

1890 Chin Chin IV – Chinese import owned by Lieutenant Armstrong



CHIN-CHIN IV., SECOND PRIZE.

This short article with a lovely black chow named Chin-Chin IV pictured is one I have been hanging onto for years and intrigued by the very early date of this show and dog (1892). This dog was being shown side by side in England with the great [Chow VIII](#) who the first standard was based upon.

CHOW CHOWS (CHOWS).
Chou Chous, Winners.—Dog (1): Championship prize, silver medal, and 1st, Miss H. Bagshaw (**Chow VIII**).
Open Chou Chous (10).—1st, Miss H. Bagshaw (**Chow VIII**); 2nd, Mrs. M'L. Morrison (Heathen Chinese III.); 3rd, G. E. Armstrong (**Chin Chin IV.**); r. and special and h.c., Mrs. M'L. Morrison (John Chinaman and Kinnshaw); c., H. Sprengell (Black Warrior).

Chin Chin takes 3rd place at
 this show behind Chow VIII

A couple of weeks ago I was going through my records and discovered that all along I had another outstanding article with an etching of the same dog PLUS a huge bonus....a description of Chin-Chin by the owner of the dog himself. There are also some intriguing details about the required "curl" of the chow tail (I have read this many times before) and the way a very old chow's tongue may become more red; Something many chowists still observe today in their seniors.



June 18, 1892 Chin-Chin a Chinese imported chow being shown at the 36th Show of The Kennel Club. Owner Lieutenant Armstrong



CAPTAIN ARMSTRONG'S CHOW-CHOW CHIN CHIN IV. (Second Prize Kennel Club Show, 1892).

Our illustration is a portrait of Captain Armstrong's Chin Chin IV., which was second in the Open class at the Kennel Club Show on 8th, 9th, and 10th June.

Captain Armstrong gives the following particulars of his dog: "My dog Chin Chin IV. was bred by a Chinese ~~wolf~~-breeder at Hong Kong, and brought home by me in March, 1890. These dogs are exceedingly difficult to bring home to England, as they appear to suffer severely from the sudden changes of temperature experienced on the way through the Indian Ocean, Mediterranean, and Atlantic. On the troopship I came home in there were above fifteen Chow-Chow puppies when we left Hong Kong, but I think only five survived the voyage. The Chow-Chow is met throughout the whole of China, and seems to thrive in the tropical regions as well as he does in the north. The buff-coloured Chow-Chows are really only the common breed, and are found in nearly every Chinese village, often living like the pariah dogs of Constantinople. There seems to be a good deal of 'wolf' in their breed too, and, in fact, in the villages along the banks of the Yangste Kiang, I came across several undoubted crosses between the dogs and the wolves that frequent the country. The black Chow-Chow, however, is much rarer, and is bred either for eating or as a pet. In fact, there

are numbers of Chinese breeders whose sole business is to breed these dogs as pets for their countrymen. As you say in your notes, the mouth and tongue should be quite black, though I have heard that the black turns slightly red when the dog becomes really old. The dogs, if well bred, are exceedingly intelligent, and most affectionate to their masters, though they all possess the trait of not caring much for strangers. I should also point out that many Chow-Chows in this country have their tails only slightly curled. This is a bad point, as the tail should be in a regular twist, and lie well on the back when the dog is awake and erect. The back should be short, hair long and straight, and a good 'frill' or collar round the throat."
