

D & M Farm Kennel

February 2011 Newsletter

Ageing Pets

Special points of interest:

- Getting Ready for Bugs
- Anesthesia
- Farm Happenings

Special consideration is often in order when you have an aging pet. You need to begin paying attention to their health on a regular basis. Look for signs of difficulty getting around, weight loss, hearing, loss, etc.

We often get too comfortable around our pets and miss signs of problems, unless something comes on quickly. Issues associated with age often progresses gradually. You have to look for signs, especially with a Chow.

Chows are very stoic and often will show no signs of pain until it is very advanced. Their tolerance for pain is amazing. With this special breed it is extremely important to be attune to how they are getting around and all other nuances of behavior.

Aging often brings on arthritis. There are several things you can do to minimize discomfort. In mild cases adding glucosamine and chondroitin supplements can ease the pain in the joints by increasing lubrication. In more advanced arthritis it may be

necessary to add a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID). One that I have found that works very well with Chows is Duramaxx. It does not upset their stomach and works very well to decrease discomfort.

Lose of weight is often missed because of the Chows thick coat. You should physically check their body mass on a regular basis. If you can feel hip bones or backbone, chances are they have lost weight. If you do this exam regularly you will be able to detect weight loss quickly. A veterinary checkup is in order if weight loss is detected. If all is okay you can put your dog on puppy chow which is high in calories to increase weight. You want to monitor the weight closely. Too much weight is as big a health problem as not enough weight. Loss of weight is often coupled with loss of muscle mass. This is hard on the joints because of the loss of support. Too much weight is also hard on the joints.

Hearing loss and decreased sight is often

coupled with advanced age. There isn't much you can do if this is due to aging but being aware will allow you to make environmental changes to better accommodate you pet.

The lifespan of a Chow is averaged at 12 - 14 years of age. We often hear from people who have Chows that are 15 - 16 years old. Either way, once your Chow reaches the age of 11 or so you should begin closely monitoring their health to detect any changes.

In the latter days of a Chows life you may be faced with the decision of euthanizing your beloved pet. This is one of the hardest decisions to be made and never an easy one. The pet's quality of life has to be the guide. Suffering is not an option to preclude you from having to make the decision. The pet cannot make this decision for themselves. When this decision is made, go with your pet. If you think it is hard for you imagine how your pet feels to be left with strangers during their final moments on this earth.



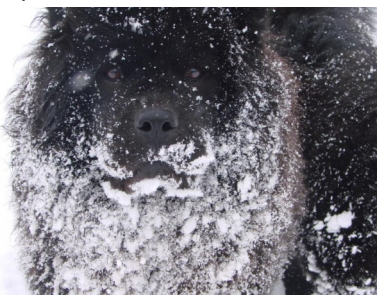
Inside this issue:

Chewy	2
Getting Ready for Bugs	2
Zeus	2
Java & Biscuit	3
New Mama	3
Anesthesia	3
Farm Happenings	4

D & M Farm Kennel

Chewy in Indiana

Chewy has grown into a beautiful girl. At nine months she already tips the scales at 60 lbs.



She especially likes to play in the

snow.

Her family was recently expanded with a rescue Chow named Mushu. They have become fast friends and love each other to pieces.

Chewy is a

puppy from Buhda and Mercedes.



Getting Ready for the Bugs!

"Prevention is the key to bug or worm infestation."

For those of us who live in cold climates it is time to start thinking about the buggy season. What do we need to do to protect our pets?

Obviously heartworm is a major concern when the mosquitoes come out to play. So, it is important to start you pet on heartworm medication about a month prior to mosquito season.

Fleas are another of those pesky critters we must contend with.

We do not recommend those flea prevention medications that are applied to the skin and are absorbed into the fat layer. When the fat is burned that chemical must flush through the liver. Not a good thing! Instead, just watch and treat when needed. Chows typically do not get fleas unless left in a heavily infested area. If they do get fleas, go to your vet and they will administer a pill called Capstar. It will kill all fleas and it only stays in the system for

24 hours. It is the safest way to treat for fleas. You can also follow up with organic flea dip.

This is also a good time of year to worm you animals. We usually worm our dogs twice a year. That is all adult dogs typically require to keep them parasite free.

