



Chinook Owners Association
UKC Chinook National Breed Club
Annual Meeting Report
July 20, 2007



President – Penthea Burns (ME)

I wish to congratulate and thank the COA Board for their role in significant accomplishments in the past year. The COA's treasury is in very good health as you will see in the Treasurers Report below. The Board has worked efficiently to address the issues and motions put before it. Board officers and committee chairs have worked hard on health research and funding; Working Dog Program design; establishing regional affiliate clubs; CrossBreeding Program oversight, evaluation and promotion; membership drive, producing a great club newsletter, and ensuring that the Chinook breed maintains a unified breeding pool.

What a fun, smart and dedicated group of folks serve on the current COA Board. They follow in the footsteps of leaders in the Chinook community to whom we owe our gratitude. Please join me in thanking those individuals who volunteer their time and energy to serve the Chinook on the COA Board - you'll see their names listed below!

This report provides information on Board accomplishments and activities from the past year.

Treasurer – Robert Fowler (FL)

It's been really good year for the COA since the last Specialty and annual meeting. Our treasury has increased greatly, thanks to the generosity of the former CDCA members. The CDCA dissolution led to the disbursement of their treasury. To our understanding those fund have gone to 3 different causes. A portion of funds were contributed to the Remick Museum in Tamworth for the preservation of Chinook history. CDCA funds that were dedicated to Chinook Rescue were contributed to the COA (over \$5,000) and will be added to the current Rescue Fund. The CDCA funds for Health (\$2,300), are targeted for the diversity study overseen by the Chinook Health Working Group.

The COA balance as of 6-29-2007	\$9300.24
Additional deposit	\$6712.18
Additional deposit	<u>\$2601.53</u>
Total COA funds	\$18,613.95

Summary of dedicated COA Funds	
Rescue Fund	\$7234.16
Health Fund	\$3291.53
General funds	<u>\$8088.26</u>
Total COA funds	\$18,613.95

I hope this report finds you in the middle of a great COA Specialty. Have fun and enjoy those Chinooks.

Secretary – Kathleen Riley Daniels (MN)

In the past year, in addition to the Board appointment motions, the COA Board and Executive Board have acted on the following motions. All of the following motions have passed.

Motion 2006-10E: Mid Atlantic Chinooks Club application for Provisional Affiliate Club status - COA accepts the Mid Atlantic Chinooks application for Provisional Affiliate Club status

Motion 2006-14: Chinook Health Fund Donation - COA solicited its members and affiliate clubs to give to the Chinook Health Fund and the COA matched all donations received by its members up to \$1,500. (The COA committed to sending \$1,500 regardless of the amount generated by our members.)

Motion 2007-01: MACC Affiliate Club - Mid-Atlantic Chinook Club (MACC) be granted status as an official affiliate club of the Chinook Owners Association

Motion 2007-02: Membership Directory - COA immediately publish an abbreviated 2006 Membership Directory to be sent to COA members.

Motion 2007-03: Seeking Non-Profit Status - Pursue tax exempt (501 c 3) status for the COA.

Motion 2007-04: DNA Diversity Project - COA Health Committee Chairs convene the Chinook Health Working Group to organize the DNA Diversity Project.

Motion 2007-05: COA Obtaining a Credit Card - COA Treasurer will secure a Chinook Owners Association credit card that can be used to pay for board approved expenses.

Motion 2007-06: COA Securing a PayPal Account - COA Treasurer will secure a Pay Pal account to be used for on-line purchases from the club.

Motion 2007-07: COA Advertising - COA immediately begin advertising on various internet search engines and dog breed information sites.

Motion 2007-08: COA PayPal Account Protocol - COA Board vote to accept the COA PayPal Account Protocol as drafted by the COA Executive Board.

Motion 2007-09: COA Credit Card Protocol - COA Board vote to accept the COA Credit Card Protocol as drafted by the COA Executive Board.

Motion 2007-10: COA Bank Account Protocol - COA Board vote to accept the COA Bank Account(s) Protocol as drafted by the COA Executive Board.

Motion 2007-11: Working Dog Program - COA Board approve the following Working Dog Program: Working Dog Program Overview, Working Dog Program Rules and Regulations, Titled Events Group, Temperament Group.

Motion 2007-12: Nomination of COA Secretary - Kathleen Riley Daniels be appointed as the COA Secretary to fill the vacancy in that position.

Motion 2007-13: Nomination of COA Rescue Co-Chair - Pam Chambers be appointed as the COA Rescue Co-Chair to fill the vacancy in that position.

