

CHOW DESCRIPTIONS IN THE NEWS

Circa 1896- An interesting description of the Chow breed. I paired the article with an image of one of the most celebrated British chows in breed history from the same era.

chowtales.com

PERIDOT II



Thank you dedicated breeders of yesteryear for proving this guy wrong

A writer in *Cornhill* for July 1896 speaks about

‘A large chow-dog from Northern China, which a freak of fashion has decreed shall be kept as a pet by English ladies. These dogs are not suited either by nature or training for domestic pets. They are only half-civilised dogs, very excitable, often savage, and so little considered as household companions in their native Manchuria that they are bred for the sake of their fur, and killed, like seals, when the fur is in season. But they are born sledge-dogs, immensely strong in the shoulder and short in the neck, with pulling powers far greater than those of any of the breeds used in Holland and Belgium for drawing carts. If the laws against the use of dogs for draught are repealed, just as the laws against road-engines and steam-carts are about to be repealed, the “chows” would form the basis of a new breed of cart-dogs for minor traffic.’

Chow Once Pet Morsel in China



His origin is uncertain, but it is believed he came from the far north.

The dog was bred for human consumption and the Chinese generally killed the Chows when they were from five to ten months old. The aristocracy of old China was said to have considered Chow chops as one of the most delicious of dishes.

There are thousands of Chows in America, but if Americans were buying the Chow for eating it would be rather an expensive dish. A few years ago, when the Chow was high-

ly popular, puppies with any decent looks sold for \$250 and more. A good specimen was worth four figures.

No one knows just where the Chow originated, but experts in kennel matters say he is allied to the Arctic dog. His head, ears, furry coat and curled tail bear resemblance to the characteristics of the Arctic breed. In northern China the breed is used for hunting and in winter the Chows draw sleds across the snow like the Eskimo dogs.

The most popular color in Chows in this country is red. There are also black and blue Chows, red with white shadings, fawn and white. Few of the last three markings are seen in America.

ALL SHORT ARTICLES DESCRIBING THE CHOW FROM ITS INTRODUCTION
TO AMERICA -THE 1950'S WILL GO ON THIS PAGE

Some are pretty interesting, ground breaking, or inaccurate
according to today's findings...and others very humorous!

Chow Chow as Dog Name Not Known in China

**Dr. Young Writes of His-
tory of Animal Among
People of the Orient**

All existing histories of the chow chow are rendered obsolete by the new information on the ancient Chinese breed of dog that Dr. C. Walter Young reveals in an article in the August issue of the American Kennel Gazette, official magazine of the American Kennel Club. This story comes directly from China, where Dr. Young has been making his home for many years and where his principal hobbies have been breeding the chow and digging into its history.

Dr. Young explains that the Chinese call this breed by several names, but never "chow chow." The growth of the name "chow chow" is purely from the 18th century pidgin English expression for almost anything Chinese, such as "bric-a-brac." The name was used loosely, as a time saver, in listing the cargoes of sailing vessels plying between Canton and English and

American ports. Eventually it came to include the exotic breed of dog. At any rate, the name was not applied to the dog because it was first listed in the Occidental shows as "the Edible Dog of China."

"Why then this name 'chow chow'?" asks Dr. Young. "In the south of China, as round about Canton, where he is indigenous, he is usually called merely the 'black tongue' or 'black mouthed' dog. In the North, as in Peiping, the Chinese on seeing one of these dogs usually dubs him 'lang kou' (wolf dog), 'hsiung kou' (bear dog) or, the more sophisticated, 'hei she-t'ou', i.e., the dog of Canton.

Dr. Young writes that the "chow chow" is most prevalent in the provinces of Kwangtung and Kwangsi today and may be found in interior Kweichow and Yunnan, and that he emphatically is not a north China dog, as he has been so often described. Neither does he come from Manchuria and Mongolia.

It is told for the first time, also, that the T'ang emperors (618-907 A.D.) used this breed of dog for hunting purposes. The chow chow, incidentally, was introduced into the West long before the Pekingese, a brace having gone to England from Canton in 1780. These dogs were brought from Canton by a neighbor of the Rev. Gilbert White a most graphic description of the of Selborne. The minister has left dogs.

Circa 1936

From the
Des Moines
Register
Newspaper



This chow, Pao Oyting, allows the canary to perch on his head, and holds the kitten in his paws, but only because his master commands it

He is a bit sullen about appearing in such an undignified pose