



April 29 2020
COA Board Meeting

COA Mission Statement (adapted from Constitution and Bylaws):

To promote the public's knowledge and appreciation of dogs in general and Chinooks in particular; To produce, publish, and distribute to the general public educational materials about the proper care, treatment, breeding, health, development and training of Chinooks; To support and promote study and research on the history, character, breeding, genetics and particular health problems of Chinooks; To establish a national data base of resource materials about the Chinook; To further understanding of the disease, defects, injuries and other ailments that afflict dogs in general and Chinooks in particular; To acknowledge and advance the critical role of an UKC National breed club in providing education, health research and support of rescue for the benefit of the general public, purebred dogs, and Chinooks in particular; To conduct activities including sporting events, licensed events, specialty shows, working certificate tests, obedience, agility and tracking trials, and other such activities and events as may be held under the rules of the United Kennel Club, in furtherance of the above purposes; To urge members and breeders to be guided by principals of good sportsmanship, including fair and honest conduct, and to accept the standard of the breed as established by the COA and the United Kennel Club (UKC) as the only standard of excellence by which the Chinook shall be bred and judged. To otherwise preserve and protect the Chinook and to do all things possible to promote its natural qualities, including the encouragement of regional activities and/or interest/study groups

Agenda:

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
 - a. Present:
 - i. Denise
 - ii. Taylor
 - iii. Vicky
 - iv. Brendan/Mary
 - v. Jon
 - vi. Kristy
 - vii. Corine
 - viii. Karen
 - ix. Bob
 - b. Absent:
 - i. John
 - ii. Jude
2. Report of President
 - a. Working on the 501C and will be carrying that to fruition once he steps down as president
3. Report of Vice-President
 - a. New board member positions and procedures for election.
 - i. Everyone ran unopposed. According to bylaws, the candidates are elected.
 - ii. Secretary to declare elected positions in the minutes by April 30th
 - iii. Very few changes: Brendan will leave bench chair role for vice presidency; Laurel Wilkinson will serve as WDP chair; currently no one for rescue chair (Ginger Corley volunteered to assist)
 - iv. Biggest issue is we do not have a Bench Chair for 2020-2022 term
4. Report of Secretary
 - a. Secretary has nothing new to report
5. Report of Treasurer
 - a. Nothing new to report. Financials will be available in the future.
6. Report of Bench Chair

- a. Communication has gone out to UKC as well as membership for the specialty that was to be held in Kalamazoo. That has been cancelled.
 - b. Judge has been alerted to the cancellation, and was asked if interested in being present for a potential fall premiere.
 - c. Message went out to membership. Kristy updated information to reflect the event in Gateway by editing the existing message for the specialty. A future discussion on how to alert membership to the possibility of a specialty in the fall is needed. Adding the wording “tentative” to the message is an option.
7. Report of Communications Chair
- a. CQ should be out shortly (Jon compiling the issue later in the week). Always looking for articles.
 - b. Denise floated the idea of a schedule for submitting articles. It would also be beneficial for the COA board to commit a little more to submitting articles. Karen raises the point that COA board members used to be required to submit articles.
 - c. Denise raises the point that an annual meeting update needs to appear in the CQ.
8. Report of Membership Chair
- a. Nothing to report at the moment
9. Report of Health & Genetics Chair
- a. **CBCP -**
 - i. **New Founder:** The Committee reviewed a complete application for Wildwinter’s Kalum Scout, a Seppala Siberian Sled Dog. Scout meets all New Founder criteria - health testing, reported temperament, and working ability (he is a recreational lead dog). He was unanimously approved by the Committee. This enable his offspring from an oops litter in December to qualify for program registration.
 - b. **Annual Population Review**
 - i. The Program requires us to review the Chinook population annually and adjust the goals accordingly:
 - ii. *Annually, the CBCP will publish information on the purebred and conservation program populations. This will include an analysis of how many (if any) New Founders should be added to the Chinook population via the CBCP in the next 18 months. The New Founder Target will be included in the annual population information, and may be anywhere from zero to 25% of a year’s anticipated matings. The target should be based on population information and balance the infusion of New Founders with existing offspring and purebred Chinooks.*
 - iii. The 2019 report is as follows (now the “Cross” totals can be added to the CBCP totals).
 - iv. The committee Agreed to leave the program open for New Founder applications, with a preference for Female New Founders.
 - v. Need to provide guidance for breeders considering an outcross that the Committee will be monitoring population and may suspend approval for male New Founders depending on the overall state of the breed.
 - vi. Strongly recommend breeders check with the committee prior to doing any additional testing or committing to an outcross litter
 - c. **Anasarca Research Opportunity:**
 - i. For those that don’t know, Chinooks have a rare, fatal condition in puppies called anasarca/fetal edema/water puppies. Affected puppies present with a “swollen, water-logged” appearance and we believe severely underdeveloped lungs, based on a high-res ultrasound done by breeder Syd Craig a decade or so ago. The inheritance pattern appears to be a simple recessive - thus far the

condition is pretty rare, but we DO see it pop up every couple of years or so. Unfortunately, it not only impacts affected puppies, but often causes the bitches to have a c-section and even can cause issues for the litter through labor and growth challenges. We ALSO know that some of our Popular Sires like Aspencreek Jackson Tyee, Channahon's Northern Kodiak, and WoodsRunner Duncan were ALL carriers, as well as some Popular Dams like Hurricane Electra. Most Chinook pedigrees I see have at least one known carrier (has produced an affected puppy) in a four gen pedigree.

