

D & M Farm Kennel February 2014 Newsletter



Happy Valentine's Day

Special points of interest:

- Visiting the Vet
- Hip Dysplasia
- Chow Health

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Visiting The Veterinary Clinic

Visiting the Vet Clinic is like going to the emergency room at the hospital. You never know what you may encounter.

Many clients will be there with their sick pets. Something you don't want your pet coming in contact with. There are some things you can do to safeguard your pet during these visits.

Don't take your pet into the Waiting Room. Leave them in the car. When you are called, go get your pet and take them directly to the Exam Room. When finished, take them back to your car. Minimize the time they have to come in contact with other sick animals, and inquisitive clients, to include children.

The designated Dog Walk Area at the Vet Clinic is definitely off limits! Sick animals have been there. Many of

the diseases are passed through the feces and can live in the ground up to three years, even in cold climates. Parasites are transmitted this way as well, and it only takes your dog stepping where an infected dog has been, then licking their paws.

Puppies and old dogs are the most susceptible to these dangers. Their immune system doesn't have the defenses that a healthy, adult dog has.

When you enter the Exam Room, don't be shy and bashful, but rather assertive. Ask them to clean the table in front of you. This is their normal protocol, but they are human and cleaning the table could have been forgotten. You want to make sure nothing from the previous patient is left behind.

If you don't feel comfortable asking, bring along Clorox

wipes to clean the table yourself. Or, bring a towel and put your animal on the towel to put a barrier between it and the table.

A little vigilance on your part could save you money and potential heartache, while protecting your pet.



D & M Farm Kennel Monthly Newsletter Inputs

We love to feature stories of Chows in our newsletters. Especially, those from our kennel. It gives others a chance to see the sibling of their dog. It also allows new clients to see what our puppies look like as adults.

We appreciate all of you who have submitted pictures and stories. If you haven't seen something you submitted, send

us a reminder. We don't intentionally exclude any of those we receive, but we definitely may overlook one.

Everyone loves to see Chow puppies, so pictures of the new family member is always a big hit. The adult Chows are equally appreciated by those who follow our newsletters.

Find an interesting article con-

cerning the Chow breed, send us a copy! We'll share it with our readers!

Please feel free to submit content as often as you wish. It helps to make our newsletters that much better!

From us to you ... we thank you!

What exactly is Hip Dysplasia?

All large-boned canines are susceptible to Hip Dysplasia. Chows are no exception.

Quite simply, it is when the hip joint does not fully form and allows too much movement. If the hip joint is

only occasional episodes of limping. These cases may not require any intervention, but rather medication.

Some dogs can be treated with anti-inflammatory drugs, which controls the pain and allows for movement and a normal lifestyle. They are also given Glucosamine and Chondroitin to improve the fluid in the joint.

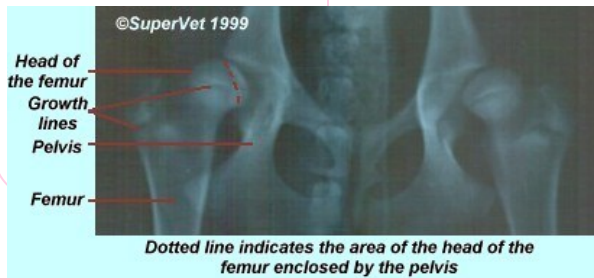
The worst case scenarios require surgery to provide quality of life. There are two preferred methods. The first and most expensive is a hip replacement. Just as in humans, they replace the joint with an artificial one. This is usually done after the dog is fully grown, so growth does not become an issue. This new joint will last for the life of the dog. As of this writing, the cost for this will range

from \$2500 - \$3000 per hip.

A less expensive option is to have the end of the femur removed. The hip then "floats" until scar tissue forms and replaces the joint. When this procedure is done, a replacement hip is no longer an option. This option costs between \$1500 - \$2000 per hip.

Another option, less common, involves the surgeon grafting the socket ... grinding it ... which deepens the socket so the joint fits normally.

If and when you might be faced with this problem, do your own research. Find out what all of your options are in advance, so you are prepared to discuss them with your veterinarian.



causes wear to the joint, but also the cartilage within. This wear causes the pain and subsequent limping.

In some dogs this can be mild, with

"Hope all of our furry friends have a wonderful Valentine's Day and are shown all the love they so richly deserve."

Gus & Maggie in Ohio

Gus is a bouncing baby boy. At 14 months old, he weighs in at 83 lbs. What a gentle giant!

His new sibling is Maggie, a Scottie. She is 12 weeks old and weighs in at a mere 7 lbs. How do they get along? Great! They love to play and as is typical with so many Chows, Gus is quite content to let Maggie think she is in charge. He has no problem,

knowing ... that if there is a real issue, he will be there to take over.

Isn't he one of the most beautiful Chows you have ever seen?

Gus is a puppy from Dixie & Kaiser.



Bear in Ohio

From our Client:

Bear is now fully grown and weighs a whopping 70 lbs.

He's napping with his best friend Boots. He's so well behaved that we let him run in our unfenced backyard without having to put him on a leash.

We are so thankful that we found your kennel, as he has

helped fill the big void from the loss of our previous dog Buddy.

