

June/July 1998

National Newsletter

Chow Chow

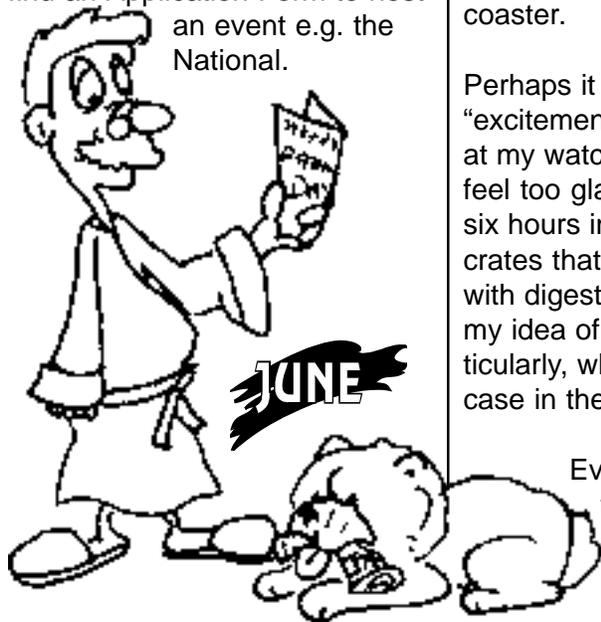
Fanciers of Canada



This is Election year again, enclosed with this Newsletter you will find a Nomination Form. If you would like to Nominate someone for a position please fill it out and return it to: Elaine & Richard Hoepfner. (Their address is on the form).

The person you nominate must be a Canadian resident as per Canadian Kennel Club rules. Check with the person to see if they have the time, skills, and interest to fill the position. You will find the Nomination Form on the last page of this Newsletter. In the next Newsletter the nominees will be able to have a short bio printed to give every member an idea of who they are and why they are interested in Chows.

Also on the back page you will find an Application Form to host an event e.g. the National.



We need a host group for the 1999 National. If anyone is interested please fill out both sides of the form and return it to Sandra Post.

The 1998 National is being held in Ballantrae along with a Regional Specialty for South Central Chow Chow Fanciers September 19th and 20th 1998.



In Pursuit of Perfection

by Gail Forsythe

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What keeps me in the "dog game"? This is a question that I've often pondered. Breeding, exhibiting, and to a lesser extent judging, is expensive, time consuming, a lot of work, and, at times, an emotional roller coaster.

Perhaps it is the "glamour" and "excitement"? Last time I looked at my watch at 5 a.m., I didn't feel too glamorous. Sleeping for six hours in a van, on wire crates that contain Rottweilers with digestive problems, is not my idea of excitement — particularly, when I've left my suitcase in the driveway.

Even though I now travel under more comfortable conditions, I can't help but wonder, "What

continues to attract me, and hold my interest, in the world of dogs after 30 years?"

Upon reflection, my answer lies in the "pursuit of perfection". I am constantly seeking the ideal Chow: to breed, to show, and to judge. But, how absurd! Idealism is an "unattainable vision"; a vision based on a personal, and subjective, interpretation of the breed standard. Perhaps it is this creative side, the artist or inventor within us, that results in the wonderful dogs and achievements around us.

Technological advances, great works of art, astounding theories, and the beauty and love of a purebred animal bring us satisfaction and a sense of achievement. Breeding, exhibiting and judging dogs is an achievement and a method of expression — a process and a form of art. It is through breeding and exhibiting that I make the statement: "this is my vision — my work of art".

It is with that spirit of pride and achievement, that, as a breeder, exhibitor, or judge, I try to look at the accomplishments of others. We have diverse visions of the "perfect Chow". Our diversity is our strength; particularly, when we can acknowledge the hard work, love for the dogs, and passion, that each person can bring to the breed.

When I buy my next dog, plan the next litter, or go to the next show, it is inevitable that I will have that "glimmer of excitement". It will motivate me to put more work, resources, and love into the dogs. Maybe that "work of art", my vision of the perfect Chow, will be waiting for me. Could there be a better reason to continue to "pursue perfection"?

