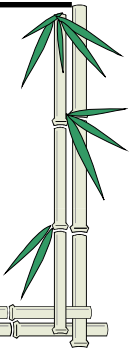




# National Newsletter

## Chow Chow

### Fanciers of Canada



august 1997



Well hopefully summer has reached all of us finally. There was some doubt that we would be seeing the sun shine again. The floods and high water have left a legacy of this being one of the worst years for mosquitos. It seems mosquitos like fleas can hatch from eggs laid ten years ago or more, they sit there just waiting till the high water comes along to bring them back to life.

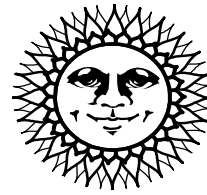


There has been some disturbing deaths in the Chow World this last couple of months due to Chows going under anesthetic for OFA X-Rays, Ch.Knof's Remis for one and the latest Am.Ch. Mactyke's Lyon King O'United owned by Eileen Bruington and Ekarat Sangkunakup. You can see the Lyon King on the front cover of this Summer's Chow Life. Both these dogs should not have left us at such a young age. You will find a request for information on a new study to find a non-invasive DNA test to see

if your Chow is a carrier of dyplasia. If this works out, it well may stop the loss of these beautiful Chows, if any of you can help VetGen in the study - please do so.



Our hearts are with Pauline and Keith Knoflook for the sudden loss of **Ch. Knof's Remis**, April 13 1995, Am.\Can.Ch. Knof's Kausin Kaos x Mi-Tu's Play'N Possum. Also Pat and Chas Clark have lost another dear old girl, **Clarcastle Apple**, May 13 1983, Kaibab Chang Po x Ch. Cowandale's Empress Dy-Ho



I know it is hard to think of Fall and September\October as being close at hand but....the time

is fast approaching for the National Booster in Saskatoon and right behind that we have our National Specialty. Please help us out by

getting your donations in. We are blowing the bank this year on some great prizes. Donations to the Booster can be sent to Terry Inch, make cheques or money orders payable



We Say Good-Bye To **Ch. Knof's Remis** **Clarcastle Apple** **Am.Ch. Mactyke's Lyon King O'United**

to Terry. Donations to the National can be sent to myself, please make them payable to **CCFC-BC**. We are looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones. I am sure everyone should have a great time.



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The Judges Have Given Their  
To

