



D & M FARM KENNEL

DECEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

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Merry Christmas!

We are so thankful for yet another year filled with blessings. Sadly, our kennel suffered some tragedies this year but, that makes the blessings all the more special. Sometimes we lose sight of the many blessings bestowed upon us when bad things occur.

One of the blessings this past year was the unexpected response to the new Facebook group, "*I Love My D&M Chow Chow*". There has been such a great response and we love seeing all our babies and socializing with our extended Chow family! It has turned into a great support group as well. If you haven't visited the site, we encourage you to do so! We think you will love it as much as we do. And, you may be able to see siblings of your Chow.

In the months of November & December were blessed with 3

healthy litters. We expected 3 more, but they haven't happened . . . yet! We're still keeping our fingers crossed.

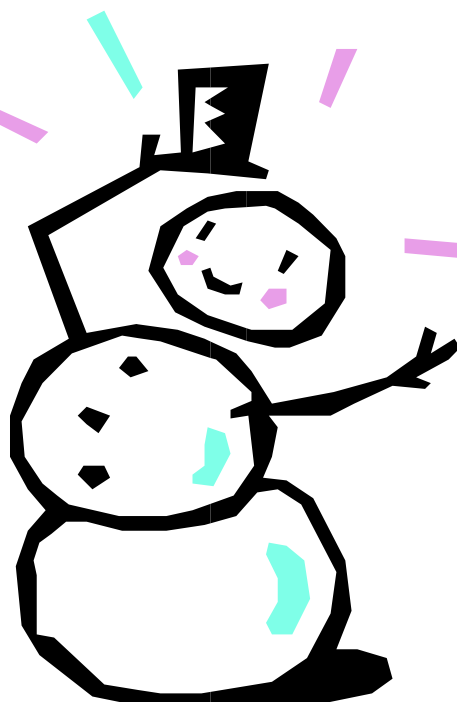
Thankfully, our milk cow,

Heidi, is pregnant! She will be having her calf this coming summer. We are very excited about that. We just purchased her this past June and she has turned out to be a phenomenal cow. Very gentle and gives us great milk and butter!

We currently have 2 goats in the barn awaiting delivery of their 'kids'. Lucy lost her twins last year to the cold, so we are praying for a better outcome this year.

We have kept 3 red female Chow puppies to add to our breeding program. Some of our girls will soon be retiring.

We have developed some really special friendships with our Chow clientele. I guess it falls in the category of "Birds of a feather . . ." or should it be "Dogs of the same fur travel together." Whatever it is, we love it! Again, we feel so blessed! Thank you all for your prayers & support!



Special points of interest:

- *Contaminated Treats*
- *Dog Foods*



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Sophie in Michigan

Here are a couple recent photos of our beautiful Sophie. She loves being outdoors and is great at squirrel patrol duty. We love her and she's a great companion! She weighs over 50 pounds now and seems to be going through another

growth spurt. We thank you for Sophie & we wish you a Merry Christmas!

Sophie was a puppy from Bella & Kaiser!





Contaminated Treats

Contaminated treats continue to be an issue in the news and should definitely be on your radar! Tainted treats are causing health problems and in some cases even death. When the dog survives, it is often left with auto-immune deficiencies. In other cases the dog continues to suffer from ongoing seizures.

The majority of tainted treats appear to always contain ingredients that have been imported from China. Chicken jerky is one of the biggest culprits.

If you are going to buy ready-made treats, it is imperative that you **READ THE LABEL**

carefully! It must list all ingredients, and originating source. You should ensure all ingredients and packaging originated in either the USA or Canada. Sometimes it might say manufactured or packaged in the USA, but leaves it open as to where the ingredients came from or

where it was actually made.



Regardless, if you want to be really safe ... prepare your own treats. There are hordes of recipes on the Internet for dog treats and they are not hard to prepare.

