



June 25, 2025

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 database 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 principles 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.

Board Meeting Minutes:

- Call to Order and Roll Call of Board Meeting

Meeting called to order:

Present: Daniela Metz, Marty Wilson, Rachael Davis, Jon Jolly, Kristy Jolly, Brenda Dean, [Rick Prausa](#)

Absent: Bob Cottrell, John Habermehl

Excused: Pam Turner, Karen Hinchy

Report of President - Daniela Metz

Report:

Marina Guvakova (Chinook owner) would like to do a retrospective study on the risk of IVDD in Chinooks

Original email was sent to all Directors, anyone else responded?

Email content:

I am writing to explore the interest of the COA leadership in getting their members engaged in the Chinook Health Survey regarding the risk of IVDD.

According to the OFA publicly available data 22.7% of DNA-tested Chinook are carriers of the mutation that is associated with risk of Chondrodystrophy (CDDY/IVDD) in some dog breeds. Research has not linked these health conditions to Chinook Dogs; however, being red flagged such results are worrisome. For example, Chinook dog breeders/ owners who turn in their dog

DNA swabs for testing to EMBARK may have the following DNA test report results -

“Increased risk of intervariable disc disease (Type I) (FGF4 retrogene – CFA12)”.

In collaboration with a Penn Vet School professor of medical genetics, I am interested in exploring the prevalence of Chondrodystrophy in Chinooks and its potential association with genetic changes.

Support of the COA members – Chinook breeders and owners is essential in data collection.

- Follow up emails were initiated: two researchers would conduct the study based on Embark data and a questionnaire that they would formulate and have us send to our members.
- Bio of the 2 researcher involved in the potential retrospective study:
 - **Marina Guvakova** obtained her PhD in Molecular Cell Biology from the Russian Academy of Sciences and specialized in cancer genetics. She was invited as a Scholar to work on a prostate cancer-related project at Columbia University, NY, USA in 1993. After completing her postdoctoral fellowship at Kimmel Cancer Center, Thomas Jefferson University, she has been a faculty member at the Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania. Over the last 25 years, Dr Guvakova's research laboratory studied human breast cancer. Dr. Guvakova specialized in preoperative biomarkers predictive for the transition from precancer to invasive disease. She retired from UPenn and continues her endeavor as a developer of technologies for personalized cancer therapies.
 - **Margret Casal** graduated from the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Zürich in Switzerland in 1984. Dr. Casal became an Associate in the pathology Department and Small Animal Reproduction at the University of Zürich in Switzerland. She completed her residency in Medical Genetics, Pediatrics, and Reproduction at Penn Vet. Since 1999, she has been a faculty member, currently at Full Professor rank, at Penn Vet. Dr. Casal is specialized in veterinary genetics, pediatrics, and reproduction. She has also been working on discovering the genes involved in idiopathic epilepsy and primary ciliary dyskinesia in the Irish Wolfhound.
- Would the COA be willing to support such a study?
 - COA is interested but needs more information on the purpose of the study and how the data would be used.

- Questionnaire will need to be reviewed by the board
- Karen Hinchy needs to be on board for the study

■ **ACTION ITEM:** Put on hold until after the Chinook National Specialty 2025

■ To increase awareness of our breed:

- Appeal to the public with articles on Chinooks and their history in Dog Magazines
 - Modern Dog - waiting for response from Editors
 - Dogster - Head Writer: Nicole Cosgrove (NZ)
 - Dog's Today (British)
 - Others? Look for online only dog magazines.
 - Suggestions for developing a marketing campaign:
 - Place an ad in magazines as articles could take some time. This would be in addition to the article.

• **Report of Vice-President - Marty Wilson**

Report: No update

•

○

Action Item:

- Is there potential to use SEO to help promote access to the website and to our breeders. Marty will research and report back to the board.

• **Report of Secretary - Pam Turner**

Report: No update

Action Item:

• **Report of Treasurer - Rachael Davis**

Report:

■ Accounts:

Chase - \$46,077.76

PayPal - \$10,175.91

Total - \$56,252.67

■ Restricted Funds:

- Total Restricted - \$5,732.19

Chester H Sweetie Fund - \$303.81

Rescue Fund - \$2113.99

Health Fund - \$3314.39

■ Total General Fund - \$ 50,520.48

Action Item:

- Chart specific Funds, totals, and where money comes from (Ongoing)

Report of Communications Chair - Jon Jolly

Report: No update

Action Item:

- Received request from Rick Prausa to make updates to Active Chinook Program (**still in queue**)
- Way to store passwords
- Future CQ articles.
 - Bob - Any history articles/throwback photos/etc./upcoming events (Tamworth Event)
 - Possible options for photo collage
 - Mischievous Chinooks
 - ??

● **Report of Membership Chair - Kristy Jolly**

Report: **Membership Report – May 2025**

Current Membership Total: 277 (3 puppy memberships not signed up yet)

New Members (2): Michael Paluk (Manitoba, CA), Natasha Rueschhoff (FL).

Renewed Members (16): Kathe Dunscomb (OR), Lydia Leclerc (OH), Wendy Hansen (ON, CA), Marlene Goist (TX), Brenda Dean (ME), Brendan Aldrich (IN), Katy Kopplin (WI), Cesar Hernandez (MA), Christine Eggleton (VT), Robin Anderson (VA), Edy Lotharius (IL), Ariel Lender (FL), Tara Laposa (NJ), Rachael Davis (PA), Ted Dohnal (MI), Kathleen Harrison (CA).

Puppy Memberships (3): Mystique Pond (3): Vincent Pugliese, Whitney Greene, Leanda Maddux.

