



National Newsletter

Chow Chow Fanciers of Canada

April - May 2000

GOOD BYE TO A FRIEND

March has been one of the saddest times, with the passing of a wonderful friend, Sherrie Harper of Cherie's Chows. Sherrie was one of the few people that you could call a Legend in her own time within the Chow World. She was in Chows since God was a Boy as she would say. Her presence in the Chow ring will be felt for many more years to come.

Sherrie was a woman of strong opinions and didn't mind sharing those with anyone, in many lively discussions. There were some things about Chow breeding that we didn't agree on but we both respected each other's ideas.

Sherrie was a big presence here in BC, she always helped us out with our auctions as a great donator and a very spirited bidder.

Sometimes even bidding against her partner Jan.

Sherrie and Jan certainly knew how to throw a party, people would come from far and wide to attend some of her legendary nights of FUN.

Sherrie fought her Cancer

with such grace, strength and courage that she will long be an inspiration to me for years to come.

If heaven has Dog Shows we certainly know who is running them now. I miss her now and I will remember her always.



Standard Changes...

Changing a Breed Standard is never taken lightly, a lot of work and thought goes into the process by many people. I have asked for some opinions about the proposed change in nose colour for the Cream Chow, from people in Countries that have had this in their standard all along. I do believe that it is only Canada, the US and South Africa that do not allow the cream in the ring with the self coloured nose.

My own thoughts on this nose colour is that we will be correcting a mistake that was made many years ago. The country of origin for the Chows was China, but as there were no dog shows etc in China, the recognized country of origin is England. There has been an active National Breed Club in that country since 1895.

I really do not think that allowing the cream chow to be shown naturally, has been a detriment to the breed as a whole.

It has been a widely accepted practice to use creams in breeding programs throughout the US and Canada, so why keep the same dogs out of the ring?

Our first male was a cream, (which we never tried to show) all his offspring had the darkest tongues, eyes, and

mouth pigment you could ever want. The cream puppies he threw had their tongues turning blue by 2 days old. You can have bad pigment in a dog of any colour, just don't breed that dog. The coat colour and nose colour do not seem to have that much to do with mouth and tongue colouration.

The following opinions both favour the change and some do not. Thanks to the people that took time to at least speak up and tell us what they think.

Dear Suzanne,

With regards to your question of creams being shown in the ring Graham and I can see no reason why they should not be shown. If blues can, with a slate nose we think the same should apply to all dilutes providing they have solid colour. Maybe we are a little biased having a fawn dog of our own who has a very dark charcoal nose. Our standard here has no problems with creams and there are well known breeders who show creams and do very well with them. Surely as long as the dogs conform to the standard using creams to breed from should not damage our breed. If pigment is a concern, care should be taken when choosing the dam/sire to mate with the cream.

Pauline & Graham Wilcox
Scotland

Not too many cream chows have been shown in Ireland over the years. Of course the standard here allows for creams with light coloured noses. That standard is set by the English Kennel Club. Ireland is affiliated to the European Federation of Kennel Clubs and they state that the country of origin of a breed should set the standard and all other countries should follow that standard i.e. the standard for the Kerry Blue Terrier is determined by Ireland and no other standard should apply. For the purposes of the standard England is considered as the country of origin of the Chow Chow and by right that is the standard that should apply, whether we agree or not.

My own preference is that cream chows would have dark noses, but one could not penalise a cream with a light coloured nose. I must add that the quality of cream chows or blue chows has never been on a par with reds and blacks. How many cream or blue chows have attained their championship status



even allowing for the fact that there are many more red and black chows.

I feel that if Canada or the US could keep the dark or black nose they should do so. I've rarely been impressed by cream chows (on occasion I have seen an impressive one) and would stay away from breeding them. I think many in the UK would breed them as they seem to fetch quite a good price in Europe for them. I've seen the quality of chows in several kennels deteriorate as a result of mixing creams into their red and black lines.

At the end of the day its all a matter of opinion.

Cheers.

Derek Stewart
Delshar Chows Ireland



I have only owned one cream Chow Chow, she unfortunately fitted and did not respond to medication and sadly was put to sleep at 6 months, she did however have a beautiful black nose.

When I first came into the breed my impression of the Cream Chow was that it often lacked substance and was most likely to be foxy. There were the odd more typical creams but they were in the minority. By not being penalised for pale noses these dogs have been shown and used in breeding programmes. The result is that these days they are no different from any other colour but we see a lot more of them. Type has improved although we still have a fair number with pale noses.

I believe that unless these dogs are seen in the ring then they cannot be assessed for their value in a breeding programme. To discount a dog purely on pigmentation is not wise when there are so many other more life threatening problems besetting the Chow Chow at this time. Pigmentation can be improved upon by selective breeding, although a black nose, tongue and flews are important for this breed, health is even more important, if the dogs are not seen then they cannot be assessed for their value for breeding.

