

# Judging the Chow Chow



**Group 7**  
**VCA Trainee Judges Program**

**Judging the Chow Chow**  
**March 2007**

Compiled by Judith-Ann Robertson  
Updated June 2011



## JUDGING THE CHOW CHOW

**FRONT COVER WATERMARK** - pen and ink drawing of UK CH Chamcroft Christmas by Mike Sibley

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## A BRIEF HISTORY

There is some debate regarding the paleontological evolution of the Chow. Some Chowists posit that the breed is descended from a species, the Hemicyon, an intermediate species that appeared between the early lupines (wolves) and early ursines (bears). Descended from the Hemicyon several million years ago was the Simicyon, an animal that varied in size between the fox and small bear and inhabited the subarctic region of what is now Siberia and Northern Mongolia<sup>1</sup>.

Some of the corresponding characteristics between Chows today and bears include the blue black tongue, broad skull and shortened muzzle, full body fur pelt, square stocky body and the 44 milk teeth (some Chows only retain 42 teeth in adulthood, bears retain a 44 tooth dentition as did both the Hemicyon and Simicyon). While some of these other features can be found in other breeds of dogs, it appears that they only appear all together in the Chow and some species of bears.

Coming forward into the future, according to current DNA research, the Chow Chow is one of the first breeds to have evolved from the grey wolf some 150,000 years ago<sup>2</sup>(along with the Huskie, Shiba and Sharpei).

At least 4,000 years ago, historical records (written and art forms) show that a dog very much like the dog we know today as the Chow was living with humans in Mongolia and Northern China.<sup>3</sup> Written Chinese chronicles from the 11<sup>th</sup> century BCE mention the 'Tartar war dog', clearly describing a "heavily built [dog], lion-like in appearance, of great strength, with plenty of harsh, bristly hair and mostly red in colour, absolutely straight back legs and blue tongue"<sup>4</sup> – undeniably unique characteristics still identifiable today.

One can safely assume that domestication and some sort of breeding program will have been undertaken well before that time. From historical records from invaded countries in Asia, Europe and the Middle East, we learn that the Mongolians used Chows extensively for herding, hunting, pulling and guarding. We also know that they accompanied the Mongolian armies, wearing leather harnesses, being capable of knocking over a normal sized man. The pictures below are of two different ceramic figurines from the Han period (206 BCE – 229 CE) showing the distinctive structural features attributable to the Chow of today.

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<sup>1</sup> Collett, CE, The Chow Chow

<sup>2</sup> Parker et al., Genetic structure of the Purebred Domestic Dog

<sup>3</sup> Irion et al, Genetic variation analysis of the Bali street dog using microsatellites

<sup>4</sup> Records from Chinese Emperor Wu Wang (ca. 1116-1122 BCE)



**FIGURE 1:** Pottery Chow from Han Dynasty circa 150 BC



**FIGURE 2:** Pottery Chow from Han Dynasty c. 200 BC  
Freer Gallery of Art, Washington DC.

While many descriptions of the history of the Chow includes the assertion that they were bred like herds of sheep for food and their fur, much of which has been attributed to tales brought back to Europe in the 13<sup>th</sup> century CE by Marco Polo, the first European to mention and describe the Chow. However, there are no such records originating in China. We do know from Chinese records that Emperors of the Tang period did keep upwards of 2500 pairs of Chows for the purposes hunting and guarding palace and temples and for use as gifts to visiting dignitaries. It is thought, too, that the large hunting kennels of Chows were also a status symbol indicating the wealth of the war lords by virtue of their ability to have so many dogs living in luxury and served the best food by their own teams of human servants.

Buddhist monasteries from Mongolia, Manchuria, China and Tibet maintained a well documented, detailed breeding program of blue Chows. Records were maintained from the 10<sup>th</sup> century until the 1960s when the monasteries

and their records and all non-essential animals were destroyed as a result of the Chinese Cultural revolution.

Nevertheless, with the exception of the monasteries and the very privileged noble houses and wealthy merchants, during times of economic and agricultural depression, the pragmatism of the Chinese people did see any animal, dogs and cats, subject to being fare for the table.

The modern day Chow first came to the West in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, brought to England by gentlemen of the East India Trading Company and are described in the Rev Gilbert White's book *Natural Histories and Antiquities of Selbourne* in which he describes the dogs of Canton as having 'hind legs are usually straight without any bend at the hock. The eyes are jet black, small and piercing, the inside of the lip and mouths the same colour and he tongues blue'. There is little doubt as to the breed he is describing.

For about 100 years, mention of the Chow is sparse, mostly brought in as curiosities. In 1865, Queen Victoria had Chows, which were kept in cages at Windsor Castle. However, the first Chow to be exhibited in the West was a black bitch named Puzzle, brought to England by Mr. WK Taunton in 1879 and who showed her at the dog show in 1880. In 1895, the first written Chow standard became the model for the first written Chow standard. In the same year, the Chow Chow Club of Britain was established.<sup>5</sup>



1865, Queen Victoria had Chows, which were kept in cages at Windsor Castle. However, the first Chow to be exhibited in the West was a black bitch named Puzzle, brought to England by Mr. WK Taunton in 1879 and who showed her at the dog show in 1880. In 1895, the first written Chow standard became the model for the first written Chow standard. In the same year, the Chow Chow Club of Britain was established.<sup>5</sup>

**Figure 3:** Chow VIII – The model for the breed standard

Shortly after this, the first Chow was sent from England to the United States and in 1906, the Chow Chow Club Incorporated was founded in the United States.

## The Naming of the Breed

There are a number of explanations for the name by which this breed is now known.

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<sup>5</sup> Collette, The Chow Chow

In Chinese, the word "chao" has the meaning of large dog of strength. The word "ao", used in some Chinese writing from the 11<sup>th</sup> century BCE also has the meaning of large strong dog.

The word for miscellaneous goods in pidgin English from the time of the East India Trading Company was "chow chow" which may have been how the first dogs were listed in the consignment lists from China.

# ***ANKC CHOW CHOW BREED STANDARD With Embellishments***

## ***THE CHOW CHOW***

Is a member of the Arctic breeds and was originally bred for hunting, pulling (heavy draft work), herding, guarding and marching with armies. It was an all purpose dog. The desirable points of the Arctic breeds used for heavy drafting, including the Chow, are as follow<sup>6</sup>:

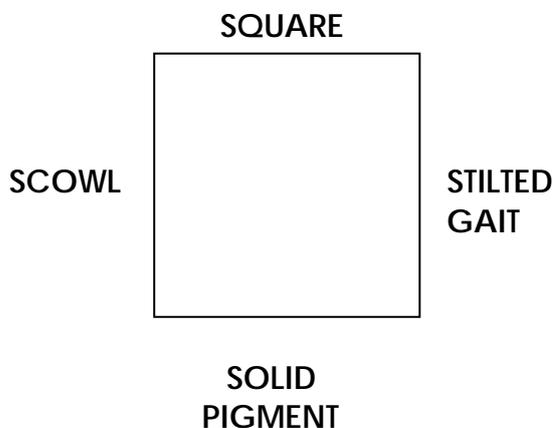
1. Heavy muscles and heavy weight
2. Relatively steep shoulder blades
3. Tendency to straight stifles and hocks
4. Shorter legs than racing dogs
5. Short, heavily muscled neck and heavy head
6. Wide in front and rear
7. Good footing – large feet
8. Dense coat that readily sheds snow
9. Well furred (plumed) tail

***GENERAL APPEARANCE*** - *An active, compact, short-coupled and well balanced dog, well knit in frame, with tail carried well over the back.*

Most Chow specialists agree that the description of the Chow should indicate that the ideal is square.

***CHARACTERISTICS*** - *A well balanced dog, leonine in appearance, with proud dignified bearing; loyal yet aloof; unique in its stilted gait and bluish-black tongue. (See also under Ears and Hindquarters.)*

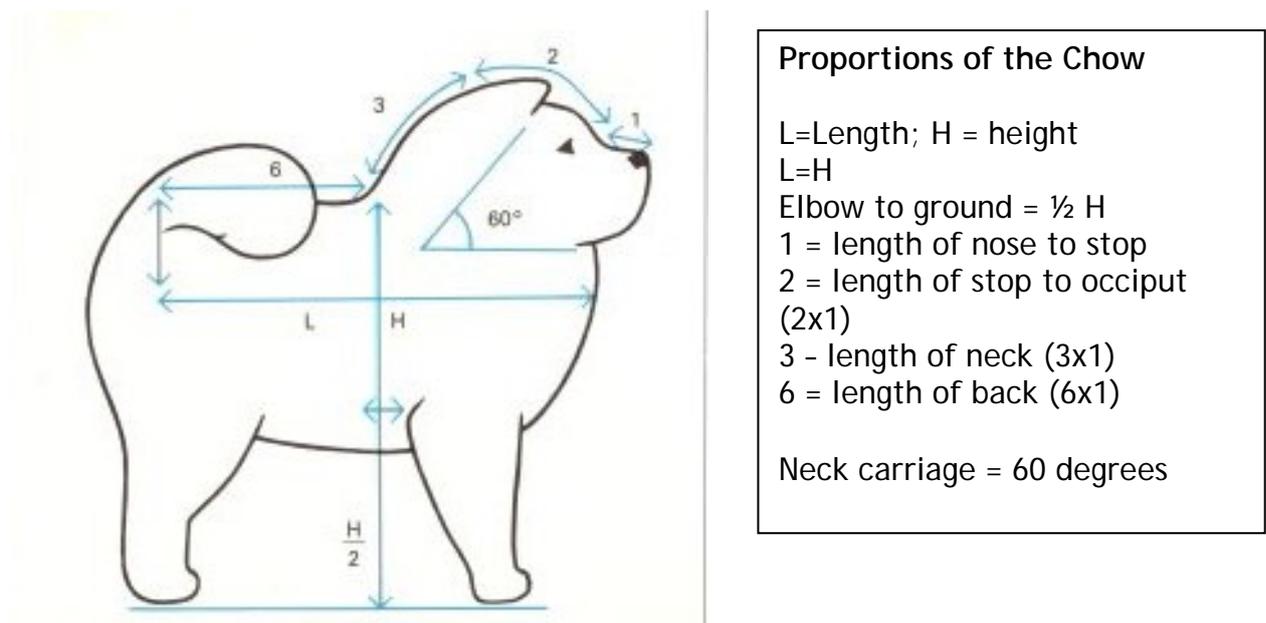
**FIGURE 4:** The four S's of the Chow Chow (Love Banghart, Rebelrun Kennels & Chow specialist, USA)



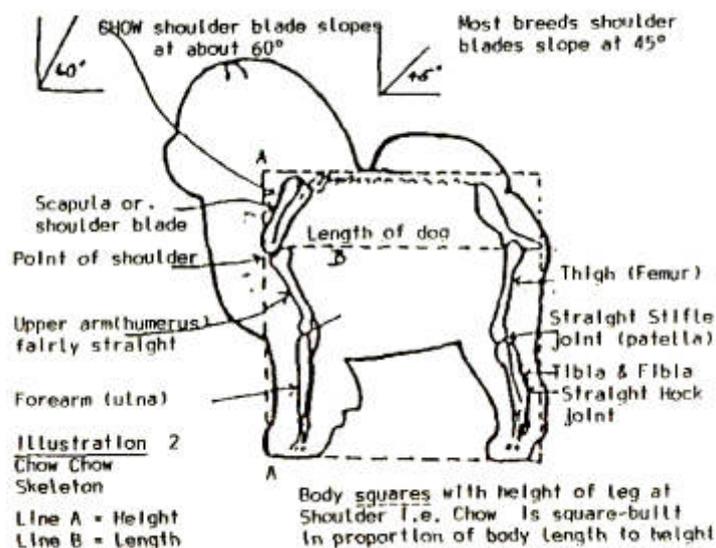
<sup>6</sup> Gilbert & Brown, K9 Structure & Terminology

The first thing that should strike you when you look at a Chow, other than it is identifiable as a Chow (and thus "typey") is the aspect of squareness. While not specified in all the various standards, a Chowist will look for the squares within the squares.

Several specialist judges (eg. Love Banghart, USA; Sam Draper, USA; Diana Phillips, UK; Mona Selbach, Norway) have recommended using a set of measures and diagrams to aid in getting the picture of the perfect Chow in one's mind.



**ILLUSTRATION 1:** Proportions of the Chow as used in the UK (Diagram courtesy of Diana Phillips)



**ILLUSTRATION 2:** Proportions of a Chow in use in N. America (Drawing courtesy Sam Draper)

One Chow that all four of the above mentioned judges agree was a superb representation of the breed was the British champion of the 70s, Ukwong King Solomon.



**UKWONG KING SOLOMON (Solly)**

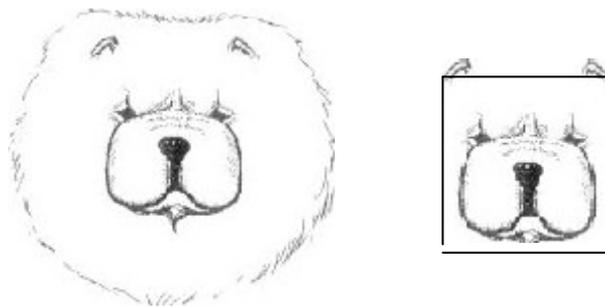


**TEMPERAMENT** - *With proud dignified bearing; loyal yet aloof.*

Aloof should not be an excuse for aggressive or fearful behaviour. However, it bears remembering that the aloofness of the Chow will lead it to be relatively unresponsive to attempts by a stranger at getting it to show animation, although it should be relatively amenable. You are just as likely to be met with a bored look as to have the Chow look away from you completely – which is in fact, animation for the breed.

