

# D & M Farm Kennel

## October 2014 Newsletter

### Special points of interest:

- Vaccinations
- Dental Care
- Pet Insurance

Volume 8, Issue 10

### Vaccinations - What Should One Know?

Many articles have been written about this subject, but we continue to hear of dogs having negative reactions to vaccinations!

The short of it is this . . . all puppies require vaccinations. When one year old, they should receive their first rabies shot, because it is required by all 50 states. The only other vaccination that is required, and then only if you choose to board your pet, is the Bordetella vaccine for "kennel cough". This vaccination may also be required by some groomers.

Rabies vaccines are typically given at 6 months, but many veterinarians are now giving them as early as 4 months of age. This vaccine is a very potent vaccine and young Chows often have a negative reaction. This reaction may be as mild as a bump on the skin, a rash or cause itching. The worst case reaction can be anaphylactic shock which can lead to death! Does this happen often? No, but if it happens to your pet, does it really matter if countless others were fine?

In the past, the rabies vaccine was required annually. Now, the first shot is good for 1 year and subsequent shots are good for 3 years. The dilemma is that it is the same

vaccine! We have yet to find a vet that can explain that one. The standard response is that they are trying to build up the antibodies.

Here is the fallacy with that philosophy. Independent studies have shown the antibodies created by the vaccine maintains its potency for 5-7 years. The USDA changed their stance on yearly vaccinations when it was proven that the vaccine was accumulating in the dog's system, causing paralysis in the lower spine and back legs as they aged. There is currently an effort underway to convince the USDA to change the frequency of the vaccination once again to a minimum of 5 years. However, until then ... many of our pets will continue to suffer the long-term ill affects from being overly vaccinated with the potentially toxic rabies vaccine.

Annual boosters have their issues as well. The American Veterinary Medical Association's website reflects that most practitioners are conflicted due to the lack of information being provided by the manufacturers. The manufacturers only provide information on the minimum duration of a vaccine's potency, not the maximum. This means that our pets are typically being over-vaccinated which

can lead to severe health risks such as auto-immune deficiencies. Just as in children, they are finding that the vaccinations can be potentially harmful in some cases.

So, where does that leave us? You need to find a veterinary who is willing to provide customized care for you individual pet. Typically, healthy adult dogs have a natural immunity to most diseases being vaccinated for. Only puppies, old dogs, or those with existing health issues should require additional vaccinations.

We don't vaccinate our adult breeding dogs, but they never leave our kennel. We vaccinate all of our puppies. Their immune system does not fully function until approximately 16 weeks old. For them, vaccinations are very important!

We recommend waiting until your puppy is 1 year old before getting the rabies vaccine. Their immune system is more mature and better able to handle the vaccine.

As stated, it doesn't matter if scores avoided having a reaction, if your puppy is the one that does! You are their protector! Ask lots of questions and make sure you find a veterinary who is willing to work with you!

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## D & M Farm Kennel

### Zeevik Ha'Adom "Zee" in Arizona



Darrell & Maleah -- I wanted to update you on how our puppy we got from you is doing at 15 weeks old. His AKC name is Zeevik Ha'Adom (Red Wolf) & his call name is "Zee". He has the best temperament of any of the six Chows I've owned. He is very

affectionate, friendly, & he loves people. He even kissed the Vet after his last shots. He's quite devoted to my almost 3-yr old black female Molly & they play well together, with the occasional squabble. I tell her she better keep him in line now, because in 6 months, the tables will be turned.

He weighs about 28 lbs, a gorgeous strawberry blond fluff-ball, and although much of his black mask is gone, his muzzle is still solid black. I hope he keeps it. Zee is really intelligent, & quickly learned all the basic com-

mands, including 'leave it', which we use a lot since he's been teething. My daughter is learning to train service dogs, and when she visited at around his 11-week point, she was very impressed by how fast and eagerly he learned new things.

I am thrilled with him, and can't thank you enough. You have beautiful, lovely-tempered dogs, & I'd recommend your chows to anyone. I doubt I'll get any more puppies, but if I change my mind, it'll be from you.

Zee is a puppy from Brandy & Yogi Bear.

### Dental Care - Natural or Professional?

*"Natural dental care is always preferred and is safer for your pet."*

There are many ways to provide good dental hygiene for your pet and it is important. Healthy teeth and gums are the foundation for supporting overall good health.

