

# 1898 – Lun Tai – Smooth chow China import – Miss Casella owner

WHEREAS the ordinary rough-haired Smooth Chow-chow is now quite common in this country, and is frequently to be seen in the streets of London, the smooth variety is still scarce,

**SMOOTH CHOW CHINESE IMPORT**  
**"Lun Tai" owner Miss Casella**

Circa 1903  
Animal Life and  
the World of Nature

A Magazine of  
Natural History

Miss Casella was  
one of the leading  
and earliest importers  
of Chinese chows  
in England.



"LUN-TAI," A SMOOTH CHOW.

and the majority of the specimens seen, so Mr. H. C. Brooke tells us, are of rather inferior quality. "Lun-Tai," however, the property of Miss Casella, is a most high-class specimen, as may be imagined from the fact that he was picked out on purpose for his present owner by a mandarin at Hong-Kong from a crowd of over a hundred chows brought in for him to select from.

NAME: Lun-Tai (male)

DATE OF BIRTH: 1898 – China

OWNER: Miss Casella – England

This smooth chow photo I have seen many times in various books over the years, but only recently did a 1903 article reveal the name and origin of this handsome dog "Lun Tai". Miss Casella, the dog's owner was one of our esteemed breed pioneers in England, often importing the cream of the crop from China. Below I also found in another publication a complete description of Lun Tai, which gives us a well rounded picture of what this dog represented in both his breed type and smooth variation. I have much more written on Miss Casella and Lun Tai which I will be adding to the archives soon.

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the winner of twelve championships, besides numerous other prizes.

The second illustration depicts *Lun-Tai*, a dog of the rare smooth variety of Chows, of which only a very few exist in this country. He was imported direct from China, and his pedigree is therefore unknown. He was born in 1898, stands 19 inches at shoulder, weighs over 40 lbs., and is of a red colour. A strong, cobby, closely-knit dog, with plenty of bone and wonderful muscular development, and standing on the best of legs and feet. A typical head, wide skull, a truly perfect "Chow expression," and very small ears, carried pointing slightly forward. Coat as smooth as a terrier's; no feathering on thighs and tail. In winter he grows a thick undercoat, resembling a fur. His eyes are dark brown in colour, and his only defect is that they are inclined to be rather full for a Chow. He has won one championship and 12 firsts, but will probably never become a full champion, as judges do not favour the smooth type at present

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A smooth Chow's coat should be almost, if not quite, as short as a terrier's, though it does not lie so flat on account of the under-coat, especially in winter, when the latter becomes very dense. The coat resembles some sort of fur. There should be no feathering on the back of the thighs, and the tail should not be a brush.

From the same publication as above , a quote about smooths from Miss Casella

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compliments. I own a dog—Lun-Tai—a smooth Chow, who, although he was brought up by Europeans, is much more independent and obstinate than the rest of my dogs, who were bred in this country. Lun-Tai, although quite demonstrative in his affection (for a Chow), has a great love of solitude, and always prefers to be by himself, away from human beings,—which I take to be another wild characteristic.

Also from the same publication, Miss Casella talks about Lun Tai's temperament

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MR. HENRY SAWTELL would cruelly shatter one ideal which has supplied me with an illustration for this section. He writes : " From information given me by a friend who is still residing in China, and has bred Chows for nearly twenty years, I am strongly of opinion there is no such breed as a smooth-coated Chow, and that the solitary specimens occasionally exhibited are nothing more or less than freaks."

