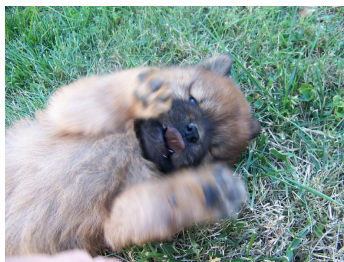




D & M Farm Kennel August 2009 Newsletter

Zeus in Kentucky



hesitant around strangers, and loves his other Chow companions.

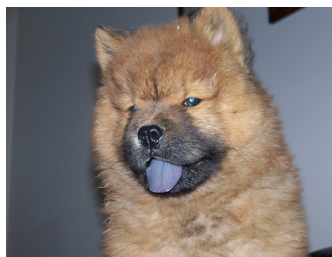
His family reports that he is the love of their lives and follows them around everywhere.



Zeus is a puppy from Leo and Daisy.

Zeus is all grown up!! He is now 2 years old and a spitting image of his daddy, Leo.

Zeus was integrated into an existing Chow pack and instantly fit right in. He is very social, although a little



Causes for Limping?

Chows may have several things go wrong that will cause limping. Some are not serious and others are. How do you know the difference? By observing to determine how bad the pain appears to be, and if it has not gone away on it's own within a couple of days.

The first thing to check is the pads of the paw. Look for scratches, cuts, and feel for heat. During the winter, ice may cause small cuts that can become very sore. If you find a cut, try to protect the paw. You can apply a topical antibiotic. In the winter, Vaseline can help protect a sore paw against further damage by the ice

and cold.

Due to their straight back legs, Chows are prone to tearing the tendons or ligaments at the knee. Ours have done this running and slipping on wet grass. Mother Nature will normally heal this condition. However, most veterinarians will recommend surgery. The recovery time is much shorter. If you opt not to have surgery, do not administer pain medication. This may mask the pain and cause the dog to use the leg, potentially causing further damage. Recovery may take as long as six months without surgery. However, Mother Nature is quite amazing in mending

minor problems.

Hip Displasia is another known problem with many larger breeds. Genetically, it will show up within the first two years. However, this is often confused with rapid bone growth. Hip Displasia can only be definitively diagnosed at the age of two years or older.

Rapid bone growth causes "growing pains". It is what the name implies, the bones are growing quicker than the rest of the structures, thus causing pain. Teenagers often suffer from this. Temporarily putting your dog on Deramaxx, or it's equivalent, can generally provide relief.

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Special points of interest:

- AKC Website
- Introductions
- Recognizing Pain

Tragedy Strikes our Kennel

We lost Leo and Cha Chi a few days ago. They were two of our breeding males.

Leo could be such a little imp. He loved to be ornery and would play "catch me if you can". Once he realized you didn't want to play, he was immediately by your side for a scratch behind the ears. His sire was Sampson and his Dam was Midnight. Both had similar personalities.

Cha Chi's parents were Sampson and Misty. He had been returned by an owner who could no longer keep him. He came

back to us when he was three years old. He was very slow to warm up to people. Unfortunately, he had not been properly socialized when he was a puppy.

Breeding males do not coexist in the same kennel run. They all have their own enclosed yard area with their chosen "ladies". Unfortunately, while we were gone, a farm-hand failed to get the gate between the two kennel runs properly secured. The males were able to force open the gate. As a result, both dogs were severely injured

from fighting, and sadly we had to have them both put down.

We are deeply saddened by their death and will sorely miss them both. Leo was four years old and Cha Chi was five.

Both males leave behind several beautiful off springs.

The tragedy serves a stark notice as to how crucially important it is to ensure the safety of our beloved pets. Taking those necessary extra precautions may save a life.

AKC Website

AKC has a website that has a wealth of information for the pet owner. The site is www.akc.org.

The AKC website has always provided good information about different breeds of dogs, their care, and training. Now they have added other areas of information to keep the pet owner more informed.

They also now have information on pending legislation that will affect pet owners and breeders. This is broken down by state. Many states are being urged by PETA to initiate stricter laws for pet owners and breeders. These laws will affect how many pets you are allowed to own, the tax you

must pay, etc. Many of the laws being pushed by PETA will have an adverse affect on pet owners and place severe restrictions on breeders. **AKC believes the states' interference with pet ownership is crossing the line.**

They also have a section about homeowners insurance. It provides information on how to find an insurance company that doesn't have restrictions on your breed of animal. Many insurance companies have restrictions on homeowners who own what is considered by them to be a vicious breed. Pitbulls, Rotweilers,

and Dobermans typically are on all the lists. Chow Chows have been removed from All-State's and State Farm's lists.

AKC is now also offering pet insurance and a pet recovery service.

Visit the website to see all the information and offerings they have. We are impressed and thankful of their efforts to provide

worthwhile information to pet owners beyond the traditional limited information historically provided in the past.

"AKC has expanded the information they now provide pet owners on their website."

Nutmeg in Pennsylvania

A client shared a video of their puppy that was born at D & M Farm Kennel. Nutmeg is a puppy from Izzie & Hadrig. The proud Grandparents are Misty & Kaiser.

Her new owners report that she is quite ornery, but has won the hearts of everyone in her family. She can sometimes be a real comic, as displayed in the video. Isn't it a shame they can't stay puppies forever?

