



# WELCOME HOME

Congratulations! You have adopted a Chow or Chow Mix, and therefore have gained a loyal and loving family member. We are here to provide you with top tips and information that can serve as a resource for you and your new companion.

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## HERE'S WHAT WE KNOW

Chow Chow's are one of the most ancient dog breeds, dating back to 150 B.C in regions of China and Mongolia. As the Akita is sacred to Japan, the Chow is a sacred symbol of China.

Chow Chow translates to "Puffy Lion Dog", which makes total sense considering their full manes and regal sense of self. They were originally bred for hunting, general purpose usage. in the days of emperors and dynastys.

The modern Chow is not dissimilar from the chow that rose to popularity again during the Victorian era, or late 19th century. In fact, Queen Victoria was an avid lover of the chow, and it is rumored the face of a chow was used as inspiration for the Teddy Bear. They rose to popularity again during the late thirties, and early eighties.

Famous Chow Owners include Martha Stewart, Sigmund Freud and President Calvin Coolidge.

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The Chow Chow and the Sharpei are the only two breeds who carry the characteristic blue/purple/black tongue.

The Chow's key features are its straight back legs, stocky build, and thick double coat. This makes them resilient, strong and tolerant to various climates and terrains.

Regarded as fiercely loyal, they can show outstanding companionship while maintaining an independent nature.



# FEEDING: WHAT, WHEN, AND WHY

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## 1. WHAT:

If possible, we recommend using the highest quality dog food you can afford. We encourage you to check out these 4 & 5 star rated foods from Dog Food Advisor.

<http://www.dogfoodadvisor.com/dog-food-reviews/four-and-five-star/>

Thankfully, its a long list with plenty of options. Some our our best tried and trusted brands include Blue Buffalo, Taste of the Wild, Natural Balance, and Nutro. You can find most of these foods in places such as:

In Store: Petco, Petsmart, Krisers, Pet Supermarket, and Natural Paws

Online: Amazon, Chewy

Both Amazon, and Chewy help contribute to Houston Chow Chow Connection.

The following links will help you set up accounts that allow your purchases to support us:

Chewy: <http://www.chewy.com/rp/2186>.

Amazon: <https://smile.amazon.com/> (please select Houston Chow Chow Connection)

## 2. WHEN:

When possible, we recommend and encourage transitioning to a change in dog food gradually. We often are able to provide some of the dog's current food, or provide you with the brand and type. For a gradual transition please mix the food accordingly:

Week 1	25% New Food & 75% Old Food
Week 2	50% New Food & 50% Old Food
Week 3	75% New Food & 25% Old Food
Week 4	100% New Food

If there are any issues with an upset stomach, constipation or diarrhea, please slow down the transition process.

## 3. WHY:

Its extremely important to keep your dog on a routine, and high nutrition diet combined with exercise. Doing so allows your pet to live a healthier, fuller lifestyle. Choosing the right food for your dog can reduce allergies, and the chance of developing health issues at a later stage. Its important to keep a regular eye on your dogs weight, and response to food with the assistance of your vet.

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# DANGEROUS FOODS

<b>ALCOHOL</b> COMA DEATH INTOXICATION	<b>AVOCADO</b> CONTAINS PERSIN: VOMITING DIARRHEA	<b>RAISINS CURRANTS</b> KIDNEY FAILURE
<b>COOKED BONES</b> STOMACH LAGERATIONS	<b>WALNUTS MACADAMIAS</b> NERVOUS SYSTEM AND MUSCLE DAMAGE	<b>ONIONS GARLIC</b> TOO MUCH BLOOD CELL DAMAGE ANEMIA
<b>DAIRY</b> TOO MUCH: DIARRHEA	<i>the world's</i> MOST <b>DANGEROUS FOODS</b> FOR DOGS	<b>GRAPES</b> KIDNEY FAILURE
<b>MUSHROOMS</b> SOME VARIETIES: SHOCK DEATH		<b>FATTY FOODS</b> TOO MUCH: PANCREATITIS
<b>CAFFEINE</b> VOMITING DIARRHEA TOXIC TO HEART & NERVOUS SYSTEM	<b>XYLITOL</b> (GUM, CANDY ETC.) LIVER FAILURE HYPOGLYCEMIA DEATH	<b>CHOCOLATE</b> TOXIC TO HEART & NERVOUS SYSTEM DEATH
<b>MEDICATIONS</b> (TYLENOL, ADVIL ETC.) KIDNEY FAILURE GI ULCERS	If you think your dog ate something dangerous, CALL YOUR VET or: ASPCA POISON CONTROL HOTLINE (888) 426-4436 NATIONAL PET POISON HELPLINE (800) 213-6680 illustration by LILI CHIN   layout by DESIGN LAB CREATIVE STUDIO	