Providing appropriate chew treats will clean your dogs teeth. There are many on the market. Milk bones is an old staple that works well. Getting a large knuckle bone from the butcher is also an excellent option and your pet will love

you for it!

Dental cleanings performed by your veterinarian will definitely get their teeth clean but there are many risks. First, the dog must be sedated. Chows often do not do well with sedation, so it is risky for them. The cleaning also releases bacteria that can migrate up into the gums and cause serious infections. Some of these infections can move into the sinuses

and other areas that may become very difficult to treat. They can become chronic and in a few cases can be fatal.

If you consider what the animals do in the wild, you realize it doesn't include a dental hygienist. We believe natural is better, so we recommend things to chew on that are marketed to clean teeth and promote healthy gums!

### Sophie in Iowa

I picked up my puppy, Sophie, from you last August 9th, and brought her back home to Iowa. She has been a perfect companion! You told me that you breed for temperament and I am a 100% believer! She is lovable, calm, and playful (all at the right times)!.

Sophie is a puppy from Brandy & Solomon.



## Cody in Ohio

A timeline of Cody. It is always nice to establish sequential photos depicting the growth of one's puppy!

What a beautiful boy Cody has become. He is a puppy from Onyx & Hagrid.



## Pet Insurance

Pet insurance is one of those things that, when needed, can be a blessing and can help alleviate the financial stress when and if your pet ever requires major medical care. It also is something we don't usually think about until it is too late!

Here is a link to a site that provides comparisons of **10 pet health insurance companies**. I found that many have no exclusions as your dog ages as long as you acquire the insurance prior to

their 4th birthday.

You may choose which type of coverage and the deductible. A median range for 80% coverage with a \$500 deductible is \$25 - 30 per month. This also covers routine care and vaccinations. When you reduce the percentage covered and/or raise the deductible the rate decreases.

Any insurance is better than none. If your finances dictate that you must have a low monthly payment,

check to see if you can increase the coverage later when you can better afford it.

Unfortunately there are too many cases where a pet must be euthanized because the cost of care is too expensive for the family to absorb.

Pet insurance may be a small price to pay for the peace of mind you will have if your pet is ever seriously injured or sick, knowing its care will be covered by insurance!

*"Pet Insurance can alleviate the painful financial decisions when your pet is injured or sick."*

## Kingston in Virginia

I wanted to update you on our big guy, Kingston. He was from a litter from Brandy and Yogi born on June 10, 2014.

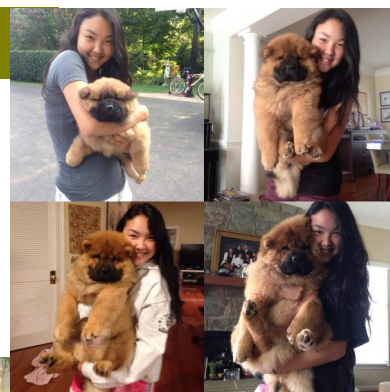
He just celebrated his 4 month birthday and is actually 18 weeks. Took him to the vet yesterday and he is a whopping 37 lbs! He is a sweet boy, but does have his moods of running crazy and nipping. Still a puppy! He loves his morning walks everyday around the same time rain or shine. He is a car and people

watcher. Loves meeting new people and dogs. He is such a smart dog. He learns new tricks quickly and knows the rules of the house. The vet was surprised that he has the run of the house and doesn't get into mischief at five months old. Thank you so much for breeding great dogs. Love out Kingston! Here are some photos of King. He loves laying on the shelf under our kitchen table.

Can't wait until the

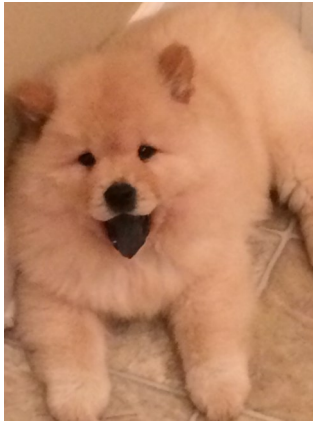
snow! He is going to love running in that! Love from Virginia!

Kingston is a puppy from Brandy & Yogi Bear.



## D & M Farm Kennel

### Kaiya in Illinois



We just wanted to send you a note and tell you how much we

love our new baby "Kaiya"! She is so sweet and such a good girl! She is adjusting well to our family and to her dog brother "Riley". They play and chase each other throughout the house. She also loves her cat sisters, but they are still getting use to her!