To make pale pigment a disqualifying fault will either stop the dog from being seen or worse the dog may have its pigmentation artificially improved which will mean that people wishing to use the dog/bitch will have a false impression of its attributes.

Far better to be able to assess a dog as it is and make a judgement of all of its good points and failings.

I believe that in allowing these dogs to be shown in the UK has improved the Cream Chow overall. A dog with poor pigment will be penalised to some extent, i.e, if there is a dog of similar quality with good pigment it will tend to be put before one with poor pigment. This in turn will encourage breeders to breed for better pigment. After all we should all be striving towards breeding a dog which is both sound, true to type with good temperament. The Perfect Dog.

Pauline Lock - Paulin Chows
England



Hi Suzanne

This is an interesting question and even though I haven't bred any creams yet I know a little about it as I have spoken to breeders who do.

People who are against pink noses in creams often say they are afraid that the pigmentation may be bad if the standard is to be changed. I just can't help to wonder why... You are already using creams in your breeding programs and allowing them in the ring without dyed noses would not do any harm to the breed.

Good pigmentation is essential in a chow, no matter what colour it is! The pigment is not only visible on the nose, but also in the mouth, colour of eyes and eye rims. So a cream that has dark eyes, a blue tongue but a pink nose probably has a very good pigmentation, and a black that does have black nose but has a spotted mouth or light eyes has bad pigment.

I have never seen an adult cream chow with black nose. That is, I have never seen them here in Europe, simply because they don't exist. A black nose doesn't go with the cream colour. I have, however, seen creams with black noses in North America. These creams are of the same bloodlines as the ones in Europe. I am not accusing anybody of dying the nose, but I find it very interesting that cream chows that have travelled across the Atlantic Ocean all of a sudden end up with a black nose. If these chows are winners in the ring they will most likely also be used for breeding.

In Sweden I know breeders who have bred creams to fawns and also to blues, and the results have been good when it comes to pigmentation. Of course the sires and dams have had good pigment.

As I said before, I haven't bred any creams yet, but I will in the future. To me the happy, healthy and sound chow is more important than the colour of it.

Chow for now...Jessica Bjorling - Gurkan Chows Sweden

Ed...Jessica judged Maple Leaf Chow Chow Club's Puppy & Veteran Sweeps in 1998.

Not having owned a cream, I haven't had the experience of showing one, but as they are allowed to be shown in this country with a self coloured nose they get shown quite often. There are more being shown now than say 10 years ago, and all the top Kennels have had creams, including Baytor, Tanlap, Jowtrix.

On the whole I find people either love cream or totally dislike cream, and that is not for the nose colour, I think it is because they lack expression. Some of Anita Westlake's have more expression, because they are of the heavier headed type. At last years Chow of the Year show, there was a sweet cream bitch that Anita bred, but sold on, when

she couldn't get her into whelp. She is a bit on the small side for her age, I think she is around 3 - 4 now, but I love her, she is called Baytor Cream Creation, although I wouldn't particularly want a cream, I could take her home any day.

Chris Clucus - Hiswin Chows England



February 27, 2000

To the editor National Newsletter of the CCFC

Re: The February – March Newsletter Guest Column – Kitty Egan – Commentary of the Standards Committee

First, it should be known that one of our 'gals' produced a 'cream' with a dudly nose. This dog now lives in France and has a fine life occupying a 'chaise lounge' (which I understand to be French for... the couch).

Certainly, I am not a purist about much; but when it comes to a venerable breed like our Chows I must draw a line in the snow. The objective

of purebred animals is to maintain the standard so as to perpetuate a type. The production of a 'cream' has been a rare natural event that has become more common due to the dedication of breeders that take the time to understand genetics. This is not too unlike the production of white GSDs... most of us are familiar with what happened to the GSD Dog clubs over this development. I'm not sure we want to go there.

Understanding genetics permits us to do a great many things that, while 'natural', could be considered aberrations or freaks by others. Normalizing that type of outcome by accepting 'aberrations' as part of the breed standard tends to open the door to lots of other interpretations or demands that do not further the breed. If I could cross a 'cream' chow with a 'blue' chow and get a purple Shiba Inu...should we accept it as a fair example of the breed? If the aberration is frequent enough should it be incorporated into the standard or should it be considered a novelty?

'Flowered' tongues are also a frequent result of creating a 'cream'. Will some of us be on the horns of the same dilemma 10 years hence... considering making that OK ?

