

# D & M Farm Kennel Newsletter

## January 2012

### *D & M Farm Kennel*

## HAPPY NEW YEAR 2012 !

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Furminator
- How They Grow

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Happy New Year 2012! We hope you had a very Merry Christmas and were able to spend quality time with your family and friends.

We had two of our three children with us and five of our eight grandchildren. The house is very busy and noisy with all the kids and we always love it. When everyone is gone the house seems especially too quiet for a while. We feel we are truly blessed in so many ways. Our children and grandchildren are all healthy and happy. Our kennel continues to bring new people into our lives and we regularly make new friends. All of our dogs are doing great and continue to provide us with beautiful puppies. The rest of our farm is also doing well. We will be having a foal in May. Rhythm,

our Haflinger mare, will have her first foal then. We anxiously await it's arrival. Magic, our Haflinger colt born last March, will soon be a year old. He is growing into a beautiful yearling. He loves people and also loves the attention they bring when they visit. Our four bottle calves have grown by leaps and bounds. They are four months old now.

We have big plans as usual for upgrades to the kennel and farm. New kennels for outside so we can safely put our moms and puppies outside in warm weather. We also plan to have concrete poured to set the kennels on so it is easier to clean and disinfect between litters. We got a new commercial washing machine for the kennel and we love it. It has a very large capacity so washing

all those towels and blankets is much easier and faster now. We are also going to have a new well put in. Currently, everything runs from the house well right now. We need another one for the barns.

We expect to get our horse wagons soon so we will be able to participate in local parades. We plan to take a couple of our Chows on the wagons with us to show them off. Just one more opportunity to advertise the breed.

We expect 2012 to be a great year for us. We started the year off with a trip to Hawaii to celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary. It was wonderful!

We hope you plan a visit to our kennel this year! We look forward to hearing from you!

## THE FURMINATOR DESHEDDING TOOL

Many have asked us about using the Furminator deshedding tool to groom their Chows. Our response is a resounding NO!

The tool has a blade that actually cuts the hair. Not sure why they call it a deshedding tool, since it removes less loose

hair than it does actually cutting the hair. We prefer to use a slicker brush and a dematting comb. The comb can get down into the undercoat and remove any loose hair. The dematting comb also has a sharp edge on one side of the teeth. But, we don't find it cuts the hair, unless you come

upon a mat. You can force the comb through the mat and it will cut the hair.

However, regular grooming prevents the need for such drastic measures. We consider the Furminator to be a bit excessive on beautiful Chow coats.

## ROXY IN MICHIGAN

*From one of our clients emails:*

After I did some Christmas shopping, Roxy apparently did some snooping. She found her favorite toy, ripped the packaging off of it, and was happily chewing on her toy when I walked into the room. When she saw me, she tried to look innocent, but I think she mostly looked wor-



ried that I might try to take it from her (I let her keep it).

A couple weeks later, we brought home a real Christmas tree. After bringing the tree into the house we had to leave for the evening because we had plans. We were a little concerned about leaving Roxy alone



with the tree while we were gone all evening, since one of her favorite things to do is chewing on sticks/branches. We were happy to see the tree was still standing when we got home, but then we discovered that Roxy had

chewed off many of the lower branches. She must have thought that this tree was our Christmas gift to her ... a giant toy!

Of course, it's not really her fault for chewing on the tree. We never told her not to before we left her alone with it. Later that evening, she went up to the tree to start chewing on it again. I told her "no", and gave her one of her toys instead. She has left the tree alone ever since! I love that she is so smart and obedient. She usually only needs to be told things once, and then she 'gets it'.

Roxy is a puppy from Onyx & Hagrid.

## HOW FAST DO THE PUPPIES GROW ?

In a future newsletter, we plan to show sequential pictures of puppies from the day they are born until they reach six weeks of age to show how fast they grow. For now, I want to explain why nutrition is so very important, especially at this early stage.

When Chow puppies are born they typically weigh around 4-5 ounces. By the time they are six weeks of age they weigh

around 8-10 lbs. This fast growth spurt requires exceptional nutrition to keep up. We start by feeding our mothers dry puppy chow and wet puppy canned food. This is higher in calcium and protein to help her produce good quality milk for her puppies. We also add eggs and vegetable oil to her wet food. This gives her the added fat to her diet to help her keep up with all those growing puppies. At around three weeks, the puppies begin

trying to eat the kibble and we also give them canned wet food. They continue to get mom's milk until they are at least five weeks of age.

Their growth begins to level off around 12 weeks of age. They still are growing and nutrition is critical, but it isn't quite as fast as the first 12 weeks.

As puppies, these precious first few months pass by much too quickly!



*Any Christmas cards for me?*

## KAI IN IN WEST VIRGINIA

Kai continues to be a beauty and is proclaimed to be the "sweetest dog in the world". She and her companion, Okie, love to play. Even though Okie loves to play tug of war using Kai's beautiful mane to hold onto. Kai never seems to mind and allows Okie to do whatever he wants.

