

D & M Farm Kennel

April 2013 Newsletter

"Hot Spots" Again!

It's that time of year when many of our Chows experience "Hot Spots". Hot spots are skin irritations caused by an allergic reaction to food, bug bites, dry skin, etc. They can become raw areas, losing their hair in one spot.

Food is the number one reason for hot spots. Even food that your dog has been on for years can become a problem. Sometimes something changes at the processing plant and suddenly your dog develops an allergy to the food. This can result in hot spots.

During the Chows bi-annual "molt", they can develop hot spots. It is very important that you groom your Chow and remove the loose hair. If not, it can cause itching, which will cause the dog to bite at the

area. The irritation can become worse and a raw spot will appear.

Bug bites can cause irritation for many dogs. Some have allergic reactions. Diligence to protect our pets is important.

When a Hot Spot appears, it is important to break the itch cycle. My veterinarian recommends using Children's Benadryl. Follow the dosage chart by weight, as prescribed on the container. Use it for two to three days. Meanwhile, treat the hot spot. You can purchase Vettricyn spray at Petsmart or Tractor Supply. Spray the area three times a day. It has a drying agent in it to help dry out the wound plus an antibiotic to assist healing.

You can deal with the hot spots yourself. Your veterinarian will prescribe cortisone to apply on the wound and possibly steroid pills. Be aware, these medicines can also be problematic. If cortisone is used for too many days, it can cause the skin to breakdown and will then become the problem, rather than the solution. Steroids are sometimes necessary, but just as in humans, should not be used unless absolutely necessary. They present their own set of potential problems.

Our dogs are like children. They depend on us for their well being. Good grooming habits will prevent most skin issues, but allergies can be a problem for any dog.

Special points of interest:

- Hot Spots
- Mega-Esophagus
- Flea and Tick Treatment

Aspen in Ohio

Just wanted to give you an update on Aspen. She has adapted well to her new home and everyone loves her. She is so playful and spoiled rotten! She is having a good time with the male dogs behind us. She likes to run up and down the fence line with them. She is a digger and loves to dig in the flower bed. She is also fascinated with the birds and will sit and watch them forever. She loves to have her belly rubbed and

likes to sleep on her back.

She is growing so fast and I cannot wait for the weather to get warmer so we can spend more time outside.

We wish you a Happy Easter !

Cindy

Aspen is a puppy from Lila & Teddy.



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This is NOT for public consumption!

Kumo in Oregon

Kumo was shipped to Seattle, Washington, but his family recently moved to Oregon. He doesn't care where he is as long as he has his family.

Kumo loves his little caretaker. He allows her to do what she wants as you can see.

What a good playmate he is.

Kumo is a puppy from Kaiser & Dixie.



I'm supposed to do what with my hair?

"Mega-esophagus is something many animals can get. If you know the symptoms and diagnose early, you can manage the disease."

What is the condition "Mega-esophagus"?

Mega-esophagus is a condition where there is decreased or absent motility (movement, muscular contractions) of the esophagus. This can cause regurgitation of food and water, difficulty in swallowing, weight loss, coughing, salivation, nasal discharge, recurring pneumonia, etc.

This condition can be present at birth or can be acquired later in life.

If you notice symptoms you should take your pet to the veterinary immediately. You will need to explain all the signs you have noticed, which

will help your veterinary determine which tests should be administered. There are several tests that can be done to assist in the diagnosis.

Treatment can include medication to increase gastrointestinal motility. Antibiotics and fluid therapy in cases of pneumonia. But, feeding becomes the real key. Soft food or liquefied food is necessary for a dog with this condition to actually swallow the food. They will need to be fed in an upright position, rather than letting them eat from the floor level. Anything you can do to provide a more direct avenue

for the food to slide down the throat and into the stomach is the most important thing you can do to manage this condition.

Although Chows are not predisposed to this condition they can acquire it just like other conditions or diseases. Being aware of the symptoms will allow you to become aware of a potentially life-threatening condition early so treatment can begin before it can cause other health issues.

Bottom line ... be informed! You are your pet's guardian.



Jasmine & Sugar Bear in Ohio

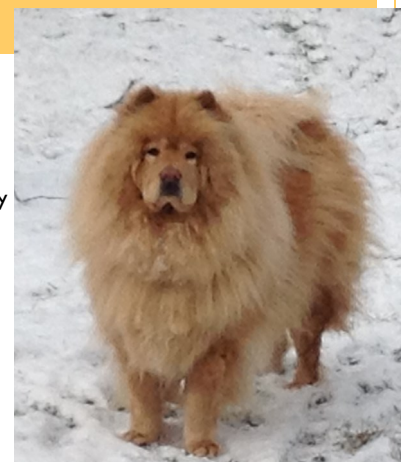
This beautiful girl is now a television celebrity! Jasmine was featured on a local TV program as the featured "Dog of the Day". No wonder they chose her! Can you imagine any dog being more beautiful than a Chow? Of course, we are a little prejudiced.

Jasmine is a puppy from Daisy & Ceasar.

Sugar Bear is Jasmine's younger sister, but outweighs Jasmine by 35 lbs. Both beauties are partners in crime. How could you ever think either would get into any mischief with those innocent faces?

Sugar Bear is from Hagrid & Izzie.

What beauty queens!



What flea and tick treatment should we use?