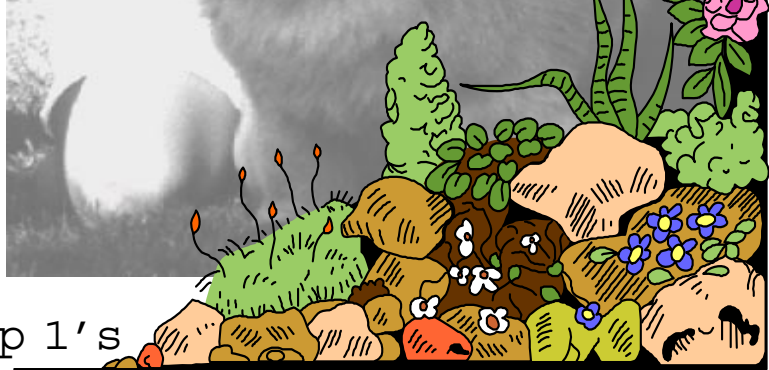
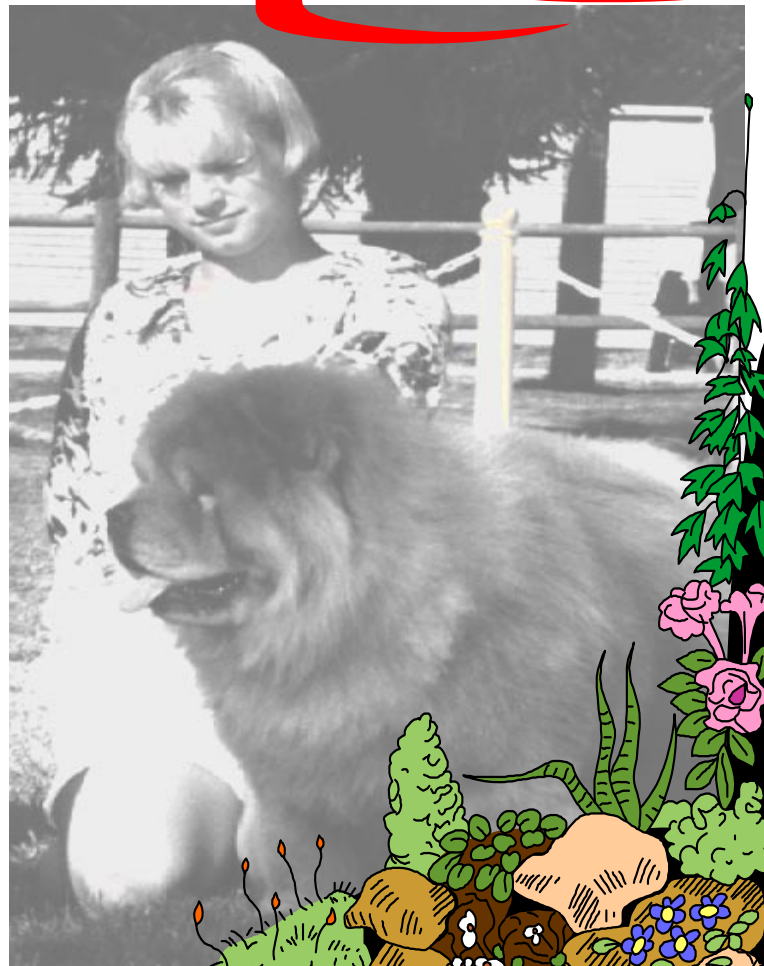


Ch. Sevenacre Leatherwd Olympian



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1st

July 26th  
Anita Cairns



*In 1997.....*

2 - Group 1's

2 - Group 2's

3 - Group 3's

4 - Group 4's

Owned by Kitty Egan of Sevenacres Chows  
Handled by son Donny Egan and Granddaughter Candice Jensen  
RR # 1, Comp 15, Site 50  
Comox BC V9N 5N1  
(250) 339-5907  
7acres@mars.ark.com


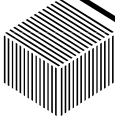




## Carmen Booth DMV

wrote the following as an answer to the question of feeding Lamb and Rice diets for dogs. Carmen has been a great help to many Chow owners on ChowChow-H.

ChowChow-H is the list server hosted by Hoflin. Carmen is not only a Veterinarian but a active Chow owner.



To all, here is my answer to the question: I'm curious Carmen, why do you not recommend the Lamb & Rice for a "non-allergic" dog? What follows is my opinion, it is not as well organized as I would like because I have a lot to do today. I discussed this very issue with a board certified veterinary dermatologist last year. The reason that dogs with allergies often respond to a Lamb and rice based diet is that they have never been exposed to the lamb portion of the diet previously. Rice is fairly innocuous and most animals are not sensitive to it. Most pet foods are formulated with a carbohydrate based on wheat or corn and a protein based on chicken, beef, pork, or horse meat. In people wheat or corn based allergies are not uncommon. Most dogs with allergies are sensitive to not just one thing, they are sensitive to multiple things: food, fleas, inhalant allergens (pollens etc.), etc. Most people (outside of those folks down under) do not eat much lamb and consequently their dogs don't get much either.

Now, lets be honest here, as much as I hate to admit it, even my dogs occasionally (1-2 times every 2-3 months) get a few table scraps. I am a sucker for big brown eyes. Most of what we eat is chicken, a little pork, some beef, and occasional fish. I never feed them raw meat or any fish what so ever.

