



Where Does the Time Go?

Where has this year 2012 gone? We cannot believe it is already October. The weather is changing, leaves are falling, and we are getting lots of rain we would have rather had back in the summer! In fact, we got our first snow today! Ugh! Thank you Hurricane Sandy!

Next month is Thanksgiving, followed by Christmas, and then yet another New Year! I remember my parents saying that time seemed to fly by. When one is young, you don't seem to take notice, but as you get older ... the clock seems to speed up dramatically!

Are these "senior moments"?

We continue to prepare the kennel and farm for the upcoming winter. Our propane, gas, diesel and kerosene tanks are filled.

The firewood is stacked, hay is in the barns, the dog houses have fresh straw, and the heated buckets are in place.

We're still not ready for the frigid cold winds, snow and ice of winter, but we do enjoy the changing of the seasons. Fortunately, the past few winters haven't been that severe. Last year was fairly mild. We can only hope for the same this

year. If the animal's early winter coats are any indication, we should have another mild winter. My dad used to say we needed hard freezes to kill off the pests. That part is good.

We have several litters coming up during the cold months. Extra vigilance is required to ensure the dam's are moved inside before delivery.

We have two litters due this month, two in November, one in December, two in January, two in February, and two in March. That will keep us very busy during the cold months.

Drag out the winter coats, gloves, and hats and bundle up! Winter here we come ... ready or not!

Inky On The Job

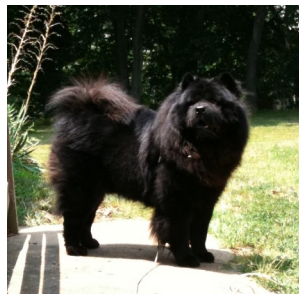
Submitted by a client:

I'm certain that most everyone living with a canine companion has referred to their four-legged blessing as some "organic security device".

I have seen certain businesses that referred to theirs as "active-inspection-bomb-squad-teams".

At 5:38 this a.m., Inky (now only almost 3 years old) stood on his hind legs next to my wife Kelly, on

her side of the bed. She automatically disregarded his alert so he placed himself at my side of the bed, standing silently on his rear legs. Being a far lighter sleeper, I saw this as the



anomaly it is and immediately left the bedroom. I soon thereafter heard a smoke/carbon monoxide-detector signaling it needed new batteries.

Although I failed to be able to return to sleep, I was extremely comforted to know his alertness can be depended upon in the future, if needed.

This amazing D&M ambassador endlessly searches for job security in this turned-down economy.

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Special points of interest:

- *Selecting a Veterinarian and Clinic*
- *Rabies Vaccines*
- *Harnesses*

Selecting your Veterinarian and Clinic

We have heard many stories about the many veterinarians our clients use for their Chows. Most are good ... some are not so good!

When selecting a veterinarian for your Chow, you should ask questions before making an appointment. To get a true reading you may have to be a little deceptive. Ask the questions as though you are only considering getting a Chow. Ask them what they think of the breed. What predisposed medical conditions are they subject to. How much experience do they have treating Chows. Do they require muzzling? Tell them that you have heard they don't do well with anesthesia and ask them what they think. Ask about their protocol for vaccinations. Do they recommend annual booster shots?

All of these questions will give insight into how they feel about Chows. It will also tell you if they know and are willing to share the dangers of annual booster shots, rabies vaccine and chemical-based flea repellants.

Cost is always a concern. A good measure is to see what they charge for spaying and neutering. We have heard of some very exorbitant prices. Our vet charges \$150-\$180 depending on the weight of the dog for spaying. We understand that different parts of the country can be higher, but it is worth checking to see if you are getting the best price.

One of our clients shared that the price for neutering was one price, but if you



they get an upgraded cage to sleep in? Just what does it mean? Or is it a play on my emotions? Of course I want the best for my pet, but I don't want to pay unnecessary charges either.

Veterinarians treat all breeds of dogs, cats, and some other species. They can become the "jack of all breeds, but the master of none". You must be knowledgeable of your specific breed so you can help your vet. Having a veterinarian that welcomes your insight is so important in creating a good relationship to promote the best care for your pet.

Clinic staff also play an important role. If they don't try to make your pet's visit to the clinic as pleasant as possible and show patience with a nervous pet they aren't doing their job.

I feel so fortunate to have five veterinarians that I can rely on. With a kennel it is important for us to have backup support. And, of course, we also have other types of animals to be cared for. We have one specific vet we use for serious issues with

want the "comfort pack" it would be \$99 more. So, does that mean they won't keep my pet comfortable if I don't pay the extra? Do

our Chows. He is fantastic! Dr. Pumpelli explains the situation, answers our questions and listens to our concerns. He discusses options of care. He knows we have a lot of experience with Chows. This often helps guide the decision for the best plan of action for care. He also allows us to ask about issues unrelated to the issue at hand. You would never know that he didn't have all the time in the world to talk to us. This is the type of veterinarian we hope you find.

