

# D & M Farm Kennel

## Behavioral Issues

Occasionally we receive calls when a Chow begins showing signs of undesired behavior; i.e. growling, snapping at people or



**Some attitudes are cute, some are not!**

attacking other dogs. What causes a dog to change their behavior?

For many, it may seem that the behavior is coming completely out of the blue. For the dog, it may have been brewing for some time. Chows have received a bad wrap for years but they are no different than any other breed. Several things can precipitate a change in behavior. The first thing to have checked out is the dog's health. Something as simple as an ear infection, where they no longer hear clearly and there are muffled sounds can cause fear. Any health issue that can cause pain will eventually cause the dog's behavior to

change.. in reaction to the pain.

What should one do? First, take your dog to your veterinarian for a complete and thorough health examination to ensure there are no health issues brewing that might be the root of the change. Then you have to determine the cause of the behavior. We recommend reading the books published by Cesar Milan, *The Dog Whisperer*, to gain insight into pack behavior. Your dog will send signals prior to unwanted behavior. You have to be able to identify those signals so you can intercede.

All dogs have their own personality, just like people. Some want to be the pack leader, some reluctantly take on that role.. Some can be nervous in unfamiliar situations. If you do not assume the role of Pack Leader they feel they must. This isn't a good thing. This is why understanding pack behavior is so important to avoid undesired behavioral changes.

Obtaining the services of a behavioral therapist can be extremely helpful. A trainer cannot provide the expertise you need. You need to have someone who understands the behavior of dogs to diagnose the problem and come up with a plan of action.

If the person you get has preconceived notions about Chows, find someone else. Chows are dogs and they are pack animals who live by the same rules as any dog. You want someone who views the animal as an individual, not one with a preordained view of predestined behavior due to the particular breed.

Finding a quality therapist can sometimes be tough. The Internet, your veterinary, dog training facilities, and dog daycare are all places to start in your search for a reputable behaviorist. Rescues and some animal shelters use the services of a behaviorist to determine what dogs can be placed in homes. This is another place for you to call to see if you can find contact information.

When confronted with unwanted behavior, it is best to act quickly. You can attempt to correct the behavior, but if you are unsuccessful, do not let it continue. This will adversely affect your relationship with your dog and may undermine established trust.

We love our animals but they are no different than children in that they can also become unruly at times and need correction. Show your continued love by getting help if needed.

### Special points of interest:

- > Behavioral Issues
- > False Pregnancy
- > Spaying
- > Live Without a Chow

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**"The reason for false pregnancies is unknown, but believed to be due to an hormonal imbalance."**

## False Pregnancy in Dogs

There is nothing more frustrating to a breeder than a female having a false-pregnancy. During my research, I've found that this is a quite common malady of dogs. Fortunately, we haven't had it happen very often.

Angel is our big cream female. She is a puppy from Kaiser and Ebony. Unfortunately, Angel has never been very fertile. She has only had two litters and she is five years old.

To our surprise, she was showing all the signs of being pregnant, enlarged midsection, enlarged mammary glands, and she was nesting. It was not only to our surprise, but to our delight. Her past litters had produced

very nice puppies. We brought her into our Maternity Ward and began the routine of changing her food to Puppy Chow and canned wet dog food. She continued nesting and everyday we expected to walk into the kennel and find a large litter of puppies. However, it has now been more than a month and no puppies!

The cause of false-pregnancies or pseudo-pregnancies in female dogs is unknown. It is suspected to be a hormonal imbalance and often happens when another female in close proximity comes into heat. Of course, we have several other females in the general vicinity that regularly come in and out of heat.

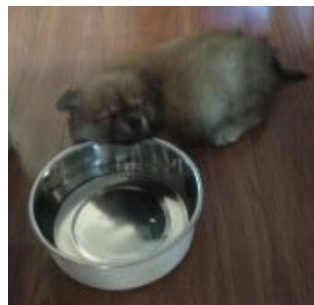
It doesn't look like Angel is going to produce any puppies, at least not at the moment. If she continues to show signs with no results we will have to take her to the veterinarian. Typically, dogs get over their false pregnancy without any intervention being required.

She couldn't have picked a worse time to play pregnant. We have been having temperatures in the 100s. She literally looks to be as big as a house. Almost as wide as she is long. Hopefully for her sake this will pass soon.

Follow-up ... our vet agreed with our diagnosis. The shock was that she weighed 99 lbs.

## Yoshi in New Jersey

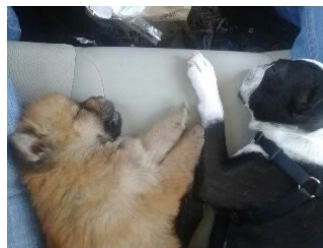
Yoshi Bear is full of energy and hysterical to watch, as reported by her new owner. She loves to play in the water bowl, but it also makes a great pillow. She is already sleeping through the



night. Sleeping in doorways is one of her favorite spots. She can keep watch this way.

