

The New Chow Chow Standard

*The March of Breed Progress Responsible for
a Changing Ideal of This Ever Popular Dog*

By WALLACE MacMONNIES



CHANGING times bring changing ideas, and standards of perfection which once sufficed for breeds of pedigreed livestock become obsolete as the various breeds progress or fashions in them change. In keeping, therefore, with the march of breed, progress was the attitude of the Chow Chow Club of America in adopting, at its 1925 annual meeting, a new standard of perfection for the breed.

It had long been considered, by many breeders, that the old standard had become obsolete; that various passages in it were more or less ambiguous; and that it allowed too much leeway in many of its requirements.

The move for a new standard, first advocated two years ago, finally resulted in the one given herewith.

Representing, as it does, the majority opinion of the members of the Chow Club, and embodying, in whole or in part, the ideas of this country's most successful breeders, it is the most comprehensive and clearly painted word-picture of a perfect Chow that has as yet been presented for the guidance of judges, breeders, and exhibitors alike.

Edwin Megargee, noted painter of animals, whose paintings of various breeds of cattle, horses, poultry and other domesticated animals have been accepted as standards by their respective breed associations, has drawn for the GAZETTE an ideal Chow, as por-

trayed by the new standard. This drawing is a composite of the best characteristics of ten of the breed's greatest champions, and is an ocular illustration of what the standard represents. The various paragraphs will be discussed individually as they appear.

Head—Large and massive, with broad, flat skull, well filled under the eyes, moderate stop, proudly carried, with characteristic scowl.

LIONLIKE" was the word formerly used to describe a Chow's head. To one who is not too meticulous, it conveys the general impression as briefly as possible. But the Chow



Photo by Levick

CHUDLEIGH AMWELL POO POO

A striking head study of a young dog. Note the deep-set eyes; broad, deep muzzle; and thick, overhanging lips



Photo by Tauskey

CH. MIN TYE OF CLAIREDALE

An excellent portrait of the head of a bitch. The eyes, ears, muzzle, and expression are all that can be desired

head differs from the lion's in its thick, puffy muzzle and high, stylish carriage.

Muzzle—Short in comparison to length of skull; broad from eyes to end of nose, and of great depth. The lips should be full and overhanging.

The muzzle should be the exact opposite of foxy or snipy. It should have no taper from eyes to nose. When viewed from in front of the animal, the outlines of the muzzle might be likened to a slice of bread, rounded slightly at the corners on top, sides perpendicular, and bottom square or even slightly concave in appearance, caused by the overhanging lips, which should be fleshy, thick and soft.

Teeth—Strong and level.

Nothing need be added here except to state that by level it is meant neither overshot nor undershot. The Chow, as a rule, has excellent teeth. But it is not a working breed, and its dentition, as long as the animal can eat, is of comparatively minor importance.

Nose—Large, broad, and black in color.

BROAD noses are usually associated with broad muzzles. Hence they are very desirable. As for the color, black is undoubtedly ideal, but in cream, blue, and often in very dark-red dogs of certain strains, the nose, at certain periods, "goes off"—becomes rather a brick-gray or rubber color, only to blacken up later. Though this is a fault and should be penalized, it is a minor one in comparison to such things as foxy muz-

zle, spindly, crooked legs, big ears, yellow eyes, etc.

Tongue—A blue-black. The inside of the mouth should be of the same color.

THE huckleberry-pie tongue is the Chow's mark of distinction, and as such should be preserved. Pink, spotted tongues are heritable, and should be eliminated from the breeding kennel and sold as pets. The black mouth is less important, but to be desired, because it indicates a strong pigmentation throughout.

Eyes—Dark, deep-set, of moderate size, and almond shaped.



Photo by Tauskey

CH. WIN SUM MIN T'SING

Noted for his short, blocky body; general chowiness; and his tremendous depth and breadth of muzzle

This tells the story. The almost black, beady eye, three-cornered in the shape of its lids and set deep in the dog's head, under beetling brows, is the one that gives the forbidding aspect. Too many dogs to-day have big, round, yellow cat's eyes. These are to be shunned, for they ruin a dog's whole expression.