Taking your pet to the veterinarian is no different from taking a child to a pediatrician. Neither can speak for themselves, so we have to be their advocate. No veterinarian knows everything ... especially when it is breed specific. We have to often fill in the blanks to ensure our pet gets not only the correct diagnosis, but also the best treatment.

Our pets are often our children. We can't be shy and bashful with their care. We must be assertive. It is our responsibility to boldly ask the questions that will ensure the best care. It also will let the clinic personnel and your chosen veterinarian know, that you are involved, want to be apprised of the situation and the resulting treatment. Typically they welcome this attitude and know you are one of the "good" responsible owners. If your approach is not accepted, please continue your search for the right vet. Remember, your pet is totally reliant upon the decisions you make!

King Fenriz Satyr in Pennsylvania

Hey guys, just wanted to give you some update photos of this gorgeous specimen of a Chow Chow. I couldn't be happier with the little guy!

This cinnamon puppy is from Rosy & Frosty.



The Mandatory Rabies Vaccine ... Debate & Discussion

Anyone who has purchased a puppy from our kennel and came to the farm to pick it up has had to endure our briefing on the care of your puppy. In that briefing, I tell people how potent the rabies vaccine is. Recently I picked up the magazine "Natural Dog" and one of the articles is about the potential damage rabies vaccinations can cause.

A woman began pushing for studies to prevent rabies vaccines being given too frequently. Her Yellow Lab was given a rabies vaccine. Maine law required the vaccinations every two years even though the vaccine was suppose to be good for three years. Meadow, her Labrador, developed an aggressive mast cell tumor at the injection site. The veterinarian could not definitively say that the vaccine directly caused the tumor, but the syringe puncture from the rabies vaccination was visible in the center of the tumor. The cancer spread throughout Meadow's body. His owner couldn't do anything to help him, except make an attempt to influence getting the law changed.

A French medical study suggests that the rabies vaccine provides immunity in dogs for five to seven years. But, because it is a foreign study, it is not recognized in the United States. The one-year vaccine, in many cases, is the same vaccine given for a three-year vaccination. The potency remains, but if it is labeled as a one-year vaccination then the dog must be revaccinated in a year.

A study began in 2007 by giving half a control group the rabies vaccination, the

other half received nothing. This year, which will be the five-year mark, all the dogs in the control group will be infected with rabies. The USDA vaccine licensing standard does not accept "Titer Tests". A "Titer Test" is where blood is drawn and the strength of a dog's immune defense to rabies is checked by measuring his serum antibody titers. Since the USDA will not accept these tests, live dogs have to be infected with rabies and euthanized when they begin showing signs of the disease. The current study is also attempting to prove titer tests can be as effectively used in lieu of rabies vaccines. This would allow a dog to be tested to determine if they have immunity to rabies before being unnecessarily vaccinated.

Many states have medical exemptions for senior or ill dogs. Those states that do not are in violation of the manufacturer's prescribed usage. The vaccines are not intended for use in unhealthy dogs.

Rabies vaccinations are known to cause vomiting, facial swelling, injection site swelling or lump, lethargy, hives, hair loss, autoimmune disorders, and death. Many occurrences took place when other vaccines were administered at the same time. Therefore, they cannot unequivocally prove it was the rabies vaccine.

What can you do?

- Hold off getting the initial rabies vaccination for as long as you can.
- Check your state laws to find out

exactly what your state requires and if there are exemptions.

- Never have your dog vaccinated if it is ill.
- Do not have more than one vaccination given at any given time. Space them out by a couple of weeks or longer.

Reading this article made my blood boil. I fully understand the need to protect humans from rabies and vaccinating pets is a necessary evil. What I don't understand is when it is recognized that the vaccination immunity lasts much longer than originally thought, why does it take so long to change the law? Also, titer tests are used in human vaccination studies all the time. How is it different in animals? And, if it isn't, why must animals die to prove something isn't needed?

Here is a link where you can find specific websites for each state: DogChannel.com/rabiesinfo.

This one woman is making a difference. She was not in the medical field, a researcher, or had any previous experience changing something like this. She just loved her dog so much that she didn't want this to happen to another dog. You can help by writing to your congressman. Search online for any hearings that may be coming up in your state that you could have input to. Talk to your veterinarian. If he/she is unaware of the issues CHANGE VETS!!!

Schatzi in Florida

This puppy's new owner flew up to Dayton so her puppy could accompany her onboard in the cabin for her return flight home. Special treatment for a special puppy!

Everyone at the airport adored her while Darrell was waiting for the owner's plane to land. Many would have gladly taken her home with them.

Several exclamations of "look, a live

teddy bear" were heard.

Schatzi is yet another beautiful red puppy from Bella & Kaiser.