Choosing your own ingredients puts you in charge! You can prepare large batches and freeze some so you will have them later. We will be posting some recipes in our next newsletter. We prefer to try them out first to give you firsthand information as to whether the dogs will eat them and if they are easily prepared.

This guarantees the safety of your Chow!

Peter Panda Bear & Tinker Bella Bear in Virginia

I wanted to take a few moments to send you an email to wish you both a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2015!

Wanted to tell you how well Peter Panda Bear and Tinker Bella Bear are doing. They are such beautiful Chows, not only in appearance, but also in temperament! They are my "fur-kids" and are hopelessly spoiled! Panda Bear has surpassed Bella Bear's weight already. He is about 75 pounds now, and Bella is 65

pounds. I knew when I picked him up from the airport and he weighed twice as much as Bella did at his age, that he would be a BIG boy.

I love them both immensely. Thank you for breeding such wonderful Chow Chows!

Peter Panda Bear was a puppy from Lila & Frosty and Tinker Bella Bear is from Pixie & Simba.



Diva in Kentucky

Good morning! The kids and I are just sitting with the dogs and discussing how Diva the "Wonder Chow" is the "glue that holds the other two crazy mutts together."

We have an additional pup in the house now, our son's Sheltie...what a nut. But, she keeps the others young.

If every dog was as well adjusted and sound as Diva, we could have ten! We

thank you for doing what you do!

Diva was a puppy from Raven & Teddy.





Ginger & Sassy in Idaho

Greetings from Idaho! We hope that you and your family have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2015.

Sassy and Ginger are both doing very well.. Sassy will soon be 8 years old and Ginger is right behind her.

Neither have had too many health issues so far. Thank God! Sassy broke a tooth and Ginger did the same thing a month later ... same side of mouth and same tooth. Ginger had a minor bladder infection, but we got that corrected. No idea how that occurred, but the vet was all over it.

They continue to be best friends. Very loyal to Marion and I, great with our grand kids, and provide a ton of unconditional love and affection toward us.



Ginger is from Sheba & Kaiser and Sassy is from Misty & Sampson.

Misty and Sheba were sisters and live together today in a home in Pennsylvania.

What is the Best Dog Food?

We all want to feed our pets food that will be best for their overall health. However, honestly ... which one is it? There are so many food products on the market and they all claim the same thing.

Even asking your veterinary isn't always helpful, especially if they also sell a brand of dog food. Of course, they are going to recommend their product! The logical solution might be for you to take the label in for your veterinary to evaluate. The problem with this can be that your veterinary really hasn't studied the nutrition of canines in particular and especially not for a specific breed. Great! Now what? There are basic analyses coming from research that you can easily find on the Internet. Meat should be the first ingredient. But, which is best? Fish? Chicken? Lamb? Beef? Wild game? I would submit that a variety is the best. Just as we humans do best when consuming a variety of food, there are beneficial nutrients that each has to offer.

Vegetables are the next factor. No, dogs don't typically eat vegetables right from the garden, but in the wild, they eat game

"Nutrition will determine how healthy your dog is and their longevity."

that still has the vegetables in their gut which is consumed. They are important. And, just as in humans, the darker or richer the color, the greater nutritional value. Sweet potatoes are something our dogs enjoy and added

to their food is very good for them. Green beans, peas, red beets, etc. are all vegetables having great nutritional value.

All manufactured dog foods contain a filler in them. It can be a variety of grain; corn or wheat. There are studies that suggest wheat in a dog's diet is not a good thing. Some wheat is okay but when it is consumed everyday, it can have adverse effects on dogs. So, rice is the preferred filler. It seems dogs can digest it easily and there does not appear to be any adverse affects noted. There are many good dog foods out there. Just be an educated consumer. Some have too much filler and should be avoided, The dog doesn't gain anything from it and it passes straight through their body. These are typically the lower prices, and/or off-brand dog foods. There are many that are very expensive and you would think they

should be best. However, that is not always true! Reading the labels and using common sense is your best bet. Some dogs do best when fed the same thing all the time. You can add variety by giving them treats with sweet potatoes, blue berries, etc. These will provide additional antioxidants to their diet. Some do fine changing the meat variety but staying with the same brand. These are our "Chowdren". We need to pay special attention to what is best for them and not what is easiest for us.

