

February 2012

**Special points of interest:**

- One Chow or Two?
- Fly Season
- How Old is Too Old?
- Going Home

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# D & M Farm Kennel

## February 2012 Newsletter

**The Importance of Socializing Chows**

Socialization is key to having a great Chow pet. Chows are shy by nature. Left to their own devices, they can develop into a wary and stand-offish animal. This is what happened in the late '70s and early '80s. People bought these beautiful animals as guard dogs. Socially neglected, they were basically tied up and left alone. Never kept as a cherished pet. Many became fear biters and gained the reputation as a vicious dog.

This was a very sad time for the Chow breed and they continue to carry the stereotyped label by many who only may have only limited knowledge of the breed.

Chows are also known as the felines of the canine species. We

don't feel this is a negative. Besides being very clean, they also can be aloof. To us, this means that they are not over socially needy animals. They don't have to be on your lap or in your face. They are quite content to be near you, very undemanding.

We begin the socialization of our puppies from the day they are born. We refer to this as imprinting. Their mothers play a very important role. They allow us to handle the puppies without becoming upset. The puppies take their queues from mom. If she gets upset, they know to be wary. If mom willingly allows us handle her puppies, they never develop a fear of humans.

This socialization must continue

once they are in their new homes. Exposing them to lots of people of all ages, other dogs and animals, taking them to new places, all contribute to a well adjusted dog. Puppies, just like small children, are clay to be molded. This is the time to get them used to changing faces and places.

Chows are also inherently protective of their family. They will never lose this trait, regardless how friendly they appear to other people. If they sense danger or they sense that you are worried or concerned they will automatically go into a protective mode. Socialization will never take this innate characteristic from your Chow.

What a unique and wonderful

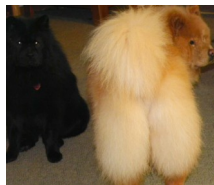
**Java & Biscuit in Ohio**

Java and Biscuit are great friends and are the love of their family.

Both have taken puppy classes. Java did very well, passing all except "Stay". Just couldn't

stand mom getting too far away in an environment with so many. Biscuit is currently going through the classes and is much more

independent. She loves to try new things. Even going



through the tunnel and doing the serpentines were easily mastered.

Biscuit is from Onyx & Hagrid and Java is from Raven & Yogi.



*"Dogs are social so make sure your dog gets plenty of interaction with people and/or with other pets."*

## Kia in West Virginia



She is a delight and loved by all.

Kia is a puppy from Izzie & Hagrid.

Here are some pictures of Kia after her first week at home. She has discovered snow, rain, mud and sunshine...seems to enjoy it all. (even the bath after the mud!)



I didn't know you were going to CLOSE the door!

## Should we get one Chow puppy or two?

We often get questioned as to whether it is okay to raise a single Chow, or is it better to have a second Chow as a companion for when they are left alone? There are several things to consider.

Although Chows often get along well as the sole pet in a home, their mental health should also be taken into consideration. Are you gone all day and they are at home by themselves? Dogs get lonely just like people. We feel it is best to have another animal to provide companionship to your Chow if

you are gone everyday for many hours. Another Chow, a cat, or another dog can provide that healthy companionship.

If people are in and out of the house all day ... Chows do fine as the only animal in the home.

If your circumstances do not permit more than one pet ... there are other ways of providing companionship for your Chow. Leave a radio or television on while you're gone. Animal Planet often will catch their attention with animals on their programs. Pro-

vide toys for them to play with to amuse themselves. If they can be outside while you are gone ... birds, squirrels, and people passing by can provide distractions. It is important for Chows to stay mentally active as well as physically.

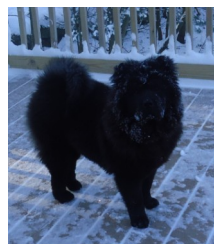
Set aside time with your pet as a priority. Going for walks or rides in the car provide necessary stimulation that is good for them.

Remember, dogs have feelings also ... don't forget them.!

## Chloe in Massachusetts

Chloe loves the snow! She is growing by leaps and bounds. At four months she already weighs 30 lbs. She's going to be a big girl!

Chloe loves to learn tricks and play. She knows sit, down, and stay. She also fetches the ball, brings it back, and puts in her



owners hand. Pretty smart little cookie!

Chloe is a puppy from Pixie & Khan.



Chloe and Sidney

## Be alert and prepared ... fly season is approaching !

In just a few weeks fly season will be here once again. They can be a real nemesis for long-haired dogs.

