

D & M Farm Kennel June 2007 Newsletter

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Those Pesky Mats

Chows vary in the texture of their hair. Some mat easily while others rarely mat. Some have problem areas behind their ears or in their “feathers” (the long hair on the lower backside of their legs). You will become familiar with any problem areas of your dog if you groom regularly.

Sometimes it is necessary to cut out a mat of hair because it is just so painful to comb through. When you pull the mat away from the body to cut, be especially careful not to cut the skin. From experience, I can assure you this is very easy to do. I usually cut through the center of the mat and then try once again to comb it out.

If I still can't comb through it, I trim a little more. Often times the skin is surrounded by the mat, so when you pull it away from the body it makes the skin vulnerable to the scissors. Behind the ears is the area most vulnerable.

If you groom on a regular basis, matting shouldn't be a problem. However, sometimes in our busy lives we find that more time has past by between grooming than we had intended. Suddenly, we find a mat and can't figure out how it got there nor how it got so big!

Chows love to look good and will be noticeably proud of



Grooming is important for health and socialization.

their looks when freshly groomed. Our male Goliath normally races around the yard after his grooming and then absolutely struts along the fence showing off in front of the other dogs.

Grooming prevents many skin problems, contributes to good hygiene and allows your pet to look its best.

So, stay ahead of those pesky

Finding a Groomer and/or Veterinary

You may find a few Groomers or Veterinarians who are reluctant to service Chows. By some, they are considered an aggressive breed. And, either due to a bad personal experience or word of mouth, they may have an aversion to the breed.

Begin by calling and asking if they take Chows. If they do, ask if they require them to be muzzled. This will enable you to determine their attitude towards the breed. If you detect negativism towards the breed ... move on. The majority love Chows.

You can also minimize problems by taking your pet to a groomer or veterinarian while they are still a puppy. The groomer and Vet will then become familiar with your particular Chow.

It is in all Chow owner's best interest to promote your Chow as a good ambassador for the breed. This will keep them off the vicious dog list of insurance companies, decrease the stereotypes, and make others more accepting of this beautiful breed.

Special points of interest:

- Some professionals will not work on Chows.
- It's important to find people who like Chows to provide care.
- Work with your Chow while they are a puppy.

Tayla Mae



Tayla Mae is now six months old and weighs in at 41 lbs. Her mothers says she is growing like a bad weed. She loves everyone and especially likes to trounce her brother Taz.

Zoey



Zoey is six months old now. She will begin her camping career soon. Her mom says that out of the four Chows

they have had, Zoey is the most outgoing and is quite social with everyone, as well as other dogs. She is a joy and they couldn't have asked for a better pet.

Socialization

Chow Chows are a shy breed by nature; therefore, socialization is of paramount importance for a friendly, well-behaved pet.

When left to their own devices, Chows tend to keep to themselves. They are a very self sufficient breed. They are suspicious of people they do not know. To avoid problems you must socialize your puppy from the time it comes to your home. Expose it to everything and everyone that you expect it to accept. This includes small children, other pets, strangers, the groomer, and the veterinary. By introducing all to your puppy in a pleasant manner, he in turn will accept them as part of his life.

Many Chows are wary of strangers. It is fine for them to be standoffish, but they should never growl or bark at strangers in an aggressive manner.

Simple ways to socialize are:

- Encourage friends and family members to handle and pet the puppy.
- Take the puppy to obedience training.
- Start taking the puppy to the groomer while they are young.
- Take your puppy to the dog park and let it play with other dogs.

All dogs pick up on their owners attitude towards other people and dogs. If you are wary, afraid, or concerned ... your dog may react similarly. Nervousness is perceived by animals as a weakness and may prompt your dog to become protective and/or aggressive. Make sure you remain calm and assertive in all circumstances.

All interactions need to be supervised until they become

routine. Interactions with children must be closely monitored to ensure the puppy is not harmed in any way. Tugging on the ears or tail can leave a lasting negative impression. No one should be allowed to get in any dog's face. This is often perceived by dogs as an aggressive posture. Dogs are extremely quick and can snap at your face before you realize it's coming.

Dogs are not unlike people, in that, they like to have their personal space. This can be invaded by people in their "pack" with no problem, but not by those outside the "pack".

Socialization begins in our kennel from the day the puppy is born. Continue this throughout your dog's life and it will willingly accept change and new things in it's environment.

"Socialization of the Chow is paramount to a friendly, well-behaved pet."

Fleas



Fleas can be devastating so prevention and treatment is key.

We have found that Chows are not prone to getting fleas. It doesn't mean that it can't happen, but fleas seem to only attack a Chow as a last resort. They don't seem to like the dense undercoat.