Allergies only get worse over time, and they are incurable. They can be modified or decreased in their severity by a number of things including but not limited to:

1. Move to a new area with different allergens this works for about 1-2 years before allergies develop to the new antigens.
2. Change the diet to something the animal is not sensitive too to help decrease the pruritus threshold.
3. Allergy shots to modulate the immune system (this would take way to long to explain how it works, Sorry)
4. Meds: Steroids, Antihistamines, essential fatty acid supplements, medicated baths, thyroid meds if the animal is borderline etc. There are

some important concepts that you need to understand regarding allergies:

1. A certain allergic load may be tolerated by an individual animal without any signs of disease, but a small increase may push the individual over the threshold and initiate clinical signs. Fleas commonly cause this to happen.
2. Concomitant disease causing scratching (pruritus) may raise and animal above its pruritic threshold. Therefore, all factors contributing to the pruritus must be investigated: i.e., a sub-clinical allergy in combination with a flea infestation, or with a mild bacterial skin infection (pyoderma).

Most dogs do not show signs of allergies until they are around 1.5 to 3 years of age, although they can show up as early as 6 months, or even as long as 6 years. There are strong hereditary tendencies, and some breed (golden retrievers etc.) and sex (females) predilection.

So the gist of it is: if you start a young dog off with lamb and rice and then they develop allergies, what do you have left to feed them? I know that there is one company that makes a potato and fish based dog food, which I predict may become the latest rage for itchy dogs once enough develop sensitivities to lamb and rice.

As an aside, regarding entropion: I am sorry that I neglected to comment on the fact that any chow regardless of

head size or face type can have entropion as a result of genetic factors that would not be diminished by breeding to a more open face. The conversation that I had with the veterinary ophthalmologist was in regard to a specific case for a specific client.

I know that this is not complete nor as detailed as many would like so please don't flame me. I do not pretend to know everything about all aspects of veterinary medicine or chows for that matter. I read many (7) veterinary and/or human medical journals in the course of the pathology training program that I am in, but I do not consider myself to be the cutting edge of clinical medicine. My house call practice is small, and I practice high quality vet. med., but I do not have a clinic and have to refer for radiographs, ultrasound, and invasive surgery. Much of what I deal with outside of the routine stuff are behavior problems in dogs these days. When I run into a difficult medicine case, I do a lot of reading, a literature search for the latest info and refer to a veterinary specialist when indicated.

**Carmen Jane Booth, DVM**



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**C a n a d i a n  
C h a m p i o n s**

**CH. BOB-C-BEAR'S NORTH'N**

**REFLECTION**, Ow\Br: Cindy & Bob Bulmer, ERN9500713, Jan\10\94, Am\Mex.Ch. War-Rah's Trademark x Am.Ch. Shoh-Dee's Letia Sunday, (M)

**CH. MY-SAM'S KNIGHT OF**

**SOLITUDE**, Ow: Frank & Sandra Holloway, ERN96002434, Nov\11\95, Br: D. Hinkle, Am\Can.Ch. My-Sam's Irish Knight x Am.Ch. My-Sam's Satin Surprise, (M)

**CH. TOUCHSTONE SHOT O'**

**CUPPUCCINO**, Ow: Kitty Egan & Peggy Cameron, 1061975, Oct\20\92, Br: Karen & Mike Cox, Taichung Promises Promises x Am\Can.Ch. Leatherwood Mei Chum Chia. (M)

Dear Chow People,  
My name is Sheryl, I am Kitty's (from Sevenacres) grand daughter. I live next door to my grandma and I am with her chow's frequently. To me the dogs are like my kids, I love them equally in different ways and if any of them passed away I would be terribly sad. When my grandma told me about Simba, although I had never met him, I had read about him in one of my grandma's magazines, I felt very sad and very sorry for those who did know him and were suffering from such a terrible loss. Then when I saw all the email from the Chow Chow people I decided to write a poem based on what I knew about Simba. Here it is, and to those who knew The Lyon King, you have my deepest sympathy's.  
Sincerely,  
Sheryl Powell

(Sheryl posted this to the Hoflin list server)

**In Loving Memory...**

This Chow was loyal, this Chow was great,  
this Chowchow dog was hard to hate.  
With his big fuzzy muzzle and tail on his back  
and fur was something he didn't lack,  
This kind, sweet dog was great as a pet,  
but sadly he died under the hand of a vet.  
If you think this tragedy can't happen to you,  
What your thinking is very untrue.  
This dog called Simba many will greatly miss,  
But now he's in heaven in Chowchow bliss.  
This kind of thing has happened before,  
its happened again and will happen more.  
So tonight pray for those, who's dear friend God did take,  
And choose your animal doctor carefully, for you and your pets  
sake.

## HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHY, IT IS LIKE IT IS?

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Quote from Ann Landers

"People with great minds talk  
about ideas,  
People with average minds talk  
about events,  
People with small minds talk  
about other people."

Have you ever started something and then wondered why you got involved in the first place? Have you ever been appointed to a do-nothing committee and wondered how you could exit gracefully? And how about those times you got stuck as chairperson of a committee that couldn't even agree on when to meet and how to come to grips with the major work of the group.

How about showing a dog that is fast becoming the reserve champion of the universe--how do you gracefully get out of finishing him when you know he will be nothing but a "cheese" champion anyway? Or how about promising you would do something in a moment of "extreme good will and high spirits" (that means you had probably sluced down too much) and then realize you've gotten yourself into a quagmire.

We all seem to have that great ability to take a shovel and dig deep holes for ourselves. Did you ever wonder why?

It seems that all mankind has the ability to believe we can accomplish more than we have the time, energy or motivation to

actually do. It's our way of sustaining the belief that we are "omnipotent." That we can do all things. Most of these "delusions" come while we are still young. I don't necessarily mean young in years but often it is young in experience. We mature in different ways and at different times, much like our dogs develop. These experiences, whether we do well or poorly become part of our life experience. You know experience is a great advantage. The problem with experience, however, is that when you finally get it, you're too dammed old to do anything about it.

A pattern that I seem to have established in my life is that I goad myself into achieving goals that I have set for myself by announcing them publicly. Then I have to work like hell to achieve them or look like I am a braggart or a dam fool that can't make good on his stated intentions. However, once you have shown a pattern of making good on your stated intentions, people begin to trust you and give you more responsibility. I am sure you have noticed this in Dog Clubs. Dog Clubs that are active and growing are always looking for people who want and need to take on responsibility as a means of testing themselves and acquiring a reputation. Without these people Dog Clubs can wither and die on the vine. However, have you also noticed that when these "young" people step forward they are often greeted with derision by the "anointed" old timers who believe in keeping the upstarts in their place. Which, simply put, means "don't challenge my authority and importance."

Getting Dog Clubs to work is based on getting these diverse groups together to work for the common good. That takes leadership and, from what I have seen, it's in short supply.

Perhaps one of the tasks the AKC should take on instead of some of the ones they have is that of offering Leadership Institutes. No, AKC itself would not have to put on the program, if that's what you are thinking. There are many expert firms in the field who hold Leadership Training seminars. AKC could work with them to develop an appropriate curriculum and hold yearly seminars around the country for newly elected Presidents of Dog Clubs. Remember you saw it here first.

While I am rambling on, how about those of you, who are members of All Breed Clubs pressuring your leadership to really hold a sanction match. Some of them have been jokes. They are held merely to satisfy the AKC requirement and are no more help to the novice or the general public than the man in the moon. No publicity, poor times and no enthusiasm on the part of those charged with putting on the match.

You know, holding an annual match is a great way for new members to learn how things work. They can be given the opportunity to serve on or lead committees. Mistakes can't hurt too badly and the experience can be great for those aspiring to become chairpersons of important Club committees. On the other hand, older, more established clubs are not the place to make your mark. They

**OH, NO!**



like status quo and struggle like mad to keep it that way. Even if their modus-operandi doesn't work too well, it's comfortable. It's a well worn rut and easy to follow. This is not the place for the young Turks to try out their wings. They will get them clipped quickly.

