

D & M Farm Kennel News

Why Do We Breed?

We have had inquiries from potential buyers as to why we breed and also why Chows.

In 1983 we purchased our first "fur ball". Pandy was a joy for our family and we fell in love with the breed. We found out very quickly that many people had a very definite opinion about Chows. And, most of the time it was negative.

Shortly after purchasing Pandy we purchased our second Chow, Bear Bear. They traveled with us to Germany when Darrell was in the military. Those dogs traveled more than many people.

Over the years we lost both Pandy and Bear. We had

other dogs but Chows were our favorite. When Darrell retired from the service we wanted to purchase a small farm and raise animals. We tried to find Chows to add to our menagerie but had a very hard time finding any. There just weren't Chow breeders around anymore. This led to our decision to breed Chows.

We decided that our focus had to be on temperament with the intent of improving the Chow reputation. People who have had Chows love them, but many who are unfamiliar with the breed believe the stereotype that it is a vicious breed.

We continually receive

feedback that our puppies are well adjusted and friendly. Veterinarians often complement how friendly and well socialized our puppies are. We feel our breeding program goal has been achieved.

Thanks to all of you who have provided us with regular updates and for all the positive feedback we have received. It gives us the motivation to continue breeding this wonderful unique breed.



Past D & M Farm puppies.

Dew Claws

Many have asked whether we remove the dew claws. We don't.

Some breeds have problems with dew claws, but Chows are not one of them. All of our dogs have their dew claws and I can say that I

have never had any problems with any of them.

Dew claws are located on the inside of the front legs. They rarely make contact with the ground.

Dew claws must be surgi-

cally removed and surgery is always a risk. It can also be a painful procedure.

So, unless your Chow is experiencing problems, we feel dew claws are better left alone.

May 2007

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News

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Special points of interest:

- Preparing for Baby
- Personality of the Chow
- To Breed or Not to Breed

Preparing for the New Baby's Arrival

Puppies, like human children, are sponges when it comes to learning. It is important to determine the rules early on and set boundaries before you bring the puppy home. Some things to think about are:

- Where will the puppy sleep?
- What rooms is the puppy allowed?
- Are treats allowed?
- What is the puppy allowed to play with?
- Will the puppy be allowed outside only on a lead or run free?

These boundaries are important for each family member to be aware of to avoid sending mixed signals to the puppy. If one person thinks it's cute if the puppy tugs on a sock, but the puppy is punished if he does it to someone else, the puppy won't understand. If one person allows the puppy to get into bed with them, but someone else makes the puppy get into his own bed, it will be confusing. Consistency is

the key.

Often times we don't think in these terms when it comes to an animal. Their feelings have to be considered.

Puppies and dogs are normally very anxious to please, so it is important that the humans in their lives act very responsibly so it will be enjoyable for everyone concerned.



Cleaning Teeth

There is much focus on canine teeth care these days. Many veterinarians promote cleaning teeth. Sometimes it cannot be avoided due to problems developing with the gums. However, be aware that it requires anesthesia and with it comes the risks.

Some natural ways to keep your dog's teeth clean are chew bones and dry dog food. These naturally scrape away the tartar and plaque.

All pet departments sell pet toothbrushes and toothpaste. If you are going to use these we recommend you begin it when your dog is still a puppy. I know some of our adults

"You should check your dog's mouth once a month for potential problems."

would take exception if I suddenly started brushing their teeth.

It is important to check your dog's teeth and gums on a regular basis. Once a month is good. Check the gums for any redness or swelling. Foul mouth odor often is an indicator of an infection. If you notice any of these signs, it is best to have it checked out by your vet. Ask about alternatives to cleaning.

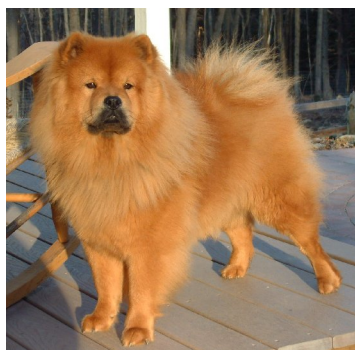
Lily from Massachusetts

Lily lives in Massachusetts. She is a joy to her family and loves everyone. She is playful, inquisitive, and a quick study.



Baby Lily

You can see by her picture in the snow (far right) that she loves to run and play. She looks like she is smiling! She loves her other animal companions which include a dog, cats and horses.



How's this for a pose?
What a beautiful girl!

Lily is another great ambassador for the

Chow Chow breed and D&M Farm Kennel. She is very well socialized.

Lily is from a litter of Sheba and Sampson. She was born in June '05, so she's already almost two years old!



"Look Mom, No paws!"

Personality of a Chow

Chows are extremely loyal and consider themselves the owner of the family rather than the other way around. Their personality isn't like most dogs that I'm aware of.

Chows tend to be a very clean dog, choosing one area of the yard as their waste area rather than messing up the entire yard.

Many consider Chows to be aloof. They are a proud breed for sure, but are never aloof with those they love.

They are not what I consider to be socially needy dogs. They are quite con-

tent to just be in the room with you.

