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D & M Farm Kennel July 2007 Newsletter

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Predisposition and/or Genetic Disorders In Chows

There are health disorders that dogs can be predisposed to, due to their breed, or they may suffer from a genetic disorder

Predisposition means that due to their breed characteristics, there are some disorders they may develop that have nothing to do with their bloodlines.

Genetic disorders are those that are passed down from their parents, grandparents, or further back in their bloodline.

Fortunately, Chows do not have a very long list of disorders that they are predisposed to. Entropia is the only predisposition that I am aware of. The foundation sire of the breed reportedly had Entropia. Therefore, the

breed is now predisposed to the condition. It can be genetic if affected dogs are bred. This is a disorder where the lower eyelid grows too long and rolls inward. The eyelashes then rub the eye causing irritation which leads to excessive tearing. This disorder requires surgery to repair it. In puppies this procedure is simple and inexpensive. A simple "eye tuck" requires a stitch be placed in the lower lid preventing it from rolling inward. In older dogs the surgery requires a half moon shape of skin be removed below the lower lid which then shortens it and prevents it from rolling inward.

If this condition goes untreated it can cause eventual blindness. If you notice excessive tearing with your

puppy, have your veterinary check it out.

Puppies can go through a period during growth when their eyes will tear due to blocked ducts. It will come and go and does not require treatment. Entropia is easily diagnosed because you can actually see when the eyelid rolls inward.

Genetic disorders in Chows include hip and knee dysplasia. Dysplasia occurs when the socket does not fully develop correctly and it allows the ball of the joint to move around or slip out of the socket. It is usually degenerative in nature. This means that it normally gets worse with time. The joint also often becomes arthritic. There are many treatments for this condition, to include diet supplements, arthritis medicines, and surgery. The severity of the condition will dictate the treatment

Inside this issue:

Registries	2
Molt	2
Cooper	2
Beshira	3
Weaning	3
Stormie	3
Profile	4

Special points of interest:

- Molt, Where does all that hair come from?
- Weaning, how do you know when?
- Profile of Midnight and Ceasar

Sheba

This photo is of Sheba. She is out of Ceasar and Sheba's January 2006 litter. She now lives in Michigan.

What a doll! She has a beautiful colored coat. She is what we refer to as a "shaded red". This means

she is a red with cream on her muzzle, eyebrows, mane, tail, and feathers.

I love the pacifier!



Dog Registries

There are several dog registries and it seems there are more popping up every day. The oldest registry is the American Kennel Club (AKC). This is followed by the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) and the United Kennel Club (UKC). AKC and CKC have a reciprocal agreement. If a dog is registered by one it can also be registered in the other. This is not true of other registries. AKC does not recognize them.

The mission of the registries is to preserve the integrity of the breed. AKC has started surprise inspections of breeders. Their checklist is quite exten-

sive and if any discrepancies are noted, the breeder is given a certain amount of time to rectify the problem. If a breeder does not address the problem(s) or is continually written up they will lose their registry privileges.

This means that they will no longer be able to register their puppies with AKC.

Many disreputable breeders then begin looking for other registries. So, if you are purchasing a puppy that is regis-



tered with an unknown registry ... do your homework. Make sure you are purchasing the puppy that you believe it to be.

Molt

Chow Chows are a double coated breed of dog. This means they have a soft undercoat and a courser topcoat. The dense undercoat protects them from cold and from heat.

Many people ask if Chows shed excessively. They try don't. But, there are at least two times a year when they shed their undercoat ... or molt. This molting is a time when you have to be vigilant about grooming. The undercoat will come out in clumps. It's amazing how much hair is shed and they still

have lots of hair left! Sometimes I wonder how they avoid becoming bald!

The undercoat is replaced by new hair. So, it is very important to comb out the old hair to keep your dog comfortable. Daily grooming will keep you ahead of the game.