Having been President of more Dog Clubs than I care to remember, I know what a burden it is for Presidents to have to do everything themselves. We have all heard that a good leader knows how to delegate. Ha! To whom do you delegate when no one wants to volunteer. Let "Jim do it" is the cry of the day. More often than not, Jim is the guy who "ain't there



The new **Judges Study Guide To The Chow Chow** is available from Ann Crisp. It is the AKC Standard with a commentary explaining what to look for. There is 80 pictures and several drawings in this 45 page book to help explain just what the standard is saying. Douglas Johnston provided the computer expertise on this project. Copies can be ordered from Ann at the cost is \$10 U.S.Funds.

Ann has kindly donated one to our National Auction.

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164 W. Birnie Slough Rd.,  
Cathlamet, WA 98612-9714  
ACrisp@Tdn.com



Please remember to tell us when you have changed your addresses.

The following article was sent in by Judith Tulloch.

I received the following article in the publication of the vet college in Saskatoon and thought it would be interesting for the newsletter. It is from Vet Topics, January/February 1997, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, Saskatoon.

**Hip Dysplasia in Growing Dogs: Recommendations for Breeding and Nutrition.**

Author: Dr. Cindy L. Shmon, Diplomate ACVS, Department of Veterinary Anesthesiology, Radiology & Surgery

The hip joint is a ball and socket joint; the ball is the top or head of the femur (thigh bone) and the socket or acetabulum is a bony cup on the side of the pelvis. This highly mobile joint is stabilized by a ligament, its joint capsule and the surrounding thigh muscles. Hip dysplasia refers to a skeletal disease where the hip develops abnormally and arthritis results.



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**Development of Hip Dysplasia**

At birth the skeleton is composed mainly of cartilage, which is slowly converted to bone as the puppy grows. During growth, bones are constantly reshaped until the final adult shape is reached. In order for the hip joint to develop normally, the ball (femoral head) must be

maintained in the socket (acetabulum) during the critical period of growth. This is the first 6-8 months in most breeds.

Puppies with hip dysplasia have a normal hip joint at birth. As they grow, the bones tend to grow faster than the supporting muscles and soft tissues. The ball begins to slip out of the socket. This is called joint laxity and is the first sign of hip dysplasia. Then, a number of things happen: As the ball slips out of the socket, it hits the edge of the socket causing microscopic fractures and scraping the surface cartilage off the bone. Then the ligament and joint capsule stretch. As the ball is not sitting tightly in the socket, there is no stimulus for a deep socket to develop so it becomes progressively more shallow. The end result is an unstable hip and arthritis.

**What Causes Hip Dysplasia?**

Hip dysplasia is a genetic disease. Unfortunately, it is more complicated than traits like coat color where a dominant gene will show up in all offspring carrying the gene and elimination of a problem is as simple as not breeding affected animals. We do not know the exact

genetics of hip dysplasia, but we know that transmission involves multiple genes and that dysplastic hips are recessive to normal hips. This means dogs with x-ray evidence of hip dysplasia, regardless of severity, carry the genes for hip dysplasia and should not be used for breeding. It also means dogs with normal hips on a x-ray may carry the genes for the disease and you may have several generations of normal dogs before the problem "suddenly" appears in your line. While it is difficult to eliminate, we can decrease the incidence of hip dysplasia by only breeding dogs with normal hips. Breeding studies have shown breeding 2 dysplastic dogs results in 85-95% dysplastic puppies, breeding a normal dog to a dysplastic dog results in approximately half of the puppies affected and breeding two normal dogs will result in about one third of the puppies having hip dysplasia. The percentage of normal pups improves with each generation the disease is absent.

Influence of hip dysplasia through nutrition. Breeding to remove hip dysplasia from your line is also complicated by the role environment plays in the expression of the disease. Most of the research performed in this area has examined modifying the disease through nutrition. There is strong

evidence that nutritional modifications can delay the onset or lessen the severity of hip dysplasia, and even prevent dogs with a strong genetic potential for hip dysplasia from developing the disease.