Gail H. Forsythe's love of Chows began in the early 70's. Well intended, and more experienced exhibitors, cautioned her against the breed; people stated: "Chows are difficult and nasty - stay away from that breed". Undaunted, Gail enjoyed owning, breeding and exhibiting her "Lionheart" Chows for twenty years; all of whom were loving and gentle companions. She is licensed to judge chows and other breeds in Group 6 and can be contacted by email at: legal1@istar.ca.

Stardust Chows

Hi; My name is **Linda Smith** and I am owned by the **Stardust Chows**. My interest in this wonderful breed started some 19 years ago with my first encounter with a friend's new puppy. I was hooked! My first Chow, **Sansho Shoga Bear** didn't arrive until March 28, 1981 and I can still remember how excited I was. For all newcomers to the breed--watch out--it's contagious. It seems that one is never enough.

My first show dog arrived the following year and since that time I have been fortunate

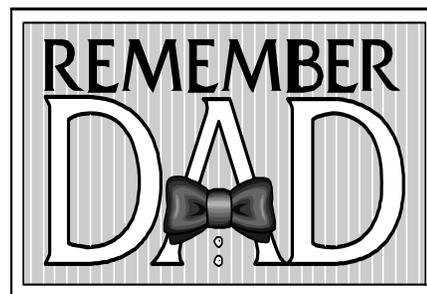
enough to share my life with some very special companions who have left me with a lifetime of wonderful memories. **Ch. Ebony Mist of Prairie View** was Top winning Chow bitch in 1984 and the following year in 1985 my **Ch. Stardust Dakota Gold (BISP)** won the same honor. Then in 1986 **Ch. Stardust's Dakota Flame (BISP/BIS)** was Top Chow in Canada. He was also #2 in 1988 and #3 in 1991, he also attained the Temperament Test title in 1991. There have been many that have come and gone in these 19 years, but all have a special part of my heart, Champions in their own way.

As we begin a new show season, I wish you good sportsmanship but most of all, fun as you and your companions hit the show rings, whether it be for conformation or obedience.

We've just added a smooth lady to our family, "Cupcake" or **Shod-Dee's Clearcreeks Cupcake** came to live with us in Feb of this year.

I want to thank my best friend and partner in Life for standing beside me and being there through the rough times and the best of times, Jim, we will be celebrating 25 years together this June.

Hope to see you in the Ring!



The Chows of Beijing

Fifteen years ago, we finally got the all clear from our daughter, Jane's doctor that we could get a dog. My first choice was a GSD but the doc said no as they would only aggravate Jane's allergies. Thus the hunt started. After meeting 137 dogs (I kid you not) we met Winston Morton Schmidt - a sweet little black Chow pup and it was LOVE at first sight. John wasn't with us when I brought the dog home and I made the kids go in first while I hid in the garage. When the hollering stopped John was hooked as the pup "chose" him as his new best friend. Winston was responsible for a dramatic personality change in me - namely I returned to human status after being the Wicked Witch of the East since our return to Ontario. One Chow led to another and that led to finding a Chow breeder. Winston was a puppy mill dog and as amateurs, we discovered that all the horror stories of puppy mills were true. We loved Winston dearly but he did have health problems and we neutered him and hoped for the best.

Through the CKC, I was given the names of several breeders whom I called and found that these people were more than willing to talk Chow. Among them we Joan Willimas, Jackie Prudden, Nancy Meisner, Margaret Crisson and Pat Robb. The information passed along to me was invaluable and since Nancy had puppies, we went to the Lioning Kennels and met all her Chows. My first sight of Ch. Lioning Handsome and Ch. Lioning Mandarin was some

thing I will never forget. That was our first sight of a "real" Chow. Winston was a plain, long legged Chow and while we were crazy over him, he wasn't what you would call show quality!! The kids fell in love with Wicket who was a 12 week old bundle of fluffy energy. Nancy, our daughter, made all the usual promises about "I'll clean up after her and feed and walk her, Dad, HONEST". You can guess how long that lasted. Anyway, Wicket joined our household and Sam encouraged me to go to a fun match in Whitby. Joey Natrass happened to be judging the match and I recall that she took me to task for not controlling my dog and the importance of proper training. Joey doesn't remember that show but I have the photos to prove it. Of course, now it is just a hilarious memory as Wicket never would let me show her properly. Something about proving who was boss. Joey of course, was quite right but Wicket has spent the last 12 and 1/2 years making me look like a fool. That's the reason I started showing males - they are a joy to be with in the ring.

