

This issue features the articles: **The Infamous Exploits of Blue!** where Blue teaches us all to “just smile and keep going” and **A Very Special Bond** that shows the special connection between two Chinooks, Vireo and Tikaani.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the CQ which always has articles and pictures from you, the membership. We are always looking for articles, stories, poems, pictures, etc. from COA members (that's you!). Ask questions about how you can help the club and this publication by emailing us at communications@chinook.org



Left - Vanguard Celestial Ankaa by Karen Hinchy
Right - Granite Hill Iron Mistress (Sadie) by Sheree Gorton

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Letter from the President

By Brendan Aldrich, COA President (outgoing)

Dear Members,

It's that time! As we reach the end of term for our current COA Board, we say "goodbye!" to some of our current board members, "hello again!" to a number of our current board members who have agreed to continue onward, and an enthusiastic "welcome!" to our newest board members.

Thank you SO much for everyone who participated in the recent elections! It was an exciting time and I am incredibly thrilled by the composition of our new COA Board.

As I step down, I am so pleased that Daniela Metz will be stepping forward as our new President! Her passion for the breed and experience with the community will lead our community forward confidently.

By the way, I hope we'll be seeing many of you at our Chinook National Specialty in June! We're back in Kalamazoo, Michigan this year and I'll be bringing our three Chinooks (Bella, Sammie, and Quinn) to see everyone! I think they get ALMOST as excited to see all the other Chinooks as we do!

If you've never been to the Specialty and are worried that you won't know what to do - don't worry and come anyway! It's a great time to meet the community and you'll wonder why you didn't join us earlier!

If you can't make it this year, consider joining us next year! In the meantime, enjoy the warm days of the season with your pups!

These are the times to remember.

Sincerely,

Brendan Aldrich, COA President



With Seabreeze Tomorrow Bella Crie (Bella)

2024 Chinook National Specialty

June 12, 2024 - Kalamazoo, MI

It's that time of year again – time for the 2024 National Chinook Specialty! It will be held in Kalamazoo, MI on Jun 12, 2024, in conjunction with the UKC Premier Nationals. The Specialty will include regular and altered classes, as well as a Junior competition and special exhibitions, including competition for Chinook crosses.

This week is a great time to explore multiple dog activities that you may not be familiar with, and participate in the many fun activities that are available to you and your Chinooks.

The evening of June 12, at 7 pm, we will have our annual Chinook dinner and enjoy catching up with friends old and new.



Mystique Pond Bella Luna Ila Blue (Luna)

Any questions, please email us at bench@chinook.org.

The Infamous Exploits of Blue!

By Diana Fowler

First, let me introduce you to Blue- my giant (100 pounds) loving, goofy, handsome, incorrigible Chinook! Blue showed from the time he was six months old until he retired at eight. His full name is BIMBS GR CH 'PR' Southwind Tungertok Tatkret. The name is a Native Alaskan phrase meaning Blue Moon. Blue was a singleton actually conceived on a "blue moon."

Blue enjoyed showing and often frolicked in the ring and would gallop, jump around, and generally be a pain- but somehow, he had the structure and observable movement to reach his Grand title before a year of age. He and two of our girls traveled with me all over the country, showing as often as we could.

One late October, we decided to attend the UKC Gateway weekend – always such fun with so much going on. Blue was about two. I often handed him off to someone younger, stronger, faster than me (and you know who you are! And thank you!) so he could show his best, but for

this first show, I took him in myself. I always try to dress up for showing, so I had on a new cute outfit of a black skirt with ruffles on the hem, white blouse, and a spiffy black blazer. Sounds good, huh? There were quite a few Chinooks and their people in attendance, so we had several classes to go through.

