

1898 ARTICLE – NY Paper reports of the new fad in London of owning Chow dogs.

Circa 1901 - Kensington Gardens, London England



A rare stereoview card of Teatime in the garden with a chow

I am heading up this very early newspaper article from our

breed history with another outstanding find in my personal archives. It depicts just 3 years after the article, a chow dog being "catered" to in the famous Kensington Gardens of London. It sets into perspective how quickly this Chow fad took hold in all parts of England ,from the late 1890's onward. You will find some incredible tidbits about the smooth coat variety and where they may have originated from. My jaw hit the floor when I researched the Tonkin area of China . In our travels to Hanoi Vietnam and Kunming China (both in close proximity to the Gulf of Tonkin) I took many photos of what looked like smooth chows with black tongues , straighter rears and very chow features. More on that later!!

"CHINESE" GORDON'S CHOW DOG LEADS TO A NEW CANINE
FAD IN LONDON.



Type of Edible Chow Dog, Which Has Suddenly Become a Fashionable Fad of John Bull's Dog Lovers.

THE Chow-Chow dog that the Chinaman loves because it is good to eat has become a fad in London—not as an article of food, however.

A Chow-Chow Club has been formed there, the membership of which is limited to dog fanciers who own Chow-Chows. Within the Winter a bench show will be held, in anticipation of which London society is becoming absorbed in the beautiful little Chow and learning all about the dog's fine points.

The Chow dog fad had its origin in the fact that General "Chinese" Gordon's Chow dog has been recently placed in an orphanage in London, where he has a special keeper. The publication of the fact aroused interest in Chow dogs, and the British dog faddists were quick to seize the opportunity for making a new fashion.

The Chow-Chows serve many uses. In Manchuria, their native land, they are bred and farmed for their skins. It takes eight of the dogs to make one good-sized carriage robe, the value of which would be \$3.50. The dogs are strangled to death in midwinter, at which time their fur is of most value.

As food the little Chows are a delicacy for both high and low in China. The tongue is considered the most dainty portion, while it is only the forelegs and feet that fall to the poor man.

It is only recently that the Chow has been imported into England, Mr. W. K. Taunton being one of the first to introduce the dog to British kennels. Lady Granville Gordon owns the famous blue champion, Blue Blood, that has taken prizes every time exhibited. Champion Chow VIII., another famous Chow, was recently purchased for \$525 by Mrs. J. V. Faber.

In breeding Chow-Chows it has been found a great variety in color can be obtained. There are black, red, blue, yellow, cream and white Chows, and Chows of

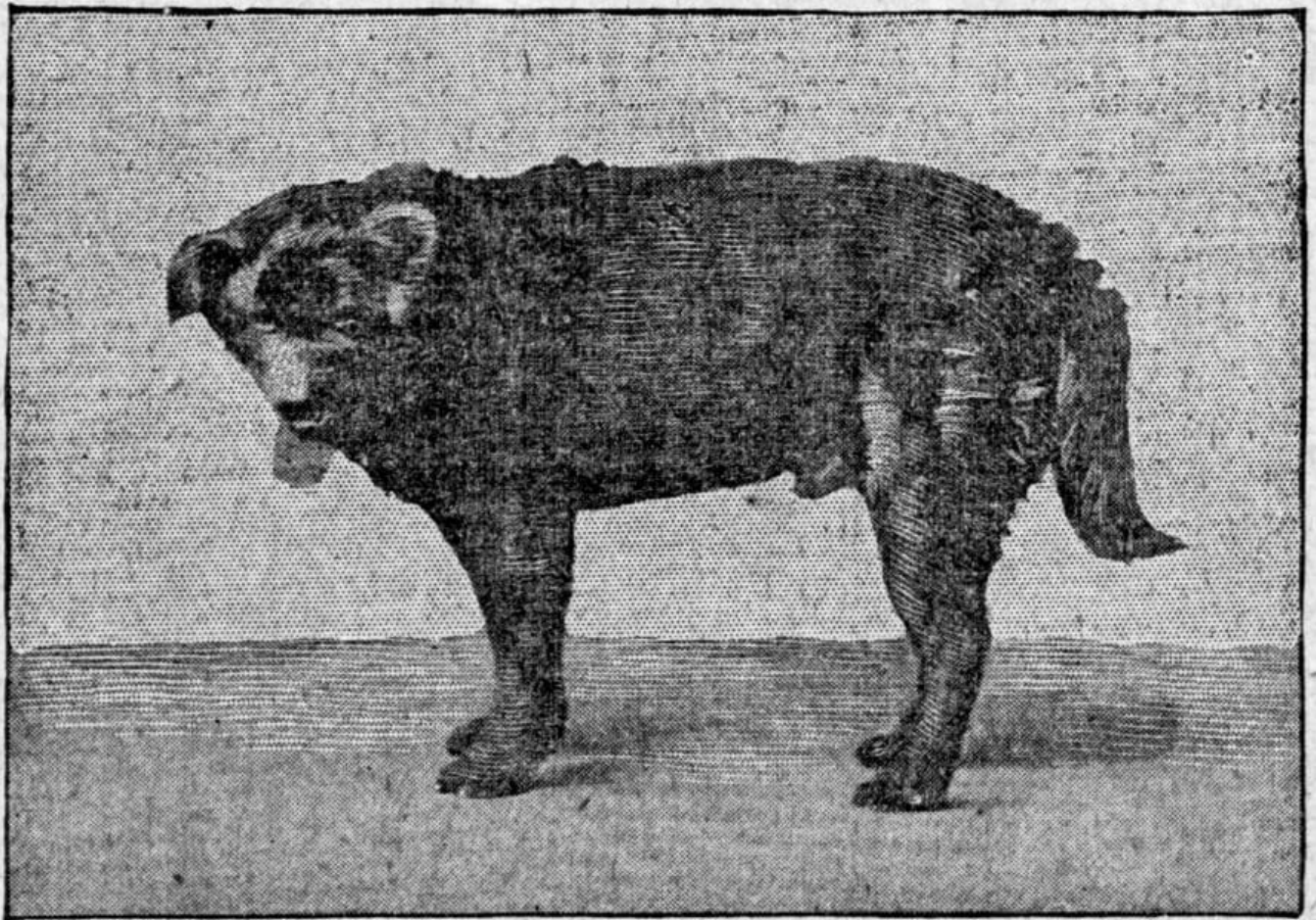
mixed color. Chow color seems influenced by the districts, as the whites come chiefly from the South, the blacks from the North, while of the blues there is mystic rumor of large kennels in monasteries on the Tibetan frontier.

The smooth Chow comes probably from Tonkin, and specimens are seen in the Paris Jardin d'Acclimatation. They differ from the roughs in length of legs, narrowness of face, and lightness of bone; their feet also have less of the desirable cat shape. Mr. W. R. Temple, a well-known judge of the breed, says that smooths and roughs are of so different types that if

smooths were bred for 100 years they would never produce roughs, but Mr. Temple has probably not tried the experiment for that length of time.

Though the black tongue is so essential a point that a red one is a disqualification (as are also drop ears or white spots on the coat), a Chow is not born with a black, but with a red, one. A black spot then appears, on it, and gradually the whole becomes black.

Among the chief supporters of the breed are Lady Granville Gordon, Miss Armyne Gordon, Lady Aylesford, Mrs. J. V. Faber and the Marquis of Huntly.



Chinese Chow Dog, Brought from China by General Gordon, Now
Tenderly Cared for in London.