He loves his baths, but hates getting his nails clipped. He also loves playing fetch (unusual for a Chow).

Bear is a puppy from Izzie & Hagrid.



Bacci & Zamboni in Illinois

Bacci, blue, and Zamboni, cream, are the best fit. Wherever Bacci goes Zamboni is willing to follow.

They are a big hit at the veterinary office. Bacci brought tears to the eyes of the veterinary chiropractor last month. She was so pleased with Bacci's temperament, and shared how they normally must sedate Chows in her practice. With that, Bacci leaned over and gave her a kiss ... which sealed the deal. They are now considered the best behaved Chows ever!

Way to go Bacci! What a great ambassador you have become!

Bacci is a puppy from another breeder, but Zamboni is a puppy from Bluebelle & Frosty.



How Healthy is the Chow Chow Breed?

In doing some research on the web, I found a website that claims that Chows are a nightmare for health issues. Really?

I would suggest this person has never owned a Chow! Instead, she is gathering stats from various studies and drawing erroneous conclusions. Unfortunately, she will dissuade many from even considering a Chow, based on her false assertions.

Chows can have health issues ... like any other breed. But, they are also one of the healthiest breeds. There are ways to minimize the likelihood of health issues arising. Although there are no guarantees with life, insight can be very beneficial.

Chows can be prone to bad hips and other joints. However, this is often due to bad breeding prac-

tices. Unfortunately, there are those who breed their dogs, regardless of their health. We only breed healthy dogs. In 15 years, we have established up to three generations. We breed our dams from the age of 2-7., and program our breeding on an individual basis. Regardless, there are always risks in the unknown lineage prior to our dogs, and we recognize and accept that fact!

Now what? There are things a breeder can do to minimize the risks of genetically prone health issues. We never do inbreeding, as some "Show Kennels" do, which could bring unwanted recessive genes into play. Most genetic health issues are tracked back to recessive genes. Breeding two healthy dogs from different bloodlines, greatly reduces the risk of health issues.

Entropion is an eye condition, whereby the lid rolls slightly inward, causing the lash to irritate the eyeball, thereby causing excessive tearing. The foundation sire of the Chow AKC registry was alleged to have been born with this condition. Therefore, this particular health issue runs through the breed.

The good news is that few dogs are afflicted with this disorder, and when it does, it is easily corrected, when diagnosed as a puppy! There are no long term affects from it.

Chows are one of the oldest breeds known, and we have found them to be one of the healthiest. Provide them with good food, fresh water, shelter, and lots of love and they will typically live on average between 12 - 15 years.

"Chows are not only one of the oldest breeds, we feel they are one of the healthiest."

Kai in New Jersey

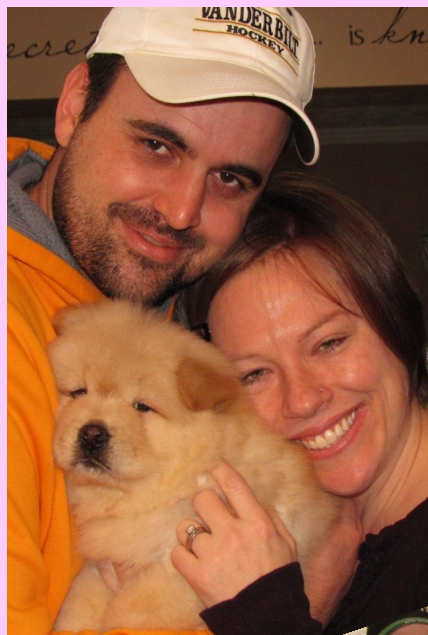
This little sweetheart is Kai. She is the newest member in her family and obviously she has stolen everyone's heart.

She is indeed adorable! Doesn't she look like a real live teddy bear?

Kai is a puppy from Izzie & Hagrid.



Puppy Pickups



Puppy Pickups



D & M Farm Kennel

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**Quality Chows with Exceptional
Temperament**

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WWW.DMFARM.COM

**The goal of D & M Farm Kennel
is to
breed quality healthy Chow
Chows
with exceptional temperament.
We want all of our puppies to
be good
ambassadors of the breed**

February Happenings at D & M Farm

Wow! Our frigid temperatures and snowfall continue! But, we only have a few weeks until spring and we are counting on it to come on time!

We are still in the planning mode for spring. The garden will need to be planted soon, so we have purchased our seed. We have also purchased our chicks, both laying and meat chickens. I

can't pass up chicks. They are so cute when they are just little balls of fuzz. Our



baby goats continue to grow like weeds!

This is Maleah's last month to work outside the farm. She will retire on February 28, 2014! Not that we are

counting the days, but we are very excited about that. Work won't slow any! There is always lots to do around the farm, so she shouldn't get bored! Ha !

We are also planning a kennel expansion. For those of you who have been to our kennel, we are going to enclose the area in front of the kennel where the roof overhangs. It will give us two more kennels and more room for grooming. The kennel has gotten a little cramped over the years. Now is the time to expand, so we have a little more elbow room.

We look forward to meeting new friends and seeing old friends when the weather finally breaks. Please plan a visit and come see our Chows and assorted menagerie! Remember, life is better down on the farm ... D & M Farm that is ! Hope to see you soon!

