

Guidelines for Breeders of the Chinook

These guidelines represent some of the principles and practices which the Chinook Club of America suggest breeders and prospective breeders of the Chinook consider and personally adopt.

BREEDING

The creation of any new life is a serious, far-reaching responsibility.

Thousands of dogs are destroyed each year for lack of caring homes. Sadly, Chinooks may be among them. The stud owner is as morally responsible for over-population problems as the bitch owner. Please, before you consider breeding a bitch or a dog, carefully evaluate the market for Chinook puppies locally and nationwide. Will you have quality homes for all of them? Do you have adequate facilities and the financial means to keep and properly care for as many puppies as necessary until such time as proper homes can be found? Do you have the time to properly care for and socialize an entire litter of puppies for at least eight weeks? Are you willing to take responsibility for these dogs at any time in their lives if proper homes can not be maintained? There is not now and has never been a large market for Chinooks and breeders should be prepared to maintain pups for extended periods of time before adequate homes are found.

Breeding stock should always be selected with the objectives of CCA in mind, that is:

Recognizing that the Chinook breed was developed as an all-purpose sled dog, to encourage the perfection by careful and selective breeding of Chinooks that possess the appearance, structure, soundness, temperament, health, natural ability and personality that are characterized in the Standard of the breed, and to do all possible to advance and promote the perfection of these qualities.

A. Selecting of Breeding Stock

The selection of animals for breeding has, as its aim, the perpetuation of good qualities and the elimination of those that are undesirable. Even adherence to the following guidelines does not preclude the possibility of serious hereditary faults in any given litter.

1. *Planning:* Litters should be planned in advance with as much knowledge as possible about the individual animals, and those in the pedigrees on both the sire and dam. This knowledge should pertain to character temperament, health and conformity to the CCA Standard for the breed for all the subject dogs.
2. *The Sire and the Dam:* The sire and the dam selected should be better than average specimens, in good health and of excellent temperament. Their conformation should not vary markedly from the ideal described in the CCA Standard for the breed. No animal selected for breeding should have any serious hereditary health defects as determined visually and by veterinary examination. All breedings should be personally supervised.
3. *Ancestors:* It is important to consider the lineage of both the sire and dam when planning a breeding. A careful examination of the health, temperament, confirmation and overall soundness of their sire, dam, littermates, and grandparents should be conducted to ensure that faults and inherited health defects are not shared. Inbreeding coefficients and ancestral contribution reports are helpful in determining the genetic relationship of the potential mating pair. While dogs may phenotypically appear different, they may be very similar in genetic make up, increasing the potential to produce undesired traits.
4. *Faults:* The sire and the dam should not have the same faults. Faults are noted in the CCA Standard for the breed. Breeders should breed for the whole dog, taking the entirety of both dogs into account – health, temperament, conformation, movement, and soundness. Breeding for one area is always a mistake as other qualities are likely sacrificed. There is no perfect dog and no dog will be able to meet all expectations. Breeders must balance faults against positive attributes to determine if a dog should be bred and with which dogs make appropriate mates.
5. *Inbreeding:* The inbreeding of dogs should be avoided at all costs, and never practiced out of convenience. Inbreeding should be reserved for warranted health test breeding only under the strict

supervision of a veterinarian or geneticist. Inbreeding would be the breeding of full siblings, half siblings, mother to offspring, and sire to get or any breeding in which any dog other than the sire and dam contributes as much or more as the sire and dam in five generations.

B. The Stud Dog

Any dog offered at stud should be a better than average specimen, differing little from the ideal described in the Standard. He should be in good health and of excellent temperament. All stud dogs should be DNA profiled through the AKC.