An ounce of prevention is always worth a pound of cure. Stay ahead of those bugs!

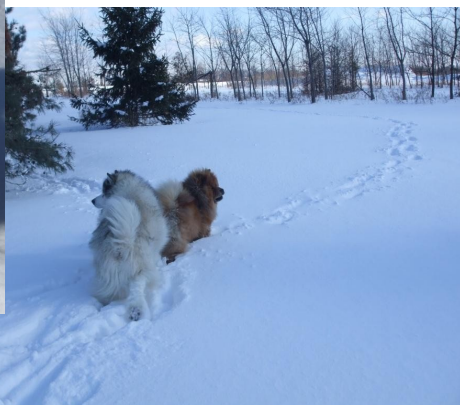
Zeus in Ontario

Zeus is having a blast in the snows of Ontario. He and his buddy love playing in the white stuff!



Did you bring my sunglasses?

Zeus is a puppy from Sampson & Rosy.



Volume 3, Issue 2

Java & Biscuit in Ohio

Java (black) and Biscuit (cream) are best friends. They both love the snow and also love to romp and play. They are reported to be

the joy of the household.

Java is from Yogi and Raven. Biscuit is a puppy from Hagrid and Onyx.



New Mama

Shadow is one of our new blue females. She just blessed us with a litter of six puppies on February 26. This is her first litter and she has proven to be an excellent mother. All the puppies are healthy and are currently fat little sausages. Here is a picture of the proud mama and her babies.



Anesthesia

I have written before about how sensitive Chows are to anesthesia. But, it bears repeating.

Anytime a Chow must be anesthetized there is a higher risk than most other breeds. If a veterinary administers the same amount of anesthesia he would for another dog of the same weight the Chow may not be able to come out of it.

Be sure your veterinary is aware of the Chow breed's sensitivity to anesthesia if your Chow must undergo a surgical procedure.

The veterinary and his staff must watch the vital signs carefully to make sure your Chow is still doing well. We have repeated horror stories related to us by Chow owners who have lost their Chow because they didn't come out of the anesthesia.

Veterinarians treat all breeds and it is very difficult for them to remember and/or know all the difficulties with all breeds. As a dog owner it is your place to discuss this with your veterinary and ensure he is aware of this with Chows.

It is always best to be safe than sorry and, if your veterinary wasn't aware, he will thank you for it!

D & M Farm Kennel

Primary Business Address
617 W. Dayton-Yellow Springs Rd.
Fairborn, OH 45324

Phone: 937-767-7075
Cell: 937-369-8425
Email: dnmfarm@aol.com

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.dmfarm.com

Farm Happenings

We continue to have winter and boy has it been a long one. Lots of snow and ice for us. One ice storm took several limbs down so Darrell had lots of debris to clean up.

It never ceases to amaze me how well the animals do outside during the winter. Except for our old Quarter Horse whom I have to blanket, everyone has nice thick coats and appears to enjoy the winter. I do not!

Darrell and I took a trip to Florida to visit friends and had Your puppy will arrive a brief respite from the cold. I'm not sure if it made it better or worse. We left snow and ice and returned to the same.

We are definitely ready for spring weather!

It is time to start bringing everyone in for their spring grooming. We do thorough grooming twice a year on all the outside dogs. Between times they receive touchups and checks for matting. Some of them truly enjoy the attention and the one on one time they get. Others won't have anything to do with me for a few days after a grooming. They seem to think it is some type of punishment instead of a good thing! Goliath, our oldest Chow, runs if he sees a brush. He seems to sense when I plan to groom him. He usually comes right up to me to get his ears scratched. But, if

he thinks I plan to groom him the game of "catch me if you can" is on! Treats and bribes don't work with him. He is almost 13 years old and has never enjoyed being groomed. He tolerates it once I have him on the table. But, once he gets the signal that I'm finished he is out the door in a flash. At his age you wouldn't think he could move so fast!

Angel on the other hand dearly loves to be groomed. She absolutely prances once she is done, showing off for anyone who wants to see.

It's a lot of work but a peaceful time spent with each of them. A bounding experience even if Goli-