

# CHOW CHOW CLUB OF CANADA, INC.

## NEWSLETTER

### FALL 2010

#### ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

World Wide this has been a very long hot summer indeed and our chows have suffered greatly, especially in Russia where many perished.

In combination with the recession it has caused lower entries, lower demand and a decline in available puppies everywhere. The boom years when demand was high and puppies were often viewed as a cash crop are over. The lack of concern for a sound product has at last gotten the attention of governments of several countries, especially in Europe, have introduced special breed specific instructions. Among the breeds identified as requiring "Urgent" attention are our Chows. Problems highlighted were excessive amounts of skin and malformation of the hindquarters. Specifically stifles, knuckling over hocks and any exaggeration, impairing proper movement are of concern. In addition breathing difficulties caused by insufficiently wide respiratory channels and throat, producing snoring and labored breathing, often with a constantly open mouth are being targeted as well as eye problems resulting from excessive amount of skin.

As breed Clubs are notoriously loath to admit to serious problems it is unfortunate, but quite understandable, that governments step in and impose rules which are not always in the best interest of the breed. For instance the Kennel Club in England arbitrarily and without consultation of breed Clubs eliminated all disqualifications from their Chow Standard. Since England is considered the Country of origin of our breed, this rule makes it mandatory for all 87 FCI Countries to follow suit causing the essence of our breed to be universally compromised. Further, limitations on the number of litters a bitch is allowed to have as well as this years total abolition of inbreeding can only have discouraged any novice to consider a serious breeding program. Similar to our controversial pit-bull legislation, the problem is that most legislators have precious little

practical experience in animal husbandry. But they jump into action because serious breeders tend to delay action until it is too late.

So I believe that this Club's next priority is to reexamine our present Standard, tighten its specifications and insist that judges implement its provisions, to prevent bureaucrats and Insurance Companies doing it for us.

*F.P.A.(Paul) Odenkirchen*

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#### ***FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK***

Summer lingers on, at least in Ontario, however cooler days are coming. School will be reopening, nature will soon be clothed in the beautiful colours of fall, by the next Newsletter we will be into winter! That's another year gone by and what have you been doing this past year? It would be fun and interesting to hear from our members how they spent 2010. Put pen to paper or fingers to the keyboard and share your year with us.

Making the trip to the vets less stressful by "Spot Speaks" gives step by step advice on how to prepare your dog for these visits.

While Marianne Minks experience with ticks was not with a chow it does alert everyone to be more diligent.

The Chow Chow Club (England) can teach us a thing or two about putting on a Specialty. Read Sheila Jakeman's report of their show.

Thank you to all who took time to send in news and views, it is always a pleasure to hear from you.

Keep that chow flag flying and my mail box full.

*Joey Natrass*

## ***MAKING VETERINARY HOSPITAL VISITS LESS STRESSFUL FOR YOUR DOG***

There's no question that trips to the veterinary hospital have the potential to wreak havoc on a dog's psyche and bring out the worst in their behavior. Normally outgoing dogs may become timid, and confident dogs may become fearful. A dog that would never growl or bite in their home environment may bare his teeth when being handled by strangers in the veterinary hospital setting. Such behavioral changes are typically stress or fear induced. By doing some advance work with your dog, you can help create positive rather than negative behavioral responses to veterinary hospital visits. This becomes a win-win situation in that the experience will be less stressful for you and your dog and there will be a greater likelihood of successfully performing diagnostic tests and providing therapy without the need for sedation or anesthesia.

I asked Chicago based professional dog trainer and behavior specialist Jennifer Hack of Dynamic Dogs, Inc. ([www.DynamicDogsChicago.com](http://www.DynamicDogsChicago.com)) to provide some guidance for making veterinary hospital visits as stress-free as possible. Here is Jennifer's sage advice:

### **On the way to the vet**

Before you leave the house, grab a handful of special favorite treats and a regular leash (extendable leashes are not good for control). Dogs who get into the car expecting a negative outcome will often exhibit immediate anxiety. To prevent this, socialize your dog often and take your dog to fun destinations as well, and he will be much less anxious than if his only car rides take him to the vet. Your attitude will also make a huge difference- the more confident and calm you are, the safer your dog will feel. Additionally, take your dog along for a "just for fun visit" when you pick up food, products, or prescriptions. Do such practice runs at a time when the staff can greet your dog and give him treats.