Thanks again for such a great puppy!

Kaiya is a puppy from Bluebelle & Macho Bear.



### Memorial to: *Brandi Girl Chang Dixon*



My name is *Brandi Girl Chang Dixon*. I was born January 13, 2002 and I passed away on October 20, 2014.

During my life on this earth, I was a very loving and loyal companion to my Dad and Mom.

But, on October 20, 2014 God told me that my job had finished and it was time to go over the Rainbow Bridge and run free without any more pain and suffering. My sister Scooter was there to meet me, and I was so happy to see her again, she had happy wags

and purple kisses for me.

I will miss everyone! I know they are in pain over my loss, but I am free. I pray they will find comfort with my sister Zoe and my brothers Toby and Yogi.

Toby was Brandi's special friend and they did everything together. He still goes all through the house looking for her. Zoe is also having a hard time. Yogi is still very young, but knows something is wrong.

Brandi was a beautiful Chow Chow with a huge heart and soul. She always had a very big smile on her face for everyone.

Brandi's passing was so fast and sudden, we are all still in shock. Brandi had congestive heart failure. She passed in my hands at 1:59 p.m. on that Monday.

I thank God every day for 12

years and 10 months that we had with this beautiful girl. Life will be different without her. She helped me train Zoe, and Toby and did a great job!

Brandi was not a D&M Farm Kennel Chow Chow, but thanks to Facebook, Darrell & Maleah followed her during her good times and her very sick days, and cared so much for Brandi's well-being and the love of this very special breed.

Thank you so very much Darrell & Maleah, for your prayers and very special blessings for Brandi.

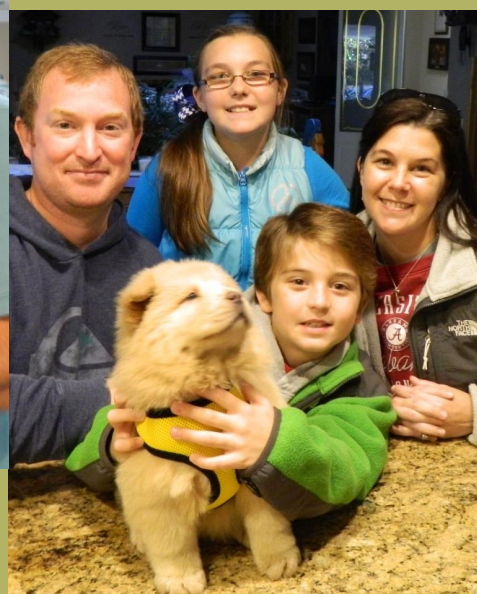
Our SUNSHINE doesn't come from the sky; it comes from the love in our Chowdren's eyes.

Roy & Barbara





## Puppy Pickups



Unfortunately, we don't always get the pictures taken. And, we don't always put them on the same disk. If we have overlooked anyone we are sorry. Send us a picture and we'll put it in another newsletter!

D & M Farm Kennel

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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”**

## Happenings at D&M Farm - October 2014

We are full steam ahead on getting things ready for winter. It is fast approaching and there always seems to be a flurry of activity in preparation for the frigid cold temperatures ahead.

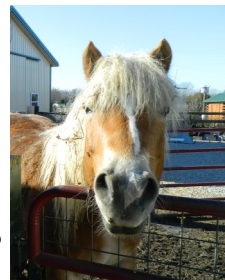
We dug our potatoes and sweet potatoes and then Darrell plowed worked down the garden. Our son, Jason, and Maleah cleaned out all the tomato bas-



kets and put them away. Straw has been put in all the dog houses to

make them nice and cozy. Heated buckets are in place.

Our horses are getting their winter coats and they seem to be fatter than normal for this time of year. That scares me a little, since the animals can tell us of things to come much better than the Weatherman.



The wood is stacked outside the door from last year's cache. The newly delivered wood has been stacked so it can age. I do look forward to that warm fire on cold nights!

Three litters in the kennel that will soon be leaving for their new homes. We don't expect any new litters until December, so the kennel will be scrubbed from top to bottom.

We never run out of things to do and that is just fine with us. Staying busy keeps us alive and our motors humming.

Be careful when you come to visit. We might just put you to work! 😊