## Do's AND DON'Ts:

There are several foods, although fine to humans, that can be deadly to dogs. The image to your left, shows not just mere suggestions.

Many incidents of poisoning with dogs involve accidental ingestion. Please keep dangerous foods and medications out of reach, and in sealed containers. We also advise you watch your dog when on walks, as many use these opportune moments to pick up scraps and trash that can be potentially hazardous.

Chocolate is toxic to dogs, as are grapes, most nuts, and xylitol.

## BONES:

Please keep in mind there are some bones your dog should never have. Small bones like chicken wings, and turkey bones can cause a blockage in their intestine or a tear in their stomach lining. These should never be consumed at any time.

The more cooked a bone is, the more dangerous. Even large bones sold at pet stores can splinter into tiny pieces, making it easy for your dog to swallow something that will cause a problem on the way down. If you choose to provide your pet with one of these treats, only allow them to chew them when you are at home and can monitor them.

# GROOMING AND CARE

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Grooming is a part of dog ownership, regardless of the breed.

Due to the special nature of the Chow's double coat there are a few things you can do to help maintain its natural healthy state. Below are some do's and don'ts for general dog care, as well as some specific tips to deal with that one of a kind fur.

## BRUSH

1. Be sure to brush often. We recommend 2-3 times a week at least, to ensure that no matting will form.
2. When brushing, be sure to brush under the collar or harness area. These spots are prone to matting.
3. There are certain brushes that are best for double coated dogs. Some examples, which can be found for purchase online include: The Groom Ninja, The Oster Undercoat Rake, and various Slicker brushes.

## BATHE

1. Purchase the highest quality dog shampoo you can afford. In combination with a good dry shampoo intermittently, this will ensure a fresh happy dog.
2. Only bathe when necessary. Try not to over wash your dog. This will dry out their skin, and remove their natural oils.
3. Keep Dawn dish soap at hand. Flea's are a pain, and while preventative measures do an excellent job you may find your pup in need of a flea bath at some point. Dawn detergent, if left on the coat for 10 minutes, suffocates flea's and makes the removal process, much easier.
4. Find a groomer you love. At some point, your dog may need a full detail, good scrub, or a trim. Professional services can make the process a lot easier for you, and your companion. Many offer de-shedding baths, flea baths, and extra services. You can reach out to our rescue for recommendations in local areas.

## DETAIL

1. Good grooming includes dental care, nail care, and ear cleaning. Don't be overwhelmed. Most professional services and vet's can take of this step for you. However, if you plan to do it at home, make sure you exercise caution when using tools around sensitive areas.
  2. Nail clipping is essential. A dogs nails will naturally file when walking on concrete or hard services, but nails such as the Dewclaw are prone to curling under if not properly cared for. Dog's nails contain a hard to see nail bed, and therefore if you are nervous or unsure, ask your vet for advice.
  3. Invest in some good natural toothpaste, and a brush so you can keep your dog's pearly whites sparkling. Most toothpastes come in flavors that are tolerable to your dog, so as to make your job easier. Again, ask veterinarian for advice, should you have questions.
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# HEARTWORM PREVENTION:

## A MUST FOR YOUR COMPANION

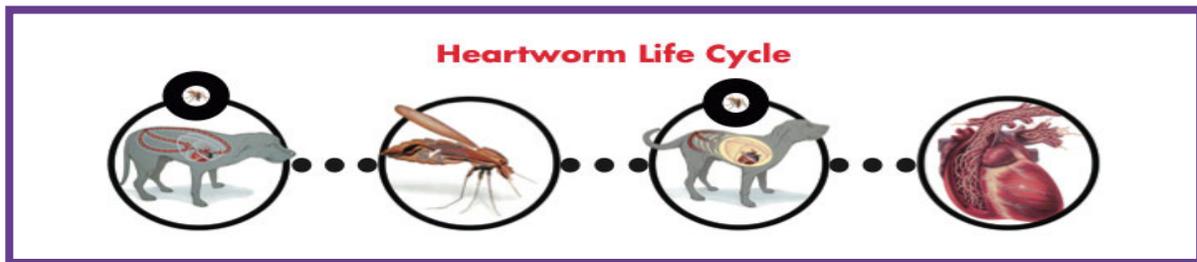
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Not everyone is aware of how life-threatening heartworms can be, and how easily they can be prevented. Please help us to educate by taking the time to read this information thoroughly and carefully.

There are very few areas of the US where heartworm is not a threat to the health of dogs, for at least a portion of the year. Since they are transferred through the bite of a mosquito, they are easy to obtain. Administering a preventative on a regular basis is an important part of being a responsible dog owner.

The prevention is easy, but the treatment if infected, is hard on any dog. Heartworm preventatives work by killing the immature worms in a dog's blood, stopping them from reaching adult stage and therefore they have little to no side effects for the dog. However, full on treatment after infection is present, involves killing the adult worms. This requires hospitalization, and four weeks of limited activity to prevent damage to the lungs and heart tissue. As the worms die, they can restrict breathing and make it difficult for your companion to enjoy life to the fullest.



### IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT HEARTWORM

- Heartworms are a parasitic worm (about the diameter of thin spaghetti), that live free floating in the right ventricle of the heart and nearby blood vessels.
  - The parasites are transmitted from one pet to another through mosquito bites.
  - Heartworm is diagnosed with blood tests, X-rays, and other procedures performed by your veterinarian.
  - Heartworms are NOT detectable with the antigen blood test, until they have reached full maturity. This is usually about 6 months after entering the pet. In order for accurate results, female worms must be present.
  - Veterinarians recommend Heartworm prevention in most areas of the USA. Therefore, your local vet is your best source of information regarding prevention and treatment.
  - Dogs should be tested first, before starting preventative (unless they are less than 7 months of age).
  - Dogs over 7 months that are started on preventative prior to testing, are at an increased risk for developing reactions.
  - Puppies should be started on Heartworm preventative by 8 weeks of age (depending on product), and blood tested at 7 months.
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# FIGHT PREVENTION



Unfortunately, a common cause of distrust between animals and humans occurs due to fights. It can be unsettling to see a dog in a defensive or aggressive mode, however to dogs this behaviour is viewed very differently.

It is a mistake to assume your dog won't ever get in a fight. The issue lies with temperaments and whether they can interact together, not with your dog's own personality or kindness.

Basic obedience training combined with positive reinforcement can help prevent fights.

There are three things that are of great importance to fight prevention.

1. Keeping your dog leashed when on walks and interacting with other animals
2. Socializing your companion from the start of ownership to help him/her adjust
3. Neutering or Spaying your pet

## Think this picture is cute?

Look closely.