Along the way, the Chows have opened up the door to the dog world and showed me how much fun it can be. We have met some extraordinary people from all breeds and enjoyed some wonderful "Wins". The Chows have taught me it's more important to have fun in the ring than to worry about winning. But I enjoy meeting the other exhibitors more than anything, especially since we moved back West. They really know how to have a good time at shows. It's as different as night and day in the show ring out here in

Western Canada.

In short, I wouldn't trade the years with our Chows for anything in the world. Even the memories or our old ones who have passed away bring many smiles and wonderful memories. It's the fun, laughter and friendships that remain front and centre.

Vickie Schmidt.

Is it just me, or.....somewhere out there in our great country are people who are probably still wondering why I never returned their messages or sent the information that they requested by mail. How many of you members have received partial messages on your answering machines?

Just recently I have given this matter a lot of consideration - after all these years, it's about time, eh? I have tried going to the library and searching phone books to complete a phone number or calling other in their area to see if they got the same message etc. but to no avail.

The point being, how do we get through to people to leave complete messages along with the correct spelling of their names and addresses? It is so frustrating when they forget to leave their names, numbers and addresses after making a specific request. Sometimes you get lucky and they call back and you can explain what happened. The usual answer I get is "Oh really? Did I do that?"

This type of situation can really make a person look bad when it's really out of our control. So, how can we change this? Does

anyone have any ideas? If so, please pass them along as I would appreciate it. By the way, I even got a new answering machine but even that didn't help.

Vickie.

Candy's Back On Track.

Candy Jensen's first time back in the ring since giving birth to her son Brandon went very well indeed. The first day she handled **Ch. Sevenacre Leatherwd Olympian (MBIS)** to a Group 2, but the next day was her first "Mother's Day" it turned into a GREAT DAY. They won Ollie's 1th *Best in Show* of this year.

Terry Inch was out at some shows with Audrey Debrowney's male **Nawshi's Texas Lonestar**, he did some nice wins in Group ring.

Let me know how you are all doing out there, have you had puppies, won at the shows, got a new Chow, or just have an interesting story to tell. You can e-mail me at: harry_staines@mindlink.bc.ca. Or just send it by snail mail.



"Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful."

-- Ann Landers

"Only mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the noonday sun."

-- Indian Proverb

"Heaven goes by favour. If it went by merit, you would stay out and your dog would go in."
Mark Twain

RULES

1. The dog is not allowed in the house.
2. Okay, the dog is allowed in the house, but only in certain rooms.
3. The dog is allowed in all rooms, but has to stay off the furniture.
4. The dog can get on the old furniture only.
5. Fine, the dog is allowed on all the furniture, but is not allowed to sleep with the humans on the bed.
6. Okay, the dog is allowed on the bed, but only by invitation.
7. The dog can sleep on the bed whenever he wants, but not under the covers.
8. The dog can sleep under the covers by invitation only
9. The dog can sleep under the covers every night.
10. Humans must ask permission to sleep under the covers with the dog



SPRINGTIME IN ALASKA....
By Virginia Holland

Squawk, squawk, squawk groused the alarm clock. As I opened one sleepy eye trying to recollect why I had to get up at 5:30 AM, my husband rolled over, hunkered under the covers and muttered something about me being crazy. I then remembered that today was a dog show day. Alaska has very few shows during the year. We have two in January, two in March and then during the summer they come in clusters of two or three once a month. Consequently, dog shows are a big deal here.

It was barely light outside but I staggered to the window to check the weather – bad news. Raining, windy and the temperature hovering just above freezing. It's would be good Chow weather if it wasn't raining. I threw on several layers of clothing so I could add or remove items as the day progressed. Then I woke up my dog, who is definitely not a morning Chow. He yawned, stretched, rolled over on his back awaiting his morning belly rub then reluctantly went outside for his morning chores acting like I was evicting him from his warm bed.