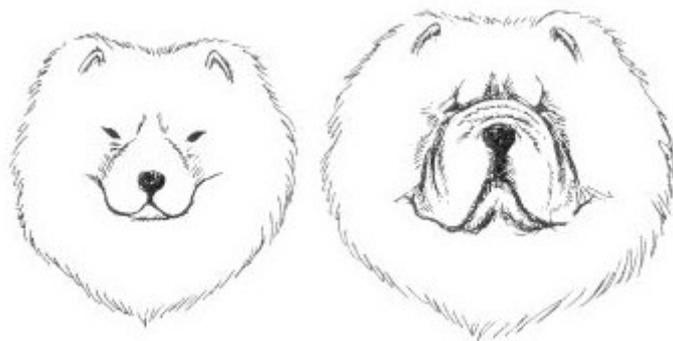
**HEAD AND SKULL** - *Skull flat and broad, with little stop, well filled out under the eyes. Muzzle moderate in length, broad from the eyes to the point (not pointed at the end like a fox). Nose black, large and wide in all cases (with the exception of cream and white in which case a light-coloured nose is permissible and in blues and fawns a self-coloured nose); but in all colours a black nose is preferable.*

While like other Spitz breeds which are mesocephalic in head structure (wedge shaped), the Chow is thought to almost be brachycephalic (short, broad head). In any case, the ideal Chow head should fit neatly into a square.



**FIGURE 5:** Correct square head and muzzle (Drawing: Kip Kopatch, "The Complete Chow Chow", copyright 1986.)

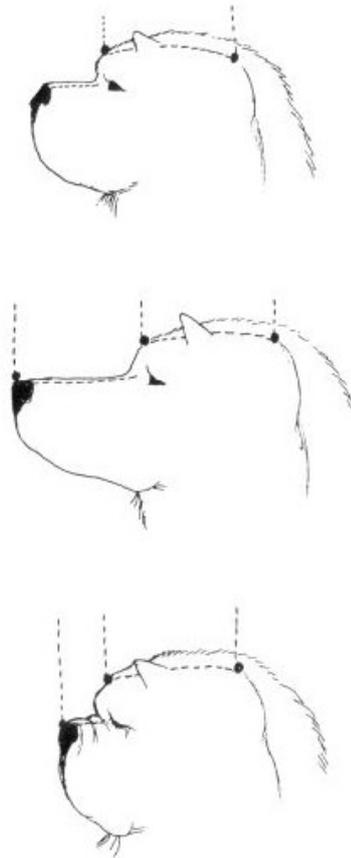
**The muzzle is square** - when you look at the muzzle, it should be equally wide as it is long. It should be moderate though padded but not so much that the vision of the dog is obscured.



**FIGURE 6:** On the head to the left, we see a muzzle that falls away under the eyes. On the head to the right, the muzzle is overly padded and begins to obscure the eyes. Neither lends to an appearance of square. (Drawing: Kip Kopatch, "The Complete Chow Chow", copyright 1986.)

Furthermore, the muzzle should be approximately 1/3 the length of the head, from nose to occiput (see the above proportions by Diana Phillips page 6).

The stop itself is moderate in length, again approximately 1/3 the full length of the head and you should be able to feel a groove between the Chow's eyes. This structure partly lends to the distinctive scowl.



**FIGURE 7:** The muzzle is short in comparison with the length of the top skull, neither equal to (centre picture) nor less than 1/3 the head length (lower) (Drawing: Kip Kopatch, "The Complete Chow Chow", copyright 1986.).

**EYES** - *Dark and small, preferably almond-shaped (in blue or fawn dog a light colour is permissible).*



**FIGURE 8:** The moderately sized, almond shaped eyes (left) set widely apart and oblique are what is sought; the large round eyes (centre) and the down turned eyes (right) detract from the proper expression. (Drawing: Kip Kopatch, "The Complete Chow Chow", copyright 1986.)



**FIGURE 9:** Faults of the eye include entropion (left eye) in which the eyelid rolls in and ectropion (right eye) in which the eyelid rolls out. However caution is urged when looking at eyes, particularly in assessing for entropion as a Chow can have wet eyes unrelated to a fault in the eyelids. (Drawing: Kip Kopatch, "The Complete Chow Chow", copyright 1986.)



**FIGURE 10:** A head with incorrect muzzle and eyes. (Drawing: Kip Kopatch, "The Complete Chow Chow", copyright 1986.)

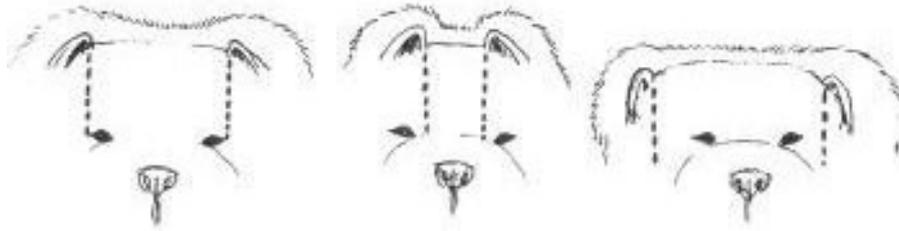
**EARS** - *Small, thick, slightly rounded at the tip, carried stiffly erect but placed well forward over the eyes and wide apart, which gives the dog the peculiar characteristic expression of the breed, viz., a scowl.*



**FIGURE 11:** The ears on the left are the correct shape and with the desired tilt forward. The centre ears are drop ears and the right ears are broken at the tip. Neither of the latter two is correct. (Drawing: Kip Kopatch, "The Complete Chow Chow", copyright 1986.)

The width between the ears should be sufficient to allow an imaginary 3<sup>rd</sup> ear to sit in the middle. The ears should sit on top of the head and you should be

able to draw a line straight down from the inside corner of the ear to the outside corner of the eye.



**FIGURE 12:** The left set of ears show the ideal placement of ears on top of the head and in alignment with the eyes. The central set of ears is too close together while the ears on the right are too far apart. (Drawing: Kip Kopatch, "The Complete Chow Chow", copyright 1986.)



(Photo: S Chinnery)

It is worth noting that the Chow has the ability to move each ear independently and can "fly" their ears, placing them in unflattering and seemingly awkward positions, usually whilst on the stack and being looked at by a judge. It is not unusual in a Chow that is extremely relaxed, tired or unwell being seen to have its ears in the position of the dog to the left. However, if in getting the dog's attention, the ears fail to come up, these would be incorrect.

When held correctly, the ears also lend to the characteristic scowl of the Chow.

***MOUTH*** - Teeth strong and level, giving scissor bite. Tongue bluish black. Flews and roof of mouth black. Gums preferably black.



**FIGURE 13:** Pigmentation of the entire mouth should be solid (Photo: Diana Phillips).

**NECK** - *Strong, full, set well on the shoulders and slightly arched.*

The length of the neck should be approximately the same length as the head (see proportions on page 6 above), with sufficient arch to allow the head to be held up in a dignified manner.

**FOREQUARTERS** - *Shoulders muscular and sloping. Forelegs perfectly straight, of moderate length, with good bone.*

While the ANKC standard quoted above "Shoulders muscular and sloping," if one peruses treatises on canine structure and movement (see for example, Gilbert & Brown's "K9 Structure & Terminology" or Robert Cole's "An Eye for a Dog"), it is clear that a Chow does not and cannot 'reach out' in front as many other breeds do. Further, the drive seen in a Chow is very different from that of other breeds. In studying the Chow Chow in Illustration 2 above, it's apparent that the Chow's shoulders are not laid-back or sloping at the so-called 45 degree perfect angle called for in many other breeds.

The measured length of withers to elbow should be equal to elbow to ground. The upper arm length should also be of a similar or equal length (neither much longer or shorter) as the shoulder blade. The lay of shoulder should be moderately steep rather than "well laid back", in keeping with a pulling, marching structure found in most Spitz breeds<sup>7</sup>.

According to Dr JoAnne S O'Brien, DVM, one of the foremost Chow breeders and specialist judges in the United States, as well as agreed to by most other Chow specialists, the sloping shoulder of the Chow should be about 60 degrees which is only 30 degree from being completely straight or parallel to the dog's front. The relatively straight upper arm or humerus as well as the rather straight shoulder, tend to co-ordinate and balance with the straight stifle and hock

**BODY** - *Chest broad and deep. Back short, straight and strong. Loins powerful.*

The Chow should appear to have a square, solid front. The measurement of the withers to the ground should be equal as the length from point of shoulder to rear of haunch. In turn, the length of the body should be approximately twice the length of the neck. (See proportions on page 6)

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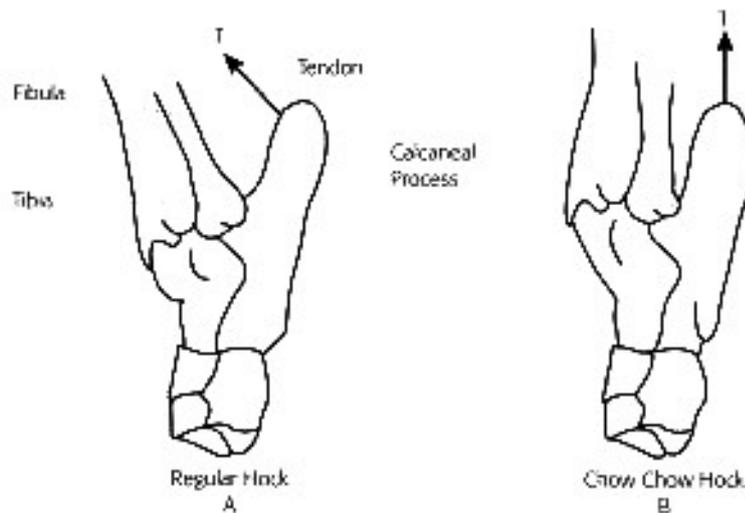
<sup>7</sup> Gilbert & Brown, K9 Structure & Terminology



**FIGURE 14:** The forechest should have breadth and width, with moderate extension to the forechest. Neither a narrow or sunken chest is ideal nor is an extremely wide chest. You should be able to easily place the flat of your hand between the front legs. (Photo: Diana Phillips)

**HINDQUARTERS** - Hindlegs muscular and hocks well let down and perfectly straight which are essential in order to produce the Chow's characteristic gait.

The rear view of a Chow should appear to be square and solid and in balance to the front.



**FIGURE 15:** Physiological differences between most canine hock joints and that of the Chow. (Drawing courtesy of E. M. Gilbert Jr., K-9 Structure & Terminology, Copyright 2001, www.gilbertk9.com)

To see the correct placement of the rear assembly, the Chow should be stacked in a “natural manner” such as can be seen in the next photo of the 2006 Westminster BOB shortlist.



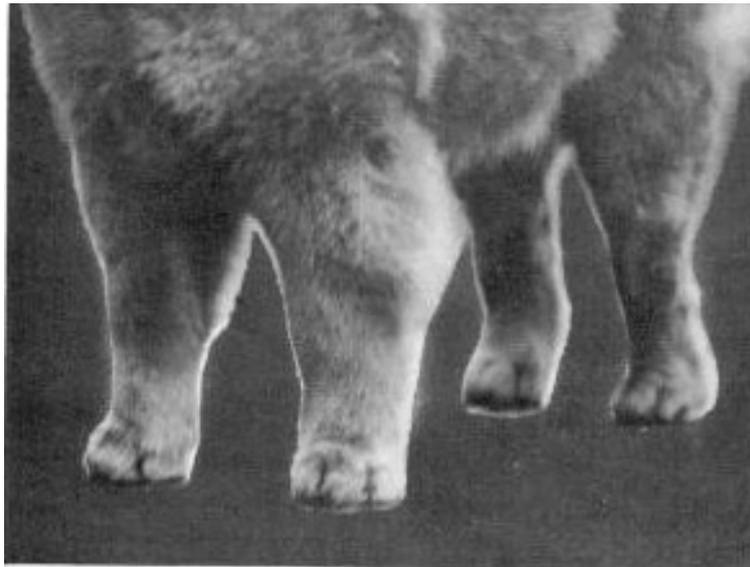
Westminster 2006: Natural stack clearly seen in first and last dogs.  
(The dog to the far right won BOB, the black was RU) (Photo: Wendy Reyn)

However, you will find that many exhibitors will stack their Chow incorrectly, resulting in something similar to what we see below:



All that is necessary in a case like this is to have the handler bring the Chow forward a step or two.

*FEET - Small, round and catlike, standing well on the toes.*



**FIGURE 16:** Feet round and cat-like. (Photo: Diana Phillips)

*TAIL - Set high and carried well over the back.*



**FIGURE 17:** The power and strength of the rump and thigh muscles give a level croup (left & centre), leading to a proper tail set. The steeper tail set seen on the right is incorrect. (Drawing: Kip Kopatch, "The Complete Chow Chow", copyright 1986.)

*GAIT/MOVEMENT - Unique stilted gait.*

A dog with a well angulated front and rear can cover ground with what is generally termed as "reach and drive". Since the Chow has a straight stifle and hock, without the usual bend of stifle and has a steep lay of shoulder, the Chow cannot cover the ground that a dog can that is well-angulated in the front and rear.

The Chow gaits just like other dogs insofar as they should move at a proper trot rather than being walked quickly. The slower the trot the more perpendicular to the ground and in parallel should the front and rear legs move. However, with a somewhat faster trot, the both sets of legs will start to camber / gradually angle inward.

The restriction of movement means that you are less likely to see a convergence of the front and rear feet centrally under the body. This is illustrated in this picture of the 2006 Westminster BOB winner – this photo shows the dog on the move with its handler. It is obvious the handler is moving sufficiently enough to see a trot like movement. Thus the placement of the feet is fairly typical of a Chow on the trot.



2006 Westminster Dog Show – Chow Chow BOB, Ch Poling's La Belle Monique, bitch  
Photo: Wendy Reyn

**COAT** - *Abundant, dense, straight and stand-off. Outer coat rather coarse in texture and with a soft woolly undercoat. The Chow Chow is a profusely coated dog and balance should therefore be assessed when the coat is at its natural length.*

The Chow coat should be abundant and dense. This does not mean long like a Samoyed. Characteristics of the coat include being straight and off standing and somewhat coarse in texture, although the males will have a more coarse coat to the touch than the bitch. There should be a soft, woolly undercoat, which gives the denseness as well as lending to the off-standing quality of the outer coat.