1. A stud dog should not be bred before he is at least 12 months of age and have two fully descended testicles.
2. A stud dog should have a passing hip X-ray evaluation on file with OFA and free from any other orthopedic disorders such as elbow dysplasia or dwarfism. Normal rating eye exam for the current year of the mating should be certified with CERF. An OFA normal thyroid panel and/or OFA cardiac examination are also desirable. He should be free from epilepsy or Chinook seizures. Consideration should be given also to the other disorders that may have a genetic component, including but not limited to digestive disorders and allergies. If the stud dog does not meet expected health criterion, the stud owner must disclose this information to the bitch owner before breeding and puppy owners before purchase.
3. A stud dog should have earned a conformation title or have a written evaluation from a credible judge to determine its adherence to the Standard. Proven working abilities in traditional activities and temperament certifications are also desirable.
4. A stud owner is privileged to refuse service to a bitch for any reason whatsoever, especially if the dog has been advertised as being at stud or if the ad states "to approved bitches only". The stud owner should refuse service to a bitch if he feels the breeding would be detrimental to the breed.
5. It is customary for the bitch to be taken to the dog for breeding.
6. Consultations with your veterinarian regarding smears etc. to determine optimum timing of the bitch for a breeding should be considered. Boarding and vet fees for the bitch while she is at the stud owner's as well as any transportation fees involved should be discussed and agreed to by the stud and bitch owners when the breeding is arranged. This agreement should be in writing with both parties signing to signify their understanding of their agreement.
7. Stud owners should provide proof of a recent, negative brucellosis test prior to breeding. In addition, a veterinarian signed health certificate listing all immunizations, worming and their dates should be available for the bitch owner's inspection.
8. Stud fees are a matter of private agreement between the stud and bitch owners. Bitch owners should request the stud fee of any dog considered since fees commonly vary. The standard monetary stud fee is the average price of a puppy from the subsequent litter. Monetary fees should be paid at the time of service and a signed letter of the breeding date should be given to the owner of the bitch. If monetary fees are to be paid at the time of the sale of the pups, the price of the fee and the date to be paid should be in writing. If other arrangements are made they should be in writing and signed by both parties. It is unwise for the owner of the stud to sign litter registration papers until full payment has been made and the puppies have been whelped, though this contingency must be in writing.
9. Puppies in lieu of cash stud fees are often agreed upon. As with any agreement, it should be in writing. If puppies are taken rather than cash, a specific age for the selection of the puppy (puppies) should be agreed upon so as not to encumber the breeder with holding the litter an unreasonable length of time. The order of the choice in picking the puppy should be determined beforehand. Stud owner generally takes second puppy choice without cost or contract. The stud owner may agree to depend on the owner of the litter to make the selection, or appoint a representative to do so when the stud owner is unable travel to the litter. Two or three live puppies may be considered a litter. A selected puppy should have the same health guarantee as any puppy from the litter sold. All replacement or refund conditions should be agreed upon beforehand. As with all agreements, putting them in writing is the best insurance of their being understood.

10. If no puppies are whelped as a result of the service, the stud owner should be so informed within four days after the due date. It is customary, but not obligatory, when no pups or less than a litter qualifying number of pups survive for the stud owner to offer a return service to the same bitch, to another approved bitch owned by the same person or the stud owner must return the stud fee minus board, veterinary and/or transportation costs. As with all other matters this should be a part of a written breeding contract.

C. The Brood Bitch

Any bitch considered for breeding should be a better than average specimen, differing little from the ideal described in the standard. She should be in good health and of excellent temperament. All brood bitches should have their DNA profiled through the AKC.

1. A bitch should not be bred before she is at least two years of age and had two complete, normal seasons. She should not be bred within nine months of her last whelp. No bitch should be allowed to have more than two litters in a two year period. For health and safety purposes, one heat cycle should generally be skipped between each litter. She should not be bred past her seventh year.
2. A bitch should have a passing hip X-ray evaluation on file with OFA and free from any other orthopedic disorders such as elbow dysplasia or dwarfism. Normal rating eye exam for the current year of the mating should be certified with CERF. An OFA normal thyroid panel and/or OFA cardiac examination are also desirable. She should be free from epilepsy or Chinook seizures. Consideration should be given also to the other disorders that may have a genetic component, including but not limited to digestive disorders and allergies. If the bitch does not meet expected health criterion, the bitch owner must disclose this information to the stud dog owner before breeding and puppy owners before purchase.
3. A bitch should have earned a conformation title or have a written evaluation from a credible judge to determine its adherence to the Standard. Proven working abilities in traditional activities and temperament certifications are also desirable.
4. A veterinarian should be consulted concerning worming and immunizations prior to breeding, whelping or both. Bitch owners should provide proof of a recent, negative brucellosis test prior to breeding. In addition, a veterinarian signed health certificate listing all immunizations, worming and their dates should be available for the stud owner's inspection.
5. A veterinarian should be consulted concerning nutrition of the bitch before breeding, while carrying the puppies and after whelping.