### **The waiting room**

If your dog is anxious (whining, barking, etc.), do not reinforce the behavior by attempting to comfort him or pet him. Instead, find something constructive for your dog to do that will earn your praise. Rather than sit and let the anxiety build, you may want to do some obedience work with your dog around the room- you only need a small area. It may be difficult to overcome the distractions, but it's good practice. Teach your dog a "look" command. Start by holding a treat next to your face and say, "look." After three seconds of eye contact mark the behavior by saying "Yes!" and give the treat. Build up the amount of

time longer and longer before you reward, and eventually you can phase out the lure and your dog will be focusing on your face.

Remember courtesy to others in the waiting room. Not everyone's dog is well socialized with other dogs or humans, and they may be ill, so always be aware of what your dog is doing and do not allow them to approach, sniff, or invade the space of other dogs or cats. When seated, keep your dog directly in front of on a down-stay by your feet.

### **Behaving for the exam**

Accepting handling and examination is essential for every dog, from puppies to adults. From a young age, condition your dog to accept handling from head to toe, and make it fun. Start by doing the handling yourself, and then if possible, have several other people practice handling your dog gently as a vet would. You can also practice with your dog on a table, doing the following:

-Mouth: When routinely praising and petting your dog, don't avoid their mouth. Touch their muzzle often and gently rub their gums.

-Ears: Gently massage the base of the ears and practice looking inside.

-Front Paws: Start by holding your dog's paw and then praising and rewarding with a treat. Then touch each nail individually and feel between the toes. To keep your dog from pulling away, have him "sit" and "stay" first.

-Abdomen: With your dog in a standing position at your left side or on a table, massage your dog's rib cage and his abdomen and hips, lifting up each rear leg and also touching the rear paws.

Teach your dog the command, "over." In addition to all the basic obedience commands, teaching your dog "over", to lie down on his or her side, is useful for exams. Start this when your dog is feeling relaxed and go at your own pace. From a down position, slowly roll your dog over and praise and reward.

### **Uncomfortable procedures**

Often while your veterinarian is examining your dog, you may be holding your dog's head. Keep one hand on the collar holding your dog steady, and one hand on the neck. Talk to your dog and give hearty praise in order to distract him while he is receiving a shot or having his temperature taken. The more confident and calm you feel, the more comfortable your dog will feel.

## To muzzle or not to muzzle?

A muzzle is a misunderstood tool. There is a stigma that muzzles are only for incorrigible dogs, or that wearing a muzzle is somehow traumatic to a dog. In reality, we must admit the fact that any dog, no matter how socialized or nice, has the physical capability to bite, especially when feeling frightened, vulnerable, or in pain. You want to take every opportunity to prevent bites- better safe than sorry! If you have any reason to believe your dog may bite during a veterinary exam, based on previous history or body language, request that your dog wear a muzzle. I prefer basket-style muzzles because they allow the dog to open their mouth, pant, and feel more comfortable, rather than the cloth-style that holds the mouth closed. You can condition your dog to wearing a muzzle at home for short periods of time; that way he won't view it as a negative occurrence. If you feel your dog may have an aggression issue, find a professional trainer who is also a behavior specialist.

Best wishes to you and your four-legged family members for abundant good health,

*Nancy Kay, DVM with Jennifer Hack*

**Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine  
Recipient, American Animal Hospital Association 2009 Animal Welfare and Humane Ethics Award**

**Recipient, 2009 Dog Writers Association of America Award for Best Blog**

**Recipient, 2009 Eukanuba Canine Health Award**

**Author of *Speaking for Spot: Be the Advocate Your Dog Needs to Live a Happy, Healthy, Longer Life***

Website: <http://www.speakingforspot.com>

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## TICKS

This past Saturday am, my 5 year old Tibbie Tami was paralyzed in her rear legs when she woke up. They just were collapsed under her. I rushed her to the vet and he was able to get deep pain response from both back feet, though one leg just dangled and showed no reflexes. She was knucling over on both rear feet and could not place them flatly on the floor. She was alert and in no signs of pain. Vet examined her and could find no injuries or sensitive areas and thought it was a back injury and she was put on dexamethazone 2 x daily and crate rest. There was no improvement Saturday and Sunday am she had peed in her crate and was soaked, so I gave her a quick bath and put fans on her to dry her. Sunday night she had a little response in her rear legs, but could not walk.

Monday am she stood and took 2 steps before her rear legs collapsed. She made steady improvement on Monday and by Monday night walked about 10 feet in the yard, peed, walked a couple more feet and had a BM.