**COLOUR** - *Whole coloured black, red, blue, fawn, cream or white, frequently shaded but not patches or parti-coloured (the underpart of tail and back of thighs frequently of a light colour).*

The Chow coat may be any clear colour, solid throughout, with lighter shading on ruff, tail, and breechings. There is some debate about the actual occurrence of a pure white Chow; rather it is thought that the cream may vary in colour from a pale apricot to nearly pure white.

In blacks and blues, the “feel” of the outer coat may have a more “silky” feel; however, there should still be a quality of coarseness to the outer coat, as well as being off-standing.

The Smooth Chow Chow should have the same woolly undercoat, harsh texture and dense outer coat as the rough variety, but the Smooth’s outer coat is shorter and gives a sleeker appearance. There should be no obvious ruff or feathering on legs and tail.

It does bear noting that with the rough coat, it can come in a variety of lengths from shorter (almost like a smooth) to longer. The shorter is differentiated from the smooth by the presence of a mane, plume on the tail, feathers on the front legs and breeches on the rear.

Either a black or a blue with some rusting should not be penalised as this is a natural occurrence as the coat changes. However, a black with excessive rust is another matter.



**Black rough** puppy with silver shading (shoulders and breeches) – note small amount of rust on the beard.



**Blue smooth**



**Shaded Red rough**



**Self Red smooth**

The Chow coat should not be trimmed except for a neatening of the feet and some plucking of excess wispy hairs around the head. The dog in the Shaded Red Rough picture has been trimmed causing the visual effect made by the head piece to be thrown out of balance.



**Fawn rough** - note that the overall length of coat is quite moderate.



**Cream rough** - note the light apricot shadings (Photo: Vancie Drew)

### **INCORRECT COLOURS**

The following pictures are of pure bred Chows with very incorrect colouring:



This puppy died at seven months



A well loved black & red pet.



A smooth brindle

**SIZE** - *Minimum height for Chows to be 45.7cm (18 ins) but in every case balance should be the outstanding feature and height left to the discretion of the judges.*

**Note:** There is no height maximum in the standard. However, there is general agreement that the Chow is a "medium-sized" breed, so excessive height (e.g., over 24 inches, which is the highest height mentioned for most medium Arctic breeds), would be undesirable.

**FAULTS** - *Drop ears. Tongue splashed or patchy. Off black noses except in the colours specified, viz., creams, whites, blues or fawns. Tail not carried over the back. Any artificial shortening of the coat which alters the natural outline or expression of the dog should be penalised. Parti-coloured.*

**NOTE** - *Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. The Standard of the smooth variety is identical with the above except that the coat is smooth.*

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*The World of the Chow.* Dr. Samuel Draper and Joan McDonald Brearley 1992.

## Personal Correspondence:

Love Banghart, Rebelrun Kennels (Chows), AKC Specialist Judge Chows & Keeshonden

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Diana Phillips, Chanoyu Chows, UK – UK Specialist Judge: Chows

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Ashley Reid, ANKC & FCI All breeds judge (Australia)

Dr. Joanne O'Brien, DVM (USA)

Love Banghart, AKA Judge & Chow specialist (USA)

Paul Odenkirchen, CKC judge & Chow specialist (Canada)

## APPENDIX A

### *Judging of the Chow Chow*

by Specialist Judge - Dr Samuel Draper (USA)

November 2004

*A bit of background on the author: Dr Draper is also an all-breeds judge that has extensive judging experience internationally. He is a foundation member of the Society for Preservation of the Smooth Chow Chow in the USA & is recognised internationally as a doyen of the Chow Chow.*

#### **The Complete Chow Chow - An overview for the judge and breeder. by Dr Samuel Draper**

When I first judged Chow Chows in the spring of 1971, I was examining the first class of senior puppies. When I kept feeling the dog's ears, unattractively big, incorrectly placed and somewhat floppy, the exhibitor smiled: "Oh, I'm so glad you like this puppy's ears. You know, I specialise in big ears!" As I swallowed hard, she retorted: "You realize of course, that big ears are hard to breed." At that moment, and on many occasions since, I have seen evidence that some judges and breeders have become overly occupied with - if not obsessed by - certain aspects of Chow Chow anatomy and/or exterior and never quite see the dog in its entirety.

To state the problem in different words: some judges and breeders of Chows either ignore or exaggerate some serious faults or likewise minimise or overemphasize important strengths. Both procedures are faulty and inconclusive whether one is judging or breeding Chows or any other dogs. Rather one must evaluate the all-over dog, in this case, the all-over Chow, indeed, the complete Chow.

What I wish to accomplish here is an overview for the judge and breeder, emphasizing the complete Chow by means of looking briefly at his anatomical structure and his outward picture by means of illustrations. Reflecting for a moment on that episode involving the exhibitor with the senior puppy with poorly placed ears, I wish I could report that I had quipped in reply: "I congratulate you madam, on turning liabilities into assets!" But instead, I remained diplomatically silent, confident that she had never read the Chow Standard, which calls for small ears, placed wide apart on the top of the skull. Fortunately this woman is no longer in Chows or in any breed!

First a brief look should be given to Illustration 1 which shows the skeletal make-up of the Standard Schnauzer, specifically, but which demonstrates as well the bone structure of most breeds generally. The drawing shows a dog whose shoulders are well laid-back, so to speak, the shoulders sloping well forward to the point where they join the upper arm, forming as nearly as possible a right angle when seen from the side. In other words, the angle that

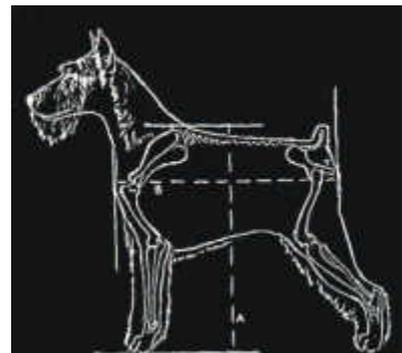
the scapula (shoulder blade) forms with the humerus (upper arm) is close to a right angle. The shoulder blade represents about a 45-degree angle. Notice that the upper arm is about the same length as the shoulder blade. In the rear, this breed has slanting thighs (the femur) well bent at the stifle joint (true knee or patella). This angulation will provide a good reach, which will co-ordinate the dog's movement in front.

Because of the well laid-back shoulders and upper arm of sufficient length, the dog's reaching in front will co-ordinate with the dog's strong drive in the rear.

### Illustration 1:

#### How height and length are measured in the dog.

Height is measured from a point horizontal with the withers straight down to the ground (line A). Length is measured from point of shoulder to point of buttock (line B).



Reproduced by permission.

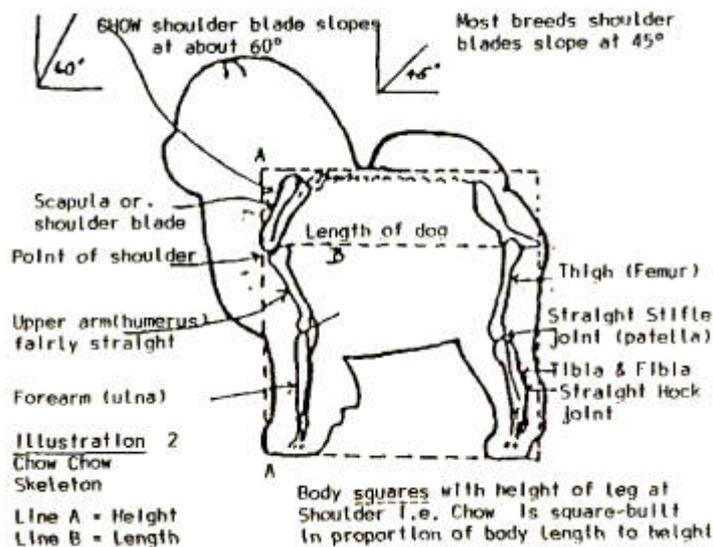
From "Illustrated Discussion of the Miniature Schnauzer Standard", drawing by Loraine L Bush

Also of importance here is the manner in which most dogs' heights and lengths are measured. The height is measured from a point horizontal with the withers, straight down to the ground (Line A). The length is measured from the point of shoulder (Line B). What these proportions indicate is that in this dog - and in most breeds the height squares with the length of body. This idea is meant when one hears that a dog is square. The Standard Schnauzer Standard reads: "Square built" as well. Likewise the Dobermann Standard explains: "The appearance is that of a dog of medium size with a body that is square." and the Boxer is also a square. So it is with many dogs.

Furthermore understanding this idea of the square dog will be helpful when judging and breeding the Chow. The Chow is a square dog. (See Illustration 2). The American Chow Standard reads "Body squares with the height of leg at shoulder." This squareness should be stressed repeatedly. A chow that is not square is a dog that is too long in body for his height. Or to indicate the same thing in different words: his legs are too short for the length of his body. Every Chow Standard in the world today defines the Chow as square, in that the body squares with the height at shoulder. Unfortunately, some judges and breeders do exist that ignore - indeed shut their eyes to this important attribute of the Chow - **his squareness**.

In studying the Chow Chow in Illustration 2 further, one sees that the Chow's shoulders are not well laid-back or sloping as most breeds' shoulders are. The Chow Standard points out "Shoulders muscular, slightly sloping." If one knows dog structure and movement, it is clear that a chow does not 'reach out' in front as most breeds do. Since the Chow has a straight stifle and hock,

without the usual bend of stifle, the Chow cannot cover the ground that a dog can that is well-angulated in the front and rear. The slightly sloping shoulder of the Chow should be about 60 degrees according to most Chow specialists, including Dr JoAnne Schmidt O'Brien, whose Linnchow Kennels were well known in the thirties and forties and whose association with the Pandee Kennels today puts her in the forefront of knowledgeable breeders. Of course, a 60 degree angle for the shoulders or scapula is only 30 degree from being completely straight or parallel to the dog's front. The relatively straight upper arm or humerus as well as the rather straight shoulder, tend to co-ordinate and balance with the straight stifle and hock



in the rear. In short, the Chow tends to be somewhat straight in the front and quite straight in the rear.

Because of these anatomical facts, the Chow moves in a stilted manner, not in a smooth or steady gait nor a flowing one such as the gaits of the Dalmatian or Bichon Frise to cite but two examples. Although the Standard does not clarify this completely, the Chow not only has straight hocks but straight stifle joints as well with the tibia bones being as nearly straight as well. The Standard says only a few words in regard to gait, 'unique in it's stilted gait' in other words, a gait which is completely individual to the Chow Breed and which is short and stilted because of the straight hocks. See Illustration 2.

Another area of concern today among the best Chow judges and breeders is the problem of the patella or knee joints where the femur joins the tibia and fibia, or to put it another way, the problem concerns the knee joints or the bend of stifle. Have another look at Illustration 2. Some judges and breeders pay too little attention to a rubbery slipping knee-cap or patella that contributes to a swerving, rubbery, defective movement that is not correct. Some Chows back legs are so wobbly from a slipping knee-cap hat the dog cannot put sufficient weight on his rear legs in order to walk around the ring.

Some uninformed observers of our breed have been heard to remark about such rear action: "Oh, well, nobody understands Chow movement anyway. What difference does it make?" If a Chow has a subluxated patella or lipped knee-cap, the Chow is not a healthy dog, nor can he move correctly. One can feel the difference between a normal knee-cap and a lipping, sliding patella. The correct patella or stifle joint feels solid and muscular, this incorrect one like sliding jelly! The next idea concerns the correct placement of the Chow's ears. The Standard asserts in regard to ears "Small, thick, slightly rounded at the tip, carried stiffly erect, but placed well forward over the eyes and wide apart" (AKC disqualification: Drop ear or ears. A drop ear is one which is not stiffly carried or stiffly erect, but which breaks over at any point from it's base to it's tip.) See illustration 5 A. A small ear is a small ear and means only a small ear. Recently, one participant in a Chow Symposium given by Dr O'Brien, in regard to breeding chows, sponsored by the Chow Chow Club of Greater New York, asked her the following: "What do you mean by small ears? What is small?" "In breeding Chows for fourteen generations," Dr O'Brien pointed out "I've never seen an ear which was too small, have you?" Her reply was almost repartee, humorous yet, but directly to the point. (no pun intended).



Many Chows today have big ears which tend often to be loose, often floppy, not broken over at any point, however a broken ear is not what is being alluded to here. It is the large ear that is not always erect, but sometimes loose and pushed back, not stiffly carried or erect. Often these ears tend to be placed on the side of the head, not on top of the skull which is proper (See Illustration 5 B).

See Illustration 5B These ears are too large and are set on the side of the dog's head. Ear set as pictured in 3 B is a common fault which handlers and exhibitors try to cover up or minimise by pulling the Chow's lead up lightly to push the big offending ears higher on the top of the head. In looking further, one sees in Illustration 3C that the ears are obviously set too close together on top of the skull, being slightly too pointed as well, giving a frightened "rabbit-like" look. Illustration 3A represents the correct ear placement. In discussing this appropriate ear set with Percy Whittaker of Great Britain, Henk van der

Wouw of the Netherlands, Paul Odenkirchen of Canada and Prudence Baxter of the United States, all important, eminent authorities on the Chow, they are in complete agreement - their consensus about ear placement is as follows: the outer edge or left extremity of the left eye should align itself with the inside edge of the left ear. (One's orientation is facing the Chow). Then of course, it follows that the right extremity of the right eye would align itself with the inside edge of the right ear. See illustration 3A in which the dotted line indicates the correct alignment as described above.

Illustration 4 depicts a beautiful Chow head, representing what the majority of breeders are producing today in this country, in Canada, Europe and to some extent in England although the English head tends to have fewer wrinkles over the eyes, which are not as deep set as those shown in Illustration 4. (Since most breeders and judges recognise the proper head as illustrated here or only slight deviations from that pictured in Illustration 4, no more time will be taken up with the head per se.)

