

D & M Farm Kennel

August 2012 Newsletter

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Pests
- Oral Melanoma

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Our Dearest Khan

We recently lost our dear friend Khan. He was our patriarch. He was the sire of Kaiser and the grandfather of Hagrid and Simba. He was such a sweet, unassuming boy. He would hang back and let everyone else get attention and only approached if you called him. He would have a sweet expression on his face, showing his appreciation that you wanted to show him affection.

He was a beautiful Chow with a very massive head. He was what we call a shaded-red. He was red with lots of cream highlighting in his feathering, eyebrows and cheeks. He was a great sire, producing lots of beautiful offspring spread around the United States and Canada.

Somehow he managed to get a

bite wound on his back. We can only assume it was from him arguing back and forth with the male in the next kennel run. They often would lean into the



fence which allows the other one to bite through the fence. We didn't catch the wound until it was a few days old. We took him to the vet fully expecting them to fix him up and send him home again. They sedated him before I left and said I could come get him that afternoon. I

got a phone call shortly after I got home. The vet said that the infection had set in and his skin was disintegrated. He didn't feel that Khan would survive and it would be excruciating for him if we tried. He felt it would be more humane if we just didn't allow him to wake up. We trust our vet's judgment, so we agreed. It was a heartbreaking decision for us. Khan was one of the really good guys.

Khan was nine years old. He is now buried in our Memory Garden.

We love you Khan and miss your sweetness terribly. RIP.

Kai in West Virginia



Kai continues to be her beautiful self. Her face is the spitting im-

age of her sire, Ceasar, especially in the eyes.

Kai has a wonderful farm that she lives on where there are lots of deer for her to observe. Lucky is one that comes on a regular basis. He lost a leg somehow but does quite well. There is also a doe that is missing a foot that showed up in the spring with

twin fawns. Nature is such a wonderful thing!

Kai is from Ceasar and Ginger.



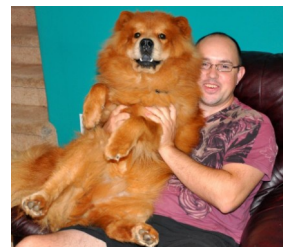
Persia in Georgia



and a half years old. He's a puppy from Khan and Gracie.

Persia continues to be one of our outstanding ambassadors for the breed. He is friendly and continues to amaze people with his sweet personality.

His family cannot imagine life without Persia. He is now one



"Hot, dry weather is a breeding ground for parasites, fleas, ticks, flies and other unwelcomed guests."

The hot dry weather many of us are experiencing is a breeding paradise for many pests. These pests can affect our pets and in some cases be deadly.

We have talked about flies in the past. I can't emphasize strongly enough how serious a problem they can be. The flies themselves are a nuisance that can cause conjunctivitis of the eyes. Biting flies can cause

open wounds on noses and ears. You can get repellent to put on your pet when it is outside to avoid flies and mosquitoes. The most serious issue with flies are their eggs.

An open wound, even a small one, can invite a fly to lay eggs. These eggs hatch into maggots which will then eat away the skin and tissue. They will multiply until your dog is covered and you might not readily notice them due to their thick double-coat. The hair will begin to come out in large clumps. The maggots can migrate and enter the anal cavity. If this happens it most likely will be fatal. Please, please check your pets on a regular basis to ensure they have no wounds. Even small scratches that are not treated properly can become a host.

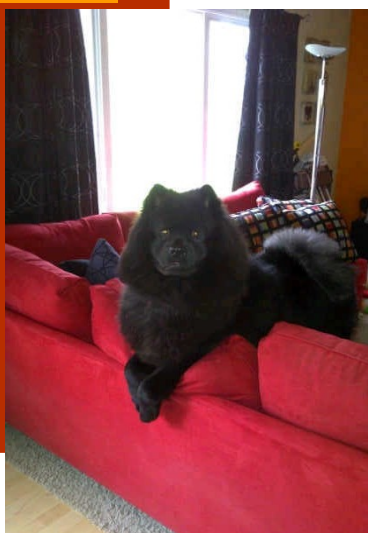
Ticks are another problem this time of year. Everyone is concerned about deer ticks due to Lyme disease. Black ticks can be just as big a problem. They attach themselves and suck the blood. Enough ticks can actually cause your pet to become anemic. Rarely do ticks get

through all that hair, but they can. Run your fingers through their hair thoroughly. Check out any bumps.