They don't have to be in your lap. They take their guard dog responsibilities very seriously.

They will often patrol the house to make sure all is in order. They are very quick to pick up on changes in the household. When one of their family

members is sick they often won't leave their side.

Chows also do not require a lot of exercise like most other dogs their size. Many consider fetching ... a fruitless waste of their time. Mine look at me as if to say, "If you wanted it you shouldn't have thrown it."

Our chows will come and lay in the room we are in. Periodically going to check on other family members only to return and be content just to be with you.



Snapper

Snapper lives with his family in Ohio. His sire and dam are Sampson and Midnight. He is two years old.

Snapper is another great Chow with lots of personality. He is a joy to his family and he claims the household as his own.

His family has decided to get another puppy to add to their household. They are now on our waiting list.



Share? Was I suppose to share?

Our Newsletters

We want to thank everyone who has sent us emails or called us to compliment our Newsletters. We appreciate the feedback and value your input. We can better gauge how we are doing and whether the newsletters are beneficial.

Our intent is to provide information specifically for Chows and, in general, information pertaining to all dogs. We hope our readers gain knowledge from

our experience.

We also like to showcase our puppies. We are very proud of them and love to share the pictures.

If you have any topics you would like to see covered please email your requests to me. Also, pictures of our puppies of all ages are appreciated. Let us know



how they are doing and anything special you can tell us.

Again, thanks for all your input!

To Breed or Not to Breed?

Often times someone will consider breeding their female. This consideration is based on different reasons. It could be that the personality of the dog is exceptional. Or, they would like for their children to experience having a litter of puppies. There are serious considerations to be made before you decide.

There is always a risk to the female when breeding. Things do go wrong during pregnancy and with the birthing process and, if you are not experienced, you may not notice the signs in time. You have to consider what it would be if you lost your female. Fortunately, this is an infrequent occurrence, but it

does happen.

There are also times when a puppy in a litter has something wrong with it. You are then put in the position of having to decide whether to try and save the puppy or have it put down. I can tell you from experience, this decision is never an easy one.

There are also times when a puppy just doesn't thrive. Nothing you can do



Puppies can be hard to let go.

helps and the puppy ultimately dies. This is very difficult due to the emotional investment you make from the time the puppy is born.

If all goes well and you have a viable litter of puppies you will no doubt become attached to them. It makes it hard sending them to new homes. You may also worry whether you have placed them in "good" homes.

Breeding is a serious decision that requires a lot of prior thought and consideration. If you decide to breed, make yourself aware of all the medical and emotional issues and work with your veterinary to minimize as many risks as possible.

Projected Litters due at D&M Farm Kennel

We have two litters expected in May and two in June. Ginger and Ceasar are expected to have puppies towards the end of May. Sheba and Kaiser will also be due around that time.

In June we have Misty and Kaiser followed by Raven and Leo. We are still hoping for first time litters from both Rosy and Gracie. Their litters will be sired by Khan.

July will be a busy month with litters from Daisy and Leo and then Gypsy and Buhda.

We expect the summer months to be

very busy. With all the expected puppies, we are planning a kennel expansion. We plan to begin construction as soon as the weather decides to stay nice for more than one day at a time.

"We expect the summer months to be filled with puppies!"

Mt Hope, Ohio Exotic Animal Auction

One of Darrell and my favorite things is auctions. We traveled to Mt Hope, Holmes County, Ohio for the Amish Exotic Animal Auction from March 29-31. They have just about every animal you would not commonly see in Ohio; i.e., camels, zebras, buffalo, all type of fowl, wolf pups, monkeys, and much more.

We wanted to get some peacocks, guin-

neas, and turkeys which we were able to do. We also purchased a baby goat we appropriately named Billy. We also purchased two donkeys whom we have named Jack and Ginny. Our menagerie continues to grow and evolve and we love it. The dogs are not quite sure about the bray-



Jack & Ginny

ing and to them the goat looks like dinner. It gives them something new to entertain them.

We love our farm and have a great time with all of our furry family. If you get a chance we would love for you to visit us.

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"Great Quality and
Temperament is our Goal"

We're on the Web!
www.dmfarm.com

**"The mission 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"**

Sire and Dam Profile

Buhda and Gypsy are a pair that we normally breed together.

Buhda is very sweet tempered and loves all the attention he can get. He learned to beg as a puppy and will still do it for you if he thinks you have a treat. He will paw at you if you don't give him the attention he thinks he deserves. Once you begin petting him, he will lean into you with a complete expression of rapture. He does love attention!

Gypsy is one of our own puppies from our matriarch Bluebelle and our patriarch Sampson. Bluebelle and Sampson were two of our first

breeding dogs that started D & M Farm Kennel.

Gypsy is sweet, but shy around strangers. She is one of our best mothers. She normally has large litters for a Chow, six to eight puppies. She and Buhda have all red puppies. Some of them are the copy red of Gypsy and others the dark mahogany red of Buhda. Buhda imprints his puppies with his broad face

and snout.



Buhda



Gypsy