The last class was Blue's Grand Champion class, with four other Chinooks in the class with him. A well-known judge was in the ring and was very familiar with our breed making the class all the more exciting. I placed Blue at the end of the line, hoping to get him focused by his time. Finally, it was Blue's turn! The judge went over him, and we turned to take

our "down and back" - the diagonal move to the corner and back in a steady trot. Blue wagged his head, and a funny gleam sparkled in his eyes- hmmm. But off we went to the corner. Blue looked at the ruffles on my skirt, ducked his head, and before I could even react, he had grabbed the ruffles and---- (I hate to admit this!) pulled my entire skirt off and down to the floor! OK- no slip, either. He sat and was grinning! Bear in mind, this was a huge UKC show,



GR CH 'PR' Southwind Tungertok Tatkret
"Blue Moon"



with people all around the ring, especially Chinook people. Chinook people who were uproariously laughing!! Blue LOVED the laughter- he knew it was for him.

I very quickly grabbed my skirt, pulled it up, grabbed Blue's lead tighter, and continued back along our line. Our judge was barely able to stand, he was laughing so hard but trying to maintain a professional demeanor. I stopped, and the judge asked would I please repeat the diagonal and this time keep my clothes on? Loud enough for all to hear, which just began the uproarious laughter all over again.

Just smile and keep going! All dog people will be laughing with you.

Sigh--- I held Blue's head tighter, and we did it right, then went to the end of the line. All the Grands did one more turn around the ring and lined up Stacked. The judge moved carefully down the line, looking at each dog closely. All the dogs in front of us were perfectly stacked and still. The judge came to Blue, who looked into the judge's face, and wiggled his ears! How does a Chinook wiggle their ears?! Under my breath, I mumbled that he is such a goofball. The judge smiled, handed me the Grand ribbon and said, "I'll take the goofball". We went on to win Best of Breed that day, a memorable day in many ways. Blue's unpredictable goofiness just continued at other shows. So this is the first episode in a series of ridiculous happenings at shows with the very well-known Blue.



To show a dog like Blue, his owner cannot worry about being embarrassed, humiliated, or feel foolish. Just smile and keep going! All dog people will be laughing with you.

Tune in for the next installment---

Diana Fowler has been a part of the Chinook breed since 1993, She has shown primarily in conformation in UKC, ARBA, IABCA, and then most recently AKC. Diana has also competed in UKC obedience and Rally O, and several of her Chinooks did herding work within AHBA, with one obtaining her JHD-s.

A Very Special Bond

By Marion Koenigsmann

Vireo came to us in the summer of 2012. She joined Nika, then 7 1/2 years old. Fast forward to 7 years later and Nika passed away. Vireo's bond to Nika was so strong that when Nika died, Vireo became deathly ill and nearly died too. Our vet told us that some dogs simply need a canine companion besides their human family and "Vireo is one of those dogs." Thus entered Tikaani.



Tikaani joined our family in the summer of 2019, about 6 months after Nika passed. Within 24 hours we could see a light in Vireo's eyes that we had not seen since she had lost her beloved housemate. She was so thrilled to have a new four-legged friend. Don't get me wrong, Vireo absolutely adored her human family, but there was nothing like a canine companion. They bonded immediately. This was evident the very first day when Tikaani came home.

Vireo is, what I call, intuitively and emotionally smart. She senses when another animal (or a person) is unsure, stressed, or afraid. She knew that Tikaani was going through a stressful change. After all, the day Tikaani arrived, she had been removed from everything she knew, flown halfway across the country, and landed in a completely unfamiliar setting with unfamiliar people. Vireo knew that Tikaani needed reassurance and support. She had a job to do, and this brought her joy and a sense of purpose. She quietly and gently placed herself right in front of Tikaani, as if to say, "You're okay. You're in a good place and we're going to be best friends." She was kind and ever so patient, helping Tikaani transition to her new home. This, in turn, helped Vireo have a reason to recover from the loss of Nika and subsequent illness.





