



## D & M FARM KENNEL NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2011

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### Merry Christmas & Happy New Year 2012 !



This is the last issue for the year 2011 ! Where has the time gone? There has been so much happen this year, with several healthy litters of puppies born. We had our first Haflinger foal born on the farm. More kennel modifications to include new galvanized kennel cages and a new washing machine. More concrete work outside of the barn and kennel to help us keep it clean.

The not so happy things included Maleah having surgery. We also lost our dear friends, Sampson, Buhda, and Goliath. Sampson and Goliath were the first two Chows we purchased when we moved here from

Germany and bought our farm in 1998, before establishing a kennel and breeding was even a consideration. Looking back over 2011, like any year, is bitter-sweet. Looking forward to 2012, we are already planning some new upgrades for the kennel. We plan to have

a concrete pad poured in front of the kennel and mount new kennel enclosures outside for the warm months, when we have puppies. It will be cooler for them and their areas will be easier to clean. We also plan to have a new well dug outside the kennel area. We truly and sincerely believe that God has had his



Rio in New Mexico

hand in what we do through our kennel & farm. Our kennel has given us the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people and allowed us to touch their lives through our puppies. We strive to do

our very best to promote the Chow breed and show everyone what a wonderful dog they truly are, by producing top quality puppies with great and wonderful temperaments. We take this charter very seriously.

We graciously thank all of our wonderful clientele we have met along life's journey and welcome them into our greater Chow family. All the updates we receive on a regular basis mean so much to us.

We look forward to meeting many of you again as well as all the new people that we will meet in the future. We've talked to the girls and they plan to have several litters in 2012. They are anxious to meet more people also. All of our Chow family love visitors and the extra attention it brings. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a most blessed and happy New Year 2012 !

#### Special points of interest:

- *Toxic Plants*
- *Check Those Paws*
- *Hope's Story*
- *Farm Happenings*

### Facebook Launch

After much encouragement from our clientele, we have finally launched our own D & M Farm Kennel Facebook site . The email address is [dmchowchows@aol.com](mailto:dmchowchows@aol.com). We hope this will offer a common source for all Chow lovers to visit and share pictures and stories of their pets with others. This will also be a place we can share pictures of new puppies, etc.

Please join us on the new site!

### Our New E-Store

Many of you have urged us to establish an online store where clientele can order pet items specific to the Chow Chow breed. Therefore, we are launching a new online store in January 2012 from our website. There are many items offered that we recommend and which we use at our kennel. Items such as special grooming tools, toys, harnesses, etc., will be available soon through our new storefront. There will be a link on our website. Please look for our new store and visit often!

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## Beware of Toxic Holiday Plants, Bulbs & Decorations

It is time to consider pet safety when bringing new plants into our home. Poinsettias are a Christmas favorite with their large bright red leaves. Many say these plants are deadly when they are really only mildly toxic. They can cause upset stomachs, but rarely anything more.



Daffodil bulbs are a great gift, but these are very toxic to dogs. Narcissus is part of the Daffodil family.

These bulbs are especially toxic and can cause cardiac

arrest, kidney failure, convulsions, and even death.

Holly and Mistletoe are considered moderately to severely toxic. Contact your Poison Control Center for advice if your pet acci-



dentally ingests one of these plants.

Christmas trees are also mildly toxic and may cause an upset stomach and/or diarrhea. They may also cause irritation

to their mouth.

Puppies are the most at risk, with their

heightened curiosity for anything newly introduced into their environment. It is best to keep the plants away from them. Glass light bulbs can also be risky for puppies. They draw their attention and if broken can cause nasty cuts to both mouth and feet.

Keeping our pets safe through the holidays is very important. No one wants their holiday ruined due to an unexpected trip to the emergency animal clinic with their pet.

Remember ... "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure"!