Ears—Small, pointed, stiffly carried. They should be placed wide apart, on the top of skull, and set with a slight forward tilt.

The most common fault in ears is for them to be large, coarse, and placed on the side of the dog's head. The scowl in the forehead is lost in this way, and the dog is given the vacuous expression of a lop-eared mule. The delicate, pointed, erect ear contributes to the style and alertness of the dog and should be sought.

Body—Short, compact, well ribbed up, and let down in the flank.

A barrel body, not too fat, but with huge spring of rib and no cut-up in the flank, is the desideratum.

Neck—Strong, full, set well on the shoulders.

NO twelve-and-a-half collars are worn by good Chows. They are all in the sixteen or seventeen class, big, husky, heavily muscled, and strong enough to proudly hold up a tremendous head.

Shoulders — Muscular, slightly sloping.

Powerful might be added. A Chow, in fighting, will invariably strike with his shoulder in the endeavor to upset his opponent.



CH. EASTERN STAR

Noted for his marvelous muzzle; expression; and deep, barrel-shaped body



CH. RED CRAZE

Perhaps the most famous of the old-time English champions. Note how the type has changed

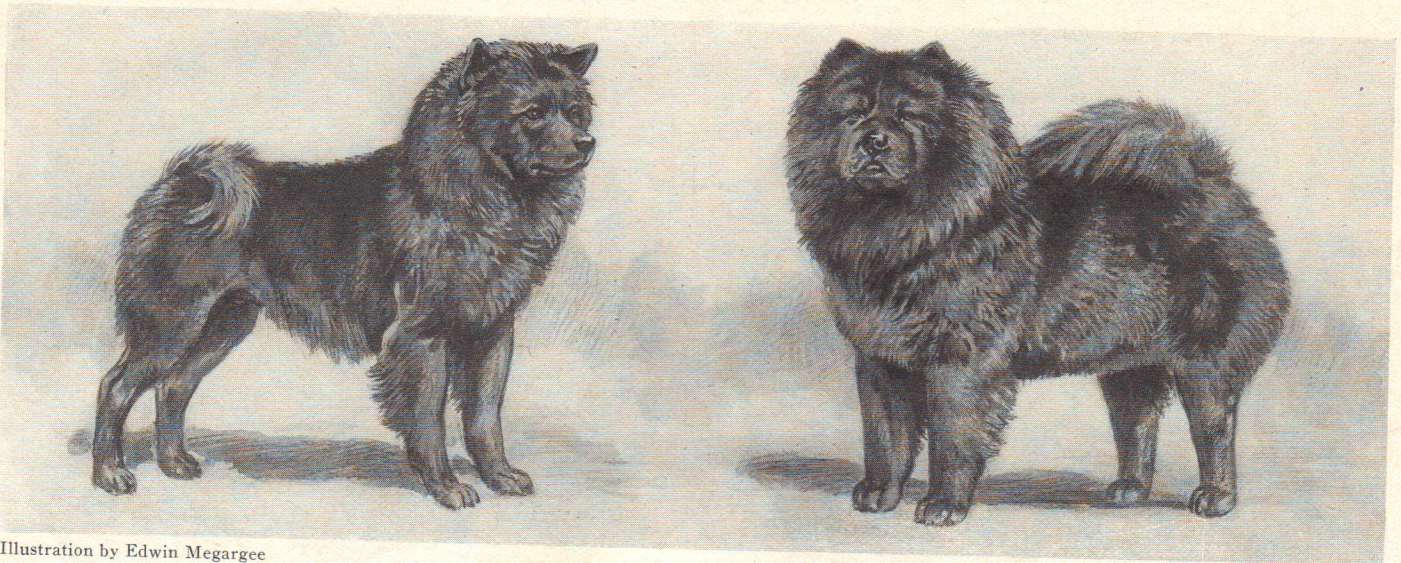


Illustration by Edwin Megargee

A BAD AND A GOOD CHOW CHOW

An ocular demonstration of what is good and bad in a Chow. The drawing on the left depicts a weedy specimen with cow hocks; long, narrow feet; cut-up flank; large, coarse ears, set on side of head; snipy, foxy muzzle; crooked forelegs; and sloping pasterns. On the right is an idealized Chow, the tremendous muzzle; intense scowl; deep, barrel body; gun barrel legs; vertical pasterns; correct tail carriage; and straight hocks being noted

Chest—Broad, deep, and muscular. Enough said.

Back—Short, straight, and strong.

A short back means strength, compactness, and rigidity. A Chow is not designed for speed, but he should be blocky, cobby, and square. The length of back, from point of shoulder to tail setting, should be equal to the height at the withers.

Loins—Broad, deep, and powerful.

STRENGTH in the loins is most important, and weak loins are to be severely penalized, as they indicate lack of stamina.

Tail—Tail set well up and carried closely to back, following line of spine at start.

The ideal tail lies flat along the dog's backbone and points straight toward his head. Tails are found with the tip curled under, with a double curl, and a half curl to either side of the body; but the draped tail on the back gives the appearance of shortening the dog's back, and is most desirable.

Forelegs—Perfectly straight, with heavy bone and upright pastern.