Having a pet is a commitment. They did not ask to come to our home. By taking them home with us, we have promised them that we will take the best care possible for them. Nutrition is a primary factor in how healthy your dog is and directly affects their longevity.

We all know how painful it is to lose a beloved pet. Do your best to stave off that time by providing the best nutrition possible for your Chow family member. Remember, a healthy dog is a happy dog!



A Christmas Story of a Boy & his Puppy



we were picking up a puppy. Maleah played the part so well. After discussing that D&M had puppies, she invited him to go see the puppies like always.

While he was petting them through the cage and wishing for one, she asked him if he would like to hold a puppy. His face immediately lit up when she handed him that little girl.

He said, "I sure wish I could have her". Maleah said, "the one he was holding, was a truly special Christmas puppy and was going to be picked up that very night".

He hugged her tight and started to give her back. Well, of course by then, my husband & I were tearing up and my husband said, "she IS a Christmas puppy, and she is yours!" Nick was speechless!

Sasha couldn't be a better dog and a kid couldn't love a dog more! Thank you, Darrell & Maleah. You will always be a part of our happy Christmas memories!



Looking at all the beautiful Chow Chows posted on the new Facebook group "**I Love My D&M Chow Chow**" site, it's hard to believe it's been 3 years since we surprised our son with his puppy Sasha. She was a puppy born to Yogi Bear & Khan's Panda Bear "Pandy" on 11-11-11.

Our 17 year-old Blue female Chow had passed away the year before and my son missed her so much. Darrell & Maleah put up with us for over a year of correspondence, visits, questions and indecision on color and gender. And, they played the part of an awesome Santa Claus in the end ... when we lied to our son about going to see Christmas lights, but instead stopped at **D&M Farm Kennel** for a little surprise visit. He had no idea



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"The goal of D & M Farm Kennel is to

breed quality Chow Chows

with exceptional temperament.

We want all of our puppies to be good

ambassadors for the breed"

" Quality Chows With Exceptional Temperament "

D & M Farm Happenings — December 2014

Here we are again at the end of another year! Where did it go? Just yesterday I was looking forward to the warm days of spring and here we are heading into another winter. Well, I guess that comes with living in a place where the seasons change. With all my complaining I can honestly say I would miss the changes if we moved to a warmer climate. I think the cold months of winter make me appreciate the spring, summer, and fall weather that much more. Darrell made sure we have plenty of firewood and our soapstone stove goes non-stop during the cold months. December has really been mild but January and February always prove to be our coldest months.

Darrell and I are planning a trip in February and plan to invade some homes of our Chow owners. Look out here we come! We have to wait until February because we have puppy pickups in January.

We currently have a bull calf on loan from an Amish friend of ours. Having a calf to nurse our cow Heidi allows me to milk when I want rather than having to milk

twice a day. With only Darrell and I we would be swimming in milk! We help the Amish farmer by raising his calf on good milk so we both benefit. We will take the calf back in January as he will be getting too big to nurse and pick up another young calf that is less than a month old. It's fun having the babies and Heidi has turned out to be a phenomenal mom. She takes in a new calf without any hesitation whatsoever. This isn't always the case with a cow but I think she enjoys being a mama. She will be having her own calf in July 2015. We are looking forward to raising our first calf from our own cow.

We are still awaiting the delivery of our two Nubian goats' babies. Not sure exactly when they are due but by the looks of things it will be soon.

We are staying busy with inside projects. Our finished basement flooded last spring so we are still trying to get everything put back together down there. It is also a good time for Maleah to do her sewing projects.

We are already counting the days until spring. Nothing like wishing your life away but we do look forward to everything coming back to life.