Motion 2007-14: Approval of COA Treasurer Recommendations - Recommendations of the COA Treasurer approved by the Board.

Pam Chambers stepped down as COA Secretary to assume the role of COA Rescue Co-Chair. We are pleased that Kathleen Riley-Daniels has assumed the COA Secretary position.

Membership – Laura Morgan (NY) & Susan Cunningham (MA), Co-Chairs

The 2007 COA Membership Directory will be in production soon. Delay of the Directory is related to the extension of gift memberships to former CDCA members following the June dissolution of the CDCA. The COA and CDCA Boards worked cooperatively together to create a club option for the individual CDCA members to consider. All members have been invited to join the COA and actively support the UKC registry and events. We are currently in the midst of this membership drive so watch for introductions of new members and their Chinooks in upcoming CQs, the calendar contest and on COA-L discussions. Please welcome them as they participate in events like the CNE! Olympics, the 2007 Specialty, and on email discussions.

The following is an overview of the COA membership for the past 6 years:

- In 2002, the COA had 128 member households.
- In 2003, the COA had 152 member households.
- In 2004, the COA had 165 member households.
- In 2005, the COA had 163 member households. This included 85 single members, 78 member families, 14 Breeder members, 5 lifetime member breeders, 8 stud fees paid, and 283 member dogs. Thirty-four states and Canada are represented in COA membership.
- In 2006, the COA had 204 member households. This included 114 single members, 90 member families, 32 Breeder members, 5 lifetime members, 9 stud fees paid, and 340 member dogs. 36 states and Canada are represented in COA membership.
- To date in 2007, the COA has 215 member households – 335 voting members (95 single members and 120 member family members) plus 32 Breeder members, 7 lifetime member breeders, 6 stud fees paid, and 314+ member dogs (we don't yet have info about the CDCA dogs). 38 states and Canada are represented in COA membership. 69 CDCA members have sent in postcards to join COA (23 of these were already COA members). Any CDCA member has until November 1, 2007 to accept the gift membership. We hope more of their members will join the COA in supporting the UKC Chinook.

Registrar – Penthea Burns (ME)

Since the last Annual Meeting, the COA Registrar has registered 4 litters (23 puppies) in the COA CrossBreeding Program. The COA has also obtained an updated list of the UKC registered purebred and LP registered Chinooks. Thirty-three (33) Chinook crosses have UKC Limited Privileges registration. Nine hundred and thirty-three (933) purebred Chinooks were registered with the UKC as of March 2007 (this includes the 7 cross to pure Chinooks as well as their offspring).

**Rescue – Heather Martin-Zboray (ME) & Pam Chambers (WA), Co-Chairs;
Maria Sommer, Application Coordinator**

Susan Cunningham, Shirley Jackson, Carie Taylor, Jessica Maurer

The COA was involved with one Chinook rescue in the past year. One of the Kennebec Valley Human Society Chinook crosses, Bear, was returned to the Shelter. The Shelter contacted the COA. Foster placement occurred within hours and a permanent placement was secured within two weeks. Special thanks goes to many people who make sure that Chinooks in rescue get into placements as quickly as possible. Kathleen Riley-Daniels stepped down as Rescue Co-Chair to assume the COA Secretary role. We are pleased that Pam Chambers has assumed the Co-Chair position.

Health Committee – Karen Hinchy (NJ) & Jessica Maurer (ME), Co-Chairs

Leslie Donais, Jen Johnson, Eileen Koehler, Mary Berg Malkiel, Tom Schmaltz, Emina Begovic – Geneticist, Erin Geshwiler – Vet Consultant

This has been an incredibly busy year for the Health Committee. In 2006, the COA reached out to other breed clubs to secure agreement to collaborate on future major health initiatives. After securing this agreement, the newly formed Chinook Health Working Group embarked on a Chinook Genetic Diversity Study. We have identified the 100 crosses and 50 purebred dogs who will be asked to participate in the study and are moving forward in an attempt to secure participation. We hope samples will be submitted by fall.

We are also working collaboratively with the CrossBreeding Committee to evaluate the health outcomes of the CrossBreeding Program. We have designed a health survey to gather data and have secured input from our genetics consultant on the sufficiency of the survey and the establishment of a purebred control group. This survey is about to be launched.

Finally, our committee continues to write articles for the CQ and to write "COA Health Flashes" – one-page articles on various health issues affecting the breed. So far, we've completed Flashes on cryptorchidism, CERF and seizures. We will be working with the web design team to create more content for our health page when the new website is ready for new content. We hope to launch a PennHIP opened registry for Chinook owners, as PennHIP scores are not otherwise available. This would allow owners to voluntarily enter their dog's PennHIP scores and would give breeders a place to search for hip results. We welcome new members to the committee as there is always work to do!