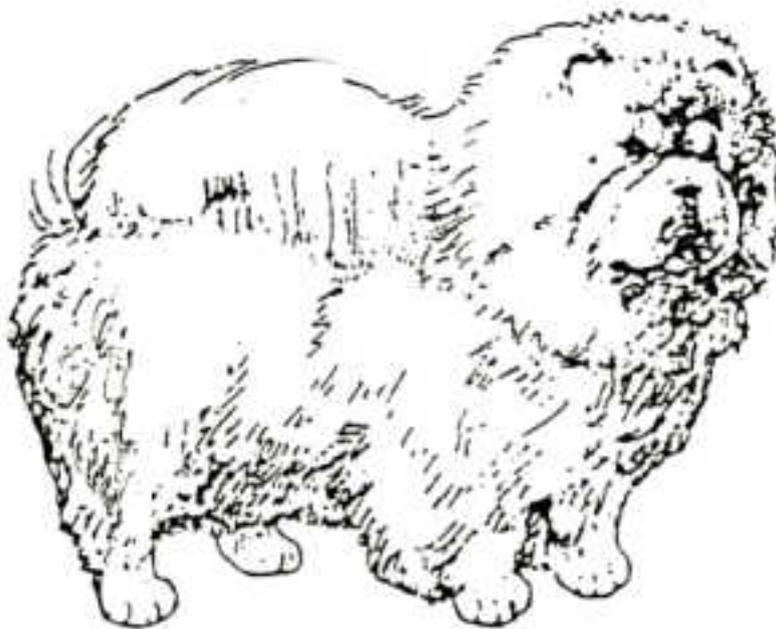
However, one of the most dramatic reasons for writing this evaluation does concern some judges and breeders tendencies to over emphasize the importance of a Chow's head. We have all heard that the Chow is a "Head breed" so that if he has a big, magnificent head with lots of wrinkles, deep set eyes, he is a great Chow. NONSENSE! A great Chow or even let us say a correct Chow, or a Chow that is deserving of some winning, must have a big, beautiful head, granted, but he must have much more as well! THE OVERALL VIEW OF A CHOW, IS ONE OF SPLENDID PROPORTIONS, and BALANCE, a SQUARE Chow, not a rectangular one. Quite often some strikingly handsome Chow heads are walking around, nearly on their heads alone, a grotesque sight, for they have insufficient leg to balance with the length of body. Of course, a magnificent head is desirable, but a good Chow must be sound, he must be well-balanced; he must have the correct ear set, the correct dark eye, the requisite blue-black tongue and pigment; he must move with stilted gait, being straight hocked and stifled; he must form a complete picture of harmony and balance, a perfect square of handsomeness. The complete Chow Chow must be considered. Additionally, Illustration 5 shows a short legged or long-backed Chow or one that is not balanced in that his height at the shoulders makes a rectangle not a square. According to most authorities in the world, a short-legged Chow is a deformed Chow. The correct Chow should resemble the Arctic breeds more closely than it does a Basset Hound!

Illustration 4:



An Ideal Head

Illustration 5: UNBALANCED CHOW. Legs too short and/or body too long



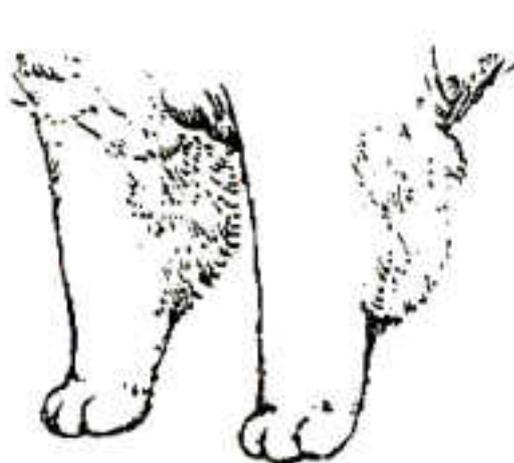
The appropriate Chow front is demonstrated in Illustration 6A. The Standard reads "Shoulders muscular and sloping. Forelegs perfectly straight, of moderate length and with good bone. Chest broad and deep." A narrow chest is a serious fault. The elbows, the upper part of the front legs, should be close to the chest, not under the body, but fitting right against the body. The chest is not only broad, wide from left to right, but it must be well let down from top to bottom. The chest should drop down certainly to the fiddle of the elbows. The Chow is a 'barrel' chested dog, that is, he has well sprung ribs.

The well-sprung Chow, as in all dogs, is ascertained by the horizontal distance the rib runs out from the backbone at the top of the back, before the rib slopes downward. If the rib does not extend far out, the Chow is narrow chested or flat chested. THE CHOW SHOULD NEVER BE NARROW-CHESTED. See Illustration 6B. However, no knowledgeable breeder or judge will credit a fat dog as being wide chested. As to the Chow's forelegs, the standard is specific in demanding perfectly straight, good boned appendages of moderate length.

The front legs measured from the elbows to the ground (the elbow joint is that which joins the forearm or ulna with the upper arm or humerus) should be about HALF THE HEIGHT OF THE DOG measured from the top of the shoulder to the ground. Front straight legs means that the legs should be as closely parallel to each other as possible. See illustration 6A once more. Because the chest must be broad, especially in the brisket, the front legs of the Chow should NOT be close together. Front legs should be straight and parallel and have plenty of space between them. Almost as important for the front legs to be straight, the pasterns should be as straight as possible. Straight pasterns give the Chow an "up on its toes" appearance when viewed from the front.

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**Illustration 6A: Correct Front**



**Illustration 6B: Poor Front**



In regard to the correct straight hock and stifle joint and admirable - high tail set, illustration 7A demonstrates these points accurately. The Standard explains, "The tail set high and carried well over back". Illustration 7B gives an example of the poor tail set and shows a tail that is carried too high on the back as well. The tail should lie FLAT on the back. A low tail carriage, of course, make the Chow look longer backed than perhaps he is. The same illustration also demonstrates what is meant by too much bend of stifle and too much bend of the hock joint. Neither is correct.

Finally the last drawing, Illustration 8, shows the IDEAL CHOW. Massive, cobby, powerful, active and alert, this chow demonstrates strong muscular development and perfect balance. His head is broad and flat with a short, broad, deep muzzle, accentuated by a ruff. He is supported by straight, strong legs. His coat is abundant and dense, straight and off-standing, coarse in texture. The Chow's head is large and massive in proportion to the size of the dog, and has a broad, flat skull, well-filled under the eyes. His head is proudly carried. He is dignified, lordly, scowling, discerning and sober, exuding an inscrutable air of oriental independence, indeed he is a masterpiece of beauty, dignity and untouched naturalness.



Illustration 8 THE IDEAL CHOW CHOW  
Beautiful balance and  
harmony of proportions

To summarize, one's ability to judge and breed Chows in a successful manner is related to one's perceptions of the whole Chow, the entire dog, the COMPLETE Chow Chow. To contemplate the concept in terms of human

beauty - isn't a dog show a contest of beauty? One recognises that the most beautiful women and handsome men in today's society are often said to be professional models. Aren't they judged according to an overview, a complete picture? Just because a woman has luxurious hair or well shaped legs, she may not be suited to do modelling for she may be short-necked or obese. Likewise, a man who possesses muscular shoulders and arms and striking eyes may be ill-proportioned as to his height and weight and shape of face. These latter characteristics making him ill-suited to being considered a man of near perfection in physical beauty. Certainly an overview is essential both in the animal realm and in human life in regard to physical handsomeness. Beauty and harmony are a matter of balance and proportions, taking into consideration every aspect of the splendid human being and comely Chow Chow. Are we not talking about the ideas that the total or entirety is greater than the sum of its individual parts? Yes, we are, and the complete Chow Chow is what breeders and judges should be concerned with.

To sum up, it is important to stress again that it is the entire Chow, the complete animal that is of concern here. The most important part of a Chow's total picture is his balance, his squareness which has been stressed throughout this article. I must again refer you to Illustration 1 showing the squareness of the Schnauzer and Illustration 2 showing that of the Chow. Although the drawing of the Chow's anatomy is not professional, nor is it an exact rendering of the Chow's skeleton - would that each of us had a bit more of the artist in him or her - it was included for two reasons mainly: first, to demonstrate how to measure a Chow's squareness and secondly to suggest that the Chow is straighter in the shoulder blade and in the upper arm and in the stifle and hock joints than most other breeds such as the Schnauzer for example. The drawing is meant to be a means only to understand the Chow's squareness and his straightness in front and rear, both ideas made very explicit in the Official Standard. It was never meant to represent an actual Chow skeleton - per se - only a suggestive drawing to assist us in a better understanding of the Chow's anatomy. In showing the drawing of the Schnauzer and the Chow skeleton to an eminent biologist and canine anatomist, he volunteered that the drawings were correct enough and quite suitable for purposes of illustration of this article.

As to whether a Chow is square or whether he is straight hocked in the hind legs is NOT a matter of conjecture or of interpretation. These are FACTS as stated in the Chow Standard.

Last summer, during a Chow symposium held in Connecticut, a member of the audience asked the following, after having heard virtually the same presentation of ideas as this article illustrates: "Isn't it just your opinion that a Chow should be square and that his shoulders and hind legs are straighter than most breeds?" And in the same breath, before I had an opportunity to respond, he grumbled something like: "I know some Chow breeders who

think their short-legged Chows are correct - and they like them better than the square kind, I guess I'll just make up my own mind." My answer was that the official Standard of the Chow Chow should make up our minds for us, the Standard is clear, it states facts about the Chow and such have been followed in this essay. To state that one will make up his own mind about what is correct in the Chow is nonsense. The Standard tells us the fact of what a correct Chow is like. To make up one's own mind is a concept that simply confirms the 'egotism' of the person involved. To question the Chow's squareness or any facts stated in the Standard is comparable to questioning the scientific truth that the sun is the centre of the universe (demonstrated by Copernicus in 1543)! Although some egotists would prefer to believe that the earth is the centre of the universe! (a non-scientific idea held by Ptolemy of Alexandria) because this position is more flattering to the self-important egotist, such a belief is closer to medieval superstition than modern science or truth.

Truth is truth and it exists outside the individual's liking or acceptance of such truth. The Chowist who wishes to judge and breed Chows which are correct in their totality and completeness must adhere to the objective truth and facts of the OFFICIAL CHOW CHOW BREED STANDARD.

*Unless specifically stated, extracts from the Official Standard used in the article have been changed to conform to the UK/FCI Standard as accepted by KUSA .... Ed*

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This article was written in 2004 for the Chow Chow Club of Gauteng, South Africa, which has made it available via their website <http://chowclubsa.tripod.com/Draper.html>

## APPENDIX B

### *Judging of the Chow Chow* by Specialist Judge - Diana Phillips, UK

*A bit of background on the author:*

*"Born into Chows", she started seriously showing in the late 1940's, early 1950's. Her judging career started in 1963; she has judged many Championship shows, including the prestigious Crufts Show. She has judged CACIB shows from France all through to Russia and also a Championship Show in Canada. She is actively involved in the training of Chow judges in the UK. She has written the book, "A dog owner's guide to the Chow Chow" which is out of print now, but still available on E-Bay. She visited South Africa in the early 1980's. Two of her bitches were exported to South Africa - Chanoyu Kwan Yin - Open Bitch winner at the 1979 Open Show as well as Chanoyu Princess Victoria - BOS at the Chow Club's first Open Show in 1979 with 58 Chows present. 1980 she topped it with BIS at the Open Show.*

When dog judging first began, it became obvious that there must be some kind of framework upon which to make decisions. So, one by one, standards for the various breeds were drawn up, usually by the parent club of the breed. The first ever Chow standard was drawn up by the committee of the Chow Chow Club (UK) in 1895/6. Since then there have been revisions both to clarify the wording and also to improve any points relating to the health of the Chow. The FCI standard is based on the British one and was updated to match the current UK one in 1999. As both standards are written in terminology which applies to all breeds, it becomes important to be able to interpret much of the wording in the light of what is meant for the Chow. A standard is an agreed picture in words of an ideal specimen of the breed. The exact replica of the standard has never yet been born but we should all try to get as near it as possible.

The standard asks for an active dog. The Chow should be fit enough to move at a brisk pace and not amble along in the show ring. It is essential that the Chow is well-balanced. This should not be confused with size. It means that every part must be in proportion with every other part ... e.g. the head neither too big nor too small, legs not too short nor too long, bone neither too slight nor too heavy. A balanced Chow fits roughly into squares... his head fits neatly into a square, he has a solid square front, the rear view is solid and square and the whole chow has the perfect balance of a square.

Proportions of the Chow:

L = Length

H = Height

L = H

Elbow to Ground =  $\frac{1}{2}$  H

1 = length of nose to stop

2 = length of stop to occiput ( 2 x 1)

3 = length of neck (3 x 1)  
6 = length of back (6 x 1)  
Neck carriage approx 60 degrees

A Chow's natural temperament is to be rather aloof & reserved with strangers but there should never be any aggression. The important thing for a judge to remember is to approach gently from the front with hand under the dog's chin. Never approach from top, rear or side as the oriental slant of the eyes can affect vision from those angles. Correctly approached, the Chow should be amenable to strangers in the ring but he still remains choosy about making friends.

The head is very distinctive of the breed but the Chow is not just a "head only breed." All must be in proportion to the whole dog. The skull should be flat & broad both from front to rear and from side to side with good width between the ears. The stop should be moderate, just enough to give parallel planes of brow and muzzle ... neither too deep like a bulldog, nor too little, producing a "down-face". A reasonable amount of padding or filling under the eyes but not too much helps with the scowling expression which must never be achieved by loose wrinkle anywhere on the head. The nose leather should be large & broad with open nostrils.

Breathing should be easy, never loud or laboured.

Red & black chows always have black nose leather but an allowance is made for cream where the range can be anything from pink to brownie-mauve. Blues and fawns are allowed a self-colour nose, the blue approximating to a slate colour with the fawn being a less dense black.

The muzzle should be broad ... here we have another square. There should be no narrowing & it should be well padded but not wrinkled.

The depth of pigmentation is unique to the breed. The roof of the mouth & the lips black with a blue/black tongue & gums preferably black. Except for the small glands on the underside of the tongue, there must never be any pink in the mouth of a black Chow. The dilute colours will carry less pigmentation on their gums and allowances can be made for puppies and veterans. In the deep self-red chow a dilution of pigment is undesirable. Severe dilution or spotting on the tongue should be penalised in all colours.

A good mouth is like a coal-hole!