Heavy flea infestation can be a problem even for a Chow. There are certain chemicals that are effective on both adult fleas and flea larvae. Check with your veterinary for the best sprays to use in the yard and/or in the house.

Many people use ongoing flea preventive treatments. Your particular area will dictate if this is absolutely necessary. However, keep in mind, these treatments are chemicals that enter into the dog's system. The dog essentially becomes a walking insecticide.

We currently have 27 dogs. These include our breeding dogs and some that are just pets. Our yard is completely fenced therefore, we do not have to worry about stray dogs entering our yard. We do have

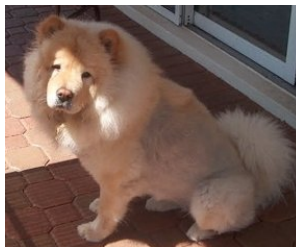
barn cats that will bring in fleas from time to time but our Chows have never become infested. Therefore, we take the "use when needed" approach. Fleas can be a real health hazard to pets. So, it is important to treat any infested animal aggressively. We all know how miserable we are when we itch from bug bites. As you can imagine, your pet is no different.

Jujuba



Jujuba is more than a year old now and is expecting. Jujuba is Portuguese for Jellybean. Juju now

has a new human sister and has become very protective of her.



She has completely accepted her into her "pack".

Stud Service

On occasion we receive requests to use our male dogs for breeding of females outside our kennel. We rarely agree to this because there are several considerations to be made.

Firstly, female dogs can be very aggressive toward a male dog while they are in heat. A male

dog can be in jeopardy of becoming injured. Female dogs can also be infected by sexually transmitted diseases. Therefore, would be imperative to us that the female dog first be checked out thoroughly by a veterinary prior to our agreeing to breed her with one of our males.

The tests are not cheap, but absolutely necessary to protect not only the male dog, but also any females he may be with in the future.

We recommend that if you choose to use your dog for stud, be sure to do your research to protect him from any

Imprinting

“Imprinting” is a very important part of our breeding program. What is “imprinting”? Imprinting is the familiarization and socialization of the puppy during its initial days from time of birth . By handling a puppy and caressing it all over, and familiarizing it with your voice and smell, it will overcome its natural fear of humans. The imprinting process is most important between the third and sixteenth week. This is when the

puppy’s developmental stage is most like a sponge, soaking up it’s surroundings. Although, this is a prime time for learning, it is also a period when a puppy is the most impressionable. Negative experiences can have a huge impact that may never be forgotten nor overcome. That is why it is so crucial to avoid situations where a puppy might become fearful of something at a very early age. These early fears might prove difficult to over-

come. Puppies are born with certain innate genetic instincts to help protect them from predators. For example,, initial touching of the back of their heads and ears can be very frightening for them. However, with daily handling and interaction until they go to their new homes, they become very familiar with human contact and learn to enjoy interacting with them. They grow to accept humans as a normal part of their lives. Their mother’s attitude and demeanor also has a huge affect on the puppies development. That is why we feel it is of the utmost importance to have well socialized mothers for the puppies to role model after.

“Imprinting is very important between the third and sixteenth week of age”

Stormie

You may remember in our March 2007, Issue 3, newsletter the picture of the three chows laying on the bed. Well, here is the fourth and newest member of the family and she has learned the ropes already.

The troupe consists of Thunder, Thor, Shu-Ling, and now Stormie. Stormie rules the

roost and she provokes everyone to revert to being a puppy again. Complete chaos reigns in the household much to the joy of their human parents.



Vasher

Vasher is a joy to her family. She rides on the work truck with her new dad and loves going from job to job. She puts her head into the wind and barks joyfully. Obviously, she loves her new ‘job’. But, it’s always good to catch some z’s after a hard day.



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"Quality and Great Temperament is our Goal"

"The mission 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"

Sire and Dam Profile

Kaiser and Ebony are two of our best breeding pairs.

Kaiser is a big boy, weighing in at 70+ pounds. His coat is thick and long. His personality is of a cuddly bear and he couldn't be any gentler. He loves everyone and never meets a stranger. He loves to fuss at the other boys in the adjoining kennel runs to let them know he's the boss. However, they aren't impressed.

Ebony is another who never



meets a stranger. She absolutely loves everyone. She is always up for a scratch behind the ears, but

she can be naughty because she likes to jump up on you. She just can't stand it when someone else is getting attention so she tries to push her way in. She is also very gentle and is a great mother. She normally has four to five puppies in her litters.

She and Kaiser normally have blacks and creams in their litters. But they have surprised us with an occasional red puppy in the batch.

