

February 15, 2005

For public release:

Upon the request of several Chinook owners, the Chinook Club of America investigated the inclusion of Chinooks in AKC Performance Events, specifically Herding trials. After several conversations with the Director of Performance Events, Gordon Heldebrant, it was determined that Chinooks would not be eligible to participate in AKC Herding trials, now or in the future.

Though some Chinooks participate in American Herding Breed Association trials, the Chinook is a working breed, created for sledding and heavy pulling. The AHBA allows the Chinook to participate as a "multi-purpose herding breed" because Belgian and German Shepherd breeds were used in the creation of the Chinook breed. Mr. Heldebrant explained that the AKC works under more stringent requirements and would not allow a breed to be included merely on the basis of ancestral influence or a few owners engaging in herding activities. By asking the Chinook to participate in Herding events, it suggests that herding is or was a primary function of the Chinook. As Performance Events are breed specific trials for testing the ability of a dog to perform its intended function, it would conflict with our rich working heritage to request trials as a herding breed.

The AKC Performance Events Department is in the beginning process of creating trials for weight pull/carting/sledding. We will keep Chinook owners informed as this program develops.

Chinook Club of America, Inc.
Board of Directors