



Oct 30, 2025

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: 10/30/25 1902 cst

Present: Rachael, Brenda, Daniela, Rick, Jon, Pam, Kristy,

Absent: John H., Bob, Karen

Excused: Marty Wilson,

Report of President - Daniela Metz

Report: see below

- See Benchchair report below

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:

- ElectionBuddy Results for Proposed Bylaws amendment
 - 53 of 284 members voted (19%)
 - Amendment passed unanimously with 53 ayes
 - Pam will develop results communication to be posted for CQ and via social media and send to Kristi for release
 - Next steps to send to UKC for approval Pam
- Annual Board Reports are due 10/31/25 the following chairs have submitted their reports:
 - Health & Genetics
 - Historian
 - Membership
 - Treasurer
 - Rescue
 - Active Chinooks
- Reminder November & December meetings are combined on November 20th.

Action Item:

- Board Nomination Committee 2026
 - Marty & Pam had a call regarding committee formation on 10/26/25

Report of Treasurer - Rachael Davis

Report:

■ Accounts: End of September

Chase - \$50,580.86

PayPal - \$8,130.44

Total - \$58,711.30

Restricted Funds:

- Total Restricted - \$5,962.81

Chester Sweetie Fund - \$303.81

Rescue Fund - \$2113.99

Health Fund - \$3,545.01

■ **Total General Fund - \$ 52,748.49**

Action Item:

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

Report of Communications Chair - Jon Jolly

Report:

- Worked with Rick to update the Active Chinook brochure in preparation for the 2025 Specialty.
- Worked with Kristy to get the 2026 Calendar Contest photos processed/touched up and ready for voting.
- Reached out to Ginger Corley to discuss her recent email to the Board.
- Received communication about Chinook statue in Tamworth update.

Action Item:

- Way to store passwords

- Future CQ articles.
 - **Ginger has committed to an article (TBD)**
 - **Rachael and/or Marty about litter updates**
 - **Marty - 501C3**
 - **Rick - changes to Active Chinook program**
 - **Daniela - fall recipes**
 - **TBD article ideas**
 - **Passing of important modern history contributors like Bob Jones, Donna Boatright, Neil Wolpert...**
 - **Talk to Diana Fowler, Bob Cottrell, Ginger Corley, and Penthea Burns, Connie Jones?**
 - **UKC ownership change**
 - **UKC Breed Standard**
 - **Judges education program/committee**
 - **Modern History of Chinook - Susen Fletcher/Ginger Corley**
 - **Break down by decade?**
 - **First dog placed on Internet Hurricane Beowulf (1987)**
 - **History of COA creation**
 - **Benefits of Chinooks as therapy dogs**
 - **Instagram/Facebook (consider posting permission)**
 - **Historic cross lines - Donais and first litter that incorporated all 3 original cross lines**
 - **Current cross lines**
 - **History of Top Ten since UKC recognition**
 - **Breeder profiles (past and present)**
 - **Breeder mentoring**
 - **Plight of Canadian breeders given export restrictions**
 - **Passing and leaving historical items to COA**
 - **Possible funny photo contest**
 - **Bob - Any history articles/throwback photos/etc./upcoming events (Tamworth Event)**

- Modern History article?
- Possible options for photo collage
 - Mischievous Chinooks
 - ??

Report of Membership Chair - Kristy Jolly

Report: **Membership Report – 2025**

Current Membership Total: 286 (5 puppy memberships not signed up yet)

New Members (2): Elaine Bradbury (FL), Maria Sommer (MD)

Renewed Members (56): Robbi Portela (ME), Todd Allen (WA), Amy Vagedes (AK), Elizabeth Swan (NH), Jennifer Bihl (SC), Megan Baxter (NH), Bridget Fullerton (ME), Forrest Lyons (OR), Bill Weise (CA), Alli Caron (NH), Edward Bigos (MA), Arica Young (VA), Kevin Colagio (NY), Doug Orton (MA), Sarah Hodson (IL), Jennifer Gaylord (WA), Bruce Leader (MA), Belle Harmon (OR), Kimberly Ridge (MA), Susan Fletcher (WA), Denise Reed (GA), Shirley Jackson (NH), Sammi Wingo (CA), Kate Diaz (CA), Kristen Byron (NH), Jo Bracken (NC), Charlsy Waldo (ID), Cheryl O'Herron (NY), Ashlee Bryan (WA), Heather Osborne (CT), Brad Johnson (NY), Dee Dee Meier (WI), Elizabeth Daliere (VT), Jamine Blesoff (IL), DeeDee Look (ME), Kirsten Ludwig (NH), Sheree Gorton (NH), Marcy Bauer (ID), Susanne Johnson (WA), Liza Stevens (FL), Cameron Kortze (NJ), Emma Schenker (MA), Willow Oliveria (CT), Heather Reynolds (CA), Noelle Hartevelde (NJ), Lindsey May (MI), Craig Smith (NY), Bob Cottrell (NH), Marilyn Nenner (BC, CA), Polly Kawalek (WI), Chris Folger (MI), Donald Secor (MA), Joyce Lin (WA), Blake Held (NY), Alisa Druzba (NH), Rod Lumsden (WA)