After a few cups of coffee, I picked Kirby up and put him on the table to be groomed. He just wanted to lay down and go back to sleep. I gathered him up along with the grooming equipment and loaded them into the RV, kissed my sleepy husband goodbye and headed to the shows with the RV tossing around like a small boat in rough water. The wind is what I

have always referred to as lane-changing wind. When a gust hits you, you change lanes. The show site was a ballfield, totally flat and unsheltered. As I pulled up and looked for a place to park, various sizes of plastic sacks and other debris floated and swirled past however, mercifully, the rain had stopped. I was early and got a good parking spot.

One by one exhibitors started arriving, the sole conversation in staccato being how cold it was. I got Kirby out and walked him on the wet grass trying as best I could to avoid all the goose poop. Meanwhile, the field full of geese lowered their heads and hissed at us like snakes as we passed.

After the walk, I blew him dry and put him in the RV. A short time later, he acted like he needed to go out so I walked him again and again, blew him dry. Slowly the other Chow exhibitors arrived, walking their dogs, blowing them dry, walking them, blowing them dry, etc. The main course of the conversation was how cold it was. The judges, having borrowed additional coats, hats and gloves from anyone with extra clothes, stood like frozen blocks in the ring, stoically judging the dogs as best they could.

A comic relief came when a moose ambled onto the field. He took a look at the nearly 500 dogs assembled, then glanced back at the busy highway behind him, stood a minute and then decided to brave the highway rather than the dogs.

As the day progressed, the wind continued and even gained

velocity. The little dogs shivered, their owners shivered. The Chows only got perkier. Creed, who is 9 years old, pranced around the ring, head held high, face into the wind with a smile seemingly saying, "oh this is good." Kirby turned into a wind up toy – stack, bait, wag his tail, jump up, turn 90 degrees and stack again. He just loved the frigid wind.

In the Best in Show ring, Kirby again showed at his peak, loving the wind while a Whippet wrapped his shivering body around his handler's leg. A lady standing next to me in the ring had no dog until the judge came up to her. Then she reached into her down coat and lifted out a tiny Pomeranian and placed him on the ground. The wind was blowing so hard, he barely touched the ground as he gaited. However, he did well enough to go Best in Show.

We exchanged congratulations through chattering teeth and began gathering up our belongings to head for home. Someone said it was supposed to rain the next day – bad for Chows, good for Sporting dogs.

Even with the terrible weather, a good time was had by (almost) all and a spirit of camaraderie existed among the exhibitors. Maybe it was because we were all happy to be among those who were as crazy as we are.



Jessica Borjling ©

Some Doggie Trivia Things:

The first dog show held in Australia was at Mr Moore's Horse Bazaar in Liverpool Street, Hobart, Tasmania on 12th November 1862.

The greatest number of dogs ever owned by one person were 5000 mastiffs owned by Kubla Khan.

The Lundehund, which is indigenous to Norway, has fewer teeth and more toes than any other breed of dog. It has double dewclaws on all four legs and at least six toes on each foot; some are double-jointed, some triple-jointed. The four extra toes help

the dog secure a better grip on rocky surfaces when locating the eggs of Puffins from caves and rocky ledges where the birds nest.

This is truly an extraordinary breed that might well be deemed a canine contortionist. Amazingly flexible, it can stretch its head back until its skull touches its spine and flex its forelegs out 90 degrees from its body.

The earliest "fossil" find's for dog's date back to 10,000 BC

When the family dog of an Ancient Egyptian family died they would shave off their Eyebrows, and go into mourning.

Why own a Show dog? There's a danger you know.
You can't own just one, for the craving will grow.

There's no doubt they're addictive, wherein lies the danger
While living with lots, you'll grow poorer and stranger

One dog is not trouble, and two are so funny,
the third one is easy, the fourth one's a honey

The fifth is delightful, the sixth one's a breeze.
You find you can live with a houseful, with ease.

