

D & M Farm Kennel

January 2014 Newsletter

Selecting Your Veterinarian

We are fortunate to have five veterinarians that we use. They each have specific areas of expertise, which I feel they are the best in. Therefore, we can choose who I take an animal to for specific needs and care.

In talking to several of our clients, we have found that many feel stuck with their vet. Because they are familiar with them or their clinic, or everyone else goes to them, or a variety of other reasons ... many feel they can't change. It's not only acceptable to change ... in many cases it is advised.

Not every vet is familiar and knowledgeable of specific issues with the Chow breed. Others may have a preconceived opinion of the

breed. Some do not like Chows. Some are old and set in their ways and some are very young and feel threatened by a client giving them advice. Remember, this is your pet and is your responsibility. They can't speak for themselves.

You should never feel like you have to go along with something that you don't feel right about. Trust your gut. It is much better to get a second opinion that is the same, than to find out you have allowed something that has caused permanent damage or worse.

Just because your vet has never heard of it, doesn't mean it isn't valid. They are a jack of all breeds and a master of none. They treat all dogs pretty much the same, yet all breeds differ.

I was called by a client with a female Chow that was having a problem. The vet had not been able to diagnose the issue. He finally suggested euthanizing the dog. When the owner objected, he then recommended breeding her!

What? If you think a dog should be euthanized, you can't possibly think she should be bred!

You may be faced with someone far less incompetent, but you still have to be on guard and consider all that is being told to you.

Educate yourself. Do your own research. Ask the hard questions.

Be your pet's advocate and look out for their well-being. They are entrusting their life with you!

Special points of interest:

- **Veterinarians**
- **Freezing Weather**
- **Hot Spots**

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Bogie Moved to Tennessee

Bogie started out in Ohio, but has since moved to Tennessee with his family.

Bogie was a real barn burner when he was young. Very independent and determined to play by his own rules. His family decided to take him to Acme Canine for some training.

Bogie has excelled in all of his classes and is now the perfect companion. He just needed a little direction!

Bogie was the dog of the month in Acme Canine's newsletter.

Bogie is a puppy from Amber & Solomon.



Wintry Freezing Weather & Chows

Chows are truly amazing in wintry inclement weather! There are very few things you have to do for them, in order for them to survive outside.

Shelter is a big deal. If any dog gets soaked to the skin, and then the temperature falls ... they are at risk for hypothermia. Providing shelter for them to go into to stay out of the wet and the wind is all they need. The shelter needs to

be just large enough for them to stand and turn around. This allows their body heat to warm the space.

Access to fresh water is a big thing during cold weather. You might not think water helps in keeping them warm, but hydration is key. If they become dehydrated, they can become cold much faster and possibly hypothermic.

Food is another key element. Make sure it is fresh and does not become moldy from moisture. They need proper nutrition to keep up their body weight and be able to maintain their health.

With proper shelter, water & food, it is not uncommon to observe your Chow laying out in the snow during a storm ... by their choice!

Our dogs don't ask for much. Add your love and you will have their undying appreciation!

Ms. Stella in Ohio



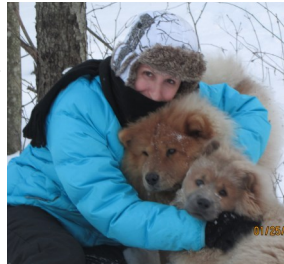
Ms. Stella is the latest addition to an existing Chow family. Stella is now 5 1/2 months and giving everyone a run for their money!

Ms. Sophie is the older Chow and has her paws full trying to mold Stella into the perfect Chow. Stella has other puppy ideas and just wants to play and play.

Don't worry Ms. Sophie.

Your lessons will stick eventually!

Stella is a puppy from Lila & Teddy.



Cuddle Bear in Indiana

This guy has turned into a complete cuddle bear.

He just celebrated his first birthday! What a handsome fellow he is!

He is a puppy from Bluebelle & Hagrid.



Bear in Ohio

Bear has become quite the comic. His family enjoys him immensely and the laughter he provides.

This is a picture of him getting a belly rub. Say Cheese!

Bear is a puppy from Izzie & Hagrid.



What are “Hot Spots” & How to Treat?

“Hot Spots” are an irritation of the skin. They can have many causes, but the biggest culprit is food allergy. Bug bites, soaps, shampoos, and other types of allergies may also contribute.

This itchy spot on the skin is an area that the dog just can't leave alone. It itches, so he scratches and scratches. The scratching breaks the skin and it often gets infected. The scratching keeps it irritated and thus the vicious cycle continues with no healing.

The first thing you want to do is stop the itch. Most veterinarians will recommend giving your dog Children's Benadryl in liquid form. The dosage is determined by the weight of your dog. It will calm the itching and reduce the scratching.