Thought she was on the mend. Tuesday am her rear was as bad as it had been Saturday am. She started showing weakness on her front legs and between Noon and 2:00 pm her front legs became paralyzed and she started having heart arhythmias. She began drooling on the ride to the vet office. Back to the vet, who did back xrays - everything was normal looking. He then xrayed her neck - looked fine. He pulled blood and while we were waiting for the results he told me he didn't know what was wrong and that at the vet school 100 miles away could do an electromyogram, MRI, etc. By this time it was 5:00 pm.

He thought he would give her a cortasone injection. The bloodwork showed a high white count, pointing to infection. Vet was petting her and feeling her all over again and couldn't understand why she was not in pain anywhere. He found an engorged tick under her ear - its color was identical to her coat there. Then the AHA moment - tick paralysis! In his over 30 years practicing, he had only seen 2 cases. His other vet who was working with him has been a vet for about 10 years and had never seen a case. He removed the tick, put her on amoxicillin 2 x daily and said she should be sitting up by evening and recover. In my over 30 years in dogs I had never heard of it. My house dogs get a few ticks every year. I get a few ticks on me every time I mow.

The tick can have a neurotoxin that is released while feeding that causes this. It can lead to respiratory failure and even death! From my reading about it on the net, different sources say in the US that death rates are 5% or 10-12%. By around 8:00 pm Tami was improving in the front legs and could lay upright on her front. She steadily improved overnight and could walk wobbly this am (Wed). The vet predicts a full recovery. I don't think she would have made it through the night without that tick being removed as the respiratory symptoms had begun and she was rapidly deteriorating from Noon on. I can't believe that I missed that tick, with how much I was handling her. But I didn't comb her out before or after her bath as I didn't want to stress her any more than I had to or to possibly injure her back. Now I will be obsessively on tick patrol.

Marianne Minks  
Zen Tao Tibetan Spaniels

## **NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICA**

In March we had Canadians Mrs. Thora Brown, Mr. Alan Brown and Mr. Thomas Touzel judge at 3 championship shows in Gauteng.

**Best of Breed** and **Best in Group** under all three judges was Ch & Int Ch Ch Kimekai Son of Samuri (bred and owned by Vanessa Nicolau)

**Reserve Best of Breed** and **Veteran Group 1st Under** Tom Touzel was Ch & Int Ch Tanaka of the China's Joy (bred by Lisette van den Aker in the Netherlands and owned by Vanessa Nicolau) and Tanaka was also Reserve Best of Breed and **Veteran Group 2nd** under the Brown's.

**CC Dog** under the Brown's was Chinacharm Royal Sun (bred by Celeste and Louis Blom, owned by the Hendry's)- who is a grandson to Ch Mi Pao's Czardas

**Best Puppy** under Mr. Touzel and Mr Brown was smooth bitch Ciao Weight in Gold of Chinacharm (bred by Bernice Leroy and owned by Celeste & Louis Blom)



Middle of May saw Mr. Desi Murphy (Liontamer USA) officiate for the Best in Show line up at Northern Tshwane

Championship show - with a good entry overall in the show and a really strong best in show line up - he awards Reserve Best in Show to Ch & Int Ch Ch Kimekai Son of Samuri (bred and owned by Vanessa Nicolau)

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## **AWARDS**

Silver Award ..... Judy Horne is continuing her winning ways having won Silver this year in a Readers Choice Award for Grooming. Judy has previously won Gold and Platinum. This award is even more satisfying to Judy as she had decided to go out on her own rather than work for someone. Congratulations!

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## **CHOW CHOW SHOW - ENGLAND**

Chow Chow - "Dog World" July 2010

For the officers and committee of the CCC, the amount of work, undertaken and the build up to the weekend must have been really hard work but the end result certainly prove to be a resounding success. There were a small number of people in addition to the committee on the first evening and these included the judges and their spouses; the majority headed for the nearest hostelry where food food was served up.

Sunday's proceedings started with a seminar at which Minnie Odenkirchen gave a fascinating talk about her massive collection of Chow memorabilia, concentrating mainly on the rarer of the figurines and their history. She admits that she enjoyed the seeking out of items a great deal more before the invention of the internet, when she would browse flea markets, antiques stalls etc. looking for items. Now she says it is all too easy for everyone, though I do admit that items can still be found in this country in that way.