D. The Puppies

1. Close cooperation with a veterinarian or other experienced individual is recommended.
2. Any decisions regarding the humane culling of unhealthy puppies are personal but it is strongly urged that they be considered only after consultations with your veterinarian.
3. The age for weaning is determined by the bitch and her puppies. The presentation and acceptance of a properly prepared, well-balanced, high quality puppy food usually begins at three to four weeks of age. Weaning is usually completed by seven to eight weeks of age.
4. Most puppies need worming by six weeks of age and again at nine weeks of age. Consult with your veterinarian early and prior to worming. The parasite load in your area of the country as well as the parasite load of the dam, may dictate worming the puppies as early as three weeks of age.
5. An immunization program for infectious diseases should be established for puppies by a veterinarian according to the latest immunization information and vaccine reactions information available for the Chinook breed, the specific line of Chinooks and as required by local, state, and federal law.
6. When possible, the entire litter of Chinook puppies should have their eyes examined for possible inherited eye diseases by a CERF ophthalmologist between 6 and 8 weeks of age. The results should be disclosed to the new owners and the reports sent to CERF for recording.

7. Early socialization and training of puppies is essential for all Chinook puppies to establish proper temperament. Puppies should be exposed to a variety of common household noises, new people, surfaces and daily human contact.

SELLING

The goal of selling puppies and dogs is to provide each animal with a suitable, caring, permanent home where it will be a credit to its breed, breeder, and owner. The advantages as well as the disadvantages of owning a Chinook and a dog from your line should be fully disclosed to all prospective owners.

A. Articles to Accompany Each Sale

1. The AKC FSS recording application or an individual registration and transfer of ownership; or agreement signed and agreed to by both the buyer and the seller stating the reason(s) that no registration papers are being given or transferred. According to the AKC, registrations papers belong to the individual puppies or dogs and may not be withheld unless there is an agreement regarding their withholding signed by both the buyer and the seller.
2. Any puppy that is sold as 'pet quality' or on a Spayed/Neuter Contract should be registered with AKC Limited Registration so that no offspring can be AKC FSS registered without the specific consent of the breeder.
3. A three generation pedigree with the AKC FSS registration numbers of the animal's parents and any available hip/eye ratings of the ancestors.
4. A medical record. This should consist of the following:
 - a. A schedule of dates and types of vaccines used in inoculations to date and the name of the person who administered them. Any adverse reactions should be noted.
 - b. A schedule of the dates on which the puppy or dog was wormed, the type of medication used and/or the date its stool was checked and found free of infestation. Any adverse reactions to administered wormers should be noted.
 - c. A health certificate signed by the breeder's/owner's veterinarian attesting to the animals condition and noting any serious infections, special diagnosis, surgery, etc. and certification of all inoculations administered.
 - d. If the dog is neutered or bitch is spayed, include that appropriate certificate from the veterinarian who performed the procedure.
 - e. A 72-hour health guarantee. This gives the buyer time to have the puppy or adult checked by his own veterinarian to assure its health. If the veterinarian finds any serious defect which would render the puppy or adult unfit for the purpose for which it was purchased, he should note this in writing.
5. Information on health conditions and/or problems in the Chinook breed as well as the puppies' immediate and direct family, including, but not limited to: sire, dam, all siblings and half siblings, grand dam and grandsire. It is strongly encouraged that Breeder's share all possible health information, good and bad, for their dogs with puppy owners.
6. A feeding schedule and enough of the animal's food to last several days. This can be used to tide over the new owner until the same food can be obtained, or it can be mixed with a new food to ease the transition to that food. If possible, do the same thing with the animal's water supply. A container of water replaced by that of the new owner's as it is consumed, so that the water is slowly changed may help prevent digestive upset and bladder infections that occasionally accompany a rapid change in water.
7. A booklet concerning ordinary puppy care. These are commonly available at no cost through your veterinarian or dog food company.
8. A CCA membership application to be filled out by the new owner and returned by the breeder/owner.
9. Copies of the Chinook breed history and CCA Chinook Standard.
10. Special Considerations
 - a. Any ribbons and/or trophies won by the animal.
 - b. Photos or copies of photos of the animal's parents and the same of the of the animal's early days.

