

Chinook Owners Association Annual Report

June 2009

Summary

This has been an exciting and busy year for the COA, with the Board engaged on multiple fronts. Key accomplishments include final approval of the Working Dog Program, an extremely successful membership drive, timely publication of wonderful CQs, stewarding of new purebreds into our breeding population, fast-track creation of a new COA ad... and too many other highlights to name. In addition, the Board has made significant progress on the three top priorities- with drafts of a revised Code of Ethics and Judge's Education available, as well as great strides in the migration to a new internet presence at www.chinook.org. In the public domain, our great dogs have had a breakthrough year, with opportunities from recognition as the state dog of New Hampshire to presence a national dog magazine. We have also seen a great year in our affiliate clubs, with the Mid-Atlantic Chinook Club hosting our National Specialty, and a new election in Chinooks New England!

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. I am extremely proud of what we have achieved. I am very excited about the challenges the next year will bring!

1. Bench

The first issue the Bench Co-Chairs faced was leading a discussion whether or not the Board should scramble to update the standard. With much discussion and deliberation, the Board ultimately voted not to try and update the standard due to the limited time available before the UKC deadline. From there, the Judges' Education committee was formed.

The Bench worked closely with MACC to put together the 2009 Specialty. Kudos to Kim Kramer, Laura Morgan, Karen Hinchy and Jess Maurer for going above and beyond in making the Specialty work this year. The 2010 Specialty will be held in Kalamazoo, MI, in conjunction with the UKC Premier.

Unfortunately, Mary Malkiel was unable to continue as Bench Co-Chair. We miss her a lot and hope she is doing well.

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 was formed headed by the Bench Chair, Maria Sommer (Bench Co-Chair Mary Berg Malkiel participated on the committee until she

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stepped down from the Board). The committee has focused on putting together a slideshow presentation that can be used as a presentation, a handout and posted as an on-line educational tool designed to help judges understand the UKC Chinook standard. The slideshow outline follows the breed standard. Photos were solicited from Chinook owners via the Breeders List and the COA-L. A curriculum will be developed to accompany the slideshow enabling a variety of members to be able to deliver such a presentation. The COA Board is reviewing the work to date. Further work will be done to identify venues. For more information, please contact Maria Sommer at mcsommer@mac.com.

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

The COA CrossBreeding Committee has been involved in two evaluative projects in collaboration with the COA Health Committee. The surveys have been completed and analysis is being conducted under the leadership of Emina Begovic, PhD.

The Committee voted to accept Bowerbank Baboosic Brown to be included in the COA CrossBreeding Program, with specific requirements to be met. In addition, the CrossBreeding Program added two additional judges to the list of UKC Judges approved to conduct conformation evaluations for Chinook crosses applying for purebred status. These judges are Sonja Ostrom (CO) and Carol Gaines-Stephens (WA).

In the past year, the CrossBreeding Committee has recommended 11 Chinooks for acceptance as purebred status. All 11 were approved by the COA Executive Board and ultimately UKC registered. Five of the 10 Chinooks in the 2008 UKC Top Ten standings were 'graduates' or descendants from the COA CrossBreeding Program. Among the 10 Chinooks in the 2009 UKC Top Ten standings (as of the writing of this report), 6 are 'graduates' or descendants from the COA CrossBreeding Program.

3. CQ

With the change in editorship this year from the capable hands of Jamie Stevens, the CQ has undergone a number of other changes as well. First of all, we have a new format, which enables the editor to fit a lot more content into the same number of pages, and aims to make the material easier to find as well. After the January, 2009 issue, we moved to a new printer, the Copy Shop in Wiscasset, Maine. Bobbie Brewer and her crew are doing a great job of turning the publication around quickly at a slightly lower cost, and have improved the quality of the photographs in a most dramatic way! With the move to the Copy shop, we said a big thank you to John and Leslie Donais, who had previously coordinated printing and mailing from their home in New Hampshire. All the production and mailing now takes place in Maine. This report would not be complete without expressing heartfelt appreciation to the

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members who have contributed stories and photographs to the publication, and to Donna Canfield and Bryan Smith for their expert and timely review of each issue! Write on!

4. Health

The Chinook Health Survey, conducted in 2008, has been completed and data has been reviewed. The population geneticist has received the data and started the analysis phase.

5. Historian

Extensive archives have been received from the Perry Greene Kennel, and are being cataloged and incorporated with the existing collection. A binder of historical photos and articles has been updated, and will be on display at the Specialty – it is a must see item! In addition, the Historian provided input on the Chinook's historical link to New Hampshire that was presented at some of the legislative meetings discussing making the Chinook the state dog.

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

The COA information coordinator reads and responds to all emails sent to the info@chinook.org email address listed on the COA website and published 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.

The biggest news to report is that the COA is working with a professional web developer to refresh the look and feel of the chinook.org website. The work completed so far looks fantastic and we are looking forward to the debut of the new site very soon.

7. Membership

Kathleen Schmaltz and Susan Kolukisa began serving as membership co-chairs last fall. Susan has diligently kept up with mailing new membership packets to first time

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COA members over the course of the past year. Kathleen has maintained the membership database and compiled the 2009-10 membership directory. Working together, Kathleen and Susan coordinated the 2009-10 membership drive via email and U.S. post securing a total of 160 household memberships as of June 24, 2009. The new directory is at the printing press and will be mailed out by the end of June.

8. Registrar– *Pentheia Burns (ME)*

Since the last Annual Meeting, the COA Registrar has registered 3 litters (13 puppies) in the COA CrossBreeding Program. The COA has approved and the UKC accepted Single Registration applications for 11 Chinooks who have ‘graduated from the COA CrossBreeding Program, three of which are among the 2009 Top Ten Chinooks as of the writing of this report. The COA has submitted a request to the UKC for an updated list of the UKC registered purebred and LP registered Chinooks.

9. Rescue

COA Rescue continues to receive applications from potential owners interested in adopting an older Chinook. No dogs have required rescue in the last year.

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

The COA Board approved the COA Working Dog Program (WDP) in the spring of 2009. Many thanks are due to the variety of people who have served on the committee and provided feedback. The WDP awards certification in Drafting, Temperament, and Titled Events groups. Each section of the WDP has an entry, beginner, and advanced level of performance. All Chinooks participating in the WDP must be registered with the U.K.C. or with the COA CrossBreeding Program. A U.K.C. L.P. registration number is also permitted. A reinvigorated WDP Committee has been established to oversee the program and work with the COA Board. The committee is currently creating the program materials and forms, formalizing processes, and designing the awards and certificates. As soon as that work is completed the WDP will be exploring ways to encourage participation in the program.