Next up was her husband Paul, whose expertise in the breed is undoubted. He talked about how to maintain the "essence" of the breed and the need to bear function in mind when selecting specimens to breed from. He also showed a film about puppy selection, which gave a great deal of detail and I think everyone found it really interesting. How wonderful it would be if every puppy had all the desired attributes listed.

He was followed by Robin Searle, who was making the case regarding line-breeding. His references to farm animals seemed to be a little odd but soon all became

clear in other forms of livestock line-breeding works perfectly well and maintains and improves stock as desired. It was noted, in particular, that Jersey cows have had no new blood allowed into their lines for many generations but yields have increased and stock has not deteriorated, the same being said for many types of horses and some birds too. The question is inevitably posed - why does the recent guidance being bandied about contain so much condemnation of line-breeding?

Following a buffet lunch, most people adjourned to the show hall by now suitably decorated and filled with the usual displays, stalls, raffles etc. where three sweepstakes classes were held, these being judged by the club president, Sandra Stafford. Best of those entered went to a black bitch from Sweden. Sw/Dan/Fin. Ch. Piuk Chow Missies Victoria Princess, bred by Micheal Lunau and exhibited and handled by Lena Hedengran.

The evening event included a parade of Champions when everyone was able to vote for their favourite out of the ten who were moved around the room to a tune chosen by their owners, or the sound man, which was appropriate to the dog. The eventual winners were Ch. Miketilla Monogram and Ch. Mactykes American Beauty at Komatsu. It was a pity that the three others meant to be there did not show.

Dinner and dancing followed with a huge raffle, from which bottles went to every corner of the room, Pam and Steph Godber being particularly lucky with their tickets proving to be an omen for the show the following day.

Show day itself dawned a little cooler than the previous couple of days which meant a comfortable day for the dogs. The hall soon filled up with exhibitors and many visitors, both local and from overseas. So many of them marvelled at the giant sized Chow who filled the corner of the hall and had many a Chow person and a few Chows too sitting on it during the day to have their photo taken.

The male classes were judged by Paul Odenkirchen and it was not long before he had an unbeaten line-up of six males to select from. DCC was Moima Alberto Tomba (Ch. Mi-Pao's Cream Casper ex Mi-Pao's Canadian Ebony, March '08), all the way from Caravate in Italy, owned by Moira Stocco and handled by her partner Mauro. RDCC was Pam and Steph Godber's Cherrymount Good To Be Black for Lechan, who had topped a strong AOC class.

Peter Jensen from Denmark judged the bitches and had an unbeaten line-up of seven to choose his CC winner from. Pam and Steph Godber came to the fore again when Lechan Freya won BCC with my puppy, Tanlap Tooquite taking RBCC. Freya is homebred by L Stan for Baybar ex

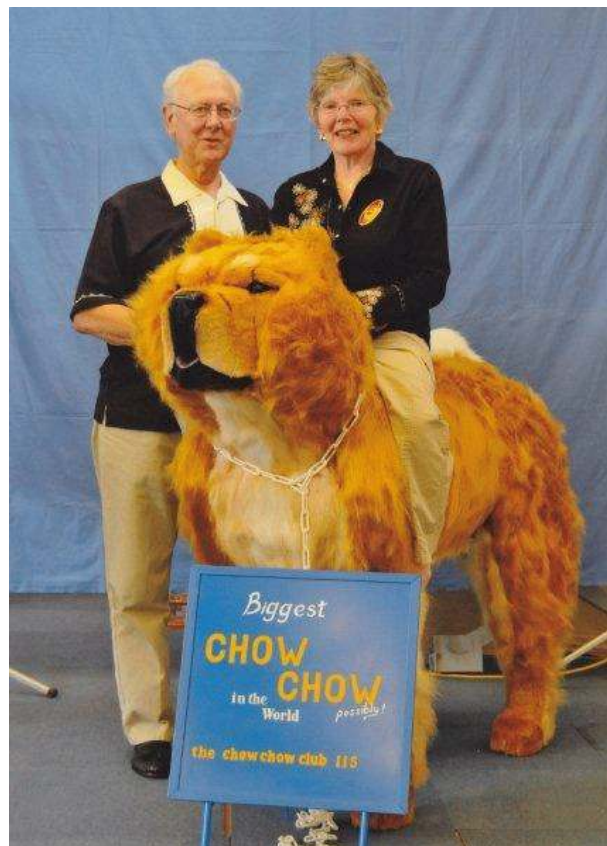
Catomo Mayfair of L and was born October '05.

