CHINOOK CLUB OF AMERICA

Congratulations on your new Chinook!

The Chinook Club of America (CCA) is the AKC Parent Club for the Chinook breed. This introductory information on the Chinook is provided to help you and your new companion get off to a great start.

For more complete information on the Chinook Breed, visit the CCA at: **www.chinookclubofamerica.org**

The Origin of the Chinook Breed

Polar explorer, author, dog driver and breeder Arthur Treadwell Walden began the Chinook Breed in the early 1900's in the mountainous area of Wonalancet, New Hampshire. Walden's Chinooks were a unique American Breed of sled dog that had power, endurance, and speed, along with a friendly, gentle nature, and a unique tawny color.

Form and Function

The Chinook was developed as a drafting and racing sled dog, combining the power of freighting breeds with the speed of the lighter racing sled dogs. Chinooks have an athletic build, slightly longer than tall. The bone is moderate, with males noticeably more masculine than females. The coat is close-fitting but thick and double, affording insulation without overheating. The gait appears tireless, with good reach and drive. The Chinook exemplifies a sound canine athlete in grace, muscle tone, movement, and carriage.

Temperament Traits

Chinooks are affectionate, playful and easy to train using positive methods. Unlike most sledding breeds, Chinooks tend to be reliable off-lead. They are generally good with children, other dogs and pets especially when exposed to these at an early age. Most Chinooks are friendly, outgoing and confident toward strangers though some can be reserved or shy. Chinooks are not good watchdogs, and are poor protection dogs. Although generally quiet, Chinooks can be vocal, sometimes talking, howling, or whining when excited. Chinooks are inside dogs who crave the company of their family. If left alone for extended lengths of time, Chinooks can develop separation anxiety. Many puppy owners will take their Chinook to work or have a pet sitter come to the house.

Training Tips for your Chinook

Work with your Chinook puppy when young to teach loose leash walking, as a fully grown Chinook is strong and has tons of energy and pulling power! Find a positive trainer and take some classes, as training helps form bonds and aids in socialization which is so important and must be done right! Set some training goals for you and your Chinook: make passing the AKC Canine Good Citizen Test a goal of your training and loose leash walking a success. Chinooks will jump up to be close to your face, so teach "four on the floor" starting early with your puppy. A crate will aid in housebreaking as well as provide a safe space for your puppy to be when you are not home or unable to supervise. When traveling with your Chinook in the car, the crate provides a secure area in which the puppy is able to settle down.

Activities with your Chinook

Chinooks can be very sweet and laid back, the proverbial couch potato, but they also have energy to burn and thrive on exercise, training, and play. Chinooks love to participate in all types of outdoor family activities such as hiking, camping, swimming and boating. They have a strong bond with their family and prefer to be with you for all your activities!

The Chinook has an innate ability to pull and excels at pull sports such as sledding, skijoring, bikejoring and scootering. This versatile breed also does well at dog events such as Agility, Obedience, Rally, Lure Coursing, Tracking, Barn Hunt, Nose Work, Freestyle, Therapy work and the Conformation ring. Look to your local training center, regional AKC Clubs, and local

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sled dog clubs for activities to participate in with your Chinook.

Health and your Chinook

The Chinook is a healthy, robust breed with a life expectancy of 12 to 15 and even more years. Health concerns include hip dysplasia, cryptorchidism, allergies, gastro-intestinal disorders, and seizures. Some Chinooks have an unusual form of seizure disorder called "Chinook seizures," described as a movement disorder rather than a true seizure.

The CCA strongly recommends screening for hip dysplasia and eye disease and the MDR1 gene, with additional health screenings to include thyroid, cardiac, elbow dysplasia, and patellar luxation evaluations.

For more information, visit the following health databases used by Chinook owners and breeders:

- The *Orthopedic Foundation for Animals* (OFA): **www.offa.org/**
- The *Canine Health Information Center* (CHIC): **www.caninehealthinfo.org/**

Many Parent Club members individually or collectively support health research through the AKC Canine Health Foundation—a nonprofit charitable organization whose mission is to help dogs live longer, healthier lives. Supporting the Canine Health Foundation helps ensure a healthy future for all dogs. Visit their website at: **www.akcchf.org/**

Identification for your Chinook Puppy

Did you know one in three pets go missing in their lifetime! Protect your Chinook puppy with a permanent dog identification. Opt into AKC Reunite's "Lost and Found" recovery service option available with AKC Registration. This offer includes a free AKC logo collar tag customized with the dog's AKC Registration Number and AKC Reunite's toll-free recovery service hotline number. The service also works with any brand of microchip (optional) and charges no annual fees or record update fees. For more information, call **800-252-7894** or see: **www.akcreunite.org**

Grooming your Chinook

Chinooks are a "wash and wear" breed: their plush double coat is easy to care for and requires only the occasional brushing with attention paid to their neck, fore chest and britches. Intact Chinooks have a seasonal shed twice a year, with neuter and spays shedding more often. Routine trimming of nails and teeth cleaning should be a part of the grooming of your dog.

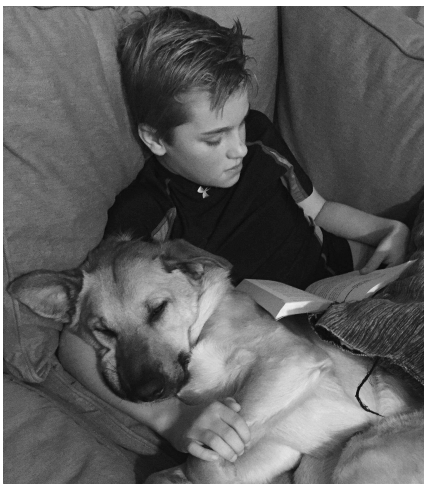
Should I breed my Chinook?

Not all dogs should be bred, especially those that have genetic problems or poor temperaments. Breeding is time-consuming, expensive and sometimes heartbreaking. If you are contemplating breeding your Chinook, please take the time to thoroughly understand the Breed and the Breed Standard, to seek out mentors in the Breed, and to devote yourself to support sound, healthy and long lives for the Chinooks you bring into the world.

Breeding is a lifetime commitment, whether you are the breeder of record or the stud dog owner. You should be prepared to take back or assist in relocation of any and all Chinook puppies that you produce.

Spay and Neuter Considerations

Spaying or neutering your Chinook is a sensible choice for some families. Please note that Dr. Jerry Klein, AKC's Chief Veterinarian Officer reports: "Due to recent studies funded by the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation, it may be prudent for the long-term health of the animal to delay spay/neuter until a dog reaches maturity as determined in conjunction with your veterinarian." Neutering or spaying will not exclude a dog from AKC Companion events such as Obedience, Rally, Tracking and Agility.



Join Us!

The Chinook Club of America promotes ethical breeding practices and participation in a variety of events, activities, and health programs for Chinooks. We would love to have you join us. For more information on how to become a CCA member, please visit our website: **www.chinookclubofamerica.org**

To find out more about purebred dogs visit the AKC website: **www.akc.org**