The standard on teeth is self-explanatory.

The UK standard on eyes was altered in 1991 for the health of the Chow. Oval means "egg-shaped" not round or bold. The eyes should be medium sized, not too small & not too close together. Over the years the words "deeply set" were often used. These words have never been in the British standard (they are in the American one) & it is most important for the health of the Chow that they should not be too deeply set ... but then neither should they be too bold.

Clean & dry is ideal but allowance must be made for some weather conditions (e.g. wind).

The iris in reds & blacks should be dark, but blues and fawns can have a matching colour iris. A judge should be able to see the eyes without any hand finger near them... no pulling about is needed if the eyes are healthy.

Small, thick, stiffly carried but slightly forward tilted ears should be substantial to the touch and never thin or floppy.

When viewed from the front, the inside line of the ear should be in line with the outside corner of the eye.

Due to the lack of ruff there is an optical illusion that the ears of a smooth Chow are large. Usually they are not.

A chow has the ability to move his ears independently like a horse, which often results in "flying ears" in the ring. A quick attraction of attention will put them correct for the second the true set needs to be seen.

**The neck** provides the dog with head carriage and the required proud, dignified bearing. It must be in proportion to the size of the dog and be sufficient to carry the head above the topline when alert.

The body of the Chow must be in proportion to the size of the dog. There should be a proportionate width between the forelegs with a reasonably developed but not exaggerated forechest.

The rib cage must be of good length to comfortably house the heart & lungs. The depth of rib cage should be to the elbow line with a slight curve up to the couplings without a severe tuck up.

The shortness & squareness of back must be achieved with good length of ribcage plus short couplings ... never shortness in rib-cage.

When viewed from above the shoulders, the pelvis should be of similar width with no tapering in either direction.

The spine should be straight & level. The root of the tail should be set high on a level croup. **What is high?** Not as high as a Pomeranian but higher than a Shar-Pei ... all are called high, but a Chow is again moderate & between these two. Often a low set tail results in lifting on moving. The initial line of the tail should be along the spinal column but many tails curl to one side or even curl back on themselves and that is normal.

The forequarters should have a reasonable but not exaggerated gap (approx. 2 fingers width) between the shoulder blades. The shoulders slope slightly outwards, downwards and forwards to the upper arm & elbows.

Some books will tell you that there should be an angle of 55 degrees as opposed to the 45 degrees of other breeds... but we do not have a protractor in the ring!! The crucial measurement is that the shoulder bone and the upper arm should be of approximately equal length. If the measurement is incorrect, it will impair the front movement.

An incorrect angle of the shoulders can also bring the withers too high up the neck and foreshorten the neck.

The legs (lower arm) should be straight when viewed from front & side. Their length & substance should be in proportion to the rest of the chow. Over heavy bone is as much out of balance as lack of bone.

The hindquarters should give an impression of power with good muscle development & tone.

The hocks should be vertical to the ground and from the hock joint to the feet it should be fairly short.

When standing naturally the rear feet should be directly under the hips.

When standing correctly, with strong pasterns, the feet should appear very small except for the toes, which have a rounded depth not flatness. The feet should point straight ahead, neither toeing in nor out. Incorrect toeing is often due to compensation for incorrect elbows, pasterns, hocks or stifles. Splayed toes are often due to toenails not being worn or clipped down.

The short, stilted gait of the Chow is unique to the breed.

There should be no apparent pinning (coming together of feet in varying degrees) or paddling (swinging of one or both legs out from the vertical). Pinning is often caused by incorrect shoulder/upper arm proportion or elbows turning out to a greater or lesser degree. Sometimes pinning is confused with centring, which is necessary to retain balance when moving at a faster pace. Often people think that a black Chow pins more than a red, but that is an

optical illusion. Circling of front legs is often due to incorrect shoulder to upper arm ratio.

The distinctive rear movement should seem to be as near a pendulum swing as possible with the hocks moving parallel to each other and with very little lift.

The Chow's coat is a great contributor to its beauty. The standard describes it well except for the meaning of "profuse, abundant". Profuse does mean there is a lot of it but not to exaggeration. Coat can be too long, too profuse and too abundant and out of all proportion to the balance of the dog. The more important word is "dense" ... without the density and the all-important undercoat it will be an unbalanced collie-like coat. Thickness, texture & condition are more important than length.

The smooth coated Chow (I personally prefer the Dutch terminology of "short-coated Chow" as the coat is stand-off not smooth!!) must have the same dense undercoat but not the length and there should be no featherings or long hairs on tail or breechings. Having said that, there is no excuse for getting out the scissors!!!

Artificial shortening of the coat is not allowed & should be severely penalised. A judge should be able to tell not only by the look but also by the feel if this has been done. Customarily it has always been acceptable that the feet may be "tidied up" & wispy bits around the head may be tidied by plucking with fingers and thumb, but that is all. Trying to hide a low tail set or an imbalance of short legs is a No No!

Judges should penalize heavily any trimming to deceive the natural body shape.

The allowable colours are clearly stated. The lighter breechings on blacks & blues are usually called "silver shadings". Muzzles & ears are often of a deeper shade especially in creams. Chocolate is not an acceptable colour. On blacks & blues, some brown ("rusting") occurs during summer and moulting and is no worse than the change of colour which occurs less noticeably in the other colours ... but severe rusting all over is not desirable.

Judging the size of the dog by eye can be very deceptive. A really well balanced dog will often present the optical illusion of looking smaller than he is. If you are going to judge it is helpful to find some point of reference on your own leg.

When judging puppies you must make some allowances. The coat is usually woollier & softer, the pigmentation not yet fully there (often pinker gums ... but not on blacks!), the height & balance may not yet have settled itself, (some pups are lower to ground & will often come up on the leg with age) and movement can be looser in pups due to muscle & tendon development.

An allowance for veterans must be in direct proportion to age. Gradually pigment may start to fade particularly in dilute colours, teeth may be misaligned or missing and pasterns not as strong. There is also a possibility in bitches of a "spayed coat" which is longer & of different texture.

When judging with the standard in mind it can only be too easy to fault judge". This should not be so. Whilst remembering that there can, and will, be diversion from the ideal stated in the standard, the judge should be always looking for & remembering the many positive points each chow will have. First look at the complete picture of the Chow, then the positive component parts and then, finally, put this positive picture back together as a complete Chow. The overall picture is the primary consideration remembering always the words "square", "moderate" and that no exaggeration at the expense of health, balance or soundness is acceptable.

Judges and breeders both contribute to the type & style of Chow and both bear great responsibility for the future of the breed. The recently added faults clause concerning "it's effect upon the health and welfare of the dog" shows how much we have to take notice of health issues. Judges, when interpreting the standard, should be looking for ... health ... not obviously suffering from health problems, type ... including general appearance & harmony of all parts with reference to breed specifics soundness ... including movement.

Both the UK & the USA have found it helpful to both breeders & judges to produce their own Extended & Illustrated Breed Standards explaining in words & drawings the meaning of the breed standard issued by their Kennel Clubs. I hope this article may be the inspiration for your club to do the same for South Africa.

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This article was written in August 2004 for the Chow Chow Club of Gauteng, South Africa, which has made it available via their website <http://chowclubsa.tripod.com/Phillips.html>

## APPENDIX C

### *Judging of the Chow Chow* by Specialist Judge - Mona Selbach, Norway May 2004

I got my first Chow in 1963, showed my first Chow in 1966, bred my first litter in 1972, and finally in 1982, I was passed by the Norwegian Kennel Club to judge Chows at Championship show level. Today I am passed to award certificates in approx. 85 breeds – with more to come.

Being for many years the only active breeder judge of Chows in Norway, has given me much of the responsibility of teaching other judges about Chows and how to judge them. We have a unique breed compared to most other breeds in our Spitz Group (FCI Group 5), and thus it is important to tell the judges what is so special about our breed and how to maintain our breed for the future.

One problem that has come forward is the Authorities of the Common Market wish to alter everything about the different breeds that they think is abnormal – or not as sound as they, themselves, think it should have been. Which means for instance, Cocker Spaniels might have ear problems, then breeders should try to breed Cockers with standing, not hanging, ears, to give a simple explanation to the problems. Of course Chows have also caught the eyes of the Authorities, and straight back legs and deep set eyes are their main targets in Chows. Some judges these days seems to just look at eyes or angles in back legs and forget about the rest of the Chow, although type, and type again, should be their main concern. If the type is not right, you cannot put up a Chow to win although it might have dry eyes and/or lots of angles in the back legs. If we lose type, we will lose the Chow, and the result will be a dog that hopefully still has a blue tongue, but apart from that, could be any Spitz breed, for instance a Finnish Spitz.

I therefore think it is very important for the judges to have a “picture inside the head” of a Chow Chow who can be a sample for what we want a Chow to look like. For the judges in Norway I have used [GB Ch. Ukwong King Solomon](#) as a sample. Probably quite a few Chows would have been OK to use, but everyone in Norway know about “Solly”'s wins. He has type, size and balance. And balance is utmost important: depth of body compared to length of legs, length of back, the arched neck, the tail set, strength of head and bone, all add to the overall balance of the Chow. The Chow should be well built, solid, but not overdone in any direction.

**True Chow Chow gait** is really a problem for most judges not used to Chows. You very often hear judges say: “This and this Chow really moves well”. Very often I feel that the movement of these special well moving Chows would have been more correct for a German Shepherd than for a Chow. The stilted

gait where the action comes from the hip with little action in knee or hock is seldom seen these days, and I really feel the judges have to be very aware of this and do their best to help maintaining this unique characteristic of the breed.

I think the judges play a very important part when it comes to the future of a breed. What they put up in the ring to day, will most certainly be the mothers and the fathers of the Chows of tomorrow. Although Chow breeders know what they like and know what they are breeding for, Champions and winner titles are vital to get your studs used and your puppies sold. It is very important for breed clubs to keep close contact with the judges and inform them about things that need special attention in the ring. Of course there is the standard to be followed, but I cannot see any harm in the breed clubs helping the judge to fill the frame as correctly as possible. And the judge in his turn, should report back to the club and breeders if he finds problems that seem to be increasing.

In Norway today these items are, according to the breed club, important for the judges to pay attention to:

**\*The balance of the Chow.**

Quite a few of today's Chows in Norway have too short legs compared to the length of the body – or too long bodies compared to the length of the legs. But if the body is too long compared to the length of the legs, the Chow would not be up to the size required in the standard. Worth mentioning is also the length of the ribcage, between the ribcage and the hindquarters, the loin should be no longer than 4 fingers wide, a short ribcage and a long loin is not a short coupled Chow. It is important to the judges to be aware of these problems and choose the well balanced Chow if they otherwise think two exhibits are equal.

**\*The Chow should an active dog,**

It is not right when the dog drags himself around the ring. The Chow has pride and dignity, you can not achieve this with a "come help me and die" type of Chow. Exhibitors some times excuse their Chow to me in the ring, and say they are sorry he or she is so lively. I do not think they should be sorry, they have a happy healthy lively Chow, what is wrong about that!

**\*The angles in the front and the length of the upper arm.**

Quite a few Chows today seems to have lost the angles and length of the upper arm, thus they lose the lovely arched neck, the good fronts and as a consequence the head is carried between the shoulders and not on top of them.

There will always be points concerning the Chow judging that might be improved, but I feel as long as the judges, clubs and breeders keep in close contact and exchange views and keep a firm eye on the standard, we are on the right track to maintain and maybe improve our beautiful breed.

There is a strong tendency these days, although it might vary from country to country, to trim a Chow to make the ears look smaller, the neck longer, the tailset better and the legs longer. The exhibitors find that helping the nature a little makes their dog look more correct according to the standard, and some judges even get so used to this that they penalise Chows that look natural in the ring. I have heard it said in the ring that "sorry, your Chow would have won today if it had been properly trimmed" or "sorry, your Chow looks so profuse coated compared with the other Champions". I think it is very important that both exhibitors and judges start reading the following lines in our Chow Chow standard again "Any artificial shortening of the coat which alters the natural outline or expression should be penalised". This is the last sentence in the part about coat.

The standard is to be followed and respected. It is our guide to maintain our Chow Chow from Ch Chow VIII till today, and just remember the small changes that have been made, have been made for the soundness of the breed. When the standard says "any artificial shortening of the coat which alters the natural outline or expression should be penalised", it is a long sentence that can be cut down to two words: No trimming!! Of course, the Chow should be clean, groomed and presented looking as beautiful as just a Chow can do, but it is not to be presented looking more like an oversized Pomeranian than a Chow. (Actually the standard says you should not trim the Pomeranian either!). I feel from my judging experience the last years that trimming is getting more and more common in the Chow ring.

In my opinion the judges must take most of the blame for the growth of this problem. Yes, it is a problem as it is against the Standard! The exhibitors will present their Chows the way they think the judges will want to see them. If you as an exhibitor have been told by a judge that your Chow would have won if it had been properly presented (trimmed), you will know exactly what to do before the next show.

Please Chow judges, take a look at your Chow Chow standard and read the sentence again: "Any artificial shortening of the coat which alters the natural outline or expression should be penalised", and let us get our beautiful breed back in the ring: The clean well groomed natural Chow Chow!

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This article was originally written for the Chow Chow Club of Canada and subsequently made available to the Chow Chow Club of Gauteng, South Africa, which has made it available via their website <http://chowclubsa.tripod.com/Selbach.html>



## APPENDIX D

# *Judging of the Chow Chow*

## *- a Positive Approach*

by Specialist Judge - Linda (Love) Banghart, USA

*Bob and I are retired in Colorado and sharing our home with our Chow Chows, a Clumber Spaniel and our 14 year old Pomeranian. We have been actively involved with Chow Chows since 1976. We are proud of the Rebelrun Chows and bred over 70 champions, including BIS, BISS and ROM winners. As breeder-owner-handlers, we have enjoyed owning and showing our dogs in conformation events and have received the CCCI Gold Breeder's Circle of Honor award. We authored the book "The Proper Care of Chow Chows" published in 1996 by TFH Publishing. I have had the pleasure of writing the Chow Chow column for the AKC GAZETTE for many years. As a specialist judge, I have chosen to restrict my judging activities to breeds we have owned and loved. I have had the honor of judging Chow Chow Specialties (including the CCCI National) in the US, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and Australia.*

We all agree that when judging any breed, the officiating judge must evaluate each exhibit according to the approved standard for the breed and country in which he is judging. The Chow Chow standard is one of the lengthiest and most detailed of standards (*USA standard - ed*) but still leaves ample opportunity for the judge's interpretation. Of course, as in any evaluation, the standard can only be applied to the exhibits present on the day. Here lies the opportunity for "Positive evaluation" rather than the more commonly discussed "fault judging". There is no perfect dog in any breed, thus an evaluation of positive attributes will hopefully result in an award for the dog and bitch who most closely meet the breed requirements.