#### - a. Nutritional Deficiencies

Nutritional deficiencies are rare in today's world of commercial diets. Most problems we see are in dogs fed homemade diets. While some breeders may have the knowledge, time and dedication to consistently prepare a balanced diet for their dogs, there are few pet owners able to duplicate such "custom" diets consistently. Substitution or omission of a single ingredient can cause severe bone diseases despite the best intentions. Pet food companies spend millions of dollars researching their diets, and it is my opinion that the average owner is best to defer to their expertise.

There have been a lot of "old wives tales" about deficiencies of different nutrients causing hip dysplasia or supplementation preventing the disease. The most popular idea is that Vitamin C can prevent development of the disease. This theory was proposed because Vitamin C is used to make collagen, one of the major tissues of cartilage, bone and tissues

supporting the joint. Even though dogs, unlike people, make their own Vitamin C, it was suggested that a deficiency of Vitamin C caused the joint laxity seen early in hip dysplasia. The study which showed some benefit from Vitamin C supplementation was not done scientifically, and its results cannot be repeated. Perhaps the reasons Vitamin C supplementation has become popular is that *"it can't hurt"* and it is quite inexpensive. Unfortunately, research has shown that Vitamin C adversely affects a dog's calcium balance, so it may actually increase the risk of some bone diseases, including hip dysplasia.

#### - b. Nutritional Excesses:

Over the years, we have selected our dogs to be bigger and as a result we have increased the average size of many large breeds. Not only have we bred for bigger dogs, but we have fed them so they get big as fast as possible.

Calcium Supplementation: "Big, strong bones need lots of calcium, you want to grow big and strong, don't you?" This is the argument many parents give children for drinking milk and taking vitamins. Unfortunately, we have carried this to extremes in our dogs. It is true that calcium is necessary for normal bone growth, but this is one case where more is definitely not better! Puppies have no safety mechanisms to protect them from absorbing too much calcium. Too much calcium actually slows bone

development by slowing the conversion of cartilage to bone--the bones may get bigger faster, but they do not gain equivalent strength. It is well proven that dogs on commercial diets do not need calcium supplementation, no matter what their size or breed. In fact, the incidence of all bone diseases, including hip dysplasia, increases dramatically when large or giant breeds are given any form of calcium supplementation.

### **Overnutrition:**

Dogs eat to meet their energy requirements and commercial diets are balanced so that feeding them according to your dog's energy needs will ensure it gets the minimum amounts of all nutrients. However, diets these days are very tasty and most dogs will overeat. As well, people tend to overfeed their pets because they want them big and consider it a sign of good health. This has increased the occurrence of a number of bone diseases including hip dysplasia. Current evidence suggests that overfeeding increases the amount of calcium the dogs receive and adds extra weight which must be supported by the puppy's soft bones. Everyone has seen those "cute little roly-poly" pups, but what is seldom noticed is that these pups are usually less active and more clumsy than their leaner littermates. The puppy that grows slower will be more active, in better condition, and

still end up as big--he just takes longer to get there.

We can reduce the frequency and severity of hip dysplasia and other bone diseases seen in growing large breed dogs by slowing their growth rate for the first six months of their life. We are not talking about starving them or playing around with the amount of nutrients and minerals they receive, but just feeding them strictly what they need. We should feed a high-quality diet, as some less expensive diets use bone meal as a meat source and this may increase the amount of calcium in the diet. Amounts recommended on dog food bags are sometimes excessive. Pups should not be given continuous access to food (free choice) as they will overeat. Formulas are available to calculate the amount of energy a pup should receive, and from these one can determine the exact amount of a specific diet to feed. The problem is that there is a large variation between breeds and individuals depending on their temperament and activity level. It is also necessary to make weekly recalculations when the pup is growing rapidly. These factors make formulas awkward and impractical for most owners.

