



# COA 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

## **President – Brendan Aldrich (IN)**

COA Members,

As we close in on the end of the year, it's always an interesting experience to look back at our successes (and struggles) of the last twelve months. Collectively, as we have emerged from the pandemic years, we've found that while there is much to celebrate (the Chinook National Specialty is back!), many things have also changed and require a specific focus from each of us. As a result, we have had some board members who needed to step back from their roles, including our Bench Chair, Treasurer and Working Dog Chair.

The Chinook National Specialty is one of our biggest events of the year, so I can't tell you how much I appreciate our Vice President, Daniela Metz, who has stepped forward to also fill our Bench Chair role and ensure our Specialty this year in Loveland, Colorado is really something special.

If you've never been to a dog show, the Chinook National Specialty is a great time to do it! It's often been described as a 2-day family reunion where (in the middle somewhere) a dog show breaks out. We warmly welcome all new and existing Chinook owners (and prospective owners) to come join the fun and I can't tell you how much all of our Chinooks love seeing all the other Chinooks!

I've also stepped in to temporarily fill our Treasurer role. We've procured new equipment dedicated to the Treasurer function and I have also created detailed step-by-step instructions for my own use and that of our next Treasurer. We're now also in the process of transferring the club funds from TD Bank (which is a more regional banking chain) to Chase Bank, which has locations in every state across the country.

If you can't tell, we're actively searching for additional board members! If you are interested in helping guide the club over the next year, please go ahead and drop me a line at [president@chinook.org](mailto:president@chinook.org). It's typically a one-hour commitment each month for our board meetings with some time outside of that for different activities. Looking forward to hearing from you!

On the other hand, we also have a few key initiatives that we need to pick up again and bring over the finish line over the next twelve months. One that has particular interest for me is moving forward with the conversion of our club organization to a full non-profit 501(c)3 status.

So... as we say goodbye to this last year, we're also excitedly looking forward to the next!

### **Vice President (President Elect) – Daniela Metz (FL)**

This is my first position on the COA board and my second year as Vice President. I am very grateful to all our active board members for their shared wisdom and continued support of our Chinook Association. I have had a very steep learning curve and I have engaged myself in various activities to learn more about our club. I am very excited to move into Brendan Aldrich's position as President next year and I am looking forward to working with our COA board and our members to make this organization a place where our members feel appreciated and happy to go to for questions and advice as well as social gatherings. I am looking forward to your input and feedback in the future.

### **Secretary – Pam Turner (TN)**

The Minutes of all COA Board of Directors meetings have been posted to the COA website. Included in the Minutes are motions acted upon by the Board throughout the year. I very much appreciate the opportunity to work alongside my fellow board members finding ways to improve the experience of all the COA members and enhance the Chinook community.

### **Bench – Interim – Daniela Metz (FL)**

I have spearheaded the Chinook National Specialty this year as we have not filled the position of the Bench Chair yet. I am forever grateful to my "team", David and Karen Schiller, Diana Fowler and Mary Malkiel, who have been invaluable in making this Specialty a memorable event! This have been an amazing and fun-fill 10 months filled with wonderful experiences as well as hard work. A huge thank you to my diligent and savvy Specialty committee!

### **Membership – Kristy Jolly (AZ)**

Between June 2022 and May 2023, the COA welcomed 20 New members and 14 new Puppy members (a gift membership to the COA that was purchased by their breeders) - thank you to Desert Sol Chinooks and Spook Nook Chinooks for their support in bringing new members to the club! The 2023 membership drive had 185 members continuing their support for the COA by renewing their memberships. We are sitting at 267 active COA members as of May 2023. Many thanks for all of your continued support! The Membership Chair also headed up the 2023 Calendar Contest. There were a total of 133 photos submitted for the calendar contest, plus we had 41 photos for the cover contest, bringing in \$205 for the Chinook Breed Conservation Project. A total of 13 additional photos was submitted for the Rainbow Bridge memorial page. As of April 2023, we sold a total of 169 calendars, beating our previous record in 2020 calendar sales by ONE calendar! I know that this contest is a lot of fun for our membership and I enjoy putting it together every year! Keep this in mind when you are out and about with your Chinooks to take some fun and beautiful photos so you can submit some excellent entries for the 2024 Calendar Contest (coming up in the fall).

Last year, the Membership Chair also set up a new online store with Redbubble to sell Chinook themed merchandise on shirts (t-shirts, sweatshirts, long and short sleeve, kids and more), drinkware, hats, notepads, household goods and more! I need to promote the store more, but in 2022 we sold 13 items (t-shirts, hat, hoodies, iPhone cover and a long sleeve shirt). There are three different designs, set up for both light and dark backgrounds, for you to choose from! They are Chinook's profile, the Great American Adventure Dog (Chinook with the American flag) and the Maple Leaf design with the Chinooks pulling a sled- a design made for a past COA Chinook National Specialty. We hope to add more designs soon so check out the store and pick up some fun merch today!