So how 'bout another? would you really dare?
They're really quite easy, but Oh Lord, the Hair!

With dogs on the sofa, and dogs on the bed,
And crates in the kitchen, its no bother, you said.

They're really no trouble, their manners are great.
What's just one more dog and one more little crate?

The sofa is hairy, the windows are crusty.
The floor is all footprints, the furniture's dusty.

The housekeeping suffers, but what do you care?
Who minds a few noseprints and a little more hair?

Author Unknown

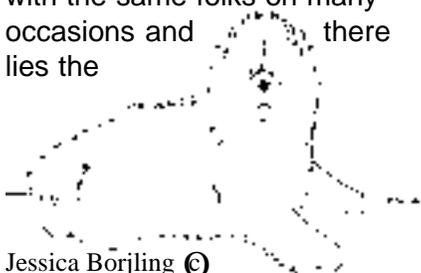
LETS GET OUR FEET OUT
OF THE CONCRETE

by Dr. Alvin Grossman Publisher
of Doral Publications
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I have been sitting at my computer on and off for months just itching to get a load off of my mind about our much publicized and maligned judging system but the words just wouldn't flow. As many of you know I have written many articles about judges and judging and in fact, one of them won the Dog Writers award in 1986 for the Best Article In A Breed Publication.

I was one of the many elected to take a PET (hands on) test. I had applied for nine new breeds and was selected to be tested on Labrador Retrievers. I found the conditions for the test to be reasonable and my class to be representative. The panel was sympathetic and gave me reasonably good scores and I got all my breeds. So far so good.

In the past I have always restricted myself to no more than a dozen assignments a year which included foreign assignments (Doris comes along on these and we make a holiday of it). I have always enjoyed my assignments and have made many acquaintances as a result of judging with the same folks on many occasions and there lies the



Jessica Borjling ©

crux of my problem. Why always the same folks when we have hundreds upon hundreds of good judges?

I have posed this question to a number of Show Chairman and got the usual answers--"It saves the club money when we hire a judge who can do a number of groups," "There are only so many well known judges." There are also many unsaid reasons. I believe it is a sad state of affairs when we have many extremely well qualified judges sitting on the sideline just waiting for their chance to show what they can do and to have others judging 50 or more shows a year.

In breeding dogs we hear how important it is to have a varied gene pool to keep a healthy and sound dog population. I believe it is just as important to have a varied judging pool to keep a varied prospective. Believe it or not, there are fewer than 50 judges who are the main arbiters of the fate of the American Dog Fancy. Their names are familiar to everyone for they are around your area at least four times a year, and they are good judges! However, they, as good judges, are consistent in their preferences and breed type. They "set" breed type! They lock us into what they say are the quality dogs of a breed. In a sense that is good, but on the other hand it leaves little room for diversity of type. Some diversity in breed type is good for a breed. As long as the dogs are basically sound a degree of variance adds the spice to a breed, it allows for more flexibility in breeding programs, and it results in overall better competition.

It seems from my prespective

that the time has come to give the "other" judges a chance to pass on the greats of the breed and the youngsters seeking their place in the sun. Lets get our opinions from a greater number of judges. Lets give the "other" judges a chance to sharpen their skills, for the only way to be a better judge is to practice. You don't get the practice while sitting home waiting for assignments. Even ringside judging doesn't cut it. Dog Clubs throughout the country need to allow the "other" judges to try their wings and to pass on their wisdom. I personally know about a dozen judges whose performance as I watched them judge was outstanding. Yet they seldom do more than a few shows a year. With the criterion we are using to select judges, we are forcing judges to get more and more breeds to even get into a position to qualify for an assignment. That is not fair. A person who is Working Group person and does a good job at it is forced to become a Terrier Group person (which he knows little about) just to get in line to get judging assignments. Here we have an excellent Working judge and more than likely just an average Terrier judge.

There have been all sorts of suggestions made in the past of how assignments can be made to improve the quality of judging. We now have the written tests and the Hands On testing programs plus the interview with the Field Rep. In addition we still have the voluminous paperwork and the

kennel visitations. We are anointing more and more new judges but we keep seeing the same basic 50. How can we ameliorate the situation?