The English are certainly to be thanked for their tireless efforts in ensuring all of us have had the opportunity to enjoy the unique characteristics of Chow Chows. Yes, most of us have

lines that trace back to the UK. The fact that they have accepted dudly noses as a probable outcome of creating a 'cream' is, quite frankly, of little relevance to what the Standards Committee is trying to do. Heavens above... the Brits drink their beer at room temperature.... must we all ? – but that's the subject of another diatribe.

I appreciate what the Committee is attempting. I am certain that the outcome will be a standard that will live a long life and be the subject of serious study by other countries. I simply request that 'legalizing' current Canadian faults probably doesn't do much to ensure that the breed will endure as being predictable in type, dimension and demeanor. I wish them good luck, God speed and sound judgement.

By the way, is a 'cream' a 'cream' or just a dilute red. No, I shan't comment on Blues.

John Schmidt
Beijing Chows



Show Results From Crufts

Best of Breed

CH CARMALDE CAN CAN CHARLIE WITH DAWNANDA

Dog

Owner: Mr & Mrs M & D
Butterworth

Best Opposite Sex

CH HELYENHU TOUCH OF HONEY

Bitch

Owner: Mrs H Smith

Reserve Best Dog

CH KYONG KOCKNEY REBEL

Owner: Miss L Squires

Reserve Best Bitch

CH ANNA BELLA OF WOOTTON

Owner: Mr & Mrs D Mumford



Lost this past March were:

Lohan Dianeta Lady Con-

tender, 11\09\90,
Am\Can\Int\Nat.Ch. Lohan
Nicolaas (BISS) x Lohan
Ebonie Cassandra. Ow\Br:
Douglas Johnston & Leonard
Hanson

Leatherwood Seavenacres

Oreo 11\18\89, Can.Ch.

Suehon Sevenacres Barnacl
Bill x Can.Ch. Leatherwood
Bad Moon Rising, Br\Ow:
Kitty Egan

HOW TO BE A *RESPONSIBLE* BREEDER

By Lyn Johnson DVM

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I am a veterinarian, specializing in companion animal behaviour problems. I am also an owner/exhibitor/breeder of purebred dogs. My occupation and avocation combine to make me very aware of ethical and unethical breeding and sales practices of purebred dogs

Daily, I attempt to help owners cope with puppies who result from irresponsible breeding, lack of genetic screening for inherited diseases, lack of education about their chosen breed, impulse purchases, poor early socialization and development, and lack of follow-up education from breeders. In short, people who have purchased puppies whose breeders were more interested in the bottom line of making money on puppy sales rather than the overall health and welfare of both the puppies and their future homes.

Unsuspecting people purchase these innocent puppies. The difference is that problem puppies resulting from irresponsible breeding practices often wind up DEAD, after much mental and physical suffering!

Raising puppies who grow into mentally and physically healthy dogs is a tremendous undertaking, not one to be taken lightly. It should not be done for supplemental or primary income...when done correctly, it is very difficult to make money raising puppies. People who make money are cutting corners, which is extremely irresponsible. Many people aren't even aware what constitutes responsible breeding, others just don't care.

Responsible breeding starts with selection of the parents. Having AKC papers and a pedigree stating the parents are purebred is NOT enough. The parents must meet the criteria of conforming to the breed standard and be superior specimens of the breed.

The prospective parents should be screened for a variety of inherited health defects, including heart defects, eye defects, hip dysplasia, luxating patellas, bleeding disorders, to name a few. The breeder should be fully familiar with possible problems existing in the pedigree and bloodlines, such as epilepsy, excessive fear or shyness, aggression, etc. Parents should be paired because they complement each other's strengths and weaknesses, not just because they belong to the same breed and mating those two dogs is convenient.

The mother should receive routine veterinary care, both before, during and after pregnancy. The dogs should be

fed high quality dog food, not just the cheapest brand available at the local supermarket or feed store. They should receive routine heartworm prevention, intestinal parasite control, external parasite control, with a veterinarian's advice, not do-it-yourself medicine when problems occur, which may result in sick animals and overdosing of medications. Vaccinations should be administered under the direct supervision of a veterinarian, not just purchased from a feed store or wholesale catalog, where mishandling could result in vaccine failures.

The dam should be carefully monitored and kept in a clean, quiet environment for the birth of her puppies. Someone should be present during delivery to ensure there are no complications or to immediately seek veterinary help should problems arise. She should not be left to give birth outdoors or in a kennel in the middle of the night without supervision.

Puppies should be raised in clean environments, with careful exposure to people and home environments, not in cages or pens in crowded kennels or outdoors. After all, they are destined to be family pets, not farm animals or livestock. They should be socialized with their mother, littermates, and other dogs until they are at least 7-8 weeks of age, not sold as

soon as they are on solid food at 5-6 weeks. The breeder should be prepared to keep puppies until the best homes are found, even if that means hanging on to them past the "cute puppy" stages.