Flies bite and they lay eggs. Ears and noses are fair game for flies. If your dog is going to spend several hours a day outside, apply some type of repellent to their ears and to the top of their nose. You can find these at your local pet store or your veterinarian's office. The repellents usually come in salve or gel form. If you have more than one dog they typically

will clean the repellent off of each other. Multiple applications are often required.

All dogs, but especially older dogs can be susceptible to having the flies lay their eggs in small cuts, abrasions or around their rectum. This can quickly become deadly. Check your dogs skin regularly. Keep the hair trimmed from around the rectum. If you see any indication of fly larvae, take your pet to the veterinary immediately. If the larvae internalize ... your pet

may die. We personally had this happen to one of our older dogs. We did not catch it in time and it proved fatal. Although we regularly check our dogs, we missed the signs. We now know what to look for and are much more diligent in checking our dogs during the fly season. Chows are so stoic when they are in pain and they can't tell us that something is wrong until it has progressed to severity. Our diligence is required to safeguard their health.



## How old is too old to adopt a puppy?

We have had some clients ask us if they are too old to get a puppy. There is always a worry that we'll pass before our pet and afraid of what will happen to our beloved companion.

Having a pet has been scientifically proven to enhance one's health and life. They keep us active and involved. So, if you feel you can take care of a pet ... then go for it! There are several things you can do to plan for the time where you may have to leave your pet behind.

Family members or friends are the first place to look. Is there anyone

who would be willing to provide a home for your pet if necessary?

Talk to your breeder to see if they are willing to take the dog back if necessary and possibly rehome. Talk to rescue groups who would find a suitable home.

The success of placing your pet in a new home is up to you. Socialization is key. If your pet is not well socialized the transition can be difficult if not impossible. It will be very stressful for your pet. If they accept other people easily they can be helped through the transition with less stress.

Another option is to adopt an older pet. Breeders often have older dogs that are no longer being used in their breeding program. We prefer to place our dogs into loving homes to become someone's loved pet. Females are only bred to 7 yrs. of age so they still have many years to be a pet. Males are used until the age of 12.

We had one client who was 96 years old! Her son lives with her and plans to keep the dog once his mom is gone. Consider your options. Where there's a will there's a way!

*"As we age, there are always ways for us to continue to have a pet to keep us company and enhance our life."*

## Minka in Ohio

Minka just went to her new home recently. She had big paws to fill since the family had lost their beloved Daisy. Minka is up to the task though. She has already stolen their hearts and fit right in

as the new family member.

Minka is a puppy from Dixie and Khan.





# Going Home



## D & M FARM KENNEL

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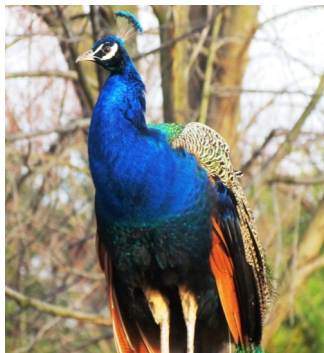
*"The goal of D & M Farm Kennel is to  
breed*

*the highest quality Chow Chows*

*with exceptional temperament.*

*We want all of our puppies to be good  
ambassadors of the breed"*

## Farm Happenings



Wow! Has this been a crazy winter. It has been so mild. A little scary and we're still waiting for a stretch of horrible weather. The closer we get to spring the less likely we are to get really bad weather. We are actually loving this weather. We have been able to continue getting things done outside and haven't suffered from cabin fever like we usually do.

All the animals have fared well so far. Our pony, Princess, is having some health issues. Her thyroid levels are low and liver enzymes are high. We have her on supplements to address the issues. It

will be several months before we know if it is going to correct itself. She is still in good humor although she is moving rather slow.

Our Quarter Horse, Rowdy, was diagnosed with ulcers last fall. He has been on medication and Metamucil for horses. He now has his weight back and is feeling much better.

We had a new well put in to make watering the dogs and other farm animals easier. That was quite an endeavor. The drilling hit a fracture at one point and threatened to drain all the water from the

surrounding area to include the well we have for the house. Fortunately, the well driller was able to plug the fracture and prevent any more water from being drained.

China and Bella had their puppies in January and Shadow just had her puppies on Feb 17.

Onyx, Pixie and Rosy are in the maternity ward. Onyx, already a big girl and forever a puppy at heart, is as broad as a house. So is Picie! Rosy isn't quite as far along.

Still looking forward to spring which is just around the corner!