Mosquitoes are carriers of heartworm. Not as big a problem for Chows because there are not very many areas a mosquito can bite. **Skin So Soft** from Avon is a natural repellent. Get rid of any standing water on your property which can become a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Be diligent. Our pets depend on us to keep them safe.

Remember, an ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure! Your pet's health and life is dependent upon your vigilance!



Oral Melanoma and Chows

Canine Malignant Melanoma (CMM) is not something we were familiar with. Fortunately, none of our dogs have been afflicted by the disease. But, recently I received a call from one of our clients whose dog had oral melanoma. The question, of course, was if any of the bloodline had previously been diagnosed with it or were we familiar with it. We had not had anyone report one of our progeny with this type of cancer.

Fortunately, they caught the melanoma in time to remove it and then treat it with a canine vaccine derived from human DNA that activates a dog's immune system to destroy cancer cells. Her prognosis is promising as she is only five years old.

About a month after this client called, we received a call from another client with a ten-year old Chow that also had oral melanoma. Unfortunately, his had progressed too far for surgery.

Research revealed that Melanoma is reported to be the fifth or sixth most common canine cancer according to oncologist Philip Bergman, DVM, Ph.D. The causes of canine malignant melanoma are unknown. Older dogs and breeds with dark skin and mouths may be more prone. The signs of CMM oral tumors include: lumps or bumps in the mouth; facial or jaw swelling; facial pain; difficulty eating or swallowing; drooling, refusal to eat with accompanying weight loss; bad breath and oral or nasal bleeding. The other most common type is digit tumors. Nailbed and digit melanoma signs include a dark, raised bump on or between toes; swelling or ulceration under the nail; sensitivity, pain and limping.

In 2009 the U.S. Department of Agriculture approved a new vaccine called **Oncept** from Merial. The trials had shown a significant number of dogs survived when the vaccine was used.

Just as in people, some dogs respond better to the treatment than others. Catching the melanoma early is key. The further it has metastasized, the less chance the dog will have time for the vaccine to work. Your veterinary or oncologist will be able to advise.

The vaccine, immunotherapy, mobilized specialized cells (T-cells) to recognize and attack cancer cells which ordinarily evade detection. The Merial vaccine uses human DNA to trigger a dog's immune system to detect one antigen found in melanoma cells—the protein tyrosinase, which contributes to dark pigmentation.

The vaccine is typically used in conjunction with surgery to remove lesions. The vaccine is better tolerated than traditional chemotherapy.

Information for this article came from dogwatchnewsletter.com

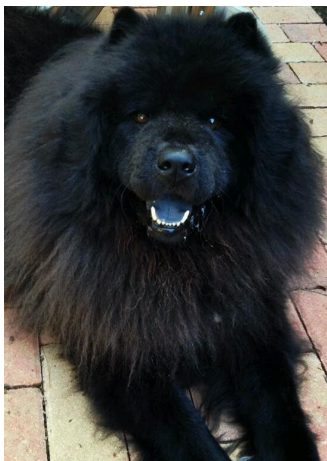
“Canine Malignant Melanoma (CMM) is the fifth or sixth most common canine cancer.”

Gus in Ohio

Gus is just simply a gorgeous guy. He is sweet and cuddly and allows the 71 lb. princess of the household to rule the roost! Gus is just a laid back guy like that.

What a big, beautiful boy he is. Three years old and the best companion you could ask for.

We can see his daddy in his face and that beautiful mane. Gus is a puppy from Kaiser and Ebony.



The Story of Biscuit in New Jersey

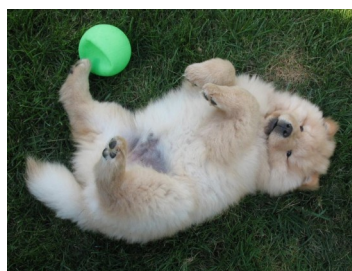


Pickup day!

A story provided by a client.