Membership Numbers by Month

Date	# of Members	Change
Jul-23	265	2
Aug-23	262	(3)
Sep-23	272	10
Oct-23	275	3
Nov-23	278	3
Jan-24	288	10
Feb-24	291	3
Apr-24	300	9
May-24	300	-
Jul-24	301	1
Oct-24	316	15
Dec-24	320	4
Jan-25	325	5
Apr-25*	274	(51)
May-25	279	5
Jun-25	277	(2)
*It was discovered the system wasn't demoting membership status when the expire date hit. Once it was corrected, emails went to the members to renew.		

- **Breed standard Committee: Kristy Jolly**

Report: N/A

Action Item:

- **Report of Health & Genetics Chair – Karen Hinchy**

Report: No update

Action Item:

- Finalize forms and processes to support the AI initiative
 - In Progress
- In the future Dr. Oliehoek will do a webinar for the membership
 - See above

- **Report of Registrar – Karen Hinchy**

Report: No update

Action Item:

- *In Progress* - Single Dog registration states on UKC to go through Chinook Registrar verify process with Taylor Armstrong
 - See above
- *In Progress* -Verify with UKC that they are still honoring the outcross program
 - See above

- **Report of Historian – Bob Cottrell**

Report: No update

●

Action Item:

- Submitted an article for the upcoming CQ
- Outreach Details of all Bob's NH Humanities outreach programs can be found at this link:
<https://www.nhhumanities.org/programs/harnessing-history-on-the-trail-of-new-hampshires-state-dog-the-chinook>

Upcoming program on dog sled making

Part of summer traditional arts program

Link <https://www.tamworthhistorycenter.org/events>

and

<https://www.tamworthhistorycenter.org/events/mb1sh77x2v08wngf3x6enqcz8rcumy>

Updated the clio chinook trail single entries into a tour

Adding more

See Link: <https://www.theclio.com/tour/2608>

Bob will do a follow up article for the CQ about the Feb Chinook day in Tamworth. Will have a motion next month for the Tamwork, February event.

- **Report of Regional Activities Chair – John Habermehl**

Report: No update

■

Action Item:

- Discussion regarding tablecloths, materials at events. Time to update what we have? **John will research and bring back to the group**

- **Report of Rescue Chair – Brenda Dean**

Report: 1 rescue/adoption application received, no other activity.

Action Item:

- **Report of Active Chinook Program Chair – Rick Prausa**

Report: The Active Chinook Program Committee continues to meet monthly and is making good progress on the following action items.

Action Item:

- Applications for Titles/Certificates (ongoing action item) – review applications, issue certificates to owners and dogs meeting requirements and provide related information for publication in the Chinook Quarterly (CQ).

There were no new applications for titles/certificates this month.

Note: We received an inquiry from a Chinook owner in PA about getting her 2 year old Chinook into skijoring. John Habermehl and Bob Cottrell may have additional information to share in the response.

- Adding new activities to the Active Chinook Program to allow for increased participation by Chinooks and their owners.

The proposed website changes to implement the new COA Temperament titles, Titled Events titles and the Board's decision to restructure title and certificate application fees have been forwarded to Jon Jolly.

- Development of a new ACP Participant Guide.

The previous action item to streamline the title application process is being folded into a recommendation (from the Draft Health and Safety Review) to develop a *Participant Guide* for the program. The Committee is in initial discussions about content of the guide.

- Development of an ACP Brochure.

The Committee is discussing development of an ACP tri-fold brochure as a handout for the Chinook Specialty and other events.

- Revision of title and recognition certificates to reflect the program name change.

The new title certificate design is complete. Use of the certificate is awaiting completion of a new program logo – optional drafts of the new logo are being developed/reviewed by the Committee.

- Program Health and Safety Review.

The Draft ACP Health and Safety Review report has been forwarded to the Health and Genetics Committee for their review.

- **Report of Bench Chair - (Daniela Metz, Interim)**

Report: See below

Action Item:

- URGENTLY need a Show Secretary! Suggestions welcome...
- Continue working on Specialty Program with the Committee - ongoing
- Send out separate email to breeders to connect with their puppy owners (especially those placed in the South) to encourage them to participate (Kristy/Jon)

- **New Business**

- Kristy: UKC response to registering puppies is lacking; won't process DNA samples in time; Huge frustration dealing with UKC!
- Daniela will follow up when connecting with UKC about the Specialty

- **Motion 2025-**

- *Motion by: Seconded by:*

- **Unfinished Business**

Active Chinook Program Liability Disclaimer Discussion

- Recommend to have Chisholm Law review and adjust as needed.
 - Proceed with getting a cost estimate from Chisholm Law. Marty will ask if Chisholm would work with us on this.
- Add to the website and any document if needed.

Develop a marketing group Marty, Daniela, Jon, Kristy, Karen, Brenda.

Hold until 2025

Develop a member contest of social media posts.

TikTok/Instagram to promote a short Chinook video. Karen will research.

COA Board Note/New Year Cards

- Blank note cards for rainbow cards, sympathy, congratulations
 - Need quote for Motion Kristy complete

How best to spend club funds are listed on the spreadsheet on a shared drive called Working spreadsheet. **Reminder item**

- **COA Board meetings are scheduled** for the last Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be **Thursday, July 31, 2025** at 5 pm PST 6 pm MT, 7 pm CST, 8 pm EST.

- **Approval of Minutes**

Motion 2025-18

Motion by: Daniela Metz

Second by: Rachael Davis

I move that the June 25, 2025 minutes be posted and approved by unanimous consent within 48 hours of posting. Approved unanimously.

- **Adjournment**

Motion 2025-19

Motion by: Daniela Metz

Second by: Rick Prausa

I move that the June 25, 2025 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. Approved unanimously.

Join with Google Meet: meet.google.com/bho-wocx/

Join by phone

(US) +1 402-588-0242 PIN: 673 534 700#