breed
the highest quality Chow Chows
with exceptional temperament.
We want all of our puppies to be
good
ambassadors of the breed"*

Farm Happenings

Another successful trip to the Exotic Animal auction! We love going up and seeing our Amish friends. We were saddened to hear that one whom we have known for several years passed away in February from a heart attack.

The weather was great and the auction was unusually large this year. There had to be over 10,000 people there.

Darrell got his normal peacock fix by brining home ten new ones. One is pure white and is absolutely gorgeous. Everyone who comes to the farm loves to see the peacocks. We also bought a few more pheasants. The pheasants are very colorful and fun to watch.

Work on the farm and kennel is in full swing. With the onset of warmer weather comes the multitude of projects we have been planning over the winter. There are never enough hours in the day.

Pandy is the proud mama of six puppies. She and Yogi have three red and three black puppies. All are healthy, fat little sausages!

Rhythm, our Haflinger mare, is due to have her foal May 2, or thereabouts.

We have two baby bottle-fed goats we purchased at the auction that we are feeding.

We have babies everywhere we look and we're loving it! It is so much fun to

watch them grow and mature. They are all like little sponges, taking in everything around them. Babies of all kinds always have an innocence about them. They are so pure and untainted. They are clay to be molded. We just have to be careful we don't put in any dents along the way.

Summer is just around the corner with all the barbecues with family and friends. Our schedule is always at a hectic pace ... busy, but never too busy to visit with friends. So, please schedule a visit to the farm. We would love to see you ... you ... and even you!



Andy and Amos. Our two new Nubian goats.

