

COA 2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT



 **President – Brendon Aldrich (IN)**


 **Incoming President - Daniela Metz (FL)**

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 several of our current board members who have agreed to continue onward, and an enthusiastic "welcome!" to our newest board members. Thank you SO much to 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.

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

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

 **Incoming Vice President – Martin Wilson (CO)**

It has been an exciting 2 years serving on the COA board as the Vice President. I am very appreciative of our board members for sharing their wisdom and knowledge with me during this time. We have been busy this past year getting the Chinook Quarterly back online and are grateful to Jon Jolly for putting it all together! We have enjoyed a fun and very successful Chinook Specialty in Colorado in 2023 and we are excited about our 2024 Specialty in Kalamazoo, MI! A special thank you goes to Denise Reed, who volunteered to step in as the interim Bench Chair to make this year's Specialty happen.

I am looking forward to serving you all as your President for this coming term and I am very excited to have Marty Wilson on my side as the incoming Vice President. Please contact me with any questions or suggestion or if you would like to help or serve on the COA Board! We are still looking for a bench chair, a position that is a lot of fun and should be attractive to someone who likes to organize Social events, with a knowledgeable Committee at their side.

Treasurer – Interim - Brendan Aldrich (IN) – Report submitted by Pam Turner (TN)

Incoming Treasurer – Rachael Davis (PA)

The role of the treasurer remained vacant throughout 2023 and part of 2024. We very much welcome Rachael Davis as our new Treasurer.

In January 2023 the board opened a business Chase Account, which allowed board officers access to bank locations throughout the United States. The TD Bank account was closed, and all funds have been transferred to the Chase account. Currently the officers that have signatory rights to the Chase account is the President, Treasurer and Secretary.

The Chase account currently is only a checking account, during 2024 the board will determine the best way to invest the funds to best serve the interest of the members. Monitor upcoming Board Meeting Minutes for further information.

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.

This year we used the Election Buddy software for the board elections as we had two candidates for Vice President. Thank you to everyone who participated. We will use this software in the future for other board elections and updates to the Club's Constitution & Bylaws that require input from the Club's members.

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)

Our 2023 Stand-Alone Specialty in Loveland, CO, was a great success and a memorable event for everyone who came! We had more than 30 people attending from all over the US and 23 dogs in the showing for the Conformation showing, with another 5 Chinooks there to cheer us on! This Specialty was different from other Specialties and memorable because most people that came had never been to a Chinook Specialty before, or for that matter, shown a dog. The 2 days were filled with educational and fun events, and everybody left with a wealth of new information, great new memories and many new Chinook friend, four- and two- legged!

A very special thank you to our Specialty committee, without whom this Specialty would not have been possible: Karen and Dave Schiller, Diana Fowler and Mary Malkiel. These ladies and gentleman have the know-how that made it all work!

The 2024 Chinook Specialty is in Kalamazoo, MI, as part of the UKC Premier Nationals. A huge thank you to Denise Reed for volunteering her time to be our interim Bench chair this year, with Todd Reed as the Show Secretary, and Jeanne Heger, as our Honorable judge. We hope to see you all in Kalamazoo for another fun-filled Specialty and don't forget, Premier has a lot of other fun dog events to offer that you can participate in with your Chinook or just watch!

Last, but not least, I am hoping to entice one of our Chinook family members to step up, be bold, and take on the position of the Bench chair for a full term of 2 years. The position is still vacant! We have a wonderful group of Board members for the 2024-26 term, with some new folks that have just joined! If you have great social skills and like to organize events, this position is for you! Don't be alarmed because you have not shown dogs before, a Specialty committee of experienced, long-term Chinook owners will assist with all the UKC-associated dog show business. Please make our COA board complete by stepping up as our new Bench chair!