## Atilla in Ohio



Attila has fit right into his new family life. He stays with his owner's sister and her daughters during the day for company and socialization. He loves playing with the girls. Tug-of-war is his favorite. "Tilla Bear", as he is affectionately known, loves visiting the Day-care Center where the girls go. He is always the center of attention.

Brushing is his least favorite activ-

ity, but he will comply when given a treat as a bribe.

Attila is a blue puppy from Kaiser and Shadow. He is also the brother of our girl Lila from the same litter.

Does he not truly look like a live teddy bear to you?



## Check Those Paws

Cold weather with its ice and snow can be hazardous to our pets paws. It is important that we check them regularly for any abrasions or cuts. Often, it is ice that may be the culprit for causing small cuts to paws. Be sure to check between the toes. This seems to be where our dogs have the most trouble.

Paws heal very slowly because they are being walked on and the sore comes in contact with the surface. Small cuts can

be treated with a triple antibiotic cream. It not only prevents infection, it also softens the areas to promote quicker healing.



Indoor pets often do not have the toughened pads of a dog kept outside most of

the time. Their paws need special attention to detect any wounds early.

Constant licking by your pet can be an indication of a wound. In this case you may have to bandage the foot. If the pet continues to lick or remove the bandage you may have to acquire a "halo" collar. It looks like a funnel around their head and prevents them from licking, biting or gnawing at wounds or surgical sites.



## Tearing Eyes

The first thing many think when they see Chows with tearing eyes is Entropion, a condition where there is a slight inward turning of the eyelid. This typically causes irritation to the eye by the eyelashes; thereby, causing excessive tearing. If properly diagnosed early, a simple stitch by your vet will correct the problem for life. If left untreated until adulthood, then it may require a more invasive procedure .. The surgical removal of a small sliver of the eyelid. If never treated, it could possibly lead to blindness. Entropion can be either genetic or congenital. Albeit the Chow breed is predisposed to this condition, it may not always be the correct diagnosis.

In puppies, tearing can be caused by the natural maturation process of the tear ducts. The ducts sometimes just can't keep up with the puppy's growth rate. Tearing due to this condition is short-lived and harmless, typically changing from one eye to the other and often comes and goes.

Older dogs can have tearing from many different things. Wind can cause tearing to our pets just as in humans. If you see white or colored discharge, it is typically an ongoing infection. Very easily treated, but a trip to the vet is in order.

Allergies can also cause tearing. Allergies

in dogs are much the same as in humans. Underlying causes can be from many things. Food allergies is the most prominent, but can also be caused by environmental issues. Chows are not predisposed to allergies, but they can be just as susceptible as people. Your veterinary can prescribe remedies to treat the symptoms to make your pet more comfortable.

Long term tearing should always be checked out by your veterinary. Our pets depend on us to act on their behalf. We must be vigilant to ensure their health and welfare are always being taken care of. Best advice is when in doubt, have your pet checked by your vet.



## How "Hope" Brought Hope To A Troubled Family In Indiana

*This article was provided by one of our clientele for your reading enjoyment.*

"Nicky Bear Black" was our first Chow ... a black male. I was working out of town and he was bought to be a protector of my wife, Linda Lou. From the start, he took his job seriously! He was never a vicious Chow ... just protective of his family. Once he was told it was okay, he was fine. We got him from a local breeder. He was born on Thursday, May 7, 1987 and lost him on Friday, September 7, 1998. He was almost 11 ½ years old. He got sick on a Wednesday and died in my arms on Friday. Our veterinarian made trips to our home three times a day, treating him. His fever returned on Friday evening. I was lying in the hallway with his head in my lap when he passed away. He appeared to go easy, but left us with broken hearts!

We never knew what had caused Nicky to get so sick. Our vet felt that most likely he had acquired an unknown virus that had been transmitted to our property. He offered to perform an autopsy, but Nicky was my best friend and I couldn't do that

to him.