- c. A favorite toy and/or piece of bedding.

B. Prices

It is not the intention of the Chinook Club of America to recommend any specific price structure for either puppy or adult Chinooks. Honesty and fairness in the Breeder-Purchaser (Seller-Buyer) relationship should prevail. The Chinook is a living, feeling creature and should be respected and treated as such. In general, prices vary with geographic area and the pedigree of the animal(s) involved. If a breeder finds that he can not obtain what he believes to be satisfactory prices he should examine his reason for breeding, breeding program, practices and the market environment for Chinooks. Economically depressed areas or those sparsely populated usually have a limit to their demand for all purebred dogs. A possible recourse for a breeder in this situation is to curtail his breeding program, spacing litters farther apart than he currently does. The price of a puppy or adult should be sufficient to reflect the fact that the new owner has made an investment in something important. On the other hand, no puppy or adult should carry an unrealistically high price tag.

General Guidelines

1. Puppies under six months of age should not be termed "show" or "breed" quality. Instead puppies in this age bracket are more appropriately referred to as "promising" or "potential". This recognizes the developmental changes many of these puppies must still go through. Puppies that do not meet the standard or have health problem and are placed without the intention of breeding should be termed "pet quality." The prices of puppies may vary depending on their quality. Often, all puppies in a litter are sold for the same monetary price but those dogs that produce offspring may be required to pay, at a later time, an additional amount of money or return a pick quality pup(s) to the breeder. Such stipulation should be clearly defined in a contract.
2. Adolescent and adult Chinooks are occasionally available from breeders and owners. These more mature Chinooks may cost more than puppies, depending on the circumstances. Their "show potential" is more fully realized than a puppy's with some already having accumulated show wins or working titles. Some Chinooks in this category are also proven sires or dams so their breeding record, exemplified by their offspring, is also more readily evaluated. Buyers interested in serious "show" or breeding stock are more likely to achieve their goals by purchasing more mature animals. Dogs placed through Rescue may be placed at a monetary cost to cover expenses accrued in care and relocation.
3. Selling or buying a male and female pair of puppies as a breeding pair is not advisable and is to be discouraged. Until they mature it is too difficult to determine if they will be an appropriate breeding match. See previous sections in reference to Stud and Brood Bitch qualities.
4. Selling or buying two puppies from the same litter is not advisable and is to be discouraged. Puppies require a great deal of individual attention and training and it is difficult for one home to provide this separately to the puppies. If this is not properly accomplished, the puppies may bond more strongly to each other rather than their owners, causing behavior problems and training difficulties.
5. Dogs or puppies with any health or temperament problems must be placed/sold with full disclosure. Stable, well-adjusted, healthy Chinooks are typical of the breed and what the average buyer expects. This type of buyer is not prepared to cope with a bad temperament, behavioral problems, or a seriously ill animal. Breeders must and should take responsible courses of action for all the animals they have bred. Breeders should be prepared to retain those animals that can not be placed, and only when medically necessary, consider humane euthanasia.
6. Giving an animal as a gift is strongly discouraged since often the animal is not really wanted or appreciated. Offering animals as prizes or promotional prizes is not only forbidden by CCA and AKC but is also illegal in many states and/or communities.
7. Adult Chinooks are occasionally available for adoption through CCA's Rescue program. This can be both a challenging and rewarding experience with great consideration taken by the new owner and the Rescue committee for proper placement. These Chinooks may be in

rescue due to behavior problems, health problems, or simply due to a change in the circumstances of the previous owner. Be prepared to give these dogs extra time, attention, affection, and training as their need to bond with the new owner may be increased.