Tator Tot is her best friend. They like to play together, but it's always nice to have someone

to snuggle with at naptime.



Her protective instincts have already kicked in. The neighbors' two Australian Shepherds can be a noisy bunch. They are kept in their yard by an invisible fence. Yoshi still positions herself between them and her owner just in case. Of course, she is only about as big as their head! Big dog in little body right now. Such a typical Chow. Never wavering

from their duty. Yoshi is a puppy from Pandy & Teddy.



## Spaying Protects your Dog

Many of our clients have questioned whether spaying is necessary. Depending on where you are in the country it can be expensive. Let me elaborate on the reasons why this expense is necessary.

Females that are not going to be used for breeding, benefit by being spayed. First, there are studies that show female dogs that are not spayed and never have puppies have a much higher risk of female cancers as they age. They can suffer from hormonal imbalances that can manifest itself as false pregnancies, hair loss, and personality changes, to name a few.

As females come into heat twice a year, they can experience behavioral changes. If there are two dogs in the home, this can result in fights. We often have to content with two females fighting when one is in heat. This is dangerous as one or both dogs can become injured and require a trip to the veterinary. Bella, one of our breeding females, picks a fight every time she is in heat.

She also always comes up on the short end of the stick. She had to make her second trip to the vet within six months for injuries to her ears and leg. With the heat and the flies this wasn't something that could be left to see if it would heal on its own.

Another issue is the possibility of a male dog getting to your female. You would be surprised how resourceful they can become when sex is involved! Unwanted puppies can be the result, but your female can also be at risk. Whelping puppies doesn't always go well.

Of course, there is the cycle every six months that has to be dealt with. Females bleed during part of their cycle. They have disposable panties to put on your dog to prevent damage to furniture and carpet, but I don't know of many dogs that won't tear them off at the first opportunity.

Most counties now have spay/neuter clinics that drastically reduces the cost of having the procedure done. Many areas have voucher programs to assist

with the cost. Most also include vaccinations. Call your local Animal Control Office or Humane Society to see what programs are available in your area.

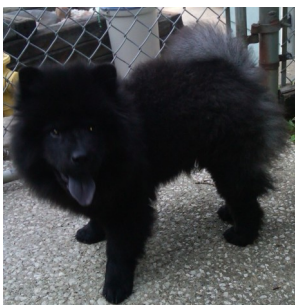
Spaying can be costly, but will save you money in the long run. Spaying of females is best done before they come into their first heat ... typically around 6 months. This prevents the reproductive cells from changing in preparation for having puppies. The cells will not fully mature until the female has puppies. These cells are the culprits that later cause cancer. But, spaying after a heat cycle is still preventative to cancers so remains important.

Making good decisions where our pets are concerned can save you time and money and result in a healthier dog. We all want our pets around as long as possible and our decisions can affect their longevity. In our busy lives our pets often take a back seat. Take time to put them first and decide what is best for them.

**"Spaying can prevent the development of female cancers later in life for our dogs. Spaying can be costly, but can still save you money in the long run."**

## Zoke in Iowa

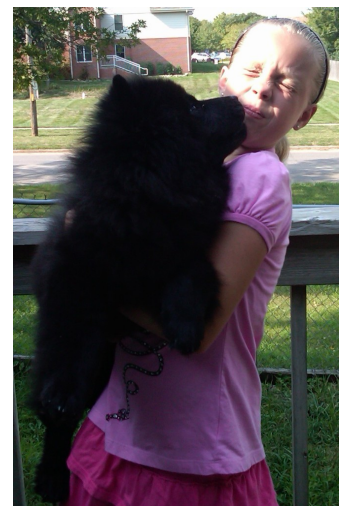
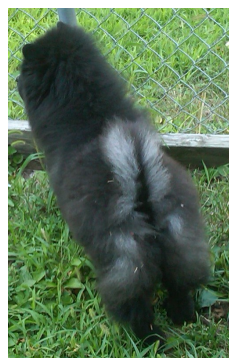
Zoke has fit right in with her



family and has good reports from her vet. Her vet thinks she is very unique, especially with her unique gray skirts. From behind she look like a little skunk!

She had to try to be boss, but has relented and decided her owner could have that job. She is a little ball of fire.

Zoke is a puppy from Amber & Yogi Bear.



I'm going to kiss you right there!

Thank you D & M Farm Kennel for breeding such extraordinary Chow Chows.