The forelegs should be absolutely perpendicular, like two clothes posts, and have no break at the pastern joint. They should be huge in bone, muscle, and heavily feathered, extending up the back to the armpit.

Hind Legs—Straight hocked, muscular, and heavy boned.

The Chow's hind leg is very distinctive. Unlike other breeds, it shows



Photo by Tauskey

CH. MAXOWN PUNCH

Noted for his absolutely correct legs and feet, and for his general style and compactness

no break at the hock, but is perpendicular. This formation gives the Chow the peculiar stilty, stiff-legged gait which is so valuable a characteristic. Hocks other than straight should be severely penalized.

Feet—Compact, round, and cat-like.

HERE again is a Chowy characteristic. Typical Chow feet, both fore and rear, are just little, round, soft pads, so short in the toes that at first glance it would appear

that there were no toes at all. Far too many are splay-footed and long-toed. The natural correlation is long, sloping pasterns and crooked legs.

Coat—Abundant, dense, straight, and outstanding; rather coarse in texture, with a soft, woolly undercoat. In the smooth-coated variety, the top coat should be of about one and a half inches in length.

THE Chow coat is really two coats—the outer stiff, stand-off, each hair distinct and glossy; the inner coat like camel's hair, dense, soft, woolly and cold-resisting. A soft, silky coat, that lies down, is wrong, and should be severely penalized.

Color—Any clear color, solid throughout, or with lighter shadings on ruff, tail, and breechings.

This paragraph is self-explanatory, but might be amplified by saying that by a clear color is meant a sound color, whether red, blue, cream, black, or what not. A red, peppered with black; a black, rusty with red, would not be sound colors, and should be discriminated against.

Size—Chows should be massive and well proportioned.

This paragraph is weak and meaningless. Weight and height originally were stipulated in the committee's draft, and should have been included. However, the consensus of opinion is that the correct height for males is twenty inches at the shoulder, with a corresponding weight, for an animal

(Continued on page 177)

THE NEW CHOW STANDARD

(Continued from page 21)

in breeding condition, of fifty-five to sixty pounds. Bitches would probably measure an inch less and weigh from fifty to fifty-five pounds.

General Appearance—Lion-headed, scowling, compact, muscular, short-coupled, dignified, and powerful, with heavy, off-standing coat.

Very little can be added to this, except to say that the typical Chow is a cobby, blocky fellow with head up, tail up, and neither fear of God nor man. He goes his own way unobtrusively, minds his own affairs, respects humans and other dogs, and demands the same in return.