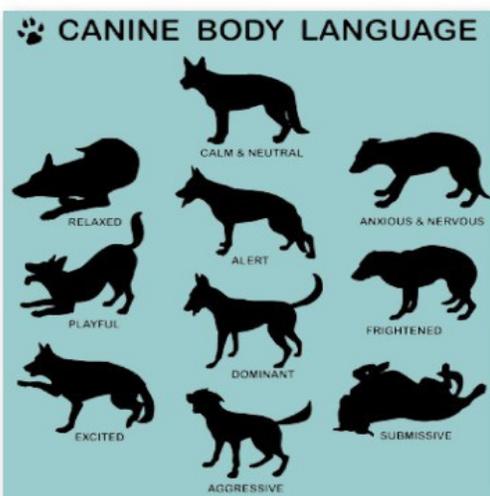
In the instance, that your dog gets in a fight with another animal, the best solutions involve having a clear head. Dogs can sense all tension and stress, and the more direct you are with the situation, the better. Overreacting, or panicking can lead to quick harsh movements from yourself, or someone else, potentially making the problem worse.

Here are some tips for breaking up a dog fight:

1. Remain calm. If you can achieve assistance from someone else, that is preferred.

2. Grab the hind legs of preferably your own dog, and not the unknown animal. Lift up the legs while grabbing, which will force the dog to lose its grip. Drop and back away as quickly as possible to avoid becoming the center of the fight.

3. NEVER place your hand, or anyone else's near the head or mouth of a dog during a fight. This is a common cause for accidental bites.



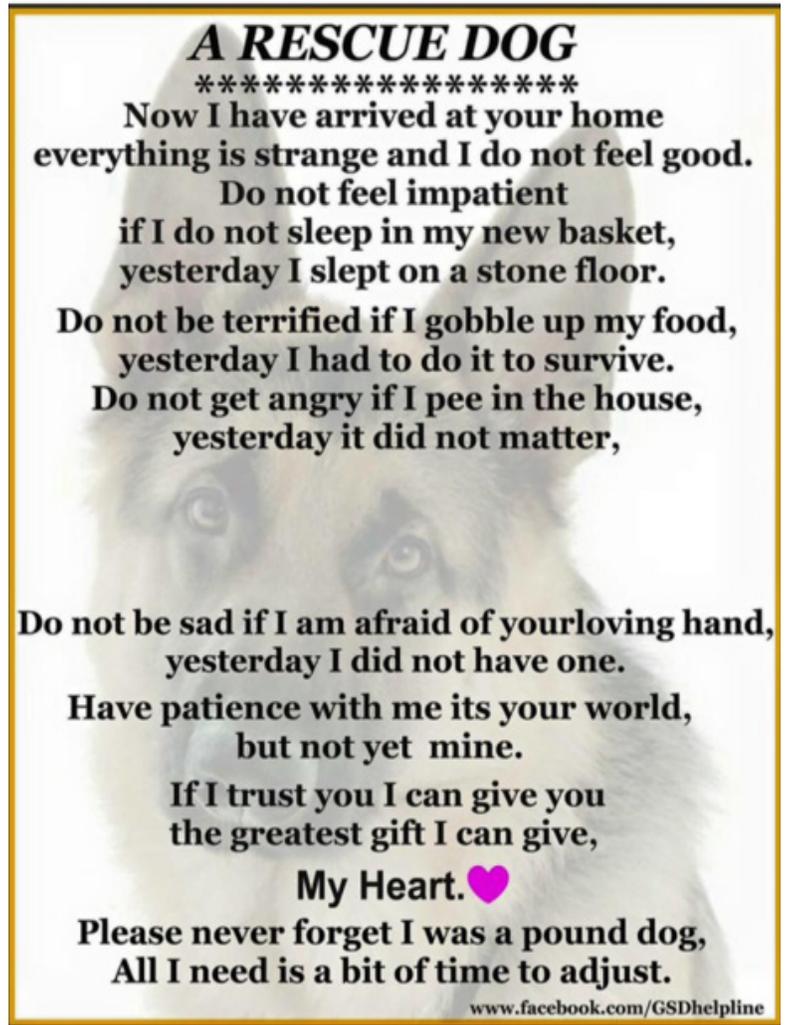


# RESCUE DOGS: PATIENCE

We may, but we may also not, know the whole history of where your new companion has been until now.