Membership – Kristy Jolly (AZ)

Between June 2023 and May 2024, the COA welcomed 14 New members and 32 new Puppy members (a gift membership to the COA that was purchased by their breeders) - thank you to Barkerville Chinooks, Desert Sol Chinooks, Tennessee River Chinooks and Vanguard Chinooks for their support in bringing new members to the club! The 2024 membership drive had 256 members continuing their support for the COA by renewing their memberships. We are sitting at 300 active COA members as of May 2024! Many thanks for all of your continued support!

The Membership Chair also headed up the 2024 Calendar Contest. There was a total of 161 photos submitted for the calendar contest, plus we had 55 photos for the cover contest, bringing in \$325 for the Chinook Breed Conservation Project. A total of 12 additional photos were submitted for the Rainbow Bridge memorial page. As of May 2024, we sold a total of 124 calendars, and a gray and tan Chinook was the first ever single non-tawny Chinook to win the cover contest! 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 2025 Calendar Contest (coming up in the fall).

Health & Genetics – Karen Hinchy (NJ)

The Health & Genetics committee remains committed to

-  Supporting the Chinook breed with the latest information on health to improve the dogs' quality of life and enable optimal breeding decisions
-  Managing the Chinook Breed Conservation Program (CBCP)

Full Chinook population data for 2023 has been maintained in [Dogsglobal.com](https://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. The report on the breed population was discussed at a membership webinar (recording available here <https://chinook.org/2024/05/hg-webinar-summary/>).








To support breeders in making optimal breeding choices, a pilot program was launched to subsidize some AI costs for qualifying breedings. Ideally this program will make using some chilled or frozen semen more affordable and encourage breeders to use studs that are less geographically accessible.

And finally, the long-awaited Chinook population analysis was completed by Dr. Pieter Oliehoek, a canine population geneticist. In addition, Dr. Oliehoek provided an assessment and recommendations for the CBCP moving forward. The population analysis is available online at Chinook.org - the CBCP recommendations will

be discussed at an upcoming webinar. For 2024, the committee will focus on updating the CBCP per the recommendations, and further developing a Chinook Health overview with breeding recommendations.

Rescue Chair – Brenda Dean (ME)

In the past year, Chinook Rescue has:

-  Solicited volunteers for the Chinook transport/foster/adoption database.
-  Expanded and maintained the Rescue Database.
-  Provided contact information to three people who were looking to rehome a Chinook.
-  Participated in contacting potential adoptees for one Chinook placement.
-  Responded to people who were inquiring about the potential adoption of a Chinook.
-  Provided information and education about the Chinook breed to people inquiring on the Chinook Rescue FaceBook page.
-  Monitored the Rescue email account and the FaceBook page

Communications Chair - Jon Jolly (AZ)

Completed various communications to membership and the public throughout the year, primarily in relation to Specialty updates or other events using the COA website and Facebook. Managed the COA website as it migrated from GoDaddy to Hostinger. Identified and resolved ownership problems with both our web URL (chinook.org) and our Instagram account. Created Youtube account and posted first video (February 2024 H&G Webinar). Managed the COA apparel/merchandise store as hosted by Redbubble. Since the last annual report, have improved frequency of Chinook Quarterly distribution with Fall 2023, Winter 2024, and Spring 2024 issues.

Working Dog Program – Rick Prausa (VA)

During the past year, two Chinook dogs and their owners earned COA titles and other recognition: one in the Titled Events Group for nosework and the other in the Draft Group for backpacking.

After starting the first half of this past year with a vacancy in the chair position, the program committee finished the year on a roll. In December of 2023, the Board supported changing the name “Working Dog Program” to “Active Chinook Program” as a precursor to an expansion of the program. The newly formed Active Chinook Program Committee has been hard at work to execute that expansion in ways that continue to recognize traditional working dog activities and that also recognize the ability of Chinook dogs to excel well beyond those traditional activities. The Committee is excited to see their efforts come to fruition in the coming year through new titles and other forms of recognition available to Chinook dogs and their owners. I personally want to thank the Committee members for their enthusiastic efforts that are deeply rooted in their commitment to the breed and for volunteering their valuable time.