

1916-SCOWL IS LACKING IN MODERN CHOW



THE SUN, SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 1916.

This article written in 1916 is pretty amazing to read, as it could have been as easily written today and still applied to many of our breed dilemmas. Not only are the comments about the “scowl” featured, but important points of the standard.... and reasons to CHANGE the standard are discussed. A fascinating read. I have made notations in RED to draw attention to some interesting article highlights.

©WORLDSHOW.COM ARCHIVES
Image restored by Sandra Miller



PHOTO
RUSSELL & SONS

CH.CHINESE CHUM ABOVE IS THE DOG REFERRED TO IN THIS ARTICLE
WITH THE GOOD OLD FASHIONED CORRECT "SCOWL"

SCOWL IS LACKING IN MODERN CHOW

**In Several Other Respects
Type Popular Now Departs
From Standard.**

COLOR EMPHASIZED HERE

The growing popularity of the Chow Chow has called forth many discussions pro and con as to the correct type desired in this handsome breed. One fancier well versed in the points that should constitute the correct type remarked recently that breeders in America had sacrificed type for size and color, saying that most of the specimens seen now were higher on the leg, lighter in bone and longer in foreface than the big winners of a few years ago.

©worldchow.com-archives

I WOULD LIKE
TO FIND A PHOTO OF CHELSEA PENSIONER MENTIONED IN THE BELOW
PARAGRAPH

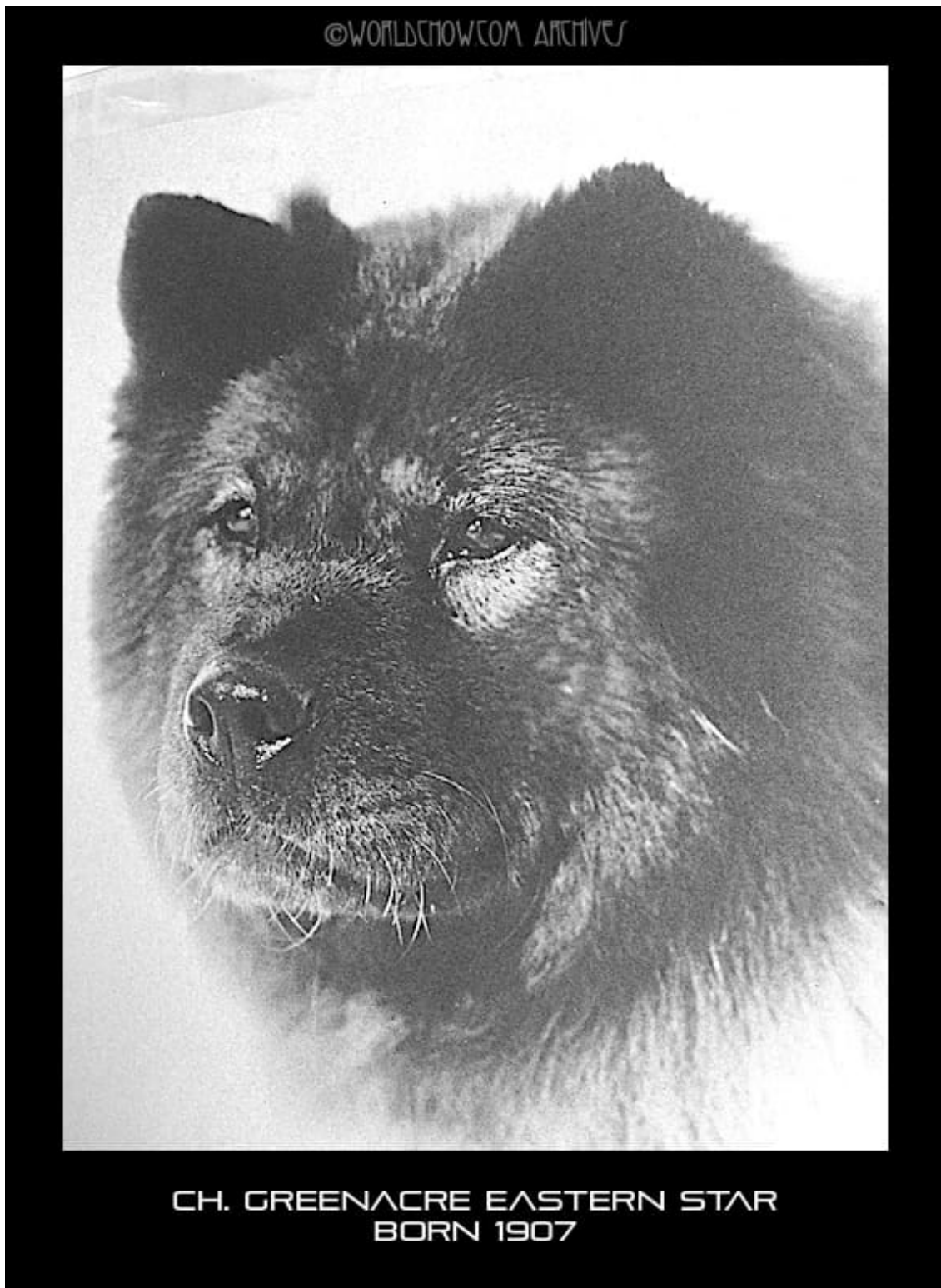
Looking back over the Chows seen in the past the name of Mrs. James Decker's champion Chelsea Pensioner comes to mind. This dog was all that could be desired in type. In fact, he is said to have been one of the best built and most perfect specimens that has ever been seen in this country. When he came out a great cry was raised against his color because he had light breechings and tail. He had a marvellous head, great bone, a short back, and, in fact, everything, but nevertheless American breeders did not approve of his light breechings and tail and were prone to overlook his great quality on that account.