CQ – Jamie Stevens (IL), Editor; John & Leslie Donais, Distribution; Jennifer Andrews, Layout & Format

The COA newsletter, the Chinook Quarterly, continues to provide members and supporters with great stories and information related to the breed. Thanks to the CQ team for getting the quarterly newsletter out to members in such great fashion.

You are encouraged to send Jamie, the CQ Editor (jamielisstevens@hotmail.com) your Chinook stories or achievements. It can be anywhere from a sentence or two to a short paragraph or a whole article. We all have heard (or told) stories about the great talents of Chinooks (therapy dogs, training & puppy school graduates, adventures at home and in the world). Even if an announcement has already posted to the COA list it will still make a terrific contribution to the CQ.

CrossBreeding Committee – Donna Canfield (FL & ME), Chair

R. Rowdy Yates (UKC Judge), Penthea Burns (Registrar), Bob & Connie Jones (share 1 vote), John & Leslie Donais (share 1 vote), Joyce Maley, Richalene Kelsey

The COA CrossBreeding Committee has been involved in two evaluative projects in collaboration with the COA Health Committee. The CrossBreeding Committee participated in identifying dogs from the CrossBreeding Program to participate in the DNA Diversity Project. They also have helped to design and test an on-line survey instrument that will be used to conduct a comparative study of health, conformation, temperament and working issues for dogs produced from the COA CrossBreeding Program and the purebred Chinook. We are grateful to the COA Health Committee for their knowledge and leadership in this initiative and to Emina Begovic, PhD for lending her genetics and research expertise to this important project.

Additionally, the CrossBreeding Committee has begun developing criteria for assessing how Breeders Option category in CERF is acceptable for dogs used within the CrossBreeding Program.

Working Dog – Corine Lindhorst (MT), Chair

Ginger Corley, Jessica Maurer, Maria Sommer, Pam Chambers, Joyce Maley

The long awaited Working Dog Program is in the process of being reviewed and voted on by the COA Board. The COA Board has approved the following Working Dog Program components: Working Dog Program Overview, Working Dog Program Rules and Regulations, Titled Events Group, Temperament Group. It is anticipated that the Program will be completed by September 1, 2007.

Bench – Jessica Maurer (ME), Chair

We have record numbers of Chinooks showing all over the country this year. Many new people have ventured into the ring this year and have found it to be a fun and valuable experience. They are being bold and asking for feedback on their dogs and are sharing this feedback with breeders. In all, this information is helpful in objectively looking at the structure of your dog in a way that will help you make breeding decisions that will improve the structure of the next generation.

Over 150 Chinooks have earned conformation titles since the breed was recognized in 1991. We're proud that this number translates into about 14% of the registered breed having a conformation title. The new COA website that is in development will make it easier for exhibitors to find UKC shows across the country that include Chinooks. We hope that by next year, the COA website will provide all of the information exhibitors need to find shows near them. Fingers crossed!

We are in the process of finalizing a brochure for new exhibitors called "Getting Started in Showing." This document will hopefully de-mystify the showing process and help new exhibitors know what to expect when entering the ring for the first time.

The Bench Chair has worked with a dedicated group of volunteers to organize the 2007 Chinook National Specialty in Longmont, CO. We are already looking forward to seeing everyone at next year's National Specialty that will be held in June 2008 in Kalamazoo, MI. The date for the Specialty has not been set but it will be held over Father's Day week/end. Watch the CQ and COA website for more information. The 2009 National Specialty will be held east of the Mississippi River. We'll be soliciting proposals for host sites in early 2008. Let us know if you want more information now about how to submit a proposal to host this event.

Information Coordinator – Walt Madden (CO)

The COA information coordinator reads and responds to inquiry emails sent to the "Information Coordinator" email address posted on the COA website and listed in the Dogs USA print ads. In 2007, the COA has expanded this on a trial basis to also include "sponsored" ads within the Google and Yahoo internet search engines where a small COA advertisement linking to the main COA website appears when people search on specific words such as "chinook dog" or more generic phrases like "choosing a dog breed" or "puppies in xxx" for states where the COA has a presence.

Most inquiries are from people who are already sold on the breed and want to know where they can get a dog. Those folks are referred to the COA website and the breeders page there to research and introduce themselves to the COA breeders near their home. They are also encouraged to check out the FAQ pages on the COA website and to take advantage of the trial subscription to the COA-L to learn more about Chinooks and their people. Hopefully based on that experience they will perhaps become encouraged to join the COA community.