## Life Without a Chow



**"A LIFE  
WITHOUT A  
CHOW IS JUST  
LIFE. A LIFE  
WITH TWO  
CHOWS IS  
AWESOME"**

After losing my beloved Brutus, my heart was broken. Brutus was a beautiful, black Chow. He was 10 yrs. old, very loving and loyal ... he was my boy. Having always had a dog or many times two dogs ... now to having no dog at all, was horrible. I began searching for a Chow Chow to mend the hole in my heart. I scoured the Internet, looking for the right breeder, not just any breeder, but one I could rely on for a well-rounded, sound Chow Chow. I considered many breeders, but none of the breeders matched the care and compassion I was looking for ... until I discovered D & M Farm Kennel. I have had Chows since 1985. I have never had a "bad" Chow and did not want one now. My Chows have always been an integral part of my family and my family consists of many young children. I would never want to risk bringing an unstable Chow or any other unstable dog into my family? I phoned D & M Farm Kennel and Darrell answered the phone. I found him to be very personable, knowledgeable and open. He invited me and my husband to come for a personal visit

to their kennel that very day. (I also live in Ohio.) It wasn't ... oh, wait, make an appointment, or choose a Chow on the Internet. It was, "come visit our kennel NOW", or anytime that might be convenient for you. That was refreshing!

I read every page of their website and felt like I kind of had a feel for both Darrell and Maleah prior to our meeting. They seemed to be truly dedicated to breeding good, sound, family pets. Upon meeting them, one can quickly tell this is the breed they both love, by the meticulous care and extensive knowledge they have about Chows.

My husband and I got into the car and drove to visit their kennel. We immediately fell in love with all of the dogs, who were obviously friendly, tails wagging and some even appeared to smile. I am not kidding. They have about 30 beautiful, kind and lovable Chows. They all had plenty of spacious yards to romp and play. NO BACKYARD BREEDER or PUPPY MILL HERE! All of their Chows have a personal relationship with Darrell and Maleah. I know, with Chows this doesn't just happen

with feeding and cleaning up doggie poo. This

takes a dedicated kindness and quality time. Maleah is one of the most knowledgeable persons I have ever conversed with about Chows. She provides a very thorough briefing and makes sure you understand how to take care of the Chow puppies being adopted. The most important thing you notice, as Maleah is going through her briefing, is her sincere love of the breed.

I reflect back upon that first contact with Darrell and at the subsequent events that followed, and I am amazed how everything fell into place. I hope I do not bore you with the details, but if it is meant to happen, it usually will.

I came looking for a black female puppy. However, there were no black puppies available at the time. I discovered that people are normally placed on a Waiting List for their unborn puppies. But on this day, one of the Dams happened to be about ready to have a litter. This was the second week of March. Onyx, a big, beautiful, lovable, black female with the most beautiful brown eyes, was on the verge of having her litter any day. The sire was

## Life Without a Chow cont

Hagrid, a cream. Hagrid, son of Kaiser and grandson of Khan, is a big boy, full lion-like mane, and very friendly (as all the dogs are). I was so excited that I might be able to get one of their puppies. I knew there was a Waiting List, so it depended on how large her litter was and if she would actually have a few black females. I would be second on the list for a black female. I was elated. I put a down payment on a black female right away. I mean, surely there would be two black females born.

Onyx had her puppies on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012. However, she only had one black female ... really! All of her puppies were already spoken for. I loved being around Darrell, Maleah and the Chow Chows so much that we came to visit every week. I needed my Chow fix. I had a hole in my heart that needed mending every week. Onyx's puppies consisted of 1 black female, 1 black male, 3 cream males and 3 cream females. I also found out that Pandey (a red dam) was also going to have a litter soon and would most likely have a few black puppies and that I was now first on the Waiting List for a black female. I was so excited. I could not wait! Unbeknownst to me, my husband, Bruce, had told Darrell that he would like to have a cream male Chow. He apparently had fallen in love with the creams. The problem being, all the puppies were already spoken for. Nevertheless, when Onyx's puppies were about four weeks old something happened that changed our life. A family called Darrell and told him they were unable to accept their cream boy as planned.

They would wait for another litter at a later date. Bruce and I just happened to be at the farm gushing over how beautiful the puppies were and how fast they were growing. Darrell approached Bruce and told him what had happened and asked if he wanted a cream boy, since he now had one unexpectedly become available. Bruce came to me and we discussed the possibility. It was a no brainer. YES, OF COURSE! We paid for him that day and by the way; Pandey had her litter a few weeks later and she indeed had three black puppies, two were females. She also had three red puppies. Pandey is a beautiful, loving, red, big girl. I WILL BE PICKING UP CHINA IN A WEEK OR SO! She is mine, she is paid for and our home awaits her. Dang ... it is indeed A Wonderful Life!

As *Paul Harvey* would say: "*And now ... for the rest of the story.*"

We now have two great new friends, Darrell & Maleah, and we picked up our cream boy, "Gabriel", and we have since purchased "China". She is a beautiful black female and will provide Gabriel a cousin to play and romp with.