Our next Chow was "Natasha" ... a cream female. She was born on September 25, 1998. We got her in Kentucky and brought her to our home in Indiana on Halloween day ... no tricks ... just lots of treats! She was only 5 weeks old. We were amazed that the lady let her go so young, but we were worried that someone else might adopt her. She wanted us to come back in two weeks, but after conversing with us, she said she felt fine about letting her go ... knowing she was going to a good home.

Right from the start, Tash was a very special loving Chow. She quickly became the neighborhood dog. In fact, she was given the title of "Happy Girl" by one of our neighbors because she always appeared to have a smile on her face. From then on ... the name stuck. She genuinely loved people! Tash made 25 trips with us to the Smoky Mountains and was much more than just a pet to us. She was our big girl and very much loved by all. I had never had a dog quite like her. She was a very special member of our family.

Sadly, Natasha required 5 cancer surgeries over the last 2 ½ year period of her life. In view of her advancing age, our vet was amazed each time with her speedy recovery. He told us many times that in his 30 plus years of practicing medicine; he had never met such an outgoing Chow and told her that she was a credit to her breed. In fact, he personally became very attached to her. She definitely was one tough girl.

On January 24, 2011 we experienced a life-changing tragedy. Linda Lou and I were involved in a horrendous auto accident. My wife was evacuated via "care-flight" to a hospital in Louisville, Kentucky. She suffered several serious injuries. She remained in the hospital and rehabilitation until March. Back home, Natasha sensed that things were not right and appeared very unsettled until the day Linda Lou was able to return home. As a result of her injuries, she was bedridden for several weeks and Tash stayed close to her bedside, watching over her. It was almost like she was telling Lou that everything would be alright. Without a doubt,







## Hope's Story ... Con't



Tash had a very positive affect on Lou's ongoing recovery. Her constant vigilance gave Lou a sense of relief and aided in her rehabilitation.

Nevertheless, life sometimes throws us curves that we are not expecting. On March 21, 2011 we started our day as usual. I fed Natasha and we took our customary morning walk. I left her outside until noon and brought her back in. We played catch with the miniature marshmallow game we had played since she was a puppy. At 4:00 p.m. in the afternoon, I let her out again. She sat in the yard and appeared to be fine. I went back outside around 5:30 p.m. to check on her and she was foaming at the mouth, panting hard and her tongue was protruding. I immediately took her inside, called our vet and got a neighbor to assist me getting her into our car. I placed her head in my lap and in a minute she was gone. De je vu ... all over again ... just as with Nicky! I was devastated, but would have had it no other way. Both were so special and had provided us with so many years of great memories. They both left a hole in my soul that will never heal. They gave us both so much more than we could ever have given them.

There were lots of neighbors who came down to help me lay her to rest. She has no more pain from her arthritis or her bum front leg. In her entire life, we never heard so much as a whimper from her ... even through the many cancer surgeries. What a role model for us mere mortals! Our vet said he simply thinks her heart just gave out. Now ours is broken also! We knew well that the time was coming, but it did not make it any easier. Our home was now empty and too quiet. Where we went ... she went. She always wanted to be near us. She could not stand not knowing where we were. She was our true and devoted friend. She was 12 ½ years old.

After Nicky died, Natasha had been purchased for Linda Lou by her friends and

our family. Nicky's death had caused Linda Lou to go into a deep depression and thankfully, Tash had pulled her out. They say that "everything in life happens for a reason". I have always felt that Natasha was such a wonderful outgoing Chow because she herself was a gift of love and shared that gift with everyone she met. She definitely had been a savior for Linda Lou ... and now she was gone! With Linda Lou's extended recovery from our accident, this surely could not have come at a worse time for her. She was just starting to use a walker and was attempting to make our home alive once again. Now this!

Life must go on! We realize that the best antidote for grieving the loss of a loved one is to introduce a new family member and share new experiences and memories with this new family member.

We had contacted D & M Farm Kennel a couple years before Tash died to inquire about adopting another puppy in the future. With her recovery each time from surgery, we continued to put off getting another puppy.