Historian – Leslie Donais (NH)

The COA Historian has been busy compiling historical materials and filing them into appropriately labeled folders. Some documents were loaned from various long time members to make copies for COA club records. There are still many things to copy but the project is progressing nicely. At the 2007 Specialty members will be able to browse through a binder that contains documents about the history of the UKC/COA. It is a work in progress but will be an interesting read.

Historian goals for the up coming year are to continue to copy and file our club's historical records and add to the binder(s) that members can view. Towards the end of August the COA Historian will be meeting with Rick Skoglund and hopes to gather more documents for our club.



Chinooks New England! (CNE!) – Leslie Donais (NH), Representative to COA Board

CNE! continues to offer wonderful opportunities for Chinook owners and fans to meet and engage in activities with our dogs. Last summer CNE! held a very successful Chinook Olympics at *It's A Dog's World* in York, Maine. Our club is gearing up for another Olympics this August, with a great day filled with fun and fantastic food. This past winter our members were guests at the Bradbury's Standish, Maine farm to celebrate CNE!'s 9th Annual Winterfest. With plenty of recent snow, the sledding was great for all ages and ability levels. CNE! held its famous auction to raise money for the club and of course had an amazing spread of food for all the hearty appetites. In early spring CNE! representatives participated in "Meet the Breeds" in Saco, ME. This was a chance for the public to come and meet various breeds, ask questions, and gather information. As always, our Chinook ambassadors wowed the crowd with their marvelous manners. Check out CNE!'s new website. Chinooks New England! has moved their website to www.chinooksnewengland.org.



Mid Atlantic Chinook Club (MACC) – Laura Morgan (NY), Representative to COA Board

The Mid Atlantic Chinook Club (MACC) became the second official COA Affiliate Club in January of 2007 by a unanimous COA Board vote. The motion for their affiliation was seconded and met with the following comment: "I wholly support this motion. The MACC board has met every requirement as outlined in the Affiliate Club Rules. I have attended two of the three events and thought they were very well organized, informative and fun. They have a lot of energy and their existence is a great asset for the Chinook breed generally. I am thrilled that we can offer them permanent affiliate club status."

Please congratulate the founding Board of MACC for their successful application for and first year as a COA Affiliate Club - Karen Hinchy, President; Laura Morgan, Vice President; Kim Kramer, Secretary; and Maria Sommer, Publicity Officer.

First year events for MACC included a Rigging Seminar, a Litter Evaluation Seminar and the Great Chinook Cookie Swap. Check out MACC's website at - <http://www.midatlanticchinooks.org/index.htm>.

MACC and CNE will be joining forces to co-sponsor a Weight Pull event in the fall of 2007.

COA Website – Ann Eakin (MA), Web Page Development & Maintenance; Larry Pilotto (IL), new website design

The COA website is getting a face lift and is going interactive! A few months back, we moved to a different ISP that will allow for a much more dynamic website. We are now working with a web designer who is helping us design member back pages to the website that can be controlled and updated by individual members and member breeders. The look and feel of the member pages will soon mirror the overall design of the COA website. The new design, which will be rolled out in phases, will allow members and member breeders to:

- Renew membership online
- Maintain a public member page with photos and information about your dogs
- List up-coming breedings that will automatically appear in the breeder's guide
- List studs that will automatically appear in the stud guide
- Update and share basic health information on your dogs
- Upload photos for the calendar contest
- Much, much more!

These changes will also help the club track dogs placed in rescue. The rest of the website will be getting a new look as well, with new graphics, a new design lay-out and many new photos. We'll be rotating photos from membership pages onto pages throughout the site and will be highlighting breeders on a random basis. We have many more plans as well, but this is the first phase. Look for changes in the coming months.

The current COA website still contains great information about all things Chinook including:

- The Breeder's page with breeder contact information, upcoming litter announcements, advice about finding and placing puppies, and a link to the COA Stud page, home of the world's most eligible Chinook bachelors (viewing is open to females 2 years and up only, please!).
- Chinook history with great photos of Arthur Walden and Chinook through the Perry Greene era dogs and up to the present.
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) with responses about Chinook health, obtaining puppies, and other general Chinook knowledge.
- COA member pages as part of the on-line membership guide, sorted by geography to make it easy for members to connect with other local Chinooks.
- The COA store, where you can find all sorts of great Chinook items for purchase, such as T-shirts, jewelry, and the fabulous children's book by David Pagel, "The First Chinook".