An update on Gabriel & China: He is now 5 months old and an absolute hunk! He comes to me on command when called (I did some training with kibble as a treat), he sits on command and loves everyone and all animals. He has a wading pool to romp in and when it is too hot, he just lies down in it and cools himself. He is such a funny boy. We play at least an hour a day with his toys and when he plays fetch, he brings the toy back to you for

more. He is a really smart boy and loves to please. He is definitely priceless!

China is now 4 months old and is the sweetest thing! Although she may be small in stature, she makes up for in personality. She is so smart. Show her something a couple times and she has it. She definitely is a "Mommy's Girl"! Her favorite thing is to roll over on her back and have someone (anyone) scratch her belly. It is indeed a real treat watching her and Gabriel interact. Our groomers fight over who is going to get which one. They tell us they are the best dogs that they groom. We absolutely love both of them and they have made our life so complete! Thank you D & M Farm Kennel!

By: Sherry Aldrich



# Pickups



We're on the Web  
[www.dmfarm.com](http://www.dmfarm.com)



*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 Kennel

Quality Chows with  
Exceptional Temperament



Primary Business Address  
617 W. Dayton-Yellow Springs Rd.  
Fairborn, OH 45324  
Phone: 937-767-7075  
Cell: 937-369-8425  
Email: [dnmfarm@aol.com](mailto:dnmfarm@aol.com)

## Farm Happenings at D & M Farm!

Rosy and Frosty had their puppies on July 2. She had four cinnamon puppies and one cream puppy. Unfortunately she lost one cinnamon. But, all the rest are very healthy and quickly becoming fat little sausages!

Angel continues in the maternity ward. We aren't sure if she is really pregnant or if it's a false pregnancy. She is huge! She couldn't have picked a worse time to think she is pregnant. She is enjoying all the attention and the canned food she is getting.

The heat has been terrible this year. We had a full week with the temps in the 100s. We worry about our animals when it is so hot. Providing them with lots of shade and fresh water has allowed them to survive the hot

temperatures. We don't fare as well as the animals. What did we do without air conditioning? Somehow we managed, but now we are dependent.

We are having drought conditions, but watering my garden has kept it going. We are now harvesting green beans and will soon start picking tomatoes. We can our vegetables and they sure taste good in the middle of winter! It keeps us hopping this time of the year to stay ahead of it all.

All the mares have been to the breeders. Next spring should be interesting. We are going to have new babies all over the place! Can't wait!

We can't believe it is already July. It seems like yesterday

that we were wishing for spring-time and warm weather. The grandkids have gotten lots of enjoyment out of the pool. Unfortunately, we haven't carved out enough time to use it much ourselves. We feel like winter is already peeking around the corner with an ornery smile on it's face!

Maleah is very much looking forward to retirement. We know it will be so much easier when she is here full time. Not sure when it is going to happen though. If they have a buyout at base it will happen sooner. If not, she still has a couple of years. It can't happen too soon for either of us!

We welcome all visitors at the farm. We also love receiving updates. Keep 'em coming!



Rosy's litter



## Accident



On July 3 Maleah had just arrived home from work. She had slowed down to pull into our driveway when she heard screeching tires just before she was hit from behind. The impact drove her across our driveway, into the ditch, and then into our fence where she took out about 50 ft.



The man who hit her said he didn't see her slow down or her turn signal. He hit her going about 55 mph. His truck took out our call box that had a steel reinforced fence around it. He had two small boys in the truck with him. Miraculously, no one was hurt. Only property damage and lots of vehicle damage.

Maleah's small truck was hit so hard it bent the bed and had to be replaced. It also received damage from the metal fence so the truck had to be repaired and repainted.

The main thing was that no one was hurt. God was truly looking out for everyone involved..



Maleah's truck after the repairs from the accident on 3 July. Looks like new!

## The New Beast

Many of you have seen what our grandkids dubbed , "The Big Red Truck".

Well, it was time to retire the The Big Red Truck so we now have the "The Beast". We are all enjoying it. It is a crew cab so we can fit six people in it. It will come in handy on our many trips back and forth to the Amish auctions in Holmes County, pulling our horse trailer or our 16' car trailer. We also look forward to transporting our horse and carriage to all of the upcoming parades that we anticipate participating in. The game plan is to take a few grandkids and a few Chows.

Our carriage is currently up in Amish country being outfitted

with lighting and a French Surrey a small Amish cart.



roof. We hope to have it finished and available for the big annual night Christmas carriage parade held each year in Lebanon, Ohio. We are really looking forward to this event. Our grandkids, Haflingers and Chows make for a fun way to spend our retirement years!

Grandma will probably drive the carriage and Grandpa will drive

We're still experiencing hot, dry weather. Our trees are showing distress and it's very hard to keep up with watering the flowers.

We've started harvesting our garden so let the canning begin!