It is my belief that the less experienced breeder or judge quickly falls into the "fault judging" trap, often thinking that by expounding on the negative attributes of a given exhibit, the judge will gain respect for his depth of knowledge of the particular breed. As the evaluator gains experience and true knowledge of the Chow Chow, the history of the breed and current health and structural issues in our breed, they will hopefully attain a different approach to judging.

This approach is to reward the chows for their virtues rather than to penalize them for their faults. I am not saying that they overlook the faults, but instead view them as a lack of a desired quality. An experienced chow judge will understand the negative impact that a poorly structured front, incorrect gait or lack of breed-specific qualities, such as pigmentation, has to a breeding program and will thus appreciate and award the chows which exhibit desirable traits. This judge will approach each class with the hope of finding the exhibit which will offer the most positive overall influence to the breed. They will prioritize attributes based on that attribute's importance to the soundness and type of our breed. The judge must maintain the ability to judge the overall exhibit and not just a single attribute or feature. They will keep in mind the origin of the breed and the requirements that make the Chow Chow a functional member of the canine world rather than an ornamental collectable.

Experience as a breeder will help the judge to appreciate the importance of good structure, balance and temperament. It will also help the judge to realize that a larger ear or curl in the tail is not as debilitating to the breed as the lack of proper gait, laboured breathing or entropion. Judging a class of Chows can be as exacting as grading a litter, without the benefit of a pedigree to reference. Each exhibit must be evaluated against the standard on the day with an understanding of that exhibit's overall value to the breed, according to the Chow standard.

One of the key factors in evaluation is the balance and proportion of the exhibit. This may be referred to as the “make and shape” of the dog. The Chow standards all require that our Chows be square and are quite explicit about the correct proportions for the breed. The judge must have a clear vision of this requirement and try to select the exhibits which meet this very basic requirement (see Example 1). All Chows should ideally conform to the standard.

### Example 1 The Standard

The judge must carefully examine the head of the chow to determine if there are any



disqualifications - The AKC standard defines the breed disqualifications (which are all on the head), (*FCI/UK/ANKC Standards have no disqualifications - Ed*); examine the dentition, ears and eyes. The males must be examined to confirm the presence of two normal descended testicles and the dog’s gait must be evaluated to

- 1) determine if the exhibit is lame and
- 2) to assess the stilted gait which is essential for breed type.



The standard documents the qualities which determine “chow type”. The stilted gait, the square profile, dark blue-black pigmentation of the tongue, and the distinct scowl. Each exhibit must be evaluated for the presence or degree to which this Chow demonstrates these qualities in addition to the finer points of our standard.

Further examination must be performed to evaluate the front assembly structure, the body and rear structures and proper coat texture. Gait is also indicative of proper or improper structure. As mentioned earlier, the Chow standard does allow for some variation in degree of conformance based upon the judge’s interpretation.

**EXAMPLE 2:**

Looking at the head and scowl, each of these males meet the requirement of the standard, but to a different degree:



And the same applies to these bitches:



You may question this variation in interpretation, but I must point out that if we distributed the written Chow Chow standard to a group of dog fanciers who are not educated on the breed and asked each of them to draw a picture of the dog defined by the standard, we would not have any two drawings that are identical.

I have had a passion for the Chow Chow for over thirty years and hope that we will continue to have educated, devoted breeders and judges continually and consistently judging our breed, with the standard firmly understood, in a positive manner..... for the continued protection of the Chow Chow.

"Always remembering the working origin of the breed."



**Quote from the AKC Chow Chow breed standard:**

"General Appearance – Characteristics – An ancient breed of northern Chinese origin, this all-purpose dog of China was used for hunting, herding, pulling and protection of the home. While primarily a companion today, his working origin must always be remembered when assessing true Chow type. A powerful, sturdy, squarely built, upstanding dog of Arctic type, medium in size with strong muscular development and heavy bone. The body is compact, short coupled, broad and deep, the tail set high and carried closely to the back, the whole supported by four straight, strong, sound legs. Viewed from the side, the hind legs have little apparent angulation and the hock joint and metatarsals are directly beneath the hip joint. It is this structure which produces the characteristic shorter, stilted gait unique to the breed. The large head with broad, flat skull and short, broad and deep muzzle is proudly carried and accentuated by a ruff. Elegance and substance must be combined into a well balanced whole, never so massive as to outweigh his ability to be active, alert and agile. Clothed in a smooth or an off standing rough double coat, the Chow is a masterpiece of beauty, dignity and naturalness. Essential to true Chow type are his unique blue-black tongue, scowling expression and stilted gait."

## APPENDIX E

### DOGS AND ALL ABOUT THEM BY ROBERT LEIGHTON ca. 1908 CHAPTER X THE CHOW CHOW

The Chow Chow is a dog of great versatility. He is a born sportsman and loves an open-air life--a warrior, always ready to accept battle, but seldom provoking it. He has a way of his own with tramps, and seldom fails to induce them to continue their travels. Yet withal, he is tender-hearted, a friend of children, an ideal companion, and often has a clever gift for parlour tricks.

That he is of ancient lineage is proved by the fact that he always breeds true to type.

He yields to the Pekinese Spaniel the claim to be the Royal dog of China, yet his blood must be of the bluest. If you doubt it, look at his tongue.

Outwardly, the Chow worthily embodies the kind, faithful heart and the brave spirit within. His compact body (weighing 40 lbs. or more), with the beautiful fur coat and ruff, the plume tail turned over on his back and almost meeting his neck-ruff, the strong, straight legs and neat, catlike feet, gives an impression of symmetry, power, and alertness. His handsome face wears a "scowl." This is the technical term for the "no nonsense" look which deters strangers from undue familiarity, though to friends his expression is kindness itself.

Though the Chow has much perfection, the perfect Chow has not yet arrived. He nearly came with Ch. Chow VIII--long since dead, alas!--and with Ch. Fu Chow, the best Chow now living, his light-coloured eyes being his only defect. With many judges, however, this dog's black coat handicaps him sadly in competition with his red brethren.

Chow VIII. is considered the best and most typical dog ever benched, notwithstanding his somewhat round eyes. Almond eyes are of course correct in Chinamen.

Ch. Red Craze owns the head which is perfect with the correct ear-carriage and broad muzzle, and the scowl and characteristic expression of a good Chow.

Dark red is the accepted colour of the Chow. Modern judges will not look twice at a light or parti-coloured dog, and it is to be feared that if even Ch. Chow VIII could revisit the scenes of his bygone triumphs, his beautiful light markings would prove a fatal bar to his success. The judges would be quite wrong, but if you want a dog for show you must be sure to get a good whole-coloured dark red. If, on the other hand, you have a Chow as a companion

and friend, do not be at all troubled if his ruff, yoke, culottes and tail are white or cream-coloured. These are natural, correct and typical marks, though present-day fanciers are trying to "improve" them away.

A list of points as drawn up by the Chow Chow Club some years ago is added. The points are fairly right, but the tongue of a live Chow is never black. It should be blue, such a colour as might result from a diet of bilberries.

#### POINTS OF THE CHOW CHOW:

HEAD--Skull flat and broad, with little stop, well filled out under the eyes.

MUZZLE--Moderate in length, and broad from the eyes to the point (not pointed at the end like a fox).

NOSE--Black, large and wide. (In cream or light-coloured specimens, a pink nose is allowable.)

TONGUE--Black.

EYES--Dark and small. (In a blue dog light colour is permissible.)

EARS--Small, pointed, and carried stiffly erect. They should be placed well forward over the eyes, which gives the dog the peculiar characteristic expression of the breed--viz., a sort of scowl.

TEETH--Strong and level.

NECK--Strong, full, set well on the shoulders, and slightly arched. SHOULDERS--Muscular and sloping.

CHEST--Broad and deep.

BACK--Short, straight, and strong.

LOINS--Powerful.

TAIL--Curled tightly over the back.

FORE-LEGS--Perfectly straight, of moderate length, and with great bone.

HIND-LEGS--Same as fore-legs, muscular and with hocks well let down.

FEET--Small, round and catlike, standing well on the toes.

COAT--Abundant, dense, straight, and rather coarse in texture, with a soft woolly undercoat.

COLOUR--Whole-coloured black, red, yellow, blue, white, etc., not in patches (the under part of tail and back of thighs frequently of a lighter colour).

GENERAL APPEARANCE--A lively, compact, short coupled dog, well-knit in frame, with tail curled well over the back.

DISQUALIFYING POINTS--Drop ears, red tongue, and tail not curled over back, white spots on coat, and red nose, except in yellow or white specimens. N.B.-

-Smooth Chows are governed by the same scale of points, except that the coat is smooth

## APPENDIX F

# The Problem of Balance in the Chow Chow

Article based on observations of Dr Samuel Draper  
author of "This is the Chow Chow"



The illustration above was published in Popular Dogs Magazine, August 1974 and used along with photographs of American Chows to illustrate the importance of balance in the Chow Chow. To ascertain the general perception amongst breeders and judges, an experiment was conducted, using the above ceramic model created to conform perfectly to the Chow Standard: "Body squares with height of leg at shoulder" (*USA Standard*). ("*Short-coupled and essentially well-balanced*" - *UK/FCI*) Ed. Each of the judges and breeders were consulted alone, and each asked to consider only the matter of height and length of dog, not head, coat, tail-set, feet or any other part of the figurine's anatomy, except balance. Here are the results:

Judge 1: "legs are much too long"

Judge 2: "Perfect balance - height squares with length."

Judge 3: "Legs too long for length of body."

Judge 4: "Perfect balance ... no, on second thought, the legs are too long."

These judges are all panel judges for chows, with Judge 3 also being an all-rounder.

Chow Breeder 1: "Legs too long."

Chow Breeder 2: "Body too short for length of legs."

Chow Breeder 3: "Perfect balance, height squares with length"

Chow Breeder 4: "Correct balance of body length with height of dog."

Results of this little examination are symptomatic of the problem of balance. Three out of four judges failed the exam outright, and only one perceived the perfect balance in the figurine made according to the Chow Standard. When the judges were confronted with the Standard, their replies included, "I don't see Chows like that (figurine) in the ring today. Most of the Chows I judge have much shorter legs." Another ventured: "The breeders I know tell me that the Chow head is the most important part of the dog, so I rarely judge on length of leg or body length." On the positive side, Judge No 2 above reported that one of the leading Chow breeders had told him that balance was of great significance because the Chow was originally a hunting dog and had to have fairly long legs to run on.

This quiz given to the judges and breeders is merely indicative of the problem, not at all conclusive; for there are many judges who recognise correct balance in the Chow and so reward it in the show ring.

## ANKC CHOW CHOW BREED STANDARD

### Group 7: Non-Sporting

**GENERAL APPEARANCE** - An active, compact, short-coupled and well balanced dog, well knit in frame, with tail carried well over the back.

**CHARACTERISTICS** - A well balanced dog, leonine in appearance, with proud dignified bearing; loyal yet aloof; unique in its stilted gait and bluish-black tongue. (See also under Ears and Hindquarters.)

**TEMPERAMENT** - With proud dignified bearing; loyal yet aloof.

**HEAD AND SKULL** - Skull flat and broad, with little stop, well filled out under the eyes. Muzzle moderate in length, broad from the eyes to the point (not pointed at the end like a fox). Nose black, large and wide in all cases (with the exception of cream and white in which case a light-coloured nose is permissible and in blues and fawns a self-coloured nose); but in all colours a black nose is preferable.

**EYES** - Dark and small, preferably almond-shaped (in blue or fawn dog a light colour is permissible).

**EARS** - Small, thick, slightly rounded at the tip, carried stiffly erect but placed well forward over the eyes and wide apart, which gives the dog the peculiar characteristic expression of the breed, viz., a scowl.

**MOUTH** - Teeth strong and level, giving scissor bite. Tongue bluish black. Flews and roof of mouth black. Gums preferably black.

**NECK** - Strong, full, set well on the shoulders and slightly arched.

**FOREQUARTERS** - Shoulders muscular and sloping. Forelegs perfectly straight, of moderate length, with good bone.

**BODY** - Chest broad and deep. Back short, straight and strong. Loins powerful.

**HINDQUARTERS** - Hindlegs muscular and hocks well let down and perfectly straight which are essential in order to produce the Chow's characteristic gait.

**FEET** - Small, round and catlike, standing well on the toes.

**TAIL** - Set high and carried well over the back.

**GAIT/MOVEMENT** - Unique stilted gait.

**COAT** - Abundant, dense, straight and stand-off. Outer coat rather coarse in texture and with a soft woolly undercoat. The Chow Chow is a profusely coated dog and balance should therefore be assessed when the coat is at its natural length.

**COLOUR** - Whole coloured black, red, blue, fawn, cream or white, frequently shaded but not patches or parti-coloured (the underpart of tail and back of thighs frequently of a light colour).

**SIZE** - Minimum height for Chows to be 45.7cm (18 ins) but in every case balance should be the outstanding feature and height left to the discretion of the judges.

**FAULTS** - Drop ears. Tongue splashed or patchy. Off black noses except in the colours specified, viz., creams, whites, blues or fawns. Tail not carried over the back.

Any artificial shortening of the coat which alters the natural outline or expression of the dog should be penalised. Parti-coloured.

**NOTE** - Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

The Standard of the smooth variety is identical with the above except that the coat is smooth.