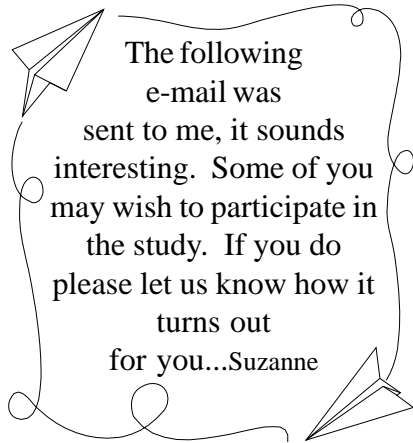
In general, it is much easier to feed the puppy so it remains lean. This means the ribs and bones along the back should be easy to feel, but not quite visible. There should be a prominent waist (region just in

front of the back legs). For some breeds and individuals, the puppy can be fed what it will eat in 10-15 minutes and monitored to ensure its body condition remains lean. For very tasty diets or dogs with big appetites or a competitive nature, this can result in overfeeding and overweight puppies. In these cases, one can start with the amount recommended on the bag and adjust according to the pup's body condition. If the pup seems a little thin, up the food a bit. If they are a little chubby, cut it back a bit. If an owner is in doubt whether their pup is gaining weight, they should cut the food back a bit.

### **In conclusion a couple of points should be stressed:**

We cannot cause hip dysplasia by what we feed UNLESS the dog carries the genes for hip dysplasia. Keeping puppies lean as they are growing will **NOT** eliminate hip dysplasia in every dog, but it **MAY** make it less severe or, in some cases, prevent it from showing up in some individual dogs. These dogs still carry the genes for hip dysplasia and can pass them on to their offspring. The only way to eliminate the disease is through careful screening of breeding stock and meticulous monitoring of multiple generations.





Dear Ms. Staines,

I am the research coordinator for VetGen, a laboratory which works in collaboration with the Michigan State University Veterinary School to develop non-invasive genetic tests for inherited diseases affecting purebred dogs. We are currently collecting data for a study of hip dysplasia, and one of the 16 breeds in the study is the Chow. I thought that you and your club might wish to know more about this project and how you can contribute to it.

The ultimate goal of our study is a non-invasive DNA test which will indicate definitively whether a dog is clear of, a carrier of, or affected with the genes that cause HD. This will be a vast improvement over current diagnostic methods such as OFA and PennHip since it will identify dogs who are not themselves dysplastic, but who may pass the disease on to their offspring. Since the test can be performed at any age, breeders will be able to perform it on dogs before making breeding decisions, and should be able to eliminate HD from their lines within a few generations.

To facilitate the study, we are seeking DNA samples from families of Chows in which at least two closely related members are dysplastic.

These two members can be either:

- a) full siblings (from the same or different litters);
- b) half-siblings; or
- c) a parent and an offspring.

In addition to DNA from the two affected dogs, we would be interested in samples from any other available parents or siblings in the family, whether affected or unaffected. DNA is collected non-invasively by swabbing inside the dog's cheek with a small brush, then returned to VetGen by regular mail. There is, of course, no cost to participants. Finally, we have a policy of strict confidentiality; all samples are bar-coded upon arrival, making any reference to a particular dog's identity or genetic status completely private. We will never reveal information about any dog or breeder in the program to anyone.

Our web page is at

<http://www.vetgen.com>

provides more detailed information about the study, including diagrams of the types of family groupings we are seeking; if you don't have Web access, I'd be happy to mail you the same information. I hope you will feel free to distribute any information from our web site and this message as you wish, and that members of your club will be able to assist us by contributing DNA samples. Anyone who has questions or thinks he or she might be able to help should feel free to

contact me at any of the addresses or numbers below.

Thank you for your time!  
Sincerely,

**Kristi Coulter**

Research Coordinator  
VetGen

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Please feel free to contact any of the Chow Chow Fanciers Exc. with ideas or questions.

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Cherie's Chows Proudly Presents our Newest  
Champion



MILLENNIUM

"CYBER" as his friends call him, achieved his Championship with 4 majors & two Best In Sweepstakes in just one month

This 7 month old puppy looks forward to meeting New friends in Canada

Sherrie Harper

Cheries Chows  
(425) 577-9357

Jan Montanye