

A CHOW CHOW ON THE TITANIC

A note and clipping addressed to judge Love Banghart of Rebelrun chows about the Chow on the Titanic ~Rebelrun Collection

I never knew there were pets on the Titanic until I read an article in the latest issue of pet friendly. One was a chow owned by a New York stockbroker, Harry Anderson. Mr Anderson survived but the poor chow didn't. I couldn't find much about the dog but I think I did find a picture. He is, I believe the black dog being held by one of the crewmen. Interestingly enough the 1st class passengers planned a dog show for the next morning after the tragedy. of course fate intervened and it never occurred. you might want to pass this interesting bit of chow lore on to your readers. I enjoy your breed column in the Gazette every month. I am enclosing the Titanic photo swell as one of my two chows in the recent snowstorm in Alexandria, Va. Bob McClellan



note the black dog 2nd from right

ARTICLE BELOW CONFIRMS THAT A CHOW NAMED "CHOW CHOW" WAS INDEED ABOARD THE TITANIC BUT DID NOT SURVIVE
SOURCE: <http://titanicthenandnow.com/titanic-dogs.php>

**More information about the dogs are now included in the 100th Anniversary
Exhibition Tour at *RMS TITANIC, INC.***

A number of dogs were brought aboard by passengers as pets. Most were kept in kennels on the ship's F Deck, though some First Class passengers kept theirs in their cabins – probably without the knowledge of the crew or with the turning of a blind eye, as they were not supposed to do so. The ship's carpenter, John Hutchison, was responsible for the dogs' welfare. The kennel dogs were exercised daily on the poop deck by a steward or one of the bellboys. Many of them carry tiny dogs, and lead husbands around like pet lambs. The dog owners had planned to hold a dog show aboard the ship on the morning of 15 April, but by that time *Titanic* was at the bottom of the North Atlantic as were, presumably, most of the dogs.

The details of several of the dogs aboard *Titanic* were recorded and included: A King Charles Spaniel and an elderly Airedale Terrier, owned by William Carter Chow-Chow, a chow chow owned by Harry Anderson A champion French Bulldog called Gamin de Pycombe, owned by Robert W. Daniel, who had bought him in England for the very high price of £150 (£11,006 in 2012 prices) Kitty, another Airedale Terrier, owned by millionaire John Jacob Astor A Pomeranian owned by Margaret Bechstein Hays, which she kept (probably surreptitiously) in her cabin A dog owned by Elizabeth Rothschild, also kept in her cabin A Pekingese called Sun Yat Sen, owned by Henry Sleeper Harper and his wife Myra Frou-Frou, a toy dog owned by Helen Bishop. The dog was allowed to stay in her cabin as the stewards considered it "too pretty" to put among the bigger dogs in the kennels. There were probably more dogs aboard, but their details (and owners) have not survived. It was perhaps fortunate that passenger Charles Moore of Washington, D.C. had to make a last-minute change to his plans to transport aboard *Titanic* 100 English foxhounds, which he intended to use to start an English-style fox hunt in the Washington area. They were instead shipped aboard another vessel. Two dogs and a canary disembarked with the passengers who left the ship at Cherbourg, *Titanic*'s first port of call after Southampton. The animals travelled on their own tickets; even the canary that left at Cherbourg had to be paid for, to the tune of 25 US cents.

Fate of the dogs:

Three of the dogs were taken aboard lifeboats by their owners. Margaret Hays' Pomeranian got away safely in Lifeboat 7 and lived until 1919, while Elizabeth Rothschild refused to board Lifeboat 6 unless her dog was allowed to come too. Henry and Myra Harper brought their Pekingese aboard Lifeboat 3 but Helen Bishop had to abandon Frou-Frou in her cabin, much to their mutual distress. The dog attempted to stop her leaving by holding on to her dress with his teeth until the seam tore. Afterwards Bishop spoke of her sorrow: "The loss of my little dog hurt me very much. I will never forget how he dragged on my clothes. He so wanted to accompany me." At some point during the sinking, someone decided to free the dogs from their kennels, leading to the surreal sight of a pack of excited dogs racing up and down the slanting deck as the ship went down. One female passenger is said to have refused to be parted from her dog and chose to stay aboard. Several days later, as the SS Bremen passed through an area still strewn with debris and bodies floating in the water, passengers saw the body of a woman tightly holding a large shaggy dog in her arms. Robert W. Daniel's bulldog Gamin de Pycombe was last seen in the water swimming for his life after the ship went down. After the sinking, several of the surviving animal owners made compensation claims for their lost pets. Daniel claimed \$750 for the loss of his pedigree bulldog, while Carter claimed \$300 for the loss of his two dogs and Chow-Chow was valued by Anderson at \$50.

The three canine survivors of the *Titanic* were:

"Lady"

A Pomeranian that had recently been purchased in Paris by Margaret Bechstein Hays, according to Encyclopedia Titanica. The 24-year-old New Yorker was returning home on the Titanic from travels in Europe with friends. As she stepped into lifeboat 7 with Lady, another passenger reportedly passed by and joked, "Oh, I suppose we ought to put a life preserve on the little doggie, too."

Another Pomeranian

Whose name isn't known, owned by New York clothing magnate Martin Rothschild and his wife, Elizabeth Jane Anne Rothschild. While Martin Rothschild didn't survive the shipwreck, his wife made it to lifeboat 6 with her dog, which she kept hidden. No one else on the lifeboat remembered seeing the dog until the next morning, and rescuers on the Carpathia initially refused to take it on board. But Rothschild insisted, and both made it back to New York.

"Sun Yat-Sen"

A Pekingese owned by Henry S. Harper, heir to New York's Harper & Row publishing firm, and his wife, Myna Harper. The Harpers were returning from a tour of Europe and Asia, joined by an interpreter they had picked up in Egypt. All three, plus Sun Yat-Sen, entered lifeboat 3 on the Titanic's starboard side. When asked later about saving the dog, Henry Harper explained that "There seemed to be lots of room, and nobody made any objection."

Source: THE TITANIC MUSEUM