## Health & Genetics – Karen Hinchy (NJ)

The Health & Genetics committee is focusing on two main objectives this term:

- Supporting breeders with the latest information on Chinook health to enable improved breeding decisions
- Managing the Chinook Breed Conservation Program (CBCP)

Full Chinook population data has been uploaded to [Dogsglobal.com](http://Dogsglobal.com) and the Chinook Stud Map has been updated so breeders are able to view pedigrees, manage & access information (including pictures) about their dogs online, and identify potential partners within geographic parameters. An additional benefit of this is that breeders can get genetic diversity information on potential pairings to determine which might optimize genetic diversity - although this is just one of many criteria that should be included in a breeding decision.

To better support new breeders, an overview of common Chinook health issues and breeding recommendations is in development. This will both identify health conditions in the Chinook for awareness, and document appropriate breeding strategies to reduce the likelihood of a puppy experiencing them.

The CBCP includes a requirement for the H&G Committee to document the overall population dynamics of the breed. For 2022,

	2014	2015	2016	2017			2018	2019				2020			2021			2022		
	Total	Total	Total	Total	Purebred	CBCP	Total	Total	Purebred	CBCP	Other	Total	Purebred	CBCP	Total	Purebred	CBCP	Total	Purebred	CBCP
Puppies	119	42	102	59	53	6	59	82	54	25	3	72	65	7	101	81	20	84	76	8
Litters	21	8	17	12	11	1	13	10	7	3	1	9	8	1	16	14	2	15	14	1
Avg Litter Size	5.7	5.3	6.0	4.9	4.8	6.0	4.5	8.2	7.7	8.3	3.0	8.0	8.1	7.0	6.3	5.8	10.0	5.6	5.4	8.0
Female		22	55	31	29	2	34	47	34	10	3	44	41	3	49	41	14	40	37	3
Male		20	47	28	24	4	25	35	20	15		28	24	4	52	24	6	44	40	4
Tawny	105	35	90	37	34	3	44	44	35	9	3	65	63	2	80	67	13	75	67	8
Dilute Tawny	12		3	11	11		1	18	18			1	1		12	12	0	2	2	
Black and Tan	2	4	5	4	4		10	10	10	7		4		4	9	2	7	5	5	
Gray and Tan		3	2	1	1															
Buff			2	2	2		4					2	2					2	2	
Agouti			0	3*		3						1		1						
Black								9		9										
Unknown				1	1			1	1											

Since CBCP Inception in 2017:

<b>Total Purebred Population</b>	<b>457</b>
<b>Total CBCP Population</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>CBCP % of Population</b>	<b>14.4%</b>
<b>Total Purebred Population</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Total CBCP Litters</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>CBCP % of Population</b>	<b>9.3%</b>

The 5-year moving average of the Chinook population is:

	Purebred	CBCP
<b>Puppies</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Litters</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Average Litter Size</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>8.6</b>
<b>CBCP% of Total Puppies</b>		<b>15.2%</b>
<b>CBCP% of Total Litters</b>		<b>11.1%</b>

In addition, the CBCP has contracted with Dr. Pieter Oliehoek (dog geneticist) to complete an assessment of the Chinook /CBCP population and report on the current status and make recommendations on adjustments to the CBCP to support growth towards a sustainable population.

**Rescue Chair – Brenda Dean (ME)**

In the past year Chinook Rescue has assisted in keeping the Rescue database updated with contact information for transport/foster/adoption volunteers. Rescue has provided contact information for the placement of Chinooks in need of a home. Additionally, Rescue fielded several inquiries about possible Chinooks in need of re-homing.

**Communications Chair - Jon Jolly (AZ)**

Completed various communications to membership and the public throughout the year, primarily in relation to Specialty updates using the COA website and Facebook. Managed the COA website as it recently migrated to GoDaddy and completed other minor updates to content and the various plugins used. Recorded video for Board members on how to post using the COA website CMS (Content Management System). Updated Board document storage by organizing the COA Board's Google Drive. Managed the COA apparel/merchandise store as hosted by Redbubble. Working to revise article generation process to return to consistent Chinook Quarterly or equivalent communications to membership.

**Historian – Bob Cottrell (NH)**

Bob presented seven outreach programs on the history of the Chinook breed through the sponsorship of the New Hampshire Humanities program. We recently received a donation offer of books and papers that will be available through the Conway, New Hampshire Public Library.