C. Payments and Agreements

1. All transactions, including but not limited to, the breeding, sale, and transfer of ownership of a dog should be accompanied by a written contract detailing, at minimum, the price, guarantee (if any), and particular stipulations, such as breeding agreements, important to such a transaction. Contracts should be signed by both parties prior to transactions.
2. Payment should be made in cash or certified check, preferably in full, at the time of sale. A deposit may be made prior to the sale in order to show intent by breeder to sell a dog to a particular person and by the person to show serious intent to purchase. Deposit agreements should be in writing disclosing the full sales prices and refund circumstances. Failure by buyer to finalize the purchase may result in the loss of the deposit.
3. If installment payments are to be made, the terms of the agreement should be in writing, signed by both parties. Usually it is unwise to schedule payments in cash or services covering a period of more than eighteen months. If payment or partial payment is to be in puppies or stud services, then a longer time period would be reasonable.
4. If the animal is to be shipped, payment should be made and/or all agreements should be signed prior to shipping. Registration and transfer of ownership papers should be sent with the animal or prior to shipment, provided payment has been made, checks cleared, and/or all contracts signed. Breeders should include temporary registration papers or the expected time schedule for the arrival, not to exceed 6 months. NOTE: Registration papers, according to the AKC belong to the individual animals and may not be withheld pending full payment or for any other reason unless there is an agreement to the withholding signed by both the buyer and the seller.
5. Consider all the possible ramifications that a contract between buyer and seller may entail. Although buying a male with a clause entitles the breeder free use of the dog as a stud has few readily apparent problems, contracts regarding bitches may place significant future obligations upon the buyer. Buying a bitch on a contract that requires that she be bred and puppies from her remitted to her breeder places the buyer in the position of having to pay all or a significant part of the costs commonly associated with a breeding, whelping and raising a litter. These costs commonly include stud fees, veterinary examinations, artificial insemination, cost of the bitch's transportation to and from the stud owner's location, possible boarding and veterinary costs while there, puppy food for a pregnant/lactating bitch and her litter, inoculations, worming, etc. Quite frankly, this burden should be accepted by the buyer only with full knowledge of the potential costs and commitment involved.
6. Before entering into a co-ownership agreement, carefully consider the potential financial and legal obligations and ramification that you may be accepting. Co-ownership agreements vary among breeders/owners. Generally this entails paying a lower price for a puppy/dog in exchange for the other party retaining more breeding and/or ownership rights than a traditional breeding contract. All terms of a co-ownership should be carefully laid out and agreed to in writing by all parties. The AKC does not recommend the co-ownership of dogs.
7. The best advice is to have everything in writing. In contracts try to use simple, precise language clearly defining all obligations, situations, ramifications, etc., that you can possibly envision. Make certain that both parties read, understand and agree to the contract before signing it. No matter how well written the contracts, they are often difficult to enforce and expensive to pursue. Contracts with many hard to enforce stipulations should rarely be made with novices or people the breeder does not know well.

D. Returns, Replacements, Refunds

All agreements between buyer and seller regarding returns, replacements or refunds should be in writing, agreed to and signed by both parties. Wording should be clear and precise setting forth mutually accepted terms covering all foreseeable situations.