Please enjoy the video at <<http://sharing.theflip.com/session/f3c07080a0fbda030270b94c33453d3a/video/5796168>>

Introductions & Protocol for Your Chow

Many people are wary of Chows. They either have experienced a bad encounter with a Chow, or have heard the horror stories. So, it is very important that your Chow be a great ambassador for the breed. We need to win over those who are misinformed!

When Chows are puppies, they are very accepting of others and love to be played with. This is the best time to socialize them and build their confidence meeting strangers and other animals. This will translate into a socially sound adult dog who does not fear strangers or attack other animals.

When someone approaches your Chow, it is your responsibility to orchestrate the encounter. Instruct the person to approach

slowly and from the front of the dog. In fact, it is usually the best option, to let the dog come to them. Allow your dog to initiate



You must take the lead on introductions.

the contact, with your encouragement and oversight. It is very important that Chows not be approached from directly over their head. This is a threatening position from a dog's point of view. Instruct the person to outstretch their hand, and stand still ... so it can be smelled. With Chows it is often better to give them a scratch under the chin, rather than reaching over them to pat them on the head.

Of course, many Chows have no problems with meeting people. But, if yours tends to be a little wary, you must take the lead in making the introduction pleasant for both human and dog. The same principle applies to the acceptance of other animals. Teach young and reap results as adults.

Recognizing Pain

We have received questions from several Chow owners, as to how one can recognize when their Chow is in pain.

Chows are normally very stoic and rarely whimper or cry when in pain. This is evidenced by the puppies, when we inject the microchip. They seldom utter a sound, yet we know it has to hurt.

Some signs you want to look for in determining when your dog is in pain are increased breathing, lack of eating, irritability

and lethargy.

A dog's respiration rate typically increases when they are in pain. They may or may not be panting, but the increase in breathing will be noticeable.

Most dogs in pain don't want to eat. They may or may not drink water.

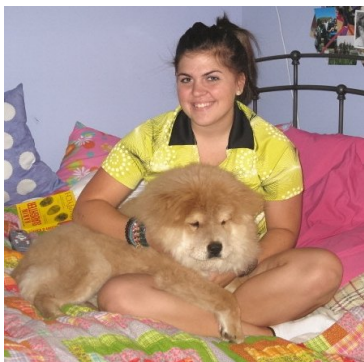
Uncharacteristic irritability sometimes presents itself in dogs who are suffering.

"Chows are very stoic and rarely whimper or cry out in pain."

Most dogs who are in pain want to be left alone. They will find a quiet place and stay there.

As a dog ages and begins to have health issues, it is important to observe your dog's behavior to identify potential health changes early.

Kodi in Michigan



Kodi has fit right in with his family. It is reported that he likes to go for walks with mom, hang out in his human sister's room, and play Putt Putt Golf with his human brother.

As you can see in the second picture, he also likes to take advantage of an empty lounge chair whenever he can.

Kodi is from a litter of Kaiser and Bella.



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"Quality Chows with Exceptional
Temperament"

We're on the web
www.dmfarm.com

"The goal of D & M Farm Kennel is to
breed the highest quality of Chow Chows
with exceptional temperament.
We want all of our puppies to be great
ambassadors of the breed"

Farm Happenings - Summer 2009

Well, we are racing towards fall and bracing for winter. It is truly amazing how quickly spring and summer have flown by. It seems like only yesterday that we were planning our garden and now we have already torn out the beds and are preparing them for next year. All the fruit trees have born their fruit and are beginning to lose their leaves. We will soon be harvesting our fall honey and putting the bees to bed for the winter within the next couple of weeks.

We just welcomed two new members to our menagerie. We just purchased two Jersey calves ... a heifer and a bull. They are both only about a week old and require bottle feeding. We will raise the heifer to eventually become our family milk cow. Having fresh milk, making homemade butter and cheese are things we've always wanted to do. Hopefully, by the time she is mature, we'll both be retired. Heck, we may even get a Brown Swiss heifer to boot.

With winter peeking around the corner, we will begin getting the farm and the animals

prepared for the oncoming cold weather. There are heated water buckets to clean, straw to be put in the dog houses, the chicken coop to clean out and place new bedding, heat lamps to be put in place, and the horse's run-in shed to clean out, only to mention a few chores to be done before winter.

It will soon be time to close the in-ground pool for another year. It really got a workout this year from our grandchildren.

We have already stocked the barn mows full with hay for the winter feeding and the



New renovation at front of kennel.

barn smells wonderful. The propane tanks, gas tank and kerosene barrels have all been filled to provide heat for puppies and provide fuel for the winter months.

We are gearing up for our fall litters. We expect several births in September, October, and November.

We poured a concrete pad in front of the kennel which will cut down on the mud. It also has a nice overhang which provides protection from the weather. The dogs are enjoying the shade and the cool concrete during the heat of the day, but will also appreciate the protection once the cold winds begin to blow.

Darrell has also mended and reinforced fences where the dogs are. We have a couple who like to climb, so higher fences were needed to prevent unexpected visitors.

We stay busy on the farm, but love every minute of it. If you have a chance, please come for a visit. All of us at D & M Farm would love to meet you.