Referee Jack Trick was not called upon as the two judges made Freya BIS with the RBIS and Tooquite BPIS. BAOC went to the male, Good To Be Black, the judges stating this was a mature male and the puppy, who was AOCB, could alter as she matures.

Needless to say, many left on completion of the show but many of the committee remained on site to clear up and then relax, along with the remaining visitors, to watch the World Cup final. There was a contingent from Holland but they did not remain to watch the complete match as they were leaving so early in the morning to catch an early flight. It was great to see so many from overseas and those who missed out from this country missed a really special weekend.

Pippa Clare was one of those who was missing but understandably under the circumstances. She thanks you all for your messages and cards, so appreciated when she was feeling so low. I understand she is to have another smooth Chow puppy shortly which will help somewhat.

Sheila L. Jakeman



## ***DIRECTOR'S CORNER***

### ***MARITIMES***

It's been a quiet summer here in the Maritime - lots of lovely weather and hot enough that the chows have to be walked early in the morning or later in the evening.

During July and August, most of the shows are in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island so Tigger has been enjoying being a "real" dog, with no shows and especially no baths! Our main excitement has been the fact that two coyotes have set up house in my nearby park where the dogs and I walk every day. I carry a very loud whistle to startle them if they approach us - one sat less than three metres from a neighbor when he was working in his garden and didn't even move when he shouted at it. These "eastern" coyotes have interbred with wolves as they made their way from the west so they about the size of a german shepherd dog and many seem to have little fear of humans. Coyotes and ticks are all just part of life in Nova Scotia these days!

*Your Maritimes Director - Judith Tulloch*  
[ayrhill@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:ayrhill@ns.sympatico.ca)

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### ***GREETING FROM ONTARIO***

As I review the past few months, I wonder where the summer has gone. What have I accomplished? What have my Chows achieved? I posed the question to a few friends and received these answers.

Our club president, Paul Odenkirchen and Can Am Ch Mi-Pao's Mojo have been busy this year. As of the writing of this, Mojo is ranked # 2 in the country with an accumulated 506 points having achieved a BOB at the Specialty Show and 20 group placings.

Cindy Schlievert (Dragonslayer/Tai Kennel) was pleased to announce the birth of two litters. She reported that although she did not attend many shows, Angel, Sunny Dee and Chase all managed to add a few more points at the Petawawa, Arnprior and Ottawa shows and their championships are within reach now. Hopefully, this fall will bring the desired results for Sunny and Chase. Angel is awaiting a litter.

Judy Allen's (Clos de Lion) Lord Alfred has been diligently preparing for shows and has three group placings.



I am most proud of my Tina who has been attending Rally-o classes and will compete in her first CARO competition on October 9 in Brockville. She did not wish to be outperformed by her sire, Alfie, pictured above. In the meantime, she has achieved her Foundations rosette and 2 Challenge rosettes at Carolark. These ribbons are awarded to the dogs who have attained level 3 in their training and have successfully passed tests 25 involving distance, stays, walking recalls, targets/tricks. Challenge ribbons are awarded to the team who has demonstrated increasingly complicated behaviours.



Jo-Ann Steele and Nicky Barham, owners of the Carolark Training Centre, Kanata, Ontario, have graciously offered to host a Chow Festival. The "Yes We Can" preparations are complete. The agenda has been set, prizes obtained and the date confirmed. Should anyone wish to make the trip to Ottawa, please contact me for details for this September 17th extravaganza.

For those Ontario members who wish to share their news,

please contact me at [Lucy.Bender@rogers.com](mailto:Lucy.Bender@rogers.com).

Unfortunately, I do not have a membership list so I must rely on you to report your exciting news. I look forward to hearing from you.

*Your Ontario Director - Lucy Bender*

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### **REPORT FROM THE PRAIRIES**

Chows are continuing the march to the winners' circle at Prairie shows. The young black male, **Spindrift Mr. Independance**, was Group 3rd and Best Puppy in Show at the Hub City Kennel Club in Saskatoon. The judge was J. Frank Gordon. Mr. Independance was bred by Pam Schmied of Manitoba and is owned by Lori and Scott Meadows of Sherwood Park AB.