## APPENDIX H

FCI-Standard N° 205 / 09. 06. 1999 / GB

### CHOW CHOW

**ORIGIN**: China.

**PATRONAGE**: Great Britain

**DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE ORIGINAL VALID STANDARD**: 24.06.1987.

**UTILIZATION**: Guard dog, companion.

**CLASSIFICATION F.C.I.**: Group 5 Spitz and primitive type.

Section 5 Asian Spitz and related breeds.

Without working trial.

**GENERAL APPEARANCE**: Active, compact, short-coupled and essentially well balanced, leonine in appearance, proud, dignified bearing; well knit frame; tail carried well over back.

**BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT**: Quiet dog, good guard, bluish-black tongue; unique in its stilted gait. Independant, loyal, yet aloof.

#### **HEAD**

**CRANIAL REGION**:

**Skull**: Flat, broad; well filled out under the eyes.

**Stop**: Not pronounced.

**FACIAL REGION**:

**Nose**: Large and wide in all cases black (with exception of cream and near white in which case a light-coloured nose is permissible, and in blues and fawns a self-coloured nose).

**Muzzle**: Moderate in length, broad from eyes to end (not pointed at end like a fox).

Flews: Flews and roof of mouth black (blue black), gums preferably black. Tongue bluish black.

Jaws/Teeth: Teeth strong and level, jaws strong, with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. the upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

Eyes: Dark, oval shaped, medium sized and clean. A matching coloured eye permissible in blues and fawns. Clean eye, free from entropion, never being penalised for sake of mere size.

Ears: Small, thick, slightly rounded at tip, carried stiffly and wide apart but tilting well forward over eyes and slightly towards each other, giving peculiar characteristic scowling expression of the breed. Scowl never to be achieved by loose wrinkled skin of head.

**NECK**: Strong, full, not short, set well on shoulders and slightly arched.

### **BODY**:

Back: Short, level and strong.

Loins: Powerful.

Chest: Broad and deep. Ribs well sprung, but not barrelled.

**TAIL**: Set high, carried well over back.

### **LIMBS**

FOREQUARTERS: Forelegs perfectly straight, of moderate length, with good bone.

Shoulders: Muscular and sloping.

HINDQUARTERS: Hindlegs muscular.

Hock joint: Well let down, with minimal angulation, essential to produce the characteristic stilted gait. Never flexing forward.

Hock: From hock joints downwards to appear straight.

**FEET**: Small, round, cat-like, standing well on toes.

**GAIT / MOVEMENT**: Short and stilted. Forelegs and hindlegs moving parallel to each other and straight forward.

## COAT

HAIR: Either rough or smooth.

- Rough: Profuse, abundant, dense, straight and stand-off. Outer coat rather coarse in texture, with soft woolly undercoat. Especially thick round neck forming mane or ruff and with good culottes or breechings on back of thighs.
- Smooth: Coat short, abundant, dense, straight, upstanding, not flat, plush-like in texture.

Any artificial shortening of the coat which alters the natural outline or expression should be penalised.

COLOUR: Whole coloured black, red, blue, fawn, cream or white, frequently shaded but not in patches or parti-coloured (underpart of tail and back of thighs frequently of a lighter colour).

## SIZE:

Height at withers: Dogs 48-56 cm (19-22 ins) at shoulder.

Bitches 46-51 cm (18-20 ins) at shoulder.

FAULTS: Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree **and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.**

Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified.

N.B.: Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.



## APPENDIX I

### The Kennel Club Breed Standard

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The Kennel Club Photo Library - © Pedigree Petfoods

#### General Appearance

Active, compact, short-coupled and essentially well balanced, leonine in appearance, proud, dignified bearing; well knit frame; tail carried well over back.

#### Characteristics

Quiet dog, good guard, bluish-black tongue; unique in its stilted gait.

#### Temperament

Independent, loyal, yet aloof.

#### Head and Skull

Skull flat, broad; stop not pronounced, well filled out under eyes. Muzzle moderate in length, broad from eyes to end (not pointed at end like a fox). Nose, large and wide in all cases, black (with exception of cream and near white in which case a light-coloured nose permissible, and in blues and fawns a self-coloured nose).

#### Eyes

Dark, oval shaped, medium sized and clean. A matching coloured eye permissible in blues and fawns. Clean eye, free from entropion, never being penalised for sake of mere size.

#### Ears

Small, thick, slightly rounded at tip, carried stiffly and wide apart but tilting well forward over eyes and slightly towards each other, giving peculiar characteristic scowling expression of the breed. Scowl never to be achieved by loose wrinkled skin of head.

#### Mouth

Teeth strong and level, jaws strong, with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws. Tongue bluish black. Roof of mouth and flews black (blue black), gums preferably black.

#### Neck

Strong, full, not short, set well on shoulders and slightly arched.

#### Forequarters

Shoulders muscular and sloping. Forelegs perfectly straight, of moderate length, with good bone.

## **Body**

Chest broad and deep. Ribs well sprung but not barrelled. Back short, level and strong. Loins powerful.

## **Hindquarters**

Hindlegs muscular, hocks well let down, with minimal angulation, essential to produce characteristic stilted gait. From hocks downwards to appear straight, hocks never flexing forward.

## **Feet**

Small, round, cat-like, standing well on toes.

## **Tail**

Set high, carried well over back.

## **Gait/Movement**

Short and stilted. Forelegs and hindlegs moving parallel to each other and straight forward.

## **Coat**

Either rough or smooth.

Rough: profuse, abundant, dense, straight and stand-off. Outer coat rather coarse in texture, with soft woolly undercoat. Especially thick round neck forming mane or ruff and with good culottes or breechings on back of thighs.

Smooth: coat short, abundant, dense, straight, upstanding, not flat, plush-like in texture. Any artificial shortening of the coat which alters the natural outline or expression should be penalised.

## **Colour**

Whole coloured black, red, blue, fawn, cream or white, frequently shaded but not in patches or parti-coloured (underpart of tail and back of thighs frequently of a lighter colour).

## **Size**

Dogs: 48-56 cms (19-22 ins) at shoulder. Bitches: 46-51 cms (18-20 ins) at shoulder.

## **Faults**

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.

## **Note**

Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

## **March 1994**

# Canadian Breed Standard for the Chow Chow

## General Appearance

A massive, cobby, powerful dog, active and alert, with strong, muscular development, and perfect balance. Body squares with height of leg at shoulder; head is broad and flat, with short, broad, and deep muzzle, accentuated by a ruff; the whole supported by straight, strong legs. Clothed in a shining, offstanding coat, the Chow is a masterpiece of beauty, dignity, and untouched naturalness.

## Coat and Colour

Coat abundant, dense, straight, and off standing; rather coarse in texture with a soft woolly undercoat. It may be any clear colour, solid throughout, with lighter shading on ruff, tail, and breechings. The Smooth Chow Chow is judged by the same standard as the rough variety with the exception of coat length. The Smooth should have the same woolly undercoat, harsh texture and dense outer coat as the rough variety, but, the Smooth's outer coat is short and gives a sleek appearance. There should be no obvious ruff or feathering on legs and tail.

## Head

Large and massive in proportion to size of dog, with broad, flat skull; well filled under the eyes; moderate stop; and proudly carried. Muzzle short in comparison to length of skull; broad from eyes to end of nose, and of equal depth. Nose large, broad, and black in colour. The lips somewhat full and over-hanging. Teeth strong and level, with a scissors bite; should neither be overshot, nor undershot. Tongue a blue-black. The tissues of the mouth should approximate black. Eyes dark, deep set, of moderate size, and almond shaped. Ears small, slightly rounded at tip, stiffly carried. They should be placed wide apart, on top of the skull, and set with a slight, forward tilt. Expression essentially dignified, lordly, scowling, discerning, sober, and snobbish-one of independence.

## Neck

Strong, full, set well on the shoulders.

## Forequarters

Shoulder muscular, slightly sloping. Forelegs perfectly straight, with heavy bone and upright pasterns.

## Body

Short, compact. Back short, straight, and strong. Chest broad, deep, and muscular, with well-sprung ribs. A narrow chest is a serious fault. Loins broad, deep, and powerful, and let down in the flank.

## **Hindquarters**

Hind legs straight-hocked, muscular, and heavy boned. Feet compact, round, cat-like, with thick pads.

## **Tail**

Set well up and carried closely to the back, following line of spine at start.

## **Gait**

Completely individual. Short and stilted because of straight hocks.

## **Disqualifications**

Nose spotted or distinctly any other colour than black, except in blue Chows, which may have solid blue or slate noses. Tongue red, pink, or obviously spotted with red or pink. Drop ear or ears. A drop ear is one which is stiffly carried or stiffly erect, but which breaks over at any point from its base to its tip.

## APPENDIX K

### THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

#### The Chow Chow

##### Did you know?

- The Chow Chow is one of the oldest recognizable types of dog (Dating back more than 2000 years).
- The Chow Chow possesses the rare characteristic of having a blue-black tongue.
- The breed was recognized by the American Kennel Club in 1903.
- The Chow Chow was used for hunting, herding, pulling and protection of the home in China. Today, the Chow Chow is primarily a companion dog.

##### So you want to own a Chow Chow?

The Chow Chow's coat will require at least weekly grooming.

The Chow Chow is a possessive dog who endears his family and their possessions to him.

The Chow Chow is a wonderful companion for adults who will take the time to care for them properly.

#### Breed Standard

##### General Appearance

*Characteristics*--An ancient breed of northern Chinese origin, this all-purpose dog of China was used for hunting, herding, pulling and protection of the home. While primarily a companion today, his working origin must always be remembered when assessing true Chow type.

A powerful, sturdy, squarely built, upstanding dog of Arctic type, medium in size with strong muscular development and heavy bone. The body is compact, short coupled, broad and deep, the tail set high and carried closely to the back, the whole supported by four straight, strong, sound legs. Viewed from the side, the hind legs have little apparent angulation and the hock joint and metatarsals are directly beneath the hip joint. It is this structure which produces the characteristic short, stilted gait unique to the breed. The large head with broad, flat skull and short, broad and deep muzzle is proudly carried and accentuated by a ruff. Elegance and substance must be combined into a well balanced whole, never so massive as to outweigh his ability to be active, alert and agile. Clothed in a smooth or an offstanding rough double coat, the Chow is a masterpiece of beauty, dignity and naturalness, unique in his blue-black tongue, scowling expression and stilted gait.

##### Size, Proportions, Substance

*Size*--The average height of adult specimens is 17 to 20 inches at the withers but in every case consideration of overall proportions and type should take precedence over size. *Proportions*--Square in profile and close coupled. Distance from forechest to point of buttocks equals height at the highest points of the withers. *Serious Fault* Profile other than square. Distance from tip of elbow to ground is half the height at the withers. Floor of chest level with tips of elbows. Width viewed from the front and rear is the same and must be broad. It is these

proportions that are essential to true Chow type. In judging puppies, no allowance should be made for their failure to conform to these proportions.

*Substance*--Medium in size with strong muscular development and heavy bone. Equally objectionable are snipy, fine boned specimens and overdone, ponderous, cloddy specimens. In comparing specimens of different sex, due allowance must be made in favor of the bitches who may not have as much head or substance as do the males. There is an impression of femininity in bitches as compared to an impression of masculinity in dogs.

### **Head**

Proudly carried, large in proportion to the size of the dog but never so exaggerated as to make the dog seem top-heavy or to result in a low carriage. *Expression* essentially scowling, dignified, lordly, discerning, sober and snobbish, one of independence. The scowl is achieved by a marked brow with a padded button of skin just above the inner, upper corner of each eye; by sufficient play of skin to form frowning brows and a distinct furrow between the eyes beginning at the base of the muzzle and extending up the forehead; by the correct eye shape and placement and by the correct ear shape, carriage and placement. Excessive loose skin is not desirable. Wrinkles on the muzzle do not contribute to expression and are not required.

*Eyes* dark brown, deep set and placed wide apart and obliquely, of moderate size, almond in shape. The correct placement and shape should create an Oriental appearance. The eye rims black with lids which neither turn in nor droop and the pupils of the eyes clearly visible. *Serious Faults* Entropion or ectropion, or pupils wholly or partially obscured by loose skin.

*Ears* small, moderately thick, triangular in shape with a slight rounding at the tip, carried stiffly erect but with a slight forward tilt. Placed wide apart with the inner corner on top of the skull. An ear which flops as the dog moves is very undesirable. *Disqualifying Fault*--Drop ear or ears. A drop ear is one which breaks at any point from its base to its tip or which is not carried stiffly erect but lies parallel to the top of the skull.

*Skull* The top skull is broad and flat from side to side and front to back. Coat and loose skin cannot substitute for the correct bone structure. Viewed in profile, the topline of the muzzle and skull are approximately parallel, joined by a moderate stop. The padding of the brows may make the stop appear steeper than it is. The muzzle is short in comparison to the length of the top skull but never less than one-third of the head length. The muzzle is broad and well filled out under the eyes, its width and depth are equal and both dimensions should appear to be the same from its base to its tip. This square appearance is achieved by correct bone structure plus padding of the muzzle and full cushioned lips. The muzzle should never be so padded or cushioned as to make it appear other than square in shape. The upper lips completely cover the lower lips when the mouth is closed but should not be pendulous.

*Nose* large, broad and black in color with well opened nostrils. *Disqualifying Fault* Nose spotted or distinctly other color than black, except in blue Chows which may have solid blue or slate noses. *Mouth and Tongue* Edges of the lips black, tissues of the mouth mostly black, gums preferably black. A solid black mouth is ideal. The top surface and edges of the tongue a solid blue-black, the darker the better. *Disqualifying Fault* The top surface or edges of the tongue red or pink or with one or more spots of red or pink. *Teeth* strong and even with a scissors bite.

### **Neck, Topline, Body**

*Neck* strong, full, well muscled, nicely arched and of sufficient length to carry the head proudly above the topline when standing at attention. *Topline* straight, strong and level from the withers to the root of the tail.

