

D &amp; M Farm Kennel

# February Newsletter

## Congenital vs Genetic

### Special points of interest:

- Congenital versus Genetic
- Breed Specific
- Gearing up for Warm Weather

Many of us do not have a good understanding of the difference between congenital defects and genetic defects. So, we asked our veterinarian Dr. Pumpelli for some clarification. He is one of the four veterinarians we use for our kennel. The following is what he told us.

Congenital is a defect that begins in the womb. It can have many causes such as infection, injury to the mother, lack of nutrition, etc. Most origins of congenital defects cannot be diagnosed definitively. Veterinarians can speculate and give a best-guess based on the history of the mother's pregnancy .

Genetic defects, however, are

those defects passed from the parental bloodlines; i.e. parents, grandparents, etc. Veterinarians know which defects are attributable to genetics and which are considered congenital.

For breeders of any species, this information is critical in the decision process of breeding one animal with another. A good breeder tries to always minimize the chance of any defects. This is done by making sure their animals do not have any known genetic defects and by providing the best care and nutrition available.

We are always looking for ways to improve our kennel operation to ensure we have the healthy dogs.



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## Sasha in Ohio

Sasha has become a big part of her



Sasha and her family.

family and has them wrapped around her paw!

Sasha is a puppy from Teddy and Pandy.



But, I don't want to share.



It's not funny!

## I Read Somewhere . . . ???

We often receive questions about information that we provide that does not always concur with information AKC or others put out. Most information that you read on the internet, or obtain from veterinarians is not breed specific. It is generic and may be applied to most dogs. But there are many things we have found, which apply more specifically to Chows.

For example, AKC and most pet food companies recommend feeding your dog four times a day. However, we recommend that you provide dry dog food for your Chow at all times . . . 24/7. Chows do not overeat dry food like many other breeds. But, if allowed to become hungry on a regular basis, you risk them becoming aggressive around their food. Chow puppies may eat 12 to 15 times a day. They tire quickly from chewing, so they

eat in spurts. To force them to gorge themselves by only providing food four times a day could be potentially harmful to them in the long term. We acknowledge that some breeds that typically overeat and gain weight need to have their food intake regulated.

We wean our puppies at five weeks. This works well for the puppies who are eating puppy food and for the mother who is beginning to lose weight due to the puppies. Smaller breeds must stay with their mother longer. We also let our puppies go at six weeks. This also works well with Chows but wouldn't with some other breeds.

We recommend that Chow puppies be given Puppy Chow until they reach two years of age. This is because they do not fully mature until they are around 20 months.

Larger breeds may take even longer to mature. So, how long they should stay on puppy chow should be dictated by their maturity rate.

Veterinarians offer to give rabies vaccines between four and six months of age. We recommend that you wait until the puppy is a year old. All vaccines overload the immune system, so it will produce antibodies and therefore, immunity. It is quite a shock to a puppy's system. There is currently a lot of controversy concerning rabies vaccines and their long term affect. Waiting until the puppy is more physically mature will help their body to handle the vaccine better.

The information we put in our newsletters and information sheets is gained through our research and discussions with our veterinarians. We are always open for input from

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*“Information we provide is breed specific.”*

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## Romeo in Ohio

Romeo lives only a few miles from our farm. He has thirteen acres to roam and roam he does. He loves to scare up a rabbit or spot a deer. He stays home with his mom and protects the place while dad is away on business.

Romeo is a loyal companion and lives up to his name. He is a real charmer.

He is from a litter of Khan and Rosy.



## Moses in Ohio

Moses is growing fast and has settled in with his new family. He loves to put his paws in his water dish and have a splash. He also prefers to sleep where he can hear water running; i.e., in front of the dishwasher or wash-

ing machine. He does seem to love water! His two animal companions are now eating in other rooms so there is no competition over the food. Otherwise, everyone gets along great.

Moses is a puppy from Raven and Leo.



## Gearing up for Warm Weather

As we head into the warmer months there are some things that should be done to protect your pet.

Check all food containers for mold. Often during the cold months, moisture gets into food containers and mold forms. Thoroughly clean all food and water containers with warm soapy water. Vinegar will remove any sediment in water bowls.

Dog houses should be cleaned. A good vacuuming and scrub-

bing if possible will provide a fresh environment for your pet. All bedding should be cleaned or replaced whether it is inside or out.

Check the yard for any debris from the winter months. Sharp sticks or objects may cause cuts to the paw pads and can be very painful.

Keep up the grooming so you can stay ahead of the loss of undercoat. Chows lose their winter undercoat in the Spring and a new summer undercoat

comes in. The old undercoat will come out in large clumps. Daily grooming will aid in the removal and promote healthy skin.

Check your dogs teeth and gums to ensure they are healthy. If tartar is a problem give your pet some chew bones. This will health their teeth to become clean and white.

This is also a good time for the annual checkup at the vet.



## Max in Ohio

Max lives in northern Ohio with his new family. He is already growing into a big boy, but here is a picture of him at Christmas with his new parents. If that isn't the original teddy bear I don't know what one looks like!

It is reported that he is sweet, friendly, smart, and a good guard dog. He is in puppy obedience class. The instructor isn't a

Chow fan, but even she had to admit what a nice puppy he is. Good job Max!

Max is a puppy from Teddy and Pandy.



## TJ in New Jersey

TJ has happily settled in with his new family in New Jersey. This newest Jersey Boy loves playing in the snow. He has quickly become a big part of the family. When out and about he draws oohs and ahhs from everyone. What a handsome boy!

TJ is a puppy from Ginger and Khan.



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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 of the breed”*

Quality Chows with Exceptional Temperament

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

## Travels with Macee



Macee lives with her family in Kentucky. But, this summer she got to travel out west. One spot she especially liked was the Grand Canyon. She is a good traveler and loves to go to new places.

Macee is a puppy from Kaiser and Ebony.