I have some ideas along those lines. They are conditioned upon actions of the Kennel Club and its delegate body. Since AKC has proven its clout in the many recent lawsuits (and have less to fear from irate senior judges), it is time they seriously looked at limiting the number of assignments a judge may take in a given year in the United States(for starters 25). Now I can hear howls of disapproval from my peers. Yes, it will cut into their incomes and some will claim that it restricts their right to make a living but very few of them earn their livelihood from judging dogs alone. The Feds were able to limit the outside income of Legislators, why can't we consider the same. One way of accomplishing this is to have those gentlemen and ladies up their fee by, lets say \$100. While they would cost the local club more money the clubs could even it up by hiring those "other" judges who would not be in a position to charge large sums for their services and would be eager to judge for just expenses until such time as they had made a name for themselves.

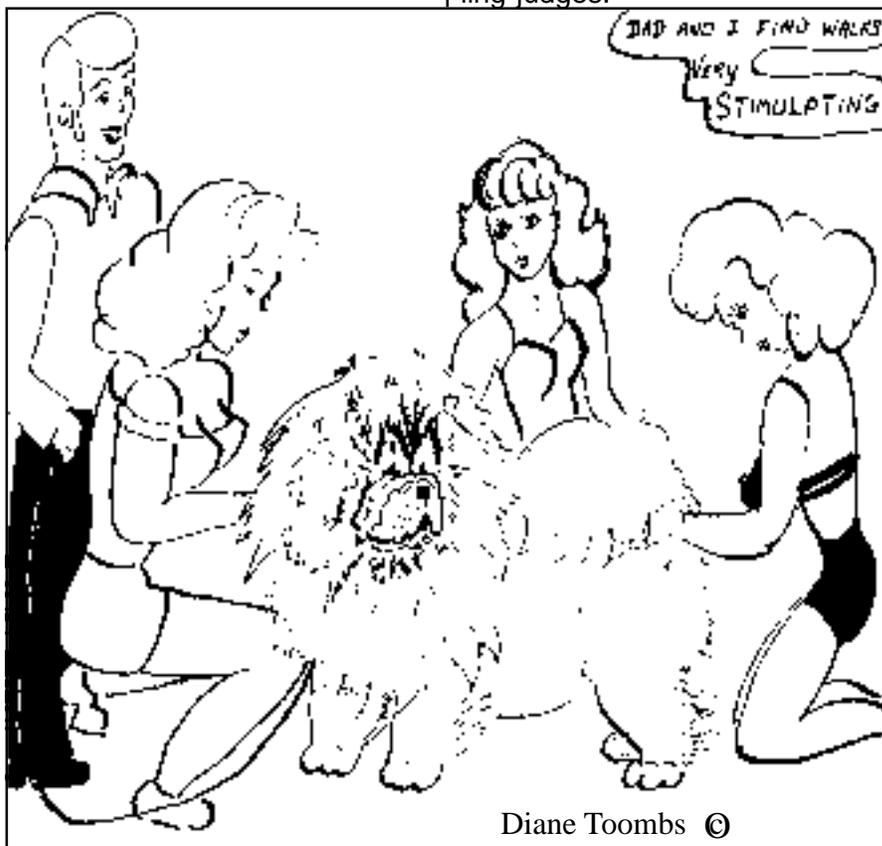
The second recommendation I would make is to limit the number of championship shows a club may hold each year to ONE! If they wished to have a second show it should be called "A Diagnostic Show" I have written about this type of show in previous years on these pages and, in fact, such a show

has now been held by the Santa Barbara Kennel Club.

This type of show would be a major training ground for the newer and less experienced judges. The show would be organized along the lines of a Plan A match with this exception. First rate senior judges would be the breed arbiters. Three to four junior judges would be in the ring with the senior judge and (here comes why it's called a diagnostic show) as he went over and gaited a dog he/she would ask questions of the jr judges (interns) just like Grand Rounds in a hospital. Such questions as "with a shoulder such as you feel and the dogs overangulated rear, what do you think would be the result when he moves?" Or, "Mrs. -----, given that the first three dogs are all quite similar, how would you place them and why?" The senior judges can respond to the jr judges

diagnosis and drawing upon their many years of experience, explain to the neophyte his/her point of view and placement. Now in one fell swoop we have the AKC's Breed quiz and the hands on testing in a true learning environment. Oh yes, the Diagnostic Show would not count against the 25 show limit.

