

D & M Farm Kennel April Newsletter

Special points of interest:

- Pet Insurance
- Favorite Links
- Loss of a Pet

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Rawhide Chews

Many of us have purchased Rawhide Chews in some form. Fortunately, we have never had a problem with these, but we received an email that proves they can pose a hazard.

The owner of one of our puppies contacted us to tell of us of an incident they had experienced with a Rawhide Chew. Their puppy loved them and would happily chew on them for long periods of time. The Rawhide Chew had been chewed down to a small piece. The puppy partially swallowed it and began to choke. The owner could see the rawhide at the back of the puppy's throat, but couldn't reach it. It was a terrifying time. The owner was very concerned the puppy was going to choke to death.

Molly in Ohio

What an absolute doll ! "Molly is full of personality and is very smart", reports her owner. The veterinary staff loves her and she struts her stuff for them every chance she gets.

Molly is doing great with her housetraining and catches on very quickly to all training. Molly is another great Chow Chow ambassador in the making.

Molly is from a litter of Caesar and Ginger. Her litter con-

sisted of seven cinnamon puppies. Since the cinnamon color is a dilute, it is very unusual to have a litter consisting of all cinnamon color puppies.

We are hoping the next litter has a cinnamon female like Molly, for us to keep. She is an incredible color and meets the breed standard to a tee. Keep up the good work Molly. We look forward to more updates as you grow.

Puppies, not unlike children, can choke and often times are not physically mature enough to dislodge the object. In this case, the puppy was able to expel the rawhide and was fine. The owners have decided not to provide the puppy rawhide chews anymore.



An alternative to the rawhide are Nyla bones. They are hard plastic bones that the puppy/dog can chew, but doesn't come apart. Therefore, they don't eat it. Another option are Kongs. They come in various sizes and are made of a hard rubber/plastic and cannot be consumed. The benefit of the Kongs, is that you can put cheese or peanut butter in them and place them in the freezer. After the center is frozen, you can give it to your puppy/dog to chew on. They will often spend hours trying to get the goody out of the center. It satisfies their need to chew and also gives them something to focus on for long periods. Nyla bones and Kongs can be found in most pet supply stores or can be ordered on-line.



Pet Insurance

Pet Insurance has become a very big industry. There is always the question whether it is worth the monthly premiums.

If your dog has an accident or becomes gravely ill, pet insurance is worth it's weight in gold. Veterinary bills can add up very quickly. One of our dogs unexpectedly developed a hole in her lung that required four days hospitalization. It cost us \$1700. If surgery had been required, it would have been in the thousands.

You must weigh the pros and cons. Premiums are based on the level of care just like human insurance. The better the coverage the more it

costs.

Pet stores, vet clinics, and the internet are good places to seek information about available insurance. Many will cover routine care, shots, and spay/neuter under their basic coverage. It will pretty much pay for itself the first year.

Starting coverage later in your dog's life comes with increased costs. And, most will not cover pre-existing conditions.

Next month I'm going to try to gather information to provide you with some comparisons and links you may want to investigate.

With the number of dogs we have it isn't cost effective.

However, for pet owners it is definitely something to consider.

Gromitt in North Dakota

Gromitt lives a very interesting life. He has two cats to play with, although they aren't very interested in playing with him. He also gets to go to work at the vet clinic everyday with his mom. He receives lots of attention and loves every bit of it. Gromitt is very playful and is growing fast.

He is a puppy from Kaiser & Gracie.



Favorite Links

I spend a lot of time on the web looking for the best prices on items we need for the kennel. I thought I might share with you a few of my favorite places to purchase pet supplies and meds.

entirelypets.com - great place to find meds and supplies.

Petedge.com - lots of toys and specialty items that you might not find anywhere else. Great grooming sup-

plies.

Jefferspet.com - another great site to find general items.

These sites are the ones that I utilize the most. I rarely can find what I'm looking for cheaper elsewhere.

I also use **amazon.com** to search for items. It provides a list of suppliers for

comparison. It's a great way to find new sites.

Happy hunting!



The web is a great place to find neat items for your pet.

Otis in Michigan

Otis became the newest family member after the family lost their older Chow. There was concern whether getting a puppy was the right thing to do, but it has worked out perfectly. Otis fills a



This includes his feeding dish. There was concern at one point that he might drown, but he seems to have it figured out.



Too cute for my own good!

I'll sleep here and wait for my next snack.

void and "makes the house seem normal again".

Otis is a fun-filled puppy who loves the family and all their friends.

He has a thing about pillows. He loves to lay his head on something when he goes to sleep.



Found me !

Bella in Ohio

Bella is now living with her new family in Ohio. She is a puppy from China and Teddy. What a gorgeous girl. One of her favorite things is to play in the rain.

Bella loves her family and is much loved in return.

Looks like she is a big help in the kitchen!



I want to help !



Kai in Indiana



Peek-a-Boo !

"Kai just keeps getting more beautiful and sweeter all the time", reports her mom.

At four months of age, she weighs in at 26 lbs. and is still growing like a weed.

She made great friends with the grandkids when they came to visit Grandma and Grandpa's for a week.

Things started off a little slow since Kai had not been around children. But, the shyness quickly disappeared

and they were all giving Grandma and Grandpa a few more gray hairs.



Am I cute or what ?

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*Quality Chows with
Exceptional Temperament*

**“The goal of D & M Farm Kennel is to
breed high quality Chow Chows
with exceptional temperament.
We want all of our puppies to be good
ambassadors of the breed”**

Dealing with the Loss of a Pet

We are routinely contacted by many people who have lost a beloved pet. Many question whether they should get a puppy or not. They are afraid and sometimes feel guilty that they are replacing their pet.

You cannot replace a pet that you have had and loved. However, their loss creates a void that can often be filled by a new puppy. Puppies will have their own personality. If you are concerned you are going to compare, we would recommend you not get the same color as your previous pet.

You will always have the memories of your beloved pet. And a new puppy will give you the chance to build new memories and enjoy a new life.

You will know when it is time. For some, it is immediate. For others, it may take many months before you feel ready. All those feelings are normal and are felt by everyone who has lost a pet. Other pet owners understand this. Those without pets often cannot under-

stand how you can feel so devastated over the loss of a “pet”. They don’t understand that the “pet” became a family member. It is very natural to grieve their loss. So, when your ready you will know. You may have forgotten the work involved in having a puppy again but they, like children, are only little for a short time. Enjoy their antics and embrace the love they have to give. They will fill the void with love if you give them the chance. Since we find the longevity of the average chow to be 12-14 years, we recommend obtaining a puppy when your pet is nearing that age and/or is either terminally ill or in poor health. Birth, life, death and rebirth is all part of Mother Nature’s plan.