1. Returns without refunds: If possible, the breeder should be willing to accept the return of any animal which he has sold, without giving a refund and pursuant to his clearly defined right, if and as specified in the purchase agreement or contract, to retain or re-home that animal at his option.
2. Refunds or Replacements: If as specified in the purchase agreement or contract, a refund or replacement should be furnished depending on the following circumstances:
 - a. General dissatisfaction on the part of the purchaser with an animal provided it is returned in good health no later than one month after the sale.
 - b. In the case of an animal (within two weeks after the sale) that does not die but is seriously ill of an infectious disease or illness that origin of which can be determined by a qualified veterinarian to have existed at the time of the animal's sale, a suitable financial settlement should be made. The amount of the settlement should be up to, but not exceeding the purchase price paid for the animal. A veterinarian's certification of the illness and its pre-existing nature shall be necessary to return an animal under this section, and shall be supplied at the purchaser's expense. This certificate shall set forth that the veterinarian has examined that animal, and that the animal has a contagious or disabling illness rendering it unfit for the purchase and the precise findings of the veterinarian.
 - c. If a puppy originally sold as show/breeding stock subsequently is found to have serious defects or disqualification, a refund or puppy replacement, at the breeder's option, should be offered, provided that the puppy is returned to the breeder. This should be determined as soon as possible recognizing that being certified 'clear' of some defects can not occur until 12 months of age. A purchase agreement or contract between buyer and seller should address the terms and conditions under which replacements or refunds under this section are handled. Consider including a clause whereby if the owner wishes to keep the dog and have it neutered, the refund might reflect the difference between a 'pet' and 'show/breed quality' price.
 - d. In addition, any puppy that develops a serious congenital defect up to two years of age (severe hip dysplasia, dwarfism, cataracts, seizures, etc.) which may well seriously affect his quality of life should have the option to be returned to the breeder for replacement or refund. Confirmation of such defects would, of course, be sought from one or more qualified veterinarians.
3. Limitations on returns, replacements, or refunds: Sections 2b, 2c, and 2d above shall not apply where a seller (breeder), in certifying the health of the puppy or dog at the time of sale, discloses at that time the health problem for which the buyer later seeks to return the animal and adjust the purchase price at the time of sale to reflect the animals health condition.

E. Wholesale Sales

Wholesale sales are defined as any sale where the seller does not meet or have actual knowledge of the ultimate purchaser of the Chinook. Examples are consignment sale of individual puppies or entire litters to pet shops or any third party agent or broker. Sales to or through such establishments or individuals are detrimental to the breed. This type of sale is specifically prohibited by CCA and AKC.

The above is based on the uniqueness and social needs of the Chinook as a breed and the special requirements for its care. It is hoped that every breeder of Chinooks will take the time to investigate prospective owners and place each puppy in a home where it will be loved and cared for as a family member, becoming a credit to its breed, breeder, and owner.

F. Advertising

1. Advertising, whether written or oral, should be accurate, with no misleading statements or exaggerations or insinuations.
2. Advertising should be in good taste, restrained, and without derogatory remarks made or hinted concerning the methods, animals, or reputations of other breeders.
3. The terms "champion blood lines" and "true Chinook" are subject to misinterpretation, and should not be used in advertising.
4. The term "AKC FSS recordable" does not imply quality, but merely indicates that the animal may be recorded with The American Kennel Club Foundation Stock Service.

5. Well-mannered, attractive, even tempered Chinooks in suitable homes, at dog shows, or at other public places are the best possible advertisement.

RECORDS

There are various efficient methods of keeping adequate records and special books on the subject are obtainable from the AKC. All Chinook breeders are encouraged to use the official AKC Record Keeping Book to record identification of animals, dog ownership and breeding information.

LEGAL EFFECTS OF THESE GUIDELINES

The foregoing guidelines are intended to be adhered to by all members of the Chinook Club of America. They have no legal effect unless based upon local, State or Federal laws; and CCA expresses no opinion thereon. Any questions as to the legal effect of any of these guidelines should be referred to an attorney for legal opinion.

The Chinook Club of America, Inc. would like to thank the Borzoi Club of American for permission to use parts or portions of the original document "Guidelines for Breeders of Borzoi".