When Tikaani came to us, Vireo's illness was extreme; she would have severe bouts of vomiting and diarrhea. We truly did not know if she would recover. Tikaani's companionship unquestionably helped her recover. In fact, now, nearly 5 years later, Vireo's well-being continues to improve. We describe Vireo as our "happy-go-lucky", California "I just want to have fun", goofy girl. That had completely disappeared when Nika died. However, within the last year or so, that demeanor has returned in full force. Vireo will swing her head back and forth, rooing. During our evening walks, she doesn't just run (like Tikaani does) to catch up to us after a delightful smell distracts her, leaving her behind. She bounces to catch up to us. And when she reaches us, Vireo literally has a smile on her face.

Vireo and Tikaani enjoy numerous activities together, swimming, hiking, bikejoring, skijoring, snowshoeing (okay, that is what their humans do) and simply lounging around on a beautiful sunny day. If the two of them are separated, even just being in a different part of the house, they greet joyously when they come together again. Tikaani rolls on her back giving Vireo her belly. It's as if she's saying: "I missed you so much!" And Vireo swings her head and wags her tail in a very specific way when she greets Tikaani.

We may not fully understand our canine family members' ways, but the observable results are undeniable. The bond between Vireo and Tikaani is stronger than any of the bonds we witnessed with our other Chinooks over the past 30 years. It is ever joyful, ever growing, ever enduring. We humans can learn a lot from our canine family members.



Wags & Brags

Chinooks with new UKC Titles

Please join us in giving congratulations to ALL our newly titled dogs and their proud owners. If we missed your big accomplishment, please bring it to our attention so we can be sure to include you in the next CQ!

United Rally Obedience 1

URO1 CH 'PR' Frontier Harley Lightfoot – Denise & Todd Reed, Susan Fletcher



Left - Forever Greene Hiwassee Hazel

Right - Frontier Harley Lightfoot

Upcoming Shows

The UKC offers a huge variety of conformation shows and working trials, many combined and offering Total Dog, all over the U.S. and Canada. Complete information is available from the [UKC Dog Events website](https://www.ukc.com/dog-events). You can search by using many different criteria such as state, month, activity type, dog club, etc.

If you have additional questions on UKC events, please contact the COA Bench Chair at bench@chinook.org, or the UKC (269-343-9020).