Puppy Memberships (5): Barkerville Chinooks (5): Joe Holland (VT), Lindsey McCann, Tim Losee (ME), Tim Orton, Michael Henriques

2026 Calendar Contest

A total of \$380 was donated to the Chinook Breed Conservation Project through the Cover Contest (\$185 of that pure donation in addition to donating for the photos). There were 5 new/renewed members during this time in which 3 submitted photos to the contest. Below is the number of

photos I have for the contest (still accepting Rainbow Bridge photos). Voting is to start next weekend.

Number of Photos	
Cover	44
Months	161
Rainbow Bridge	11
Total	216

Membership Numbers by Month

Date	# of Members	Change
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)
Jul-25	285	8
Aug-25	281	(4)
Oct-25	286	5
<p>*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. Some did but some didn't, thus showing the sudden decrease.</p>		

Breed standard Committee: Kristy Jolly

Report: Nothing to report

Action Item:

Report of Health & Genetics Chair – Karen Hinchy

Report: No Report

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:

- If the Board agrees, the registrar proposes to accept AKC registered Chinooks for UKC registration without requiring UKC DNA parent verification.

Action Item:

- *In Progress* - Single Dog registration states on UKC to go through Chinook Registrar verify process with Taylor Armstrong

Report of Historian – Bob Cottrell

Report: Chinook Statue Unveiling

The Tamworth History Center

Invites you to help

CELEBRATE CHINOOK! 11:00 am Saturday, November 15

Please join us to welcome Andrea Kennett's and Peter Dransfield's full-size bronze statue of the famous Tamworth-born sled dog Chinook to our THC Lawn, aka the Village Green!

Unveiling...Short speeches.

Music, poetry, bells.

Refreshments for 2- and 4-leggeds.

Wonalancet Farm's Arthur Walden and his lead dog Chinook (1917-1929) popularized dog-sledding across New England, then led the dog team on Admiral Byrd's first Expedition to Antarctica. Chinook was the father of the strong, gentle and loyal breed that in 2009 became New Hampshire's official State Dog.

We are excited to permanently honor Tamworth's famous canine hero in this way.

There will probably be another celebration when the Chinook Owners' Assoc. makes its annual February visit, and again next spring or summer with some folks from County and State – but this is

THE TAMWORTH WELCOME!



**CHINOOK STATUE
UNVEILING NOVEMBER 15th!**

The long-awaited lifesize bronze statue of Tamworth's famous sled dog Chinook will be arriving on the History Center Lawn soon!

Please join us at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 15th, to celebrate its unveiling!

"The Great Chinook" was born in 1917 at Arthur and Kate Sleeper Walden's Wonalancet Farm – a cross between a Greenland Dog and a Mastiff/St. Bernard farm dog. Arthur had learned dog-sledding in the Yukon, and wanted to breed dogs and introduce the sport here. Chinook was a born leader, strong and intelligent, gentle and loyal. With Chinook as his lead dog, Walden's dream came true: in Tamworth and across the Northeast people built sleds, trained dogs, ran and raced them. Walden founded the New England Sled Dog Association in 1924. And Chinook became the father of a new breed.

In 1927, Admiral Richard Byrd chose Walden to run the dogsled teams on his first expedition to the South Pole – with Chinook and nineteen of his sons. Extensive preparation and practice took place in and around Wonalancet. The 1928-30 expedition captured the public's imagination. When Chinook mysteriously disappeared in Antarctica on his 12th birthday, the whole world mourned.

