

D &amp; M Farm Kennel

# D & M Farm Kennel

## August 2011 Newsletter

### Kidney Stones

#### Special points of interest:

- Kidney Stones
- Blowing the Coat
- Drooling
- Parvo and Flies
- Farm Happenings

Yes, animals are susceptible and Chows are no different. Although the breed does not seem to be predisposed, like most other ailments, Chows can be afflicted.

Stones are created due to the accumulation of minerals that are not dissolved by the natural acidity within the kidneys or bladder. If the stones become large enough and move into the tubes that lead into the bladder or the urethras, it is very painful for the dog and intervention is required.

Diet can be used to dissolve some stones that are not in danger of moving down, causing a blockage. Stones that are not passed within five to six months usually need to

be removed surgically. Blockages often require surgery.

Severe pain, agitation, and straining are typical symptoms once the stones move into the tubes.

It is very important that your dog always have plenty of fresh water available to drink. Older dogs may need to have salt added to their food to encourage thirst so they will drink adequate amounts of water. The more water they drink the more diluted the urine. This reduces the chance of stones forming.



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### Riley in Vermont - D & M Farm's Roadtrip To New England

We are going to visit Riley in October! We are finally planning a road trip to see the autumn foliage of New England. We are going to take this opportunity to visit with some of our clients and our progeny! We are anxious to see how they have grown.

This picture of Riley would be a great calendar picture! Isn't he cute?

Riley is a puppy from Bella & Kaiser.



## Molting ... or ... “Blowing their Coats”



Buhda

Chows molt ... or “blow their coats” at different times of the year. Typically, they do it twice a year. This is when they lose their undercoat and the new one comes in. It is very important that your Chow be brushed regularly during this time.

When the undercoat comes loose it needs to be removed to maintain the health of the skin. This is especially true during hot weather. This extra layer can

cause your Chow to develop a “hot spot” ... an area where the skin becomes irritated. This can quickly become a vicious cycle. Irritation, and your dog constantly licking the area, causes further irritation.

If you notice a “hot spot”, it is best if you trim the hair around the area to allow the air to get to it. Heat from the coat causes a moist environment, which promotes the hot spot. We usually

use a triple antibiotic such as Neosporin on the spot to help it heal.

Now that we are going into cooler weather in much of the country, the “hot spots” are not as much of a problem. However, it is still necessary to remove the old hair to keep the skin healthy.

Staying on top of this will prevent issues that can become chronic.

## Taz in Florida



Taz is full of mischief. Even though he has lots of toys, playing with dad's crocs is his favorite. He loves water, but he loves getting dried off best. Getting roughed up with a towel means play time to him.

His big sister, Xena, tolerates his mischief to a point.

First she warns him and then she gives him a nip to make him stop. It lasts a little while and then he is back at it.

Taz continues to delight his family with all his love and antics.

Taz is a puppy from Onyx & Hagrid.



This is so cool! Wonder if they know about this?

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*“Making sure your dog's skin is in good condition is very important for it's overall health.”*

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## “Drooling”

Some of our dogs drool when they drink water. Well, we're not sure it is drooling as much as it is just being in too big of a hurry! The fur under their chin and on their neck becomes wet and just doesn't dry out. If you catch a whiff of it, it smells sour or moldy like wet clothes left in the washer too long. Not pleasant and also not healthy.

We try to keep the fur in the affected areas clipped short on dogs known to drool. Not shaved, but about an inch long. This allows the hair and skin to dry. It also prevents the hair from becoming matted.

If left alone and unattended, fungus can begin to grow on the skin. This can become quite

serious and require a trip to the veterinary for treatment.

We know who the “droolers” are, and try to keep a close watch on them. Once again, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!

## Bogie in Ohio

It is with a saddened heart that we tell you of Bogie's passing.

Bogie is reported to have been a joy to his family. Always happy to see them and show his affection for all the family.

Bogie's best pal Bandit is going to miss him terribly. Like all Chows, when raised with other animals, they accept them into their pack. Bogie and Bandit were always together.

Bogie's passing has left a huge hole in the family. They are hoping they will be able to get another Chow puppy to fill the void Bogie has left.



Bogie is gone, but will live on in memory.



## The deadly Parvo Virus, flies & maggots

The parvo virus is extremely dangerous and has a 50% mortality rate., even when treated. Our vet has informed us that this year has been the worst she has seen for parvo and for cuts being infested with maggots from flies.

Most healthy adult dogs will be immune to the parvo virus. Puppies and older dogs are the ones you really have to watch. Be conscious of their environment and protect them accordingly. Parvo may be transmitted via feces. If your dog steps where an afflicted dog defecated, he can contract the virus. Parvo can live in the ground for several years.

Maggots are a danger when there is an open wound. One of our dogs cut his paw between two

pads. It was a small cut, but within a day there were maggots. We agree these things are really disgusting, but they also can become deadly if not treated. They will eat their way into the dog. Once they reach the inside, they can travel and it can be deadly.

All cuts should be taken care of immediately. Treat the wound and then wrap it if the dog is going to be outside. It only takes a few seconds for a fly to land on the wound and lay eggs.

If you notice there are maggots present, clean the wound and remove any maggots you see. Flush the wound with saline solution or a benadine solution. We usually apply a triple antibiotic such as Neosporin. Then

wrap the wound. Check the wound regularly to make sure there are not more eggs that have hatched.

The safest option is to take the dog to your veterinarian. The vet will clean the wound and spray it with a solution that kills all maggots and eggs. The wound will have to be monitored to make sure it heals properly.

Chows have lots of hair which may hide injuries. Make sure you check you dog over regularly to ensure there aren't any open wounds that might be susceptible to flies.

Remember, both the parvo virus and maggots can be equally deadly to your dog. Provide the best safeguards for your dog to ensure they are not affected by either.

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*"Hot weather brings with it risks for your dog."*

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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"*

**Quality Chows with Exceptional  
Temperament**

**We're on the web  
[www.dmfarm.com](http://www.dmfarm.com)**

## Farm Happenings

We are back in the puppy business! The girls have decided to get serious. Rosy had her litter of five puppies, followed by Gracie with two, Shadow with eight and Pixie with six ! Yipee! We're looking forward now to some Christmas puppies.

Gardening is almost finished. We have managed to get the canning done. These vegetables will be really good on those cold winter nights that are already peeking around the corner. We don't know where the summer has gone so quickly. It seems we were just preparing to open our pool and now it is approaching time to close it.

We do like the cooler days of fall. Our summer was filled with hot days and high humidity. It makes it hard to work outside in that weather. The cooler days are much more pleasant for working outside. Even the ani-

mals seem to be in better moods with more energy.

Our Haflinger foal that was born in March has grown a lot over the summer. He is a beautiful boy. We expect great things from him. He is very social and likes it when people come to visit. It usually means he gets treats so it is a double pleasure for him.

We are preparing to go back up to Holmes County (Amish country) to the Exotic Animal Auction. I need to get mats for my horse barn that they usually have at the auction. We are going to sell off some of our roosters. We have far too many and the hens are complaining. It is always a surprise as to what we bring home from the auction, but we know we will have a good time. We know many of the Amish there and it is always a nice time to visit.

We're already preparing for winter. We try to do anything we can do to make it easier on ourselves and better for the animals .

We look forward to meeting new friends picking up their puppies this fall!



Our collie, Laddie, taking a snooze on the couch when he thought no one was looking!