Please visit the site soon (www.chinook.org). Let us know what you are looking for in the COA website by writing Ann.Eakin@comcast.net.

COA-L – Marne Lindhorst (MT) & Jessica Maurer (ME), Moderators; Laura Morgan (NY), Administrator

The Chinook Owner's Association (COA) is pleased to provide a Mailing List, the COA-L, for Chinook owners and those interested in the breed. This list is known as the Chinook Neighborhood for a very good reason -- the Chinook community is so geographically widespread that COA members and those interested in the breed need a forum where they can safely discuss common concerns and issues. There are currently 108 members on this list. It's a friendly neighborhood that never runs out of room for new neighbors. To learn more about the COA-L group, please visit:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/COA-L>

COA Calendar Contest – Ann Eakin (MA), Contest Coordinator

This year's contest and calendar should be especially fun as there are so many new families in the COA and the contest provides a great way to meet the club's members and their Chinooks. Any COA member in good standing is eligible to submit 2 photos for the contest. For this year's contest, we will return to the original format for the calendar. The photos will be grouped for voting into categories according to the 4 seasons (Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall) and the 3 winning photos from each group will be distributed most appropriately for the months of that season. For the cover competition, we will use the "Group o' Chinooks" category that was so much fun last year. Each COA member may submit one additional photo to compete in this cover category. These photos should be of 3 or more Chinooks and the winning photo will be printed on the cover of the 2008 COA calendar.

Either electronic or print submissions of photo entries are acceptable. It is *very important* that all photos must be in a *horizontal layout*, with dimensions consistent with *4x6 print format*. Vertical (portrait-style) formats or other odd sizes do not fit properly on the calendar page and cannot be accepted in the competition. It is important that the originals of electronic images must be at high enough resolution to appear sharp when printed to fill a standard sheet of paper. Please take care to maintain the proper dimensions and high resolution when editing digital photos.

All Photos must be taken by amateur photographers - no professional photos or studio portraits will be accepted. Please include the names of dogs and people pictured in the photo, the name of the dog(s) owners and the name of the photographer with all entries. Please submit original photos that have not appeared in the contest in previous years. Submit photos in print form by mail to Ann Eakin (11 Chestnut Street, Stow, MA 01775) or as JPEG files by email to COACalendar@comcast.net before 31 August 2007. The photos will be scanned (if necessary) and posted on the COA website for viewing by mid-September and voting will be conducted by email (one vote per person, please!) for several weeks. Additional details will be posted on this page, including voting instructions and deadlines.

Special notes for digital entries: It is important that the original digital images must be at high enough resolution to appear sharp when printed to fill a standard sheet of paper. For initial web voting, please submit electronic (JPEG) files no larger than 150 KB to conserve mailbox space. Higher resolution files will be requested from all winners with digital images for the final printing of the calendar. In previous years,

electronic photos that were printed and submitted did not reproduce well and caused a problem printing the calendars. If you have electronic photos, our preference is to receive them via e-mail rather than printed copies. Please send an email to Ann if you have any specific questions or concerns about resolution, file size, etc.

Previous calendars have featured some beautiful photos of our wonderful dogs, so get out there and capture your favorite Chinook on film and help us put together a calendar that you will be proud to give to all your friends and relatives for Christmas, Hanukah, birthdays, etc. Sale of the calendars helps support our club.

Ad Hoc Committee on Breeding Ethics – Richalene Kelsay, John Donais, Maria Sommer, Kathleen Riley-Daniels, Mary Berg Malkiel, Cheryl Brown, Penthea Burns

The COA has convened an Ad Hoc Breeders Code of Ethics Committee to prepare a written report with recommendations regarding any changes to the current Code of Ethics to the COA Board and membership. The Committee is comprised of COA member breeders who were selected because of the range of experience with breeding Chinooks and who represent all of the COA Regions.

The committee has begun a review of the current COA Code of Ethics, the ethical standards for breeding adopted by various National Breed club(s), and the United Kennel Club Ethical Standards for Breeding. It also has designed and implemented an anonymous survey of Chinook breeders and reproductive vets. The survey was intended to gain perspective from Chinook breeders regarding ethical and unethical breeding practices as part of this review of the current Code of Ethics. In particular, the Committee has been interested in reviewing ethical standards and determining what role, if any, the COA plays in response to unethical decisions or actions by member breeders. The questions were open ended narrative questions and analysis of the feedback is slow going! The initial discussion in the analysis focused on the core values of Chinook breeders.