These unprecedented moves would do a number of stimulating things to the Dog Fancy. One, it would bring some much needed diversity to our judging ranks. Two, it would give talented and underused judges an opportunity to contribute to the sport in a major way and three, it would break up the lock that some handlers and owners have on the top spots in the breed and group rings just by the virtue of bringing in another opinion. And, most importantly, they would provide the training ground so necessary for fledgling judges.





AM\CAN.CH. KNOF'S GERONIMO, FU408694, Loray's Sundance O'Roshmire x Knof's Nyla, Br: Keith & Pauline Knoflook, Ow:Kieth Knoflook & Lynda Lockstein. (M)

CH. MI-TU'S JAZMINE, FU394766, Am.Ch. Redcloud's Big Picture x Mi-Tu's Firefly, Br\Ow: Pat & Russ Robb. (F)

AM\CAN.CH. PONVIEW'S SAMSON OF CHOWDOWN, ERN96003252, Dec. 5 1995, Am.Ch. Trages Cagney x Am.Ch. Kobys Anticipation, Br:H. & D. Cootey\R. Tatro\ W. Kopcza, Ow: Pat Mather (M)

CH. ROSHMIRE'S BEAU ASTRA, FY408650, Loray's Sundance O' Roshmire x Ch. Roshmire's Tippy Toes, Br\Ow: Terry & Carolyn Lucas, (M)

CH. ROSHMIRE'S LIFE WITH RILEY, FA334133, Jan. 1 1996, Ch. Knof's Bax Ter N'Black x Ch. Knof's Princess Jasmin, Br\Ow: Terry & Carolyn Lucas. (M)

CH. WONG CHOW'S BONWIT D'TELLER, ERN96000701, July 17 1995, Am.Ch. Mi Toi's D'Forchuin Cookie x Am.Ch. Ky Ching Rebecca at Wongchow, Br: Susan Hassett\Chris & Marie Barr. Ow: Susan Hassett



CH. SEVENACRE LEATHERWD OLYMPIAN (MBIS), 1056148 OFA2940 G, July 6 1994, Ch. Sevenacre's Barney's Boy Bil x Leatherwood Cause It's Maude, Br: Mike & Karen Cox, Ow: Kitty Egan. (M)



Just a reminder please send a photo copy of your OVC to Suzanne along with the registration number, Sire and Dam,

generation pedigree, Birthdate, names of the Breeders and Owners, and picture of the Chow to be included in the Clubs records. This for all Canadian Owned or Bred Chows.



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

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Nomination Form for 1998 Election of Officers
of the Chow Chow Fanciers of Canada

The person you nominate must be a member in good standing
in the CCFC as well as a Canadian Resident.
(The Canadian Kennel Club's rules require that **only** Canadian
Residents may hold office in Canadian Breed Clubs.)

Positions: _____

President: _____

Vice President: _____

Treasurer: _____

Secretary: _____

Corresponding Sec: _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____



Chow Chow Fanciers of Canada (National)

Application for Endorsement of an Event

Name of Event: _____

Type of Event: _____
(e.g. Sanction Match, Booster, Specialty)

Place _____ Date: _____

With what other event of association will this be connected? _____

Name of Person Making Application: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail address: _____

(Please fill out both sides of this form)

Please mail this form to :

Elaine & Richard Hoepner
23460 Mary St.
Gen. Del. Fort Langley
BC, V1M 2S6

Forms must be received by June 30th

Name and address of one other person involved with event : _____

The financial involvement of the Chow Chow Fanciers of Canada (National) in this event will be limited to: \$150.00 for a National, \$50.00 for a Booster.

If there is a profit, the proceeds will go to: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Complete and return to the executive Secretary:

Executive Secretary:
Sandra Post
Box 3267
Morinville AB
T8R 1S2