Kai continues to bring happi-

ness and love to her family and she is loved dearly in return.

Kai is a puppy from Ginger & Caesar.



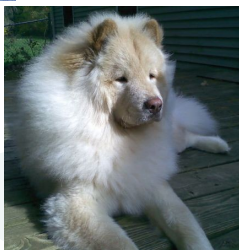
## LYA & NANUQ IN INDIANA

Lya and Nanuq are best buddies. Lya has all the energy and loves to run through the house trying to entice Nanuq into a game of chase. Nanuq calmly waits for her



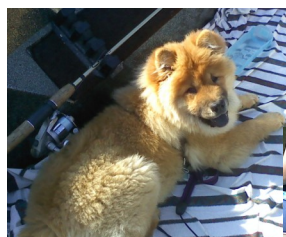
to go by and then pounces on her.

This past summer they went fishing and both enjoyed their time on the

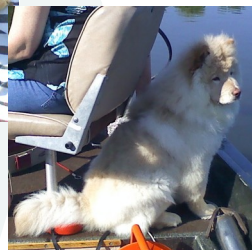


boat. Their comical antics keep their family smiling and laughing.

They take monthly trips to the veterinarian's office to get weighed. They are loved by the



staff and never meet a stranger. Hugs and kisses are on their daily



agenda.

Lya is a puppy from Pandy and Frosty. Nanuq is from Daisy and Frosty.



*Lya and Nanuq at six months*

## D & M FARM KENNEL FACEBOOK PAGE

Many of you have found us on Facebook. We now have a page for Chow lovers and kennel happenings. You can find it by going to Facebook and searching for **D&M Farm Kennel** or [dmfarmkennel@aol.com](mailto:dmfarmkennel@aol.com).

Many of you have already posted pictures of your Chows on the site. And, of

course, we have added several pictures on the album for your viewing.

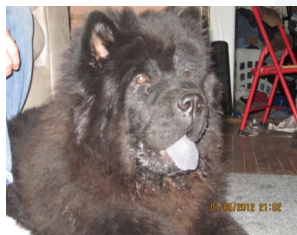
We plan to continue adding pictures and hopefully soon we will add some videos of the puppies as they grow. You never know what you might find, so check us out often.

We also hope you will add your pictures

and share your amazing personal experiences and funny stories to the site for everyone's enjoyment. This site is for you!

This Facebook page came about from much urging from you ... our clientele. The venue allows more interaction and sharing of stories and ideas. Thank you for participating.

*"Check us out on Facebook!"*



## BOO BEAR IN ILLINOIS

Boo Bear is a lover. He loves playing with the kids. At four months old he already weighs in at 44.6 lbs. He's going to be a BIG boy!

One of his favorite places to lay is by the door. He does this so he can enjoy the cold air. I'm sure in the summer he will move to the air vent

for the air conditioning! Smart boy!

Boo Bear is a puppy from Pixie & Khan.







## *D & M Farm Kennel*

### **Quality Chows with Exceptional Temperament**

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WE'RE ON THE WEB  
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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"*

## **D & M FARM HAPPENINGS**

We went to Hawaii to celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary. It was great ! The



trip there & back was long, but we had a great time while we were there. While we were gone, frigid weather hit Ohio. As you can imagine, we were very sorry we missed it! LOL

We flew to Honolulu, Oahu. We visited the USS Arizona memorial & toured the USS Missouri. We also did a tour of the



entire island, to include the Dole Pineapple Plantation. We then flew to the big island ... Hilo, Hawaii. What a contrast. Oahu is very, very populated and built up ... especially Waikiki. Beautiful beaches, but lots of people. In contrast, Hawaii however, is not very populated. You can see lava flows from all ages. It takes a very long time before plants begin to



grow, so much of it is still barren.

While staying at Kono, Hawaii we visited Volcano National Park, took a glass bottom boat cruise, went on a submarine to see the sea life, and attended a traditional Luau. We stayed very busy and enjoyed all the beautiful sights. Fabulous sunsets!

Our son took care of our place while we were gone. I don't think a farmer is something he will ever aspire to be. But,

he did a great job taking care of everyone & everything while we were gone.

One litter was ready for pickup when we returned. Izzie's puppies had their eyes open. It never ceases to amaze us how fast they grow and mature.

Bella & China both had their litters and we have moved Rosy, & Shadow into our maternity ward. We didn't expect Bella to have puppies until February, but she jumped the gun. China was a pleasant surprise. As usual, Izzie & Bella both had large beautiful litters.

It's good to be back home with all of our animal family members. They were all glad to see us. You wonder what they think when they suddenly don't see you for a week. Do they think you are gone for good? But, their exuberant welcome sure makes you feel good! Char was especially excited to have us home. If she could get her paws around us she would have given us hugs. I swear she had a smile on her face! Is it any wonder we love our animals?

Most of the winter has passed & we are hoping it continues to be mild. We are looking forward to spring already. Can't wait for green grass, budding trees & blooming flowers!