This summer the Prairies have been hit with a number of natural disasters -- forest fires, flooding, and tornadoes. My sister and I have implemented a number of **emergency measures** to help us if we have to evacuate or tough out a storm. First, every vehicle has the top half of the gas tank filled. There is a crate for each dog (10 of them) in the basement (best place to be if a tornado is in the area) and a crate for each dog in the garage in case we have to evacuate. Since we are only 2 miles from the railway tracks on a very busy line, you never know when dangerous goods might be dumped. We have an evacuation site to retreat to and an alternate in case that site is blocked. In case we are separated at the time of the threat, we have a rendezvous place chosen. Take some time today to discuss with your household, "What do we do if . . . ."

CBC TV has been running a documentary that was produced in Great Britain called **Purebred Dogs Exposed**. The premise is that purebred dogs are much more unhealthy than crossbreds. The reason for this? According to the program, dog shows are to blame! With the quest to win the top prizes, breeders are willing to sacrifice the health of their dogs and often breed dogs with inherited defects as long as the dogs in question are Winners. Right now in parts of the world our beloved Chows are under close scrutiny and criticism for ligament problems, heavy breathing, and eye problems. The time is coming when our Chow Club will be called upon to answer the critics and point out what we are doing to keep our Chows healthy and happy.

*Your Prairies Director - Sandra Post*

### **THANK YOU FROM HERB**

This note of thanks to the Chow Chow Club of Canada Inc. is long over due, but the joy and overwhelming birthday celebrations are still very fresh in my mind.

I wish to express to the members what a perfect birthday they afforded me. A lovely lunch, beautiful cake, and wonderful friends, many of whom I had not seen for some time.

Every day I look at the beautiful plaque and its wonderful tribute and ask myself, "what did I do to deserve this?". I was truly surprised and overwhelmed.

I stood ringside to watch the Specialty and felt so proud that the chow breed has played such a significant role in my life.

I hope in some way I can give back to the club support in future endeavours.

While I perform with a variety of 50 dogs every show nothing will ever match the love I have for the breed we all love so much.

Again, sincere thanks for an amazing day and the tribute you have bestowed on me.

Always a Chow Chow fan!

*Herb Williams*

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### **CAYDENCE THE CHOW**

I would like to introduce Caydence. He was rescued from the Barrie OSPCA on Aug 12/09.

He arrived in Toronto to join our other 2 chows, Cinder 14 years and Rudy 12 years. As part of our contract we had to take him to obedience classes. We wanted a school who understood the thinking of a rescue dog and was not intimidated by a chow.

We decided on Scholars in Collars in Burlington. Dianne McWhinnie and Joan Weston have provided value insight to owning a rescue dog.

Caydence arrived at class and thought that he had died and gone to heaven, they just keeping feeding me meat balls!! He has taken a liking to Joan and her bull dogs

especially Spike- they sound like each other. She is always willing to feed him and give him a scratch. Joan was able to diagnose that he has an elongated soft palate. She maintains a watchful eye on him as she has one with the same condition.

At our 5th class, Joan announced that the Super Dogs were holding auditions at the Royal Winter Fair. She was concerned about his breathing and all of the running that is required. We came to a mutual decision that would limit his running but we strongly felt that he needed to see what goes on.

Off to the Royal we went, as a member of the team the first task is to listen to one of Herb William's stories. So Caydence went to listen and was spotted by Herb. He was in heaven to have a blue chow auditioning for the team. Herb took Caydence and off they went with Herb saying "I will bring him back". As the 3 of us walked back into the audition I heard Joan say "Herb don't steal the chow"

Half way through the audition Amy White said to us that we are in so long as his breathing can handle it.

We continue to train in Burlington following a successful surgery in February.

After the completion of 4 levels obedience and trick classes we have moved on to freestyle obedience and enjoy creating routines to music and watching the audiences be amazed that you can get a chow to dance.



Caydence was invited to apprentice at the 2010 CNE with the President Choice Superdog team. Soon Herb Williams will have a dream come true of having a chow perform in his show. This special chow who has gone through so much in such a short period of time is now a Super Dog.

*From Sandra Braid and Maureen Clune*

## ***NEWS FLASH!***

We have received approval from the Canadian Kennel Club to hold our Specialty on June 4, 2011 in Toronto.

Mark this date on your calendar...this is the BIG one!

The club will be celebrating the big 50... the "Golden Year" 1961 -2011.

Please come join us, this is a once in a lifetime celebration.

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## ***A THOUGHT TO PONDER***

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, thread it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be saved by the bell or was considered a dead ringer.

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## ***OFFICERS***

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