*Body* short, compact, close coupled, strongly muscled, broad, deep and well let down in the flank. The body, back, coupling and croup must all be short to give the required square build. *Chest* broad, deep and muscular, never narrow or slab-sided. The ribs close together and well sprung, not barrel. The spring of the front ribs is somewhat narrowed at their lower ends to permit the shoulder and upper arm to fit smoothly against the chest wall. The floor of the chest is broad and deep extending down to the tips of the elbows. The point of sternum slightly in front of the shoulder points. *Serious Faults* Labored or abdominal breathing (not to include normal panting), narrow or slab-sided chest. *Loin* well muscled, strong, short, broad and deep. *Croup* short and broad with powerful rump and thigh muscles giving a level croup. *Tail* set high and carried closely to the back at all times, following the line of the spine at the start.

### **Forequarters**

*Shoulders* strong, well muscled, the tips of the shoulder blades moderately close together; the spine of the shoulder forms an angle approximately 55 degrees with the horizontal and forms an angle with the upper arm of approximately 110 degrees resulting in less reach of the forelegs. Length of upper arm never less than length of shoulder blade. Elbow joints set well back alongside the chest wall, elbows turning neither in nor out. *Forelegs* perfectly straight from elbow to foot with heavy bone which must be in proportion to the rest of the dog. Viewed from the front, the forelegs are parallel and widely spaced commensurate with the broad chest. *Pasterns* short and upright. Wrists shall not knuckle over. The dewclaws may be removed. *Feet* round, compact, catlike, standing well up on the thick toe pads.

### **Hindquarters**

The rear assembly broad, powerful, and well muscled in the hips and thighs, heavy in bone with rear and front bone approximately equal. Viewed from the rear, the legs are straight, parallel and widely spaced commensurate with the broad pelvis. *Stifle Joint* shows little angulation, is well knit and stable, points straight forward and the bones of the joint should be clean and sharp. *Hock Joint* well let down and appears almost straight. The hock joint must be strong, well knit and firm, never bowing or breaking forward or to either side. The hock joint and metatarsals lie in a straight line below the hip joint. *Serious Faults* Unsound stifle or hock joints. *Metatarsals* short and perpendicular to the ground. The dewclaws may be removed. *Feet* same as front.

### **Coat**

There are two types of coat; rough and smooth. Both are double coated. *Rough* In the rough coat, the outer coat is abundant, dense, straight and offstanding, rather coarse in texture; the undercoat soft, thick and wooly. Puppy coat soft, thick and wooly overall. The coat forms a profuse ruff around the head and neck, framing the head. The coat and ruff generally longer in dogs than in bitches. Tail well feathered. The coat length varies markedly on different Chows and thickness, texture and condition should be given greater emphasis than length. Obvious trimming or shaping is undesirable. Trimming of the whiskers, feet and metatarsals optional. *Smooth* The smooth coated Chow is judged by the same standard as the rough coated Chow except that references to the quantity and distribution of the outer coat are not applicable to the smooth coated Chow, which has a hard, dense, smooth outer coat with a definite undercoat. There should be no obvious ruff or feathering on the legs or tail.

### **Color**

Clear colored, solid or solid with lighter shadings in the ruff, tail and featherings. There are five colors in the Chow: red (light golden to deep mahogany), black, blue, cinnamon (light fawn to deep cinnamon) and cream. Acceptable colors to be judged on an equal basis.

### **Gait**

Proper movement is the crucial test of proper conformation and soundness. It must be sound, straight moving, agile, brief, quick and powerful, never lumbering. The rear gait short and

stilted because of the straighter rear assembly. It is from the side that the unique stilted action is most easily assessed. The rear leg moves up and forward from the hip in a straight, stilted pendulum-like line with a slight bounce in the rump, the legs extend neither far forward nor far backward. The hind foot has a strong thrust which transfers power to the body in an almost straight line due to the minimal rear leg angulation. To transmit this power efficiently to the front assembly, the coupling must be short and there should be no roll through the midsection. Viewed from the rear, the line of bone from hip joint to pad remains straight as the dog moves. As the speed increases the hind legs incline slightly inward. The stifle joints must point in the line of travel, not outward resulting in a bowlegged appearance nor hitching in under the dog. Viewed from the front, the line of bone from shoulder joint to pad remains straight as the dog moves. As the speed increases, the forelegs do not move in exact parallel planes, rather, incline slightly inward. The front legs must not swing out in semicircles nor mince or show any evidence of hackney action. The front and rear assemblies must be in dynamic equilibrium. Somewhat lacking in speed, the Chow has excellent endurance because the sound, straight rear leg provides direct, usable power efficiently.

### **Temperament**

Keen intelligence, an independent spirit and innate dignity give the Chow an aura of aloofness. It is a Chow's nature to be reserved and discerning with strangers. Displays of aggression or timidity are unacceptable. Because of its deep set eyes the Chow has limited peripheral vision and is best approached within the scope of that vision.

### **Summary**

Faults shall be penalized in proportion to their deviation from the standard. In judging the Chow, the overall picture is of primary consideration. Exaggeration of any characteristic at the expense of balance or soundness shall be severely penalized.

Type should include general appearance, temperament, the harmony of all parts, and soundness especially as seen when the dog is in motion. There should be proper emphasis on movement which is the final test of the Chow's conformation, balance and soundness.

### **Disqualifications**

*Drop ear or ears. A drop ear is one which breaks at any point from its base to its tip or which is not carried stiffly erect but lies parallel to the top of the skull.*

*Nose spotted or distinctly other color than black, except in blue Chows which may have solid blue or slate noses.*

*The top surface or edges of the tongue red or pink or with one or more spots of red or pink.*

**Approved November 11, 1986**

**Reformatted August 21, 1990**

## APPENDIX L

### BREED STANDARD

#### CHOW CHOW CLUB, INC. 1906

The Chow Chow Club (USA) was organized in Philadelphia, PA at the Hotel Stenton on November 30, 1906 and this is the Standard that they adopted...you will note the word "colour", not "color"...probably because of the UK standard words?

#### Chow Chow Descriptive Particulars

**Head** – Skull flat and broad, with little stop, well filled out under the eye.

**Muzzle** – Moderate in length, broad from the eyes to the point (not pointed at the end like a fox).

**Nose**-Black, large and wide. In cream or light coloured specimens a pink nose is allowable.

**Tongue**-Black

**Eyes** – Dark and small (In a blue dog light colour is permissible.)

**Ears** – Small, pointed and carried stiffly erect. They should be placed well forward over the eyes, which gives the dog the peculiar characteristic expression of the breed – viz, a sort of scowl.

**Teeth** – Strong and level.

**Neck** – Strong, full, set well on the shoulders, and slightly arched.

**Shoulders** – Muscular and sloping

**Chest** – Broad and deep

**Back** - Short, straight and strong

**Loins** – Powerful

**Tail** – Curled tightly over the back.

**Fore legs** – Perfectly straight, of moderate length and great bone.

**Hind legs** – Same as fore legs, muscular, and with hocks well let down. (The standard is silent as to the straightness of hind legs and lack of bend at the stifle and hock joints, but this is nevertheless considered the proper formation of leg for the chow.)

**Feet** – Small, round and cat-like, standing well on the toes.

**Coat** – Abundant, dense, straight and rather coarse in texture, with a soft, woolly undercoat.

**Colour** – Whole-coloured black, red; yellow, blue, white, etc., not in patches (the under part of tail and back of thighs frequently of a

lighter colour).

**General Appearance** – A lively, compact, short coupled dog, well knit in frame, with tail curled over the back.

**Disqualifying Points** – Drop ears, red tongue, tail not curled over the back, white spots on coat, and red nose, except in yellow or white specimens.

**Smooth Chows** are governed by the same description except that the coat is smooth.

## THE CHOW CHOW

57

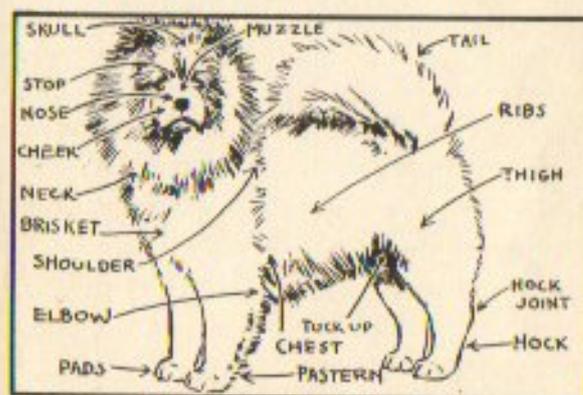
*Section B*  
**OFFICIAL CHOW STANDARD AND  
 INTERPRETATION**

## CHAPTER XIII.

**OFFICIAL CHOW CHOW  
 STANDARD**

(As adopted by the Chow Chow Club of America in 1925. There have been no changes or revisions to date, 1933.)

**HEAD**—*Large and massive, with broad, flat skull, well filled under the eyes, moderate stop, proudly carried, with characteristic scowl.*



*The perfect chow, with names of anatomical parts*

**MUZZLE**—*Short in comparison to length of skull; broad from eyes to end of nose, and of great depth. The lips should be full and overhanging.*

**TEETH**—*Strong and level.*

**NOSE**—*Large, broad and black in color.*

**TONGUE**—*A blue-black. The inside of the mouth should be of the same color.*

**EYES**—Dark, deep-set, of moderate size, and almond shaped.

**EARS**—Small, pointed, stiffly carried. They should be placed wide apart, on the top of skull, and set with a slight forward tilt.

**BODY**—Short, compact, well ribbed up, and let down in the flank.

**NECK**—Strong, full, set well on the shoulders.

**SHOULDERS**—Muscular, slightly sloping.

**CHEST**—Broad, deep and muscular.

**BACK**—Short, straight and strong.

**LOINS**—Broad, deep and powerful.

**TAIL**—Tail set well up and carried closely to back, following line of spine at start.

**FORELEGS**—Perfectly straight, with heavy bone and upright pasterns.

**HINDLEGS**—Straight hocked, muscular and heavy boned.

**FEET**—Compact, round and cat-like.

**COAT**—Abundant, dense, straight and outstanding; rather coarse in texture, with a soft woolly undercoat. In the smooth-coated variety, the topcoat should be of about one and a half inches in length.

**COLOR**—Any clear color, solid throughout, or, with lighter shadings on ruff, tail and breeching.

**SIZE**—Chows should be massive and well proportioned.

**GENERAL APPEARANCE**—Lion-headed, scowling, compact, muscular, short-coupled, dignified, and powerful, with heavy off-standing coat.

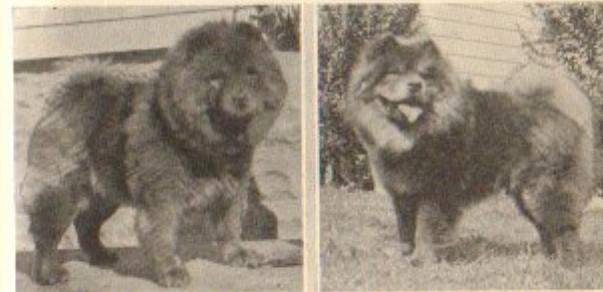
**DISQUALIFYING POINTS**—Drop ears; tongue red, pink or obviously spotted. Nose spotted or distinctly other color than black, except in blue colored chows, which may have solid blue, or slate colored noses.

## CHAPTER XIV.

## BACKGROUND FOR INTERPRETATION OF THE STANDARD

Some of the uncertainty and curiosity concerning the chow and its official standard can be cleared away thru consideration of the background of the breed.

The chow is a northern dog, a member of the general spitz family. Practically all dogs of the Arctic Circle and the



Left: shaded light red bitch Orb (Ch. Moosilauke Pao Chu—Ch. Ken Lu Hs Han), owner Mrs. Charles Chase. Right: red male, Pancho Pang Chu (Pang Wang Boss II—Nina of Yuan Chu), owner Mrs. Louis J. Fuller, Jr.

snowy plains of the far north are embraced in this general family. Life and death is a struggle in these regions. Starvation faces the dog almost every day. Game or food must be gotten slyly, quietly, quickly, by stealth or by open courageous fighting.

The physical and mental traits and inheritances of the chow come from this native habitat, the land within the shadow of the North Pole. For instance, the chow is easily

housebroken and is especially clean in the house. In the far north, unless the dog were secretive about these acts of nature, there would be evidence for other dogs or enemies to know that the dog was nearby. The squint eye of the chow comes from the constant looking upon the snow as the sunlight shines upon it.

The tail on the back must be carried there because otherwise a long, low tail would be caked with the snow, would become sore, could not be moved, and in fact, a dog with a hard-caked tail could not run, could not get game, and in time would need to starve. Those that did not keep their tails clear of the snow, passed out of the race.

The squint eye, the tail on the back, the round cat-like feet, the scowl—all are souvenirs of the far northland and its snows and cold.

Northern climes with their long twilight nights tend to cause a silent, moody race whether of men or animals. Noise or excessive barking would be out of place and would only betray the location to an enemy. The straight hind legs which most northern dogs possess, are best adapted for moving thru the snow with an up-and-down or somewhat stilted gait.

The tendency toward low chows and short-legged chows both in America and England in recent years surely is not in accord with the original necessity of the chow. On ground where there has been snow much of the year, or for a breed which as in the case of the chow, is used for herding and for sled work, and also for hunting, there must be plenty of daylight under the dog; the legs must not be too short; otherwise the dog cannot move properly or with any speed.

The small pointed erect ear with its slight forward tilt is especially necessary for northern dogs where both sight and hearing must be brot into play as the dog looks out upon the terrain. The forward tilting ears help the chow to hear and help to protect the eyes against the glare of the snow.

The outstanding coat, really a fur, both the outer and

inner coats, of course is decidedly necessary in a country of extreme cold.

The gait of the chow is peculiar. You will note as you observe your chow when he trots, that he raises the front feet rather straight and then throws them forward. The hind



*The author insisted on the inclusion of the head study of Eugene Byfield's Ch. China Lionheart because of the exquisite work of the artist and the lordly expression of the chow*

feet do not move with any leverage but are somewhat stilted. This is the result of the necessity of running thru the snow. Otherwise the dog would push his feet against the snow and soon would have the hair of his legs caked and could move only with difficulty.

As one considers the heritage of the chow from the past, particularly in view of his northern nativity, many of the