If you take your dog to the vet, they may prescribe topical cortisone. The problem with cortisone is that it can be as much of a problem as the Hot Spot. After a few days, it no longer helps, but instead can begin breaking down the skin. The other option is

oral steroids such as Prednisone. Not an optimum solution either. So what is the best course of action? Find out what is causing the reaction!

Chows' skin can be sensitive to soaps, bug bites, carpet cleaning detergent, ingredients in foods, etc. The first thing you want to look for is something that you know has changed in



his environment. A recent trip to the groomer, change in your detergent or softener, anything your dog may have come in contact with. Then you must consider internal changes from food or treats.

If there is nothing different in the environment and you cannot find any bugs such as fleas or ticks, change the food the dog is on. Even if they have been on the food for a long time with no

problem, something may have changed in the processing at the factory that is causing an allergic reaction. If so, within a few days the itching will stop and you will know you have discovered the culprit.

Treat the spot with a triple antibiotic, such as Neosporin. Or use Vettricyn spray, which can be purchased at PetSmart. The wound may appear 'wet' for up to a week. If the wound begins oozing pus or if it smells bad you will have to make a trip to the vet for some oral antibiotics.

If you just can't figure out what is causing the Hot Spot, a visit to the vet is in order.

It is important to have a discussion with your vet to determine the cause. Without determining the cause, you may be making numerous trips to your vet.

Hot Spots can be a difficult thing to deal with, but with a little investigative work on your part you should be able to determine the culprit. Your pet is counting on you!

“Hot Spots can be difficult to diagnose but is critical to long term care.”

Azul & Luna in Pennsylvania

Azul is on baby duty. He has a new master in the household to look after and he takes his job seriously!



Luna allows Azul to take the lead, but she is a formidable back-up! No doubt this baby has the best bodyguards anyone could have..

Azul is a puppy from Shadow & Kaiser and Luna is a puppy from Amber & Yogi Bear.



“More of our puppies as they grow!”

Kai continues to be one of the most beautiful Chows from our kennel. And, she has the personality to go with it. Pretty as a picture!

Kai is a puppy from Ginger & Caesar.



Lum in Ohio

Lum ...Chinese for “blue”, is going to be a big boy. At 6months he weighs in at 50 lbs.

He has become a wonderful addition to his new family. He is a beautiful blue Chow.

Lum is a puppy from Shadow & Simba.



Dozer in Michigan

From our client:

Just wanted to send a quick note to let you know about the puppy we received in July. We got a cream colored male and named him Dozer because he tries to bulldoze over everything, sometimes including us.

Not only is he funny, but is also very smart. Sometimes too smart for his own good, as in learning by himself how to open his crate door and inside doors. He loves to play fetch, pull the toilet paper off the roll, and sleep on his back. He is an excel-

lent dog and we love him!

Dozer is a puppy from Jazzy & Frosty.



Pose? How about this?

Persia in Georgia

Persia was on a recent road trip. Something he truly loves!

Isn't he just the most magnificent dog you have ever seen?

Persia is a puppy from Gracie & Khan.



Leo in California

Leo has become a very big part of his family. He is beautiful and loving. What more can you ask for?

Leo is a puppy from Ginger & Teddy.



Puppy Pickups



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WE'RE ON THE WEB
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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"**

D & M Farm Happenings in January 2014

What a frigid month!! We have the coldest January that we have had in years. The farm animals are doing fine, but we had some births that didn't fare as well. Lucy, our Nubian goat, had twins. A boy and a girl. She had them on January 24th, right in the middle of the coldest temperatures. She was in the barn with heat lamps, but she lost them both. She is a first time mom and unfortunately she had them while Maleah was at work. She had been watching her closely in hope of being there when she birthed. But, Lucy just didn't get them dried off quickly enough and the cold temps were too much.

Shirley, one of our other goats, had her baby the same day, but he is fine. A happy, healthy

little Billy goat we named Rocket.

We also had two litters of puppies born, Raven & Yogi, and Shadow & Simba. Both of their litters are nice and healthy.

Our kennel has been a hive of activity with all the litters. We are always greeted with a den of puppy barks when we go to the kennel. All wanting us to pay attention to them.

Maleah finally got the word that she will be retiring on February 28th ... hoorah! We are looking forward to that. She is looking forward to having her days dedicated to the farm and kennel ... doing the things she likes. Darrell is going to welcome the company and the extra pair of hands during the

day.

Plans are being made for lots of activities once warm weather arrives. We are going to expand the kennel. The quarters are a little tight so we need to push out to gain some extra room. We have baby chicks arriving on February 24th and turkeys will arrive in April. Preparations are being made for their arrival. We've ordered four more hives of honey bees. We lost two hives over the winter, so this will give us six hives total. A large garden is on Maleah's agenda for spring.

Right now, with this cold weather, all we can do is look at catalogs and plan for spring while setting by a warm fire. Not a bad way to spend our winter, but cabin fever is setting in!