However, the day after we lost Natasha, I contacted D & M Farm Kennel concerning the possibility of obtaining a red female Chow Chow puppy ... sooner than later. Amazingly, as stated before ... "everything in life happens for a reason"! Darrell informed me that he had literally just hung up the phone from an elderly client, who had just informed him that she had fell ... hurt her knee ... and would not be able to accept her red female puppy as planned. Therefore, they unexpectedly had a red female become available for adoption. Although almost all of their puppies are sold before they are born from standing waiting lists, this particular 4-week old red female puppy ... born on February 17, 2011 to Gracie & Khan was suddenly and unexpectedly available for adoption. We were ecstatic and couldn't believe what we were hearing! He asked us if we would like to adopt this puppy. I

said YES ... of course!

At first it was tough. I didn't sleep well and kept waking up in the night hearing Natasha shaking her collar. I even started to take her out at midnight once, like I had always done for her final duty call. One night I woke up at 4:00 a.m. ... wide awake. A name popped into my head ... "Hope" ... yes ... of course ... "Hope". When Lou got up I told her that the puppy's name should be "Hope", because in all the grieving and despair, there was always hope of better times and things to come. She agreed, so "Hope" she was to be; which under the circumstances seemed more than appropriate! Things have turned around for the better since we knew that our lives would soon be blessed once again with the addition of our little girl. We still grieve our losses, but soon realized how truly blessed we have been and still are! We're excited as well as all of our friends and family who have supported us throughout the years!

Well, fast forward to Sunday, April 3, 2011. We drove up to Ohio Saturday, spent the night and picked up "Hope" the next day. She was 6 weeks old. Lou was out of her wheel chair and on the verge of throwing away her assisted walker. Hope was absolutely perfect on our 3-hour drive back home. She stayed on Linda Lou's lap with few interruptions. When we got her home I took her for a combined walk and carry, so she could check out her new domain. I believe she likes what is now hers. It didn't take very long before family and friends started arriving to meet her; bringing her gift toys. She took it all in stride, like she had been expecting it. She bonded with us quickly and has proven herself to be an amazing girl. She has particularly meant so much to Lou, accompanying her to the doctor for her rehabilitation sessions.

For Hope's first week in her new home ... she hosted no less than 26 visitors ... all bearing gifts. Not an evening went by that someone didn't stop for a visit to meet



## Hope con't

our new Hope. We took her to visit a few "shut-ins" and she made their day. We took her to visit a friend who had suffered a bad stroke. Hope sat on her lap and brought a smile and a few kind words from a suffering soul. She has already touched so many lives!

Hope enjoys chasing Jake ... one of Lou's two cats. This goes fine, until she catches up with him and bites his tail. Then he heads for higher ground, but always returns for more play. However, Dryfus has been around almost 16 years and has little tolerance for a dog. About the second day, he took exception with Hope and since then they give each other a wide birth. Once in a while, Hope will find Dryfus asleep in his bed, which she will drag out from under him. Hope enjoys the play, Dryfus doesn't see the humor! Hope is now 10 months old and still growing. She fits well into her new family and is becoming more outgoing on a daily basis. We now go for extended walks. Our vet told Hope that she has some big

shoes to fill and reminded her how lucky she is to have Jerry and Linda Lou as her parents. I told the doctor that we are the lucky ones and it is us who have been truly blessed. As far as filling shoes ... she will make her own ... which cannot be filled by another. Each has been and will be loved equally! In hindsight, it is utterly amazing how it seems that most everything does indeed appear to happen for a reason in life. Most of the time, we don't understand, appreciate nor recognize this miraculous phenomenon. The fact that we had actually contacted D & M Farm Kennel about two years prior to Natasha's death, inquiring about the possibility of adopting another puppy, facing what we knew would be the inevitable loss lying ahead. The fact that they unexpectedly had a 4-week old red female puppy become available minutes prior to my phone call is nothing short of a miracle. All is well that ends well. I'm told that the elderly lady that had the accident has fully recovered and has since adopted another red female from a subsequent litter. The lasting thought for our story is one made