ii. Syd Craig led an effort to get this researched a while ago, but not much progress was made. We did have samples from two affected puppies and their healthy litter sibs sent to UMO a while ago, but they have stagnated. Recently, I spoke to Dr. Johnson at UMO and with the new DNA analyses that can be run, he is much more confident of the possibility of finding the causative genetic mutation. Unfortunately, one of the samples they have has degraded beyond use, and the other is partially compromised.

iii. ***** email from Dr. Johnson

We found samples from both of the affected puppies. Unfortunately, one tube had only traces of DNA: not enough for analysis. The other tube had sufficient DNA but analysis by agarose gel electrophoresis indicated that the sample was partially degraded. Although this sample is not ideal, we have generated useful whole genome sequences from similar samples in the past. If your Club wants to invest \$3,000, we will generate and analyze a whole genome sequence from the partially degraded sample. Nonetheless, our chances for finding the causal mutation from a single sample are not very good. You may want to wait until more samples from affected puppies become available.

Give me a phone call (573-823-6333) if you want us to generate and analyze a whole genome sequence from the partially degraded sample.

Gary

iv. The committee agreed to take a motion to the Board to approve funding for Breeders with affected puppies to get samples to UMO - Not To Exceed \$350. This would cover the cost of collection / submission for breeders and remove it as a barrier for obtaining more samples to get to a position where we can conduct a genetic analysis. (breeders often end up with emergency c sections with an anasarca puppy and the expense of storage/sample/submission on top of the whelping expense can be a barrier

d. **Spinal /Disc Disease Research**

- i. A few years ago, UCDavis discovered a mutation in the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever that both caused a form of dwarfism and correlated with an increased risk of disc disease (IVDD). The mutation has been found in other breeds, including, recently (and by total surprise, through a few Chinooks tested by the Embark genetic panel) in Chinooks. Embark notes:
1. *A dog with one or two copies of this mutation has an increased risk of developing IVDD compared to a dog with zero copies. Its effect on body shape is slightly different--a dog with one copy of the retrogene is likely to have longer legs than a dog with two copies, but shorter*

legs than a dog with zero copies. We measure this result using a linkage test.

- ii. Now - it IS possible that some of the Chinooks with one copy (I'm not aware of any that have tested with two copies) are "long and low", but my Conaway was found to have one copy of the gene and while he is not tall, I would never call him long and low. He's also not yet had disc issues and he's 14.5. BUT - we HAVE had Chinooks that are noted with disc degeneration - some barely middle aged.
 - iii. It is possible this mutation does not correlate with spinal disease in the Chinook- none of the dogs tested as carriers have noted any spinal issues at this time. BUT- that is a VERY small number of dogs.
 - iv. The committee proposes some inexpensive exploratory research in this area -
 - 1. Owners will be asked to nominate their dogs with agreement for public access to results and potentially pedigree
 - 2. Committee to determine which dogs will be sampled
 - 3. Criteria:
 - a. At least 5 diagnosed with disc issues
 - b. Up to 5 identified as longer body/shorter leg morphology
 - c. Preference to dogs that are younger when disc issues experienced
 - d. Least related pedigrees
 - v. Here is additional information on this <https://www.vgl.ucdavis.edu/services/dog/CDDY.php>
10. Report of Historian
 - a. Nothing new to report
 11. Report of Regional Activities Chair (vacant)
 12. Report of Rescue Chair (vacant)
 13. Report of Registrar
 - a. Nothing new to report, but finished the registration certificates for the latest Desert Sol litter.
 14. Report of Working Dog Program Chair
 15. Report of Committees
 16. Unfinished Business
 17. New Business
 - a. **Motion 2020-12-** I (Karen) move the COA allocate up to \$350 per incidence (assuming 1 per 2+ years) to cover Breeder's expense of submitting any samples associated with fetal edema in a litter to UMO for research.
Motion by: Karen Seconded by: Corine
Motion passes with 9 Yes, 2 Absent
 - b. **Motion 2020-13-** I (Karen) move the COA commit up to \$500 to order 10 genetic tests for IVDD/CDY from UC Davis VGL to test some Chinooks with spinal/disc issues and long/low phenotype.
Motion by: Karen Seconded by: Corine
Motion passes with 9 Yes, 2 Absent
 - c. Alternative platforms for meetings (Vicky). Question is whether there are objections for alternatives to Skype. Vicky will explore possible options.

- i. Zoom is an option but has some issues with security. Google hangouts and Facebook meetings are also potential options.
 - d. The upcoming COA elections (Denise)
- 18. The next COA Board meeting is scheduled for the week of the 18-22 May 2020 at 6:00 p.m. MT.
- 19. Approval of Minutes
 - Motion 2020-14**
 - Motion by Denise, Second by Corine
 - Passes by unanimous consent
 - I move that the April 29 2020 minutes be posted and approved by unanimous consent within 48 hours of posting.*
- 20. Adjournment
 - Motion 2020-15**
 - Motion by Denise, Second by Taylor:
 - Passes by unanimous consent
 - I move that the April 29 2020 Board meeting be adjourned by unanimous consent following email approval of the minutes. If there are no objections by the conclusion of the vote on the minutes the meeting will be adjourned.*