Working Dog

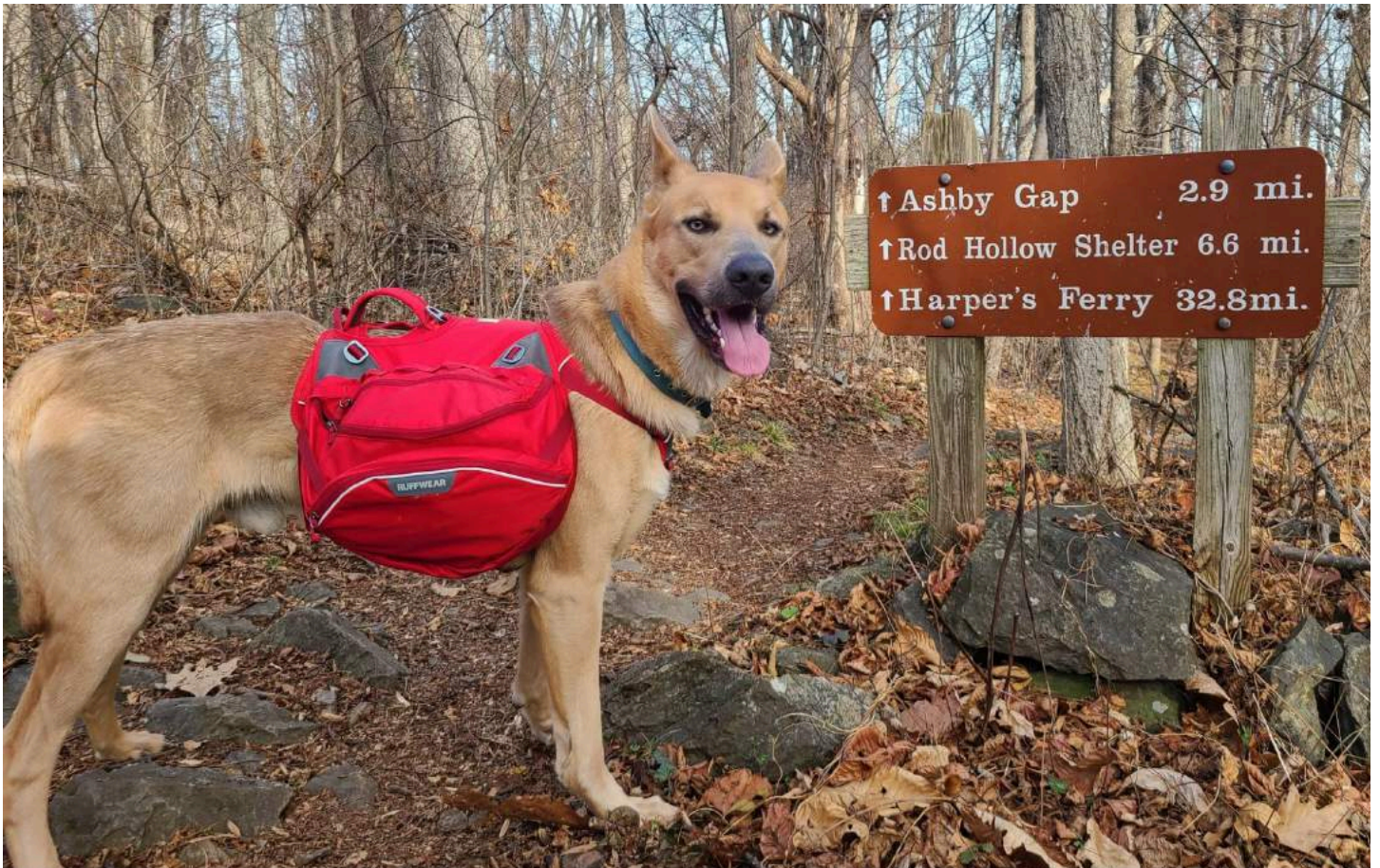
Chinooks with new Working Dog titles/certificates

The Working Dog Program (WDP) promotes the historic and modern working purpose of the Chinook dog. The COA WDP promotes positive dog ownership by recognizing accomplishments in drafting, service/citizenship, and dog sports. The program encourages the breeding of better Chinooks by honoring the workability of the dogs. For more information, visit the [Working Dog Program page](#) on the COA website.

Please join us in honoring the following dogs that have earned Working Dog titles!

Working Pack Dog (WPD)

Ferncroft Nakota – Rick & Robin Prausa



COMING SOON - The Working Dog Program will be changing to Active Dog in 2024 with other updates to simplify how to get recognized for getting out there with your Chinook or Chinook Cross.

Health Flash

Dogs with health tests completed recently

The COA would like to thank all owners that have obtained health tests for their Chinooks! All owners are strongly encouraged to submit health tests to the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA), regardless of diagnoses by the attending veterinarian. As you submit results, please ensure you have initialed to make any results public-- the more we know, the easier it is for breeders to work on making the next generation of Chinooks even healthier. Go to the [OFA website](#) for information on these and other Chinooks.

Name	Hips	Eyes	Other
Aspencreek's Kiyoko Marks	Good		
Barkerville Harriet Blue	Excellent		
Barkerville Sweet Maple Mae		Normal	
Birch Hollow Summer Romance		Normal	
Blue Sky Apollo		Normal w/ BO	
Blue Sky Sakari Miska		Normal	
Desert Sol Atalanta	Fair	Normal	Elbow: Normal
Desert sol Cole Illahee	Excellent	Normal w/ BO	Elbow: Normal
Desert Sol Ferncroft's Mina			MDR1: Clear Chondrodystrophy: Clear
Desert Sol Kaia	Good	Normal	
Desert Sol Keeper of the Stars	Fair		
Desert Sol Mau Luc	Good		
Desert Sol Popsicle	Good		Elbow: Normal
Desert Sol Zephyrus Will	Good	Normal	
EC2 Northstar Es Tu La		Normal	
Ferncroft Home Grown Eden			Patella: Normal
Granite Hill In My Heart Taaku		Normal	
GreatMountain Tamworth		Normal	
Maple Lane Amos of GreatMtn		Normal	
Maple Lane Oskar		Normal	
Mystique Pond Denali	Good	Normal	Elbow: Normal
Mystique Pond Malina	Good		
Nittany's Nothin' But a Good Time	Excellent		Basic Cardiac: Normal Elbow: Normal Patella: Normal