Rescue dogs come into our program through various outlets, each with a unique background and personality that makes them uniquely them. It can be a struggle to remain patient as your pet adjusts, grows, and adapts to his or her's new environment. However, the more understanding and nurturing you can be, the better the outcome.

It can take several weeks, for the true personality of your new companion to come out. Initially, he or she may not be interested in toys, beds, eating, or receiving personal affection. None of this is unusual. It is probable that their most recent memories are negative ones, and trust will take time. Please do not give up trying to encourage, and do not make assumptions early on about your pet's likes and dislikes.



**A RESCUE DOG**  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Now I have arrived at your home  
everything is strange and I do not feel good.  
Do not feel impatient  
if I do not sleep in my new basket,  
yesterday I slept on a stone floor.  
Do not be terrified if I gobble up my food,  
yesterday I had to do it to survive.  
Do not get angry if I pee in the house,  
yesterday it did not matter,  
  
Do not be sad if I am afraid of your loving hand,  
yesterday I did not have one.  
Have patience with me its your world,  
but not yet mine.  
If I trust you I can give you  
the greatest gift I can give,  
My Heart. ♥  
Please never forget I was a pound dog,  
All I need is a bit of time to adjust.  
www.facebook.com/GSDhelpline



With any dog, regardless of age or breed, socialization with other individuals and dogs, is encouraged. The less socialized your dog is, the more prone it will be to exhibiting antisocial behaviour. Keep in mind, that giving your new companion some personal space at times, is a good way to help them feel relaxed, and not overwhelmed. Crying, whining, circling and restlessness are not unusual behaviours for dogs to exhibit during their adjustment period. Unless the problem continues to persist, please try and stay consistent with your routine and practice

# SAFE INTERACTION



## How kid SHOULD NOT interact with dogs

Just imagine how people should interact with each other.

Avoid taking people's food



Avoid bothering dogs when they are eating

Avoid stealing other people's toys



Avoid taking a dog's bones or toys

Avoid putting your face right up to someone else's face



Avoid putting your face right up to a dog's face

Avoid bothering when asleep



Avoid bothering animals when they are resting. Let sleeping dogs lie.

Avoid pestering



Avoid grabbing tail/ears

Avoid pinching



Avoid hugging. Most dogs dislike it.

Avoid screaming around



Avoid hollering and shouting. Use your "inside" voice instead.

One of the most important things to understand, is how to approach and interact correctly with your new companion. These guidelines can be made applicable to not just your pet, but others as well. The biggest concern is of course, children, and adults who may not have experienced a pet before.

Dogs can make wonderful friends and companions to children. They are protective, nurturing, and can provide a boost of self confidence to your child. However, its important to monitor and be aware of how your child, or any child, approaches your pet, especially in the initial stages of ownership.

Here are some don'ts for children, shown in the picture above. The best way to understand it, is to imagine the interaction between the child and another human. The same don'ts apply.



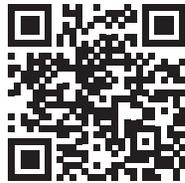
# KEEP THE CONNECTION: HOW TO SUPPORT HCCC

Please stay in touch!

We love to receive photos and videos, as well as updates from our adopters!  
Please submit these on one of our social media links below.

Scan these QR codes with your smartphone, and receive an instant link.

TWITTER:



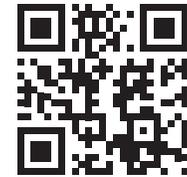
INSTAGRAM:



FACEBOOK:



WEBSITE:



ETSY STORE:



Shop fantastic handmade pet supplies and other goodies with Etsy!  
100 % of the proceeds go to dogs in need.  
Special requests are accepted.

Thank you! By supporting our rescue you have saved a life,  
and helped provide for dogs in need.

Are you ready to keep the connection going?

[Become a volunteer today!](#)

Applications are available on our website link above.