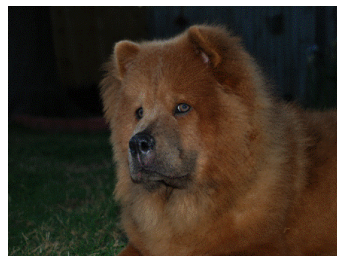
It is important to keep up with this for the health of your Chow. When they become wet and matted, the old undercoat takes much longer to dry, putting your dog at risk for skin conditions.

“matted or old undercoat takes much longer to dry putting your pet at health risk”

Rakes and slicker brushes are best for this type of coat. Check with your vet or groomer for more information.

Cooper

This Arkansas fuzz ball, also known as Cooper, is a wiggling bundle of joy. Never meeting a stranger she is the love of her owner's lives. She didn't turn out to be quite the color expected but they wouldn't trade her for the world.

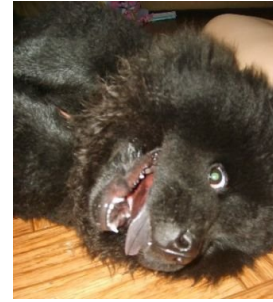


Beshira

Beshira is beautiful girl from Ebony and Kaiser's March 2007 litter. She is loved by her family and is, by the family's own admittance, spoiled rotten. But then, that is as it should be. Chows are made to be spoiled and I think they expect it. That's okay though, because the return is so great!



Beshira



Naptime

Weaning

We have had questions about when it is best to wean a puppy from it's mother. The breed will dictate this to some extent as well as the size of the puppies and the litter.

We normally wean our puppies between five and five and a half weeks of age. The primary motivator is the drain the puppies become on the mother. Once the puppies are four weeks of age they have all their teeth. This can make it very uncomfortable for mom and they can now begin eating soft foods. By the time the puppies are five weeks old they are eating dry puppy chow and we supplement with canned food for the extra calories.

Mom begins to lose weight. It is impossible for her to eat enough calories to compensate for what the puppies are taking from her. For the health of the

mother it is time to remove the puppies at about five weeks of age.

Instead of doing it "cold turkey" we reduce the time mom is with the puppies. This helps the puppies adjust and mom's milk begins to decrease. This helps to prevent her from becoming engorged and also becoming very uncomfortable.

Of course, this is all done under the guidance of our veterinary. In rare cases where the litter is large and the puppies progress more slowly we may leave them with mom a few more days and/or supplement them with puppy replacement milk.

It is a balancing act to safeguard the welfare of the mother and her puppies. We want to ensure the best care for both without compromising either.

Puppies adjust quite well to this process. They have their littermates to lean on during this time. The upset normally only lasts a day or so. It is a natural process that puppies must go

"Weaning is a natural process all puppies must go through."

through. I think it harder on us sometimes then it is on them.

Stormie

Stormie continues to be the life of the party. Her siblings put up with her antics most of the time and join in once in awhile. Her favorite thing now is to play in the water dish and splash water all over the floor. Mom isn't too happy with this new trick.

Stormie is out of Ebony and Kaiser's March 2007 litter and is a sister out of the same litter as Beshira listed above..

She already weighs in at 29 lbs.

To the right is Stormie pictured with her big brother, Thor. Thor is out of a 2004 litter from Misty and Sampson.

It is so difficult to get a good picture of a black Chow!



Stormie and Thor

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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 tem-
perament.**

**We want all of our puppies to be
great ambassadors for the
breed.”**

Midnight and Ceasar

Ceasar is a real character. He definitely has a mind of his own. There are times when you go into his area that he will come up to you to be petted. Other times he walks away as though you are a nuisance. When I press the issue he will stop, drop his head as if to say, “Okay, get it over with!”

He is a registered blue but is really a



cinnamon. His coat color is quite unique. He throws beautiful puppies. Ceasar is one of our own puppies. His dam and sire were Muffin and Khan.

Midnight is a gorgeous girl with a personality to match. She loves people and never misses an opportunity for attention. She is an awesome mother.

Midnight is black. In the summer sun she get some auburn highlights in her coat. He mother was red and her father was black.