Name	Hips	Eyes	Other
Pacific Skye Qinuk	Excellent		
RainMountain Animin to the Max	Excellent		
Rivertrail Akela	Good		
Sirius Rising Merlin		Normal	
Sirius Rising Savannah	Good		
Spook Nook Mountain Time Willow	Good		
Wachusett Gulbrun Alydar	Good		Elbow: Normal
Wachusett Gulbrun Eragon		Normal	
WyoChinookWinds Ginger Popham		Normal	

Health & Genetics Webinar Summary

Updates shared in our February 2024 Webinar

The COA Health & Genetics Committee has completed the 2023 annual population assessment and is pleased to present CBCP (Chinook Breed Conservation Program) breeding guidance for 2024. Full details are available in the webinar (link below), key highlights include:

- Overall the Chinook population is stabilizing from drops in annual puppy rates mid 10s, but is likely overall <1000 dogs.
- 2023 was a strong year for puppies, roughly in line with the new average.
- There were notably more male than female puppies
- 43% of litters were satellite litters with first time breeders
- Neonate fatalities (1%) and c-sections (~20%) were down, 71% of litters were artificial insemination, more analysis may be necessary to understand this trend.
- The CBCP to date is reducing the average inbreeding coefficient (COI) in the breed, but slowly

Overall CBCP numbers vs. purebreds are consistent in absolute values with the prior COA Cross program, and are in fact smaller in terms of % of the population than in the 90s/00s so we are comfortable this is a reasonable rate The CBCP puppies remain around 17.5% of the population, and average litter size in the CBCP remains notably larger than purebred. The program is open to New Founder applications in 2024, preference for female.



[H&G Webinar, February 2024](#)

Litter Basket

Recent & upcoming litters - <https://chinook.org/litters/>

Dam	Sire	Due Date	Location	Kennel
Desert Sol Vitality Greta Nesryn	Bashaba Mackenzie Bryson	6/6/2024	NY	Desert Sol Chinooks
Enatai Chuckchi Farco	Rain Mountain Umiak	6/23/2024	WA	Rain Mountain Chinooks/Enatai Chinook Crosses
Ferncroft Home Grown Eden	The Long View Cosmos	7/2/2024	NH	Ferncroft Chinooks
Granite Hill In My Heart Taaku	Desert Sol Mau Luc	7/9/2024	NH	Granite Hill Chinooks
Ferncroft The Alpine Zone	Maple Lane Oskar	7/15/2024	ME	Ferncroft Chinooks
Mystique Pond Katyaq	Aspencreek Mosley	8/20/2024	FL	Mystique Pond Chinooks