The puppies should be socialized to people and different environments before going into new homes, not isolated with food and water provided and little handling. Before going into their new homes, puppies should be started on housebreaking, leash walking, crate training, etc, not left in cages, runs, or pens until they are sold, or forced to live in their own excrement.

Potential homes should be carefully screened to insure that each puppy is placed in the best home for it's individual personality, not simply sold to someone who is willing to hand over the cash as soon as they see the puppy. Mismatched homes, where there was no screening by the breeder, and impulse purchases, where new owners didn't take time to make this vital decision, are the two most common causes for behavior problems and euthanasia in pet dogs.



A responsible breeder should be available to answer questions and give advice to new owners who call with concerns or questions. They should not wash their hands of their responsibility as soon as the money is deposited in the bank account. A responsible breeder should guarantee the health of their puppies. The breeder should be willing to take that puppy back should problems occur in the new home, **FOR THE LIFE OF THAT PUPPY!** After all, they are responsible for bringing that life into the world this is not an inanimate object or appliance that can be disposed of at the local dump when it doesn't work correctly. This is a living being, capable of great affection, capable of learning incredible skills, able to feel excruciating pain and anguish.

I sincerely hope you are or will meet the above standards for responsible breeding. I hope, for the sake of future puppies and puppy owners, you are not following the standards of commercial kennels and back yard breeders, whose main interest in the dogs is making money. If you are not raising puppies responsibly, I hope this article will change your mind. There are many other avenues for making money that don't have such a negative impact on innocent lives than raising and selling dogs.

Lyn Johnson DVM

Growing up In Chows

By Nancy Vetzal
Beijing Chows

When I was 11 I fell in love. So did my mom, Vicki Schmidt, and my sister Jane. We told my dad we were just going to look and that was all. We all took one look at this sweet little black ball of fur and we were lost forever. We wrapped him like a babe and took him home without much more thought than what shall we call him? It was my job to place the little man in my fathers arms. I shall never forget the look on my fathers face, the stern IBM man, when he said and who might this be? My answer... Winston Morton Schmidt. I saw my father melt, much like he did whenever we called him daddy. The next question as the little bundle of fur showered him in blue tongue kisses was, "Where is your mother?" "oh hiding in the garage, why?" That was the start of a magical adventure for the Schmidts.

It did not take much more than a year for our family to grow, we got Lioning's Beijing Lady (Wicket) in late November the next year and then Anna came along, whom my father was solely responsible for. Before long my mother was working for a kennel and learning the trade from wonderful teachers who, I might add did the same for me and my sister through the years. We started to think of moving

to the country because at the time we were up to about 7 dogs and in Whitby, Ontario that was far above the 3 dog limit. By the time the move to the country had happened I was deep into Dog handling with my mom and learning as much as I could about dog shows and politics.

With the country home came the kennel home and the puppies that go with it. I did project after project in school about the breed of Chow Chow and about the Show World. After all how many teenagers know how to do an artificial insemination and birth a litter? As one breeder I know once said " In this business what is a little afterbirth with dinner? " I slept with pups in my room and I will still swear that they were in the crate mom and dad, not my bed, no not me!!! We had our first home born and breed Champion and he was the pride of Beijing. But with all of this Joy came some very hard lessons. We learned first hand the horrors of heat stroke, of an unlocked door into a yard with a pool, of birth defects some fatal, some just a sign of a survivor. We learned of good owners and bad owners. And as I grew up and moved away I learned that you can't take your best friend with you. And that pictures are never the same as a warm fluffy body sitting beside you when your heart is breaking.

My parents John and Vicki Schmidt gave me alot of things but the best thing they ever gave me were my Chow Chows and all that they have taught to me. Growing up in a kennel situation teaches you alot about life and death. While your heart is breaking because you just had a 4 week old babe die in your arms, you have to get up because his sisters and brother need you and so do all the others in the kennel. They need to eat, to play and be groomed and there is always the poop fairy. Responsibility comes fast when you hold these animals in your heart. I live by these lessons everyday.

I am all grown up now and have travelled far on what I learned from Chows and my parents choices. Two years ago my sister and I were birthing my dogs second litter in my kitchen half a country away from mom and we did it. I smile when I remember my Chows in my wedding party, my Tina in heat and my Mulder whining for her attentions at the other side of the alter. I laugh at Mulders expression when my unborn child kicked him in the head for laying on my tummy. Or the look of shock the day that I brought them home that same child now known as

Allie. It was a mix of are you kidding and do we get more treats for this. Who ever says Chows are bad with kids has never been in my house. Allie was grunting back at Mulder by 3 months of age and still does. But I guess that it could also be a case of good breeding they had great breeders, Vicki and John Schmidt.

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

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