

# Chinook Owners Association Annual Report

## July 2010

### Summary

The Board completed its term with a busy final year. In addition to regular business, the Board focused on the Top Three priorities agreed at its inception: a new COA website, Judge's Education, and updating the Code of Ethics. The new website went live last year and received kudos for its updated presence. The Judge's Education committee has created material and arranged an information program at this year's Specialty in Richmond, Indiana. This includes mentoring by judges that have extensive experience with the Chinook, and is something to look forward too! And finally, the COE draft has been sent to all COA members to receive feedback prior to additional steps being taken by the Board.

Thanks, as always go to our Board and Committee members, and to you, the members of the COA. None of these significant achievements would be possible without your support. I would like to personally extend my deepest gratitude to the Board for their dedication and hard work- steadily progressing difficult initiatives for the betterment of the breed, the COA, and the UKC.

#### 1. Bench

The Bench has worked tirelessly to host the 2010 National Specialty in Richmond, Indiana. The late change in venue caused issues with hotels and restaurants, but everything has been sorted.

Judge's Education Committee – *Maria Sommer (NY, Chair), Corine Lindhorst (MT), Connie Jones (ME), Joyce Maley (SC), Rowdy Yates (GA, UKC Judge), Kathleen Riley Daniels (MN) and Penthea Burns (ME)*

The Judges Education Committee continued its work on a slideshow presentation that can be used for judge's education, a handout and posted as an on-line educational tool designed to help judges understand the UKC Chinook standard. A formal Judge's Education event is scheduled for ringside at the 2010 Specialty, and the UKC has been supportive of the activity. Experienced Chinook judges Rowdy Yates, Tina Camp and Melissa Poage have agreed to mentor other judges while the Specialty is being conducted. This is a terrific opportunity to ensure UKC judges better understand the standard and are more informed in judging our dogs.

#### 2. Cross Breeding 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*

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Over the past six months we worked with Walt Madden to update the CrossBreeding Program graduates on the COA website. The current information can be found at <http://www.chinook.org/x2pure.html>.

We've had four CrossBreeding Program graduates since the last annual meeting:

1. GreatMountain Mikkelsen – August 2009
2. Balsam Ridge Dakota – October 2009
3. Lakeside Run Lucy of GreatMountain – November 2009
4. Lakeside Run Jacoby – June 2010

Six Chinooks in the UKC's 2009 Top Ten are descendants of the CrossBreeding Program:

03. NBOB GRCH'PR' GreatMountain Redington Guide
04. GRCH'PR' Southwind Silatuyok
05. GRCH'PR' Granite Hill Howlet
08. GRCH'PR' Crossing Creek Encore
09. CH'PR' GreatMountain Lyric Tikanni
10. CH'PR' GreatMountain Tanaina

In the 2010 Top Ten Standings to date, seven of the ten Chinooks are descendants from the CrossBreeding Program:

04. GRCH'PR' GreatMountain Lyric Tikaani
04. CH'PR' Callicoon Madeline Island
06. CH Bashaba Murphy
07. CH'PR' Lakesie Run Galadriel Lorien
08. GRCH'PR' Southwind Sangilak Nanuq
08. GRCH'PR' Crossing Creek Encore
08. CH Bashaba Sakari Dawn

The Chinook Quarterly's lead article in the first issue of 2010 explained the CrossBreeding Program and its progress and changes in the past few years. The next issue will carry an article suggesting someone volunteer to begin a fourth Cross Line with a "mastiff type" dog which is the only breed purported to be part of the original breed that the CrossBreeding program has not yet added.

The Committee Chair completed her position description for the Continuity Binder.

3. CQ

4. Health

After a couple of long years, the Mars Veterinary Chinook DNA study submitted a final report. The study may be found online at <http://www.chinook.org/MarsChinookDNAStudy.pdf>. Key highlights from the study include:

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- Chinooks are a unique population of dogs with a distinct genetic signature
- Most related dogs to Chinooks are European herding breeds and Nordic Spitz breeds
- The cross program has added genetic variation to the Chinook- in fact 27% of the haplotypes in the purebred population are unique to dogs with crossbred ancestry.

### 5. Historian

The historian has been busy cataloging, copying, and filing documents that were donated to the club last year by Perry Greene Kennels. Each document is reviewed, filed, and then placed into special archival boxes to help preserve them for future generations of Chinook lovers. A binder filled with historical articles and photos will be available for interested members at this year's Specialty in Indiana. This binder will have copies of Senate Bill-13, the act declaring the Chinook the state dog of New Hampshire.

### 6. Information Coordinator –*Walt Madden (CO)*

The Information Coordinator makes the updates to the COA web site, maintains the online membership renewal system/database and the Google adwords account as well as monitoring the COA paypal account. The refreshed COA website design that went live in July, 2009 has been very well received.

The COA information coordinator reads and responds to all emails sent to the [info@chinook.org](mailto:info@chinook.org) email address listed on the COA website and published yearly in the Dogs USA print ad. Inquiries are split about 50/50 between people who are already sold on the breed and want to know where they can get a dog and people wanting to know if their dog of unknown background is a Chinook. The folks looking for a dog 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. Based on those experiences, we hope they will want to join the COA community. The folks who want to know if their dog is a Chinook are told that Chinook breeders typically keep in touch with all of their puppies so there are few Chinooks that are unaccounted for. But they are still welcomed to join the COA family and are also referred to the Mars Wisdom Panel Insights DNA test that now includes Chinooks in the breeds detected.

### 7. Membership

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### 8. Registrar– *Penthea Burns (ME)*

During the last year 4 graduates from the COA CrossBreeding Program were UKC registered through the Single Dog Registration process. GreatMountain Mikkelsen, Balsam Ridge Dakota, Lakeside Run Lucy of GreatMtn, Lakeside Run Jacoby each received 'PR' pedigrees. The COA has received a copy of the UKC Chinook registry on 7/1/09 and has requested an updated copy effective 7/1/10. The UKC has appointed a new Single Registration Coordinator (Andrew Johnson) for the Chinook, though they are reportedly identifying another new Coordinator in the weeks to come. No litters were registered within the COA CrossBreeding Program during this past year.

### 9. Rescue

Throughout the year Rescue spent time fielding requests for Chinooks needing re-homed, checking out potential Chinooks in shelters and accepting applications for adoption of any rescued Chinooks. On October 4, 2009, Rescue participated by setting up a booth at the 2009 Canine Carnival in Maine promoting "responsible dog ownership." The event was manned by Ed Bigos with Harry and Penthea Burns with Chocorua who spent the afternoon meeting dog owners and fielding requests to adopt their dogs! The Carnival held a photo contest of which our own Walt Madden with a photo of Koki won! In preparation for this event Rescue created a tri-fold brochure to be handed out briefly explaining our history, showing photos of our dogs (selected from the Calendar contest winners) and giving list contact, breeder and event information. At the end of January a Chinook-a-like, Sheana, needed to be re-homed and through the kind heart and vigorous efforts of Ed Bigos a forever home was found by February 16th and Sheana was bonding with their oldest daughter Chrissy and doing well.

Currently Rescue is helping to re-home two Chinooks (being returned to Rick Skoglund) from MN one 12-year old and one 7-year old. Keep your eyes and ears open for more Chinooks may be entering Rescue at the end of July who will be in need of forever homes. Accepting applications for those of you who know of or hear of anyone who might be interested. More information to come.

### 10. Working Dog Program -- *Corine Lindhorst (MT, Chair), Daphne Lewis (WA), Karen Schiller (CO), Kim Kramer (NJ), and Penthea Burns (ME)*