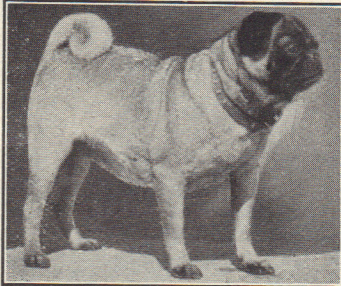
Disqualifying Points—Drop ears; tongue red, pink, or obviously spotted. Nose: Spotted or distinctly other color than black, except in blue-colored Chows, which may have solid blue or slate-colored noses.

Drop ears, as a disqualifying point, cause little concern, for not one Chow in a thousand is afflicted in this way, except it be the result of an accident. With the tongue, the disqualification for pink color or pink spots should be strictly enforced, for the black tongue is, and should be, a prized peculiarity.

On the matter of noses, this disqualification "gates" the cream or white dogs, or at least ninety per cent of them, for black noses in these colors are very seldom found, and far too drastic. It will drive breeders away from these two lovely colors, or else encourage the use of the ink pot, both of which are to be deplored. However, majority rules.

In closing, it might not be out of place to state that the Chow cult is rapidly extending its scope. Entries at all shows are exceeded by only two or three breeds, and a host of new fanciers are springing up. This is but natural when one considers that the Chow is one of the greatest of breeds.

ENGLISH PUGS



Our breeding stock is the finest imported stock to be had
Imported Stud at Public Service
Fee \$50. Big Winner in England
 Puppies usually for sale \$50.00 and up
JOY BELL of BROADWAY

← One of our Imported Brood Matrons
MRS. GUY HORNISH
 1501 PROSPECT AVE., Peoria, Ill.

IRISH WOLFHOUND At Stud



"FELIX STOWE WOLFTONE"

E. K. C. 108,724 (Imported) A. K. C. 441,802

Charles Daly, Owner
 Address

WM. A. RICHARDS
 321 JERICHO TURNPIKE
 Huntington, Long Island
 Telephone Huntington 536-R

Cragwood IRISH WOLFHOUSES

TYPE—SIZE—SOUNDNESS
 YOUNG AND GROWN STOCK
 IMPORTED AND DOMESTIC

MRS. NORWOOD B. SMITH
 "Rosegill," Urbanna, Virginia

IRISH WOLFHOUSES

FROM CHAMPIONSHIP STOCK

DELAMORE KENNELS

R. H. DAVIS, Owner
 WALLINGFORD PENNA.

FRAMINGHAM DISTRICT KENNEL CLUB SECOND ANNUAL ALL-BREED SHOW

(LICENSED A. K. C.)
MAY 16th, 1925
 UNION AVE. ATHLETIC FIELD
 FRAMINGHAM, MASS.

Proceeds Donated to Framingham Hospital
 WHIPPET RACES—FIELD TRIAL
 SHEPHERD DOG EXHIBITION
 WRITE FOR PREMIUM LIST TODAY!

MRS. F. HENRY BROOKS
 Secretary
 Gates Street
 Framingham Center, Mass.

CHAS. E. TOWNSEND
 Superintendent
 403 City Hall Annex
 Boston, Mass.

KINDNESS and COMFORT

For YOUR Dog
 SAYS ALBERT PAYSON TERHUNE, "There is nobody in whose wise care I would sooner trust one of my own best dogs."

BOARDING TRAINING SHOWING
TORREYA KENNELS
 CHESTNUT RIDGE ST. MT. KISCO, N. Y.

PROTECTION

Get a GREVEL IRISH WOLFHOUND

and Cancel Care and
 Burglary Insurance

WRITE TODAY
 FOR FULL
 PARTICULARS

Puppies and Young Stock from
 Pedigree Prize Winners Usually
 For Sale

Mrs. I. H. BARR, The Knoll Cottage
 Mayes Green, Ockley
 Surrey, ENGLAND