2024 Avatar Litter from Desert Sol Chinooks

Rainbow Bridge

Lola – 6/9/2009 to 1/12/2024

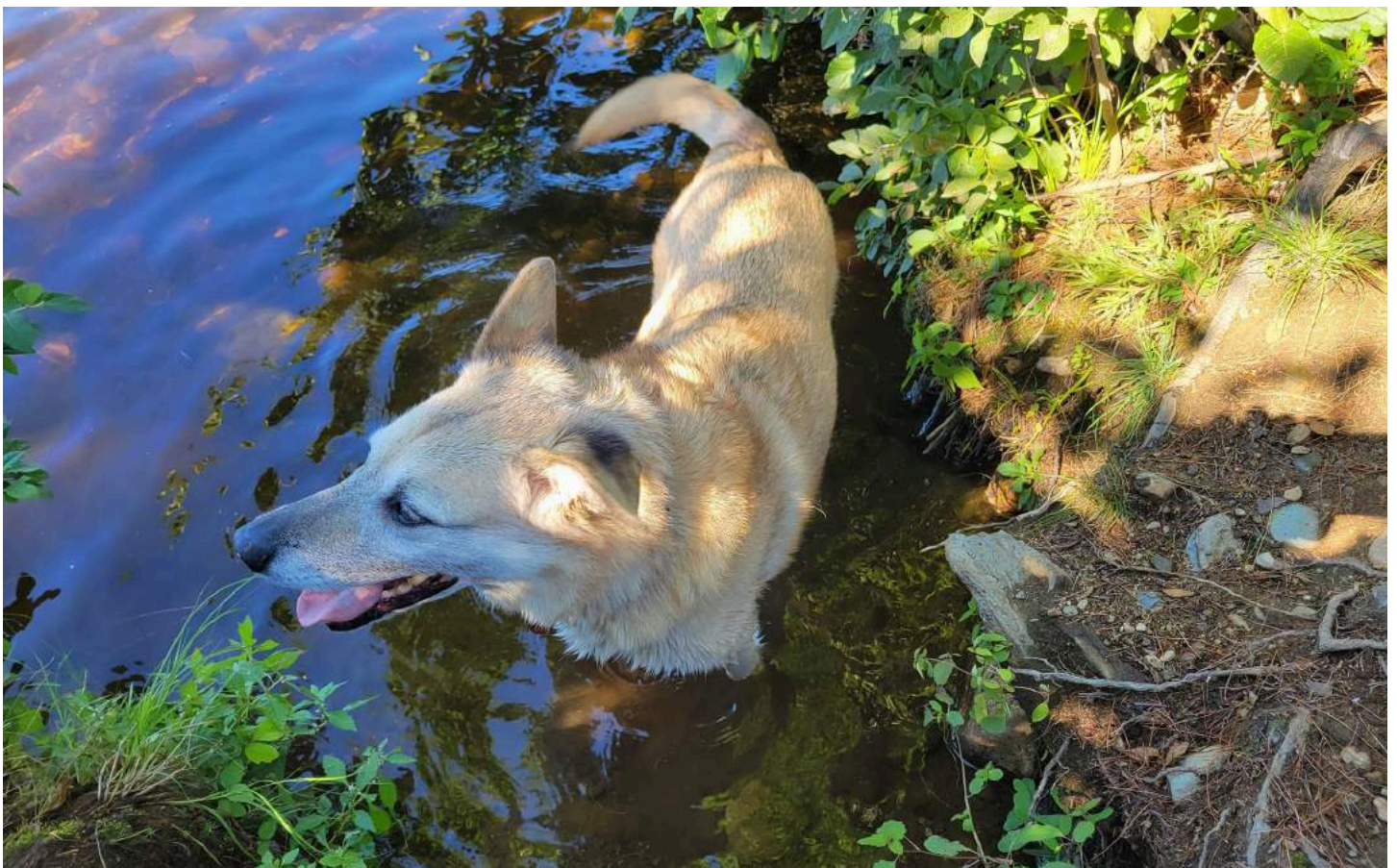
Granite Hill Miriam

By Alyson Rachkoskie

For 14 years, Lola was my ultimate companion. If I was planning anything, she was a major part of that process. We camped, we hiked, we took vacations, we visited friends and family. She joined me at work in the summer sometimes, and chilled under my desk... until someone came in. Then she would need to greet them and show them her best trick, "Stick 'em up!", where she raised her paws to the sky (for a treat, of course). Lola was also a great theater dog. She attended many rehearsals, and captured the attention of all the actors. She usually watched them on stage, though sometimes she would throw her bone and toys around until someone gave her attention. More than anything, our favorite thing to do was walk. As she got older, the walks got shorter. Sometimes she wouldn't walk at all.