In April 2012, our 12-year old Chow Chow, Mu Shu, passed away suddenly. This loss was not only felt by our family, but by Mu Shu's mother, Crabby, who we also have. Mu Shu's loss left a large void in our lives. Approximately three weeks later I began to research the Internet for Chow Chow breeders, hoping to replace the irreplaceable. There, I fortunately found the website of D & M Farm Kennel and was fascinated by its' content. My initial impression when browsing the website was that they truly care about the well-being of the Chows they sell. I printed the last fifteen months of their monthly newsletters, then approached my wife about purchasing one of their puppies. The following morning, my wife phoned the kennel and spoke with Darrell. She found him extremely pleasant and informative. She asked if we could possibly obtain some clientele references from the Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York areas, who had purchased puppies from their kennel. To our amazement, within 24 hours, we received four telephone calls and/or e-mails, telling us how wonderful their experience with D & M Farm Kennel and how beautiful and well-mannered their Chows are. Within days, we made our decision and mailed our deposit to them.

We waited excitedly over the next two months for the next issue of their monthly newsletter and the 'Farm Happenings' section to see who had possibly given birth. The day that Darrell you my wife that Dixie had given birth and one of the three cream males could be ours, we were overjoyed! The countdown in our neighborhood began. Our puppy, who would be named Biscuit, was born. We anxiously awaited the weekly email photo updates of Biscuit, leading up to day we picked him up. The excitement of seeing the fantastic weekly growth of our new puppy was a wonderful touch to our waiting process. We also appreciated and were comforted by the patience, time and courtesy shown by both Darrell & Maleah in answering our many questions during this waiting period.



The pickup process was just as enjoyable. We thoroughly loved the tour of the farm, kennel and meeting all their beautiful Chows. The temperament of their dogs was very apparent. What most impressed us though was the time they spent with us reviewing all the paperwork and your sincere care and concern for Biscuit's future health.

Update:

It's been almost two weeks since Biscuit came home with us and our family and friends are having so much fun with him. Everyone adores his personality and we await

his wagging tail anytime one of us walks through the door. Biscuit loves to eat, roll over in the grass and enjoys interaction with Crabby. We are utterly amazed how well trained he is at this stage. We thank you so very much for bringing Biscuit into our lives.

On Tuesday, July 10, 2012, my wife, and I left D & M Farm with our six-week old puppy, Biscuit, heading home to East Windsor, New Jersey. He has brought nothing but joy to our family and friends.

Whether lying at our side in the house, walking the neighborhood with us and greeting everyone he meets, or having a play date with Nigel, a pit bull mix, Biscuit is the loyal companion that any family could want. Last Friday, he graduated from Puppy School at our local PetsMart and will be moving on to intermediate class in October. My wife and I are amazed at the job D & M Farm Kennel does in raising their puppies from birth to 6-8 weeks old. We tell everyone here how wonderful D & M Farm Kennel is!

Thank you again for having brought Biscuit into our lives.



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**Quality Chows with Exceptional
Temperament**

*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"*

We're on the web
www.dnmfarm.com

D & M Farm Happenings

Gardening and canning are done. Hay is in the barn. Gas, diesel and kerosene tanks are filled. Still need to get the propane tanks filled. But, we are well on our way to being ready for winter. We love fall and the cooler temperatures. Not sure we are ready for winter though. Cold, ice, and snow are not looked forward to on the farm. It makes doing the chores more difficult and poses a whole other set of challenges for keeping all the animals safe and healthy.



Lila and Teddy had a beautiful litter of

three blues and two creams. They will be



one cream. Beautiful litter.

going to their new homes soon.

Pixie and Simba had a litter of four, three blacks and



Bella and Kaiser had their litter too. Bella got into a fight about three weeks before her litter was born. Giving antibiotics is always problematic. She lost four of her seven puppies. The three that



survived are doing fine although they are a little small for their age. They'll catch up though. They all eat like little pigs instead of puppies. They are all three cute as little buttons. She has two reds and one cinnamon. They all three strut around like they own the place.

Onyx is in the maternity ward awaiting her blessed event.

All our baby goats are growing and have been in the pen outside. Since they have all been raised on the bottle, they are very friendly and sometimes downright demanding. Cute and ornery at the same time.

By spring our calves will all be cows. They seem to be growing right before our eyes. As they get older they are calmer and allow us to pet them more. Since they will become our milk cows, this is a good thing!

Please let us know how you ... and you ... are doing and please send us pictures that we can share with everyone else!



Amos, Andy, Shirley, and Laverne with Maleah



Polly and Molly, Jerseys



Rosy, Red Holstein



Bessie, Black Holstein



Did someone call me?



Swing set for grandkids and visitors



Light socket? What light socket?



Goose Convention