Fleas and ticks are a fact of life for most of us. If you take your dog to a wooded or tall grassy area, ticks are bound to be there. Fleas are carried by many wild animals and rodents as well as other dogs and cats.

If your dog gets fleas, an infestation can happen very quickly. It's amazing how quickly they multiply. Staying ahead of the game is the key.

There are lots of preventive medications such as Frontline and Advantix. The problem with these topical medications is that they are absorbed into the sebaceous glands in the skin. The insecticide flushes

from the body through the liver and kidneys. There are no studies of effects from long term use. But, there is evidence that in some dogs it has caused damage to the nervous system and thyroid toxicity. Even low doses have caused skin problems, reproductive and hormone issues.

We have found that Chows are a very healthy breed of dog. But, when you start introducing chemicals their natural health can be adversely affected.

We do not recommend the use of topical insecticides. Instead we recommend giving

a Capstar tablet, followed by an organic dip. You can purchase both Capstar and an organic dip from your veterinary or the Internet. Capstar dissipates through the skin. It is not internalized. Once taken Capstar will have achieved 90% effectiveness within 4 hours. That means that within 4 hours all the fleas will die. It also inhibits eggs from hatching and kills any larvae.

Vacuuming carpets is the most effective way to get rid of fleas. Treat outdoor areas with appropriate insecticides.

Keeping our pets healthy requires our vigilance and knowledge.

Fleas? Ticks? Oh my! What can we do to prevent or eliminate these pests?



Yogi (aka "Tiny Tim") in North Carolina



will be 5 months old April 6, 2013. He is such a sweet heart, and he gets along great with his two sisters and brother. Thank you so much for Yogi and Zoe. Oh ...

by the way, we

Yogi arrived in North Carolina February 4, 2013. He is a puppy from Dixie and Kaiser.

This is our second Chow Chow from D & M Farm and we are so happy and pleased for such happy and healthy Chowdren! Chow Chows are like a bag of potato chips ... you can't just have one. Yogi is growing like a weed and loves to play, but he is also learning his commands. He now will sit for treats and give you high fives. He learned all of that in just a few days. Yogi

now have 4 Chowdren and what a wonderful feeling of enjoyment we get from each of them every day.

Roy & Barbara

Note: Yogi was dubbed "Tiny Tim" while he was still at our kennel. He was so much smaller than the other puppies in his litter. Dixie had a large litter, so we ended up slipping him with a mom with a younger litter. This succeeded, but he wanted to play with the other puppies before they were old enough to really

play. This caused some yelping from the younger puppies. He wasn't much larger in size, but he was more mature and was ready to start play fighting! We would take him out and play with him to give the other puppies a reprieve.



Yogi was one of those puppies Maleah had a really hard time letting go. He had such a sweet disposition and loved to cuddle. But, we know he went to a great home where is very much loved! Hugs always Yogi, and thank you Roy & Barbara for being such loyal and caring clients!

Puppy Pickups



Primary Business Address
617 W Dayton-Yellow Springs Rd.
Fairborn, OH 45324
Phone: 937-767-70755
E-mail: dnmfarm@aol.com

**Quality Chows, Exceptional
Temperament**

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Farm Happenings at D & M Farm Kennel

This month started off with our annual spring trip to the Exotic Animal Auction in the Amish country of Holmes County. As usual, we love our time away to just relax and visit with our friends in Amish land. The sale exceptionally very large. And, as usual, we went with no intention of buying anything. Well, several chickens and turkeys later, and lots of nursery items, we came home. Oh, and one baby Nubian goat.

We bought some unusual chickens for more interest in our barnyard. And the baby goat was marked very much like a goat we lost several years ago, so we couldn't resist. She is still on the bottle and is very social. She views Maleah as her mamma and is very vocal at feeding time.

We got two female turkeys. They obviously were raised by hand. They follow us everywhere and just want to

be near us. We named them Thelma and Louise. It is so comical seeing them follow the humans around as if following the Pied Piper.

Spring is in full swing around the farm. We have put up over 1000 feet of field fence so far. We still have about 600 feet to go. We are also planting fruit trees in the garden that we purchased and Cyprus trees along a field fence row as a screen. The green house is full of flower and vegetable flats. Maleah purchased three bags of strawberry starts. She wasn't aware that there are 25 in each bag. Now we have to find a place to plant them. It won't be long before we start our garden. May 10 has always been our magic date when we feel assured of no more frost.

We are getting ready for another wave of puppies. Daisy, Dixie, Brandy, Jazzy, Amber and Raven are all

coming due soon. We kept one of Dixie's females (Ivory) from her last litter for our breeding program and we also kept one of Onyx's (Sassy). Some of our girls are getting older for breeding so we are preparing for their retirement.

Many of you have met Macho Bear. He is our comic relief. When told to get out of the breezeway where he isn't suppose to go, he turns sideways to you and jumps in place from his front feet to his hind. Much like a rocking horse. Then when you take hold of him to move him out, he drops to the ground like a ragdoll. All of his bones become liquid and he becomes dead weight. He is quite content with you picking him up although that is getting more and more difficult as he grows. He weighs over 50 lbs now. He is such a puppy, although a very big puppy! He greets everyone that comes, as if they have

come to see him. And, he doesn't understand if their attention is drawn to something else. Such a narcissist! He's almost seven months old and will move out into the kennel area before too much longer. We expect him to sire some beautiful babies



with his great looks and wonderful temperament. What a beautiful specimen!

*"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"*