I think she was preparing me for the day when I would have to walk without her. I forget sometimes she isn't here. I dodge broken glass so she doesn't cut her paws. I pass a new trail and think "I have to bring Lola here". I still put my plate on the floor, and save her a last bite - I just can't break the habit. I didn't know I could love something so much, but Lola showed me it was possible. She was the love of my life and I miss her dearly.



Rainbow Bridge

Toph – 1/21/2024 to 1/25/2024

Desert Sol Toph

By Kristy Jolly of Desert Sol Chinooks

Being a breeder is extremely fun and rewarding but it comes with heartbreak at times as well. In the past out of litters born in our own home, we have lost a pup once before when going in for a C-section, as it was stuck in the birth canal and had passed. It was very sad but we didn't spend time with that little life so it was a bit easier than if she had been born. In our recent Avatar Litter, we sadly faced what no breeder wants to ever have to face, a death of a puppy you got to know. Our Avatar (the Last Airbender) Litter was born in January 2024 in which we named the pups after the main characters of the show. We had 8 beautiful pups born and boy was it a colorful litter! There were 4 black and tan, 2 gray and tan, 1 tawny, and 1 silver tawny (or dilute tawny) pups! All whelped wonderfully and mama Aelin and her 8 pups were doing well. The next day, our little Toph stopped eating, and that really put our puppy care skills to the test. Below is the eulogy we put on our website after her passing.

Our sweet little Toph crossed over the Rainbow Bridge on Thursday at 7:30am in the arms of Jon. This “little lump” of a pup has taken a piece of our hearts with her. It's amazing that knowing this animal for such a short time, even before her real personality started to come out, we fell madly in love with her. This loss has absolutely devastated us. Toph was born 5th out of 8 on Sunday, January 21st at 8:50am. This black and tan sweetie weighed in only at 10.9oz! Although she was much smaller than her siblings, she ate furiously like the rest of them and gained over an ounce at the next weigh in on Monday morning at 12.1oz. Since she was smaller, we kept an extra eye on her and discovered that although she was always next to mom, she didn't eat on her own, even when the milk bar was empty. Tuesday morning she was about the same weight so we knew she didn't eat at all even when we weren't looking so we decided to tube feed her.

We spent most of these days frequently checking in on her, feeding her, and snuggling with her. She would be fussy at times so I would be working at my desk at home with a little puppy snuggled in my shirt to help calm her and warm her up. All of this extra care



had us closely bonded with her, which made her illness extra hard as we tried to help her and figure out what was wrong. We had made a vet appointment for Thursday, but Wednesday night she was slowing down. I was very afraid to go to bed that night, not wanting to leave Toph for fear of her body shutting down while I was asleep. Sadly, I was right. After trying a tube feeding on Thursday morning, Jon was holding her to snuggle after feeding and that is where she died peacefully in his arms a short while later.

Although we tried everything we could, we fear that something inside Toph's body just wasn't fully developed, and that she was unable to absorb the food, which is why she probably stopped eating. This is the absolutely worst part of breeding, but looking at the 7 healthy pups in the box with their amazing mom, Aelin, taking care of them, it reminds us why we are doing this in the first place. Toph taught us how unconditional love was, and how to do things we were scared to do, like tube feeding, that we hopefully never need to use in the future, but if we do, we are prepared. It's heartbreaking thinking how she will never get the chance to make some family happy and live a wonderful life, but no matter how short it was, she was incredibly loved in her time with us.



Rest well and pain free our little girl.

The Communications Chair would like to thank all that contributed to this edition of the CQ.

Do you have a fun story, informative article, clever poem, Chinook art, photo collage idea, loving memory, or something else you'd like to share about your Chinook? Submit to communications@chinook.org or ask questions about how you can help the club and this publication.