Don't you agree they produce gorgeous puppies?

Schatzi is a German word meaning sweetheart or darling. How appropriate a name for such a fine lady!



Hand Carrying your Puppy onboard Airplanes!

Many of our puppies travel a long distance by air. This is typically via air cargo. However, this special little girl got to go first class! Her new owner flew from Florida to Dayton. She picked up her puppy at the airport and then took her onboard the cabin for their return flight.

Airlines require puppies to be a minimum of eight weeks of age at time of air travel, whether it is via cargo or in the cabin.



Harnesses versus Collars

Harley is modeling his new harness. This is the type harness we recommend for puppies up to six months of age.

Collars can present a real danger to puppies. When you have a puppy on a leash and it becomes scared, it's first instinct is to run away. When it reaches the end of it's leash it comes to an abrupt stop, causing it's body to swing around and snapping the neck and head. All the pressure is on the neck. Their neck muscles haven't matured nor strengthened yet, and the vertebrae can easily become injured. It may not show up until months or even years later. To protect their neck from this trauma, we recommend a harness. In the same scenario the pressure is on the chest and stomach, dissipating the energy. The puppy is much less likely to become injured.

We also recommend the mesh harness rather than the nylon straps. The straps can irritate under the legs. Somewhere you might not regularly check. The mesh harnesses are much softer.

We also recommend loose-fitting "choker chains" for adults when needed, versus collars that may cause matting of their mane.



"Harnesses are less likely to injure a puppy and they are softer."



October Puppy Pickups



D & M Farm Happenings

We traveled with some Chow friends to Gatlinburg & Pigeon Forge, Tennessee over the holiday weekend. We stayed in a cabin on a hilltop for four days. The weather was cold & rainy during our entire stay. Guess we picked the wrong time to visit the fall foliage of the Smokies.



Another busy month at the farm. We had three litters that totaled 21 puppies. We have four of those puppies left and Daisy just had four puppies. She will soon be followed by Amber and Raven who are in the maternity ward.

All the dog houses have been bedded with clean straw for the winter. We typically have to replenish the straw once during mid-winter. The straw provides the necessary warmth to combat the cold frigid days of winter. As you know, Chows seem to enjoy cold weather. So being outside really isn't a hardship for them. It always surprises us when we see the white lumps in the yard after a heavy snowfall and then see a head pop up when they hear us coming.

Hay has been a main concern for us here

on the farm. We had purchased almost 300 bales earlier at \$4.50 per bale, but were waiting for the local farmer to get his third cutting. However, as of this writing, it hasn't happened. The weather just hasn't cooperated. First we had a lengthy drought, now we have an abun-



dance of rain, making it impossible to mow hay and have it cure properly. Luckily, we found another commercial farmer who had thousands of bales of hay already put up, so we purchased another three hundred bales at \$7.00 per bale. Ouch!



We hired the services of three young men to assist in off-loading and stacking in our barns. We feel so much better knowing we have adequate amounts of hay to get our animals through the winter. We've heard there are many people who have been forced to sell some of their livestock, due to the shortage of hay and/or they just can't afford what they are charging. A sign of the times! Hopefully, we all will see a drastic change for the better after the upcoming election!

We bought 85 guinea chicks to raise over the winter. Unfortunately something got into them and we lost several. But, we will still have quite a few to take to the

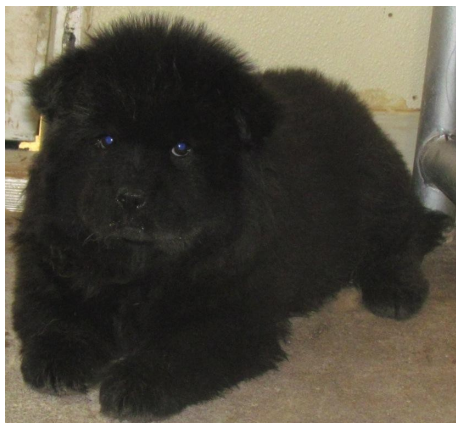
auction next spring to sell.



Rowdy, our old Quarter Horse, is having ulcer problems again. So, he is back on medication and a high calorie diet to put some weight back on to compensate for what he has lost. He is such a sweetheart. He's the horse anyone can ride. At 22 years old, he is still going strong ... at least in the warmer months. Once we get him over this bout with stomach ulcers he will be fit to ride once again. He also can pull a cart.

Our last trip to the Amish Mt. Hope Exotic Animal Auction in Holmes County is coming up the first weekend in November. We will also be picking up our trailway horse carriage. We dropped it off at an Amish shop to have lights installed and a French surrey roof put on. The weather is turning cold so it will be a cold trip. Not optimal, but we will just bundle up.

Darrell celebrated his 66th birthday on October 22d. Happy Birthday Darrell!!



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ambassadors of the breed"