In the years that followed, Walden sold his kennel, other kennels' efforts dwindled, and by 1981 there were only eleven breedable Chinooks alive. Three breeders, in Maine, Ohio, and California, came to the rescue, and now there are Chinooks all over the US,

some still pulling sleds, others beloved as family dogs. Today's dogs are slenderer and lighter in color than their progenitor, but just as friendly and adaptable.

In 2009, at the urging of a group of middle school students in Bedford, the NH Legislature made the Chinook the official New Hampshire State Dog Breed.

Chinook's character and story make him an enduring canine hero. A century after his adventures, we honor him with a statue in his home town. Fund-raising efforts started in 2023, with an outpouring of support from local residents, dog-sledders, breeders and fans from near and far. THC commissioned Tamworth painter and animal sculptor Andrea Kennett to create the original small clay model of Chinook. Sculptor Peter Dransfield of Portland, ME, made the full-size clay figure. Somerset Sculpture & Foundry in West Bath cast it in bronze. As we write, Pete is assembling the pieces and adding the patina.

Tim Brown of Windy Ridge Corp. is providing the granite base. Morgan Rhodewalt is preparing the site, between the two tallest trees on our lawn, facing north. (Chinook is depicted lying down – Andrea thought he deserved to rest, and we hope children will climb on him.) Sculptor Pete will transport the statue to Tamworth and set it on the granite. As soon as we can, we will place an explanatory plaque nearby – and a donor list in the Center.

Additional celebrations will surely take place in February when the Chinook Owners' Association makes its annual visit here, and likely next spring or summer as well. *But please join Tamworth friends and neighbors at 11:00 on November 15 to welcome Chinook home!*



Preparing the statue site on the Green:

Morgan Rhodewalt removed the sod, and filled the hole with ledgepack; his crew tamped it down.

Action Item:

- 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>

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: Nothing to report

■

Action Item:

Report of Active Chinook Program Chair – Rick Prausa

Report: The Active Chinook Program Committee continues to meet monthly and is making 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.

- 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.

Jon has completed his final review and edit of the new brochure. It is now ready for printing. Rick will get samples printed to assure there are no issues that creep up during the “full production” printing process.

■ 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:

- Plaques and trophies
 - Plaques (2 keepers and one travelling plaques) are being duplicated; ribbon order has been placed but needs to be paid.
 - Had serious issues getting the plaques returned!!! Still missing the ChesterH Sweetie ward...
 - Ideas to improve returns
 - Include a prepaid box to send back
 - Include instructions regarding traveling plaques, engraving, etc. Pam to take to next committee meeting
 - Consider COA pays for traveling plaques engraving and giving winner option to take home or COA keep
- 5 additional suites were added to our block at the Riding Academy at the reduced rate (17 rooms total)
- AV support is secured
- Banquet location has been found!!! The Polo Pony is a brand new Pub/Restaurant that will open on December 1st, right next to the

hotel. They have a large outdoor patio and are willing to host us with our Chinooks! We will be their first big party, so they are giving us a break (ie. no fee for renting the patio).

- Folks are starting to send Silent Auction Items! The “State” theme is working well! FL basket, CO and AK are sending a basket; we got a donation of 2 dog sleds from the NE; Susan Burrell will try to bring them down! Many other State baskets were promised...
- Will also have a Sunshine Ruffle basket! (Susan Burrell)
 - When someone does something nice for you, you can buy them a raffle ticket (so no cost to the person being kind)
 - The kinder you are the better your chance of winning the basket!

Action Item:

New Business

Motion 2025-

- *Motion by :* *Seconded by:*
- *I move that the*
-

Motion 2025-

- *Motion by:* *Seconded by:*
- *I move the COA Board.*

Unfinished 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 **in progress**. Recommends trying Chat Line
- Active Chinook Program Liability Disclaimer
 - Rick will look into options for obtaining legal advice related to updating the program liability disclaimer.

Develop a marketing group Marty, Daniela, Jon, Kristy, Karen, Brenda. **Hold until 2026**

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, November 20, 2025** at 5 pm PST, 6 pm MT, 7 pm CST, 8 pm EST.

Approval of Minutes

Motion 2025-35

Motion by: Daniela Second by: Rachael

I move that the October 30, 2025 minutes be posted and approved by unanimous consent within 48 hours of posting. Motion passes with unanimous consent.

Adjournment

Motion 2025-36

Motion by: Daniela Second by: Rick

I move that the October 30, 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. Motion passes with unanimous consent.

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

Join by phone

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