Champion Chinese Chum, the greatest sire that has ever been known in this interesting breed, was built on much the same order as Pensioner. He was a deeper red in color, it is true, but in makeup he was a replica of Mrs. Decker's champion. Chinese Chum has his name engraved in the history of the breed in no uncertain manner. He stands out preeminently as the producer of more champions than any other dog in the history of the breed and was himself a big winner on the show bench. A son of Chum's, Champion Eastern Star, owned by the Greenacre Kennels, is about the last of the real old type of Chow. He is a dog moulded after the old pattern.

©worldchow.com-archives

BELOW IS EASTERN STAR WHO IS A SON OF CHINESE CHUM, IS MENTIONED MULTIPLE TIMES IN THIS ARTICLE AS BEING ONE OF THE

LAST OF THE OLD STYLE CHOWS.



EASTERN STAR WON WESTMINSTER OVER AN ENTRY OF 52
CHOWS IN 1914

THE COMMENTS BELOW ABOUT BREEDERS IGNORING BALANCE AND
COMPACTNESS OF THE CHOW STARTED EARLY ON IN THE BREED'S
HISTORY

The perfect Chow, to be really good, according to the standard, must have a broad, flat skull, must be well filled out under the eyes, with a muzzle moderate in length, and broad from eyes to point. That description fits the head seen on Chinese Chum and Eastern Star to perfection, but is in direct variance with the style of head noticed on some of the Chows that have been winning of late. The scowl, a characteristic of the breed which gives them that fierce expression, has also been sadly lacking in many present day winners.

Forelegs straight, of moderate length, with great bone, says the standard, while the general appearance, as set forth in the official standard, is that of a lively compact, muscular, short coupled dog, well knit in frame, with tail curved over the back. For some time judges have passed the short coupled, compactly built little dog for the rangier, leggier and longer backed type. Whether the change has been a beneficial one for the breed or not, is an open question. Many have shown a marked preference for the older type and a few have been heard to deplore the fact that the moderate in length, well filled under the eye foreface and the compactly built, short coupled, heavily boned little dogs have given way to the newer, rangier type.

©worldchow.com-archives

BELOW, NOTE THE FIRST PARAGRAPH ABOUT CHANGING THE STANDARD...
WHICH APPLIES TODAY AS MUCH AS IN 1916

If the new type is right, then the old type is decidedly wrong, and the standard needs revision; but if the old type is to be perpetuated, breeders must look more to the bone, heads, and compactness of their dogs and not allow color and size to sway them entirely in their breeding operations.

Another matter that has been brought up frequently of late in connection with this breed is the fact that the dogs owned in this country are all closely inbred, most of the leading winners coming from the same fountain head, and in pedigrees the name of many leading sires will appear several times.

This will in time tend to undermine the constitution of these dogs and no doubt has had its effect already in the shy breeding which many fanciers complain of. The remedy seems simple enough, and if some American fancier would have the foresight to import new blood from China to cross with those now bred here the general constitution of the animals would be strengthened. The dogs from China are not quite up to the standard of our best show dogs, but they are exceptionally strong in many points and would make ideal outcrosses. Chinese specimens are noted for their tremendous scowls, short, blocky heads with blunt muzzles, small eyes and good bone. They are not quite the size of the English or American bred dogs and their coats are not as profuse. In China the predominating colors are creams, buffs and shaded brindles, with reds and blacks scarcer, and the blues a rarity.

Another avenue open to American breeders for the strengthening of their strains is England, where the Chow has for some years been looked upon with favor. Specimens can be obtained there which have a different line of blood from American dogs and which would be of inestimable value as an outcross. Some say that the English bred Chows do not measure up to the standard of the home bred ones, but this seems a fallacy as such great winners as Champion Chinese Chum, Champion Ackum, Dinky of Newlands, Champion Duchess of Nona and many other big winners claim the British Isles as their birthplace. Perhaps it is true that the English winners do not correspond to the type of our present day winners, for the English have not laid the same stress on color and size that Americans have and they have been more interested in the developing of typey specimens regardless of color. Americans taboo a cream colored specimen, but the English do not overlook a dog of that color if he has the other and more essential qualifications—type and quality.