famous by the deceased college basketball coach from North Carolina State, Jimmy Valvano who was dying of cancer. Don't give up ... don't ever give up! One should never ... ever ... give up hope. As you can see ... "Hope" is always out there for the taking ... and she indeed has given so much hope to a family that once thought there might not be any hope ... nor "Hope" out there! Thank you D & M Farm Kennel for helping our family begin a new life with new experiences and memories with another beautiful companion of the Chow Chow breed ... Hope.



## Captain Jaxson in Ohio



Captain Jaxson is a beautiful boy. This fact is confirmed by his veterinary, who claims he is quite possibly the most perfect dog he has ever examined!

His family says they can't imagine their house without him. We're guessing that Captain Jaxson is another successful ambassador for the Chow breed!

He is a puppy from Pandy & Frosty.

Oh ... if we could only keep all of our kennel dogs as beautifully groomed as the captain!

Isn't he an absolutely stunning example of a cuddly live teddy bear?



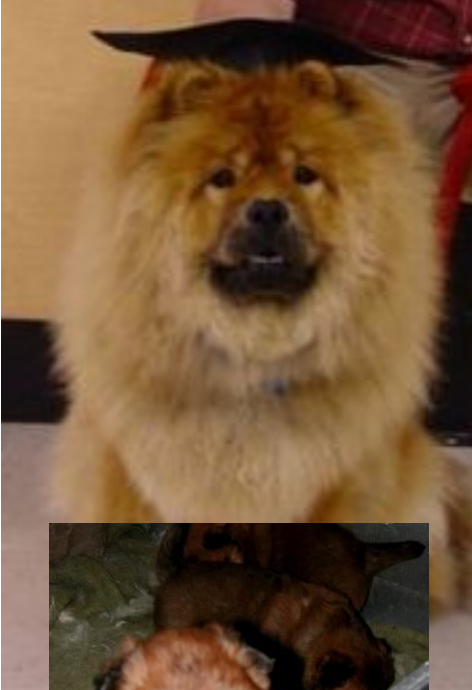






















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**Quality Chows with Exceptional  
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## Farm Happenings

Well, we are enjoying the last few breaths of 2011. Where does the time go so fast? We have done as much as we can in preparation for the winter and everyone is in good health. We currently have five litters in our kennel with another on the way.

Dixie surprised us with a litter of ten puppies. Not to show any favoritism, she had five black puppies and five cream puppies. Unfortunately two of her puppies crawled under the divider between two kennels and got in with another female who hasn't had her puppies yet. She killed both puppies. We were very sad over this. We have never had this happen before. It is a horrible part of Mother Nature's world that we don't have the ability to understand. Had the female already had her puppies she probably would have just accepted them into the litter. But, she is preparing for her puppies and won't allow any other animal into her "nest".

It is very hard for us to accept losing any

puppies let alone two very healthy puppies.

On a brighter note, we are preparing for two of our kids and five of our grandchildren to be with us after Christmas. We are looking forward to having them with us for a short visit. We Skype with our daughter and her family in Germany on a regular basis, so we also get to see how those grandkids are growing. But it's not the same as being there and holding them. Especially our youngest grandson who will be two in April.

We typically have some electrical emergency during the winter ... a faulty outlet ... causing the electrically heated buckets to freeze, etc. And it normally happens at the most inopportune time.. Fortunately we have a good friend who is also our electrician. He usually can come right out if we have an emergency. He came out recently to check a couple of our outlets so we should be in good shape. Hopefully this winter we won't need his services.



Darrell had two beautiful archways installed. Above is to our Memory Garden where some of our dogs are buried. Below is over the driveway gate leading into our barnyard. Darrell continues to come up with ideas to make our already beautiful farm even more special. We hope you can plan a visit soon.