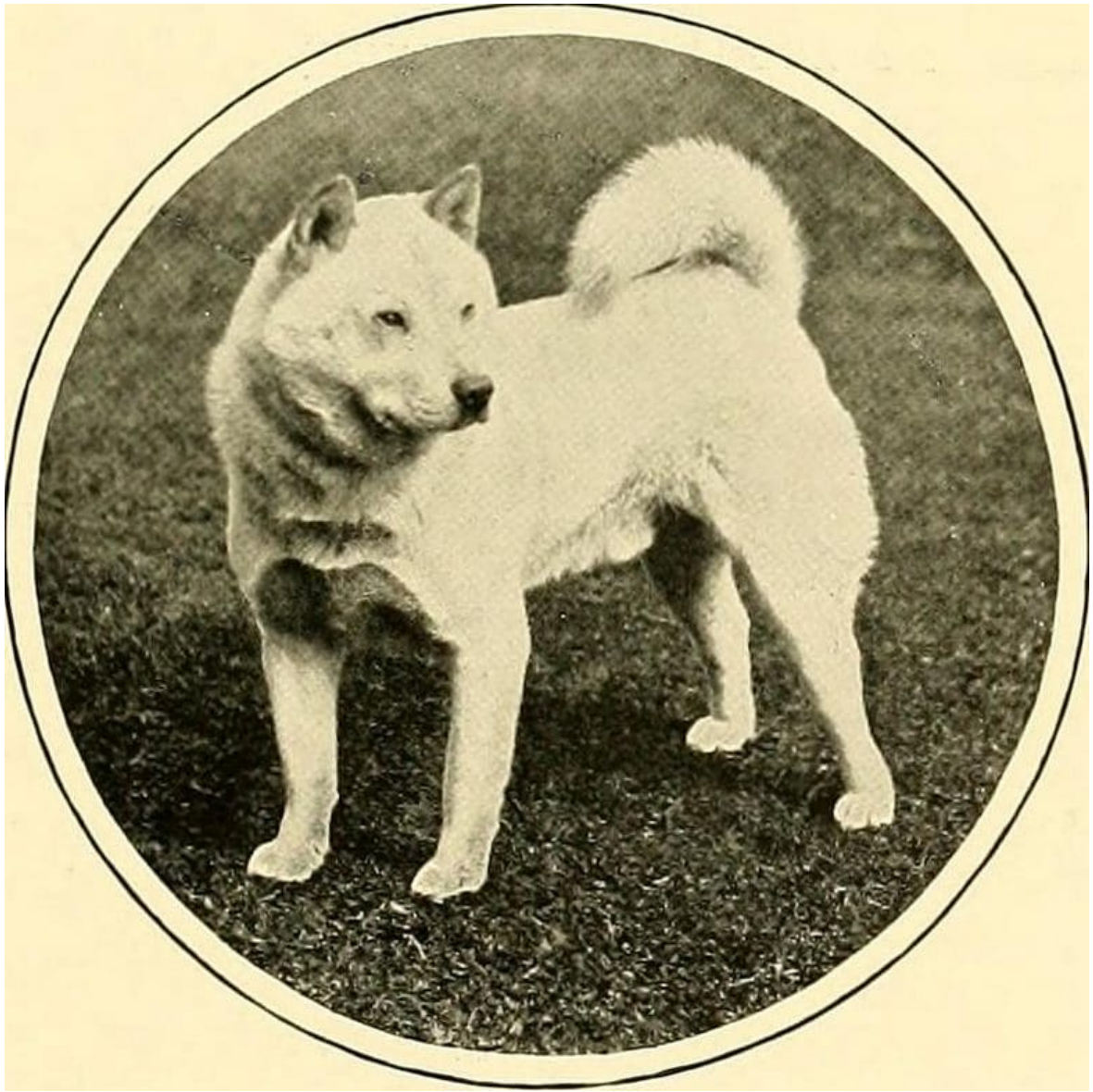
To which Lun-Tai, whose portrait is given, enters a protest, and ventures the reminder that he was awarded first in the Open Class at the Kennel Club Show in 1900, and an equal first in 1902. His mistress (who is importing a smooth-coated wife for him, of the same type) also states that when Lun-Tai was exported from China, the Mandarin and big-wigs of the district declared he was a great deal too good a

dog to be permitted to leave his native land. I may also note that the Hon. Mrs. M'Laren Morrison owns a very fine smooth specimen—the only female in England at present.

From the same publication, Lun Tai's heritage is questioned  
and Casella replies

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One of Mrs. Maclaren Morrison's smooth chows , "FASON"  
bred by Mrs. Harry Rawson. From The New Book of the Dog  
by Robert Leighton 1910