



D & M Farm Newsletter September 2008

Those Pearly Whites

Dental care for pets has become a big business. Along with it comes controversy whether dental cleanings and care are really needed.

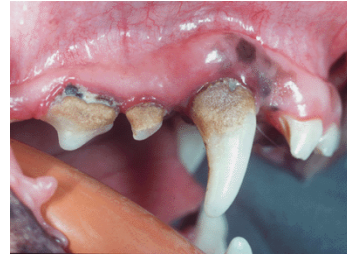
Some pets do need assistance with their teeth. This is normally a result of other health problems or the complete lack of care. Just as in humans, if your pet has a healthy diet their teeth normally remain healthy as well. Pets can also fracture a tooth which will need immediate attention.

Check your dogs gums on a regular basis. They should look pink and healthy. If you see darkening around the teeth you should have it checked out.

With Chows this can be difficult. Since their gums are not pink, how can you

tell if they are healthy.? One way is your pets breath. If you smell a fowl odor something isn't right. Another indicator is excessive plaque buildup on the teeth.

Some things you can do to



Plaque and calculus accumulation on the teeth is not healthy.

promote good dental health is to provide dry kibble for them to eat. This scratches the plaque from the teeth. Also, good chew toys are great. They also massage the gums as well as scratch off the plaque.

You will see toothbrushes and paste for pets. This is also a good way of caring for your pets teeth, but you should begin this while they are young. Older dogs tend to take offense at you sticking your fingers in their mouth and brushing their teeth.

Dental cleanings is sometimes recommended. I discourage this in Chows due to the requirement for anesthesia. As many of you already know, Chows often do not do well under anesthesia. Only in those severe cases where there is no alternative would I recommend dental cleanings.

There are many articles on the web and your veterinary can provide you guidance on the preventive care of you pet's teeth.

Maggie in IN

Maggie is a joy to her family. Although cautious at first, she loves people once she gets to know them. She loves to play with her toys while her family watches TV. Tug of war is one of her favorite games. This requires constant

maintenance of her toys! She also loves to eat ice cubes.

She keeps her family busy. What a beautiful girl!



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Special points of interest:

- Dental Care
- Cold Weather Precautions
- When to Call the Vet

Colder Months Are Upon Us

As our summer is coming to an end we must begin thinking about preparing for colder weather. Our pets rely on us to protect them. Plan now and accomplish the things while it is still warm so you aren't trying to accomplish tasks in the biting cold of winter.

For dogs that spend time outside it is important for them to have water available at all times. Frozen water is a fact of winter, but with heated bowls and buckets, fresh water can always be available. You can find heated containers at your local farm stores such as Tractor Supply or Farm King. You can also purchase them via the internet through many pet supply companies. One that I use on a regular basis is Jeffers Pet at



www.jefferspet.com.

Providing shelter from rain and cold is also very important when our pets are outside. When animals get wet from rain and sleet, then the temperature drops

further, they can suffer from hypothermia. Their undercoat has to be dry to protect them. A warm dog house is a good option. We prefer wood to plastic. We also recommend a dog house that has the floor elevated off the ground but is enclosed around the bottom. This creates a dead air space and the dog house will stay much warmer. Also, dog houses are warmed by your pet's body heat. Bigger is not better. You want the dog house to be large enough for your pet to comfortably enter and lay down, but is small enough for his body heat to keep him warm. It is also a plus if you can position the dog house so it is further protected from wind and rain by another building.

A good nutritious dog food is very important during the winter. You want your pet to maintain a good weight to stay healthy. On very cold days it is good to provide a warm meal. You can warm water and add dog food kibble to make a warm mash. You can add eggs or bacon grease. Both are great for the coat and makes the mash extra tasty.

Keep an eye on your pet's paw pads. Ice can cause cuts that can become very sore.

Check between the toes as well. When the snow is on the ground make sure you clean any balls of snow that accumulate on your pet's feet. This can be very painful. If needed, trim the hair to prevent the accumulation.

Chows fare very well outside and often love to lay in the snow. I have some that enjoy also laying out in the rain while others do not want to get their feet wet. They are as different as people. They will choose well for themselves. As long as shelter is available, don't worry about your Chow laying out in the weather. They know when to come in out of the rain!!

"Prepare now for the colder months."

Leo in Indiana

Leo is nine months old. He has an awesome personality and loves to steal things so you'll chase him around the house. He gets so excited when his family comes home his whole body wiggles/shakes. He loves to lay on the bed and be loved on, as long as he wants ... then he is done. He also loves to



go on walks and tries to walk himself. He has learned the places that he can go visit and will be welcomed. So, when you go on walks he likes to go that way and then pull you up to the door so he can see them. People just love him and think he is adorable.



Leo is a puppy from Daisy and Leo.

Otis in Indiana

Otis is the pride and joy of his family. He is very good with everyone and loves to play. He is the ruler of his domain and loves to set on the deck and survey his domain. He loves to be brushed although it didn't start out that way.

Otis now weighs 65 lbs. He is from a litter of Raven and Leo.



When To Call The Vet

Chows can be very stoic and do not often let you know when they are in pain. If you know your dog well you will be able to pick up on differences that may indicate he isn't feeling well.

Some signs you should look for are:

- Lethargy
- Irritability
- Restlessness
- Loss of Appetite

More obvious signs include:

- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Runny eyes
- Runny nose

Just as in people, Chows can become very sensitive to touch if they are in pain for a long period. This sometimes may manifest itself in an unwillingness to be hugged.

"Don't let health issues go unattended."

If they are in enough pain they may even snap at someone when pushed or hugged due to the additional pain it causes.

Whenever you notice a prolonged change in your dog's behavior it is always good to get a physical done to rule out a health issue. A week of observance is a good rule of thumb. If changes in your dog continue for more than a week without obvious outward signs of health issues, it is best to get a checkup by your vet.

Loki in Winnipeg, Canada



Loki is now in his new home in Winnipeg, Canada. As a new Canadian he has settled in and loves his new family. Loki is very playful and is planning on going to some puppy classes soon.

Loki is a cinnamon puppy from Daisy and Leo's litter.



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Temperament*

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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"

"He is my other eyes that can see above the clouds; my other ears that hear above the winds. He is the part of me that can reach out into the sea. He has told me a thousand times over that I am his reason for being; by the way he rests against my leg; by the way he thumps his tail at my smallest smile; by the way he shows his hurt when I leave without taking him. (I think it makes him sick with worry when he is not along to care for me.)

When I am wrong, he is delighted to forgive. When I am angry, he clowns to make me smile. When I am happy, he is joy unbounded. When I am a fool, he ignores it. When I succeed, he brags. Without him, I am only another man. With him, I am all-powerful. He is loyalty itself. He has taught me the meaning of devotion. With him, I know a secret comfort and a private peace. He has brought me understanding where before I was ignorant.

His head on my knee can heal my human hurts. His presence by my side is protection against my fears of dark and unknown things. He has promised to wait for me... whenever... wherever - in case I need him. And I expect I will - as I always have. He is just my dog." - Gene Hill