

Chinook Health in 2003

A report compiled by the Chinook Owners Association, Inc.

Please review the [Executive Summary](#) for a summary analysis of the reported data.

Note: The data contained within this report comes directly from raw data provided by 235 Chinook owners about the health of their dogs. While some information provided by owners is provable via tests performed and reported by appropriate sources (such as a vet, OFA or CERF), much of the information is subjective (like temperament and coat color). While inferences drawn from subjective data are not conclusive, they are suggestive of trends when noted in high numbers.

General Statistics

235 Chinook owners provided information about their dogs. 53 owners provided no identifying information about them or their dogs. 182 people (77%) identified their dogs and provided contact information.

Living	221	(94%)
Deceased	14	(6%)

Cause of Death (n=14): 43% of the dogs who were deceased at the time of the study died of causes unrelated to health. 4 were hit by cars; 2 died from other accidents. 3 died of old age, although the cause of death of one of these three was bladder cancer. Thus, 64% of the dogs died of natural or accidental causes.

Of those who did not die of natural or accidental causes, 2 were euthanized for temperament and 3 young Chinooks (3-4 years of age) died as a result of health problems that were unrelated to one another (hormone dysfunction, pancreatic abscess, tissue block in urinary tract). The survey did not demonstrate a lethal health issue in the breed.

123 females participated in the survey. 70 were spayed, 53 were intact (43% intact). 82 were UKC registered purebreds, 7 were non-UKC registered purebreds, 23 were COA registered crosses, 11 were non-COA registered crosses. **112 males participated in the survey.** 66 were neutered, 46 were intact (41% intact). 66 were UKC registered purebreds, 4 were non-UKC registered purebreds, 37 were COA registered crosses, 5 were non-COA registered crosses.

Total purebred: 159 (68%) 148 UKC registered purebreds (63%) 11 non-UKC registered purebreds (5%) Pure males (UKC): n=66 Pure males (non-UKC): n=4 Pure females (UKC): n=82 Pure females (non-UKC): n=7	Total cross: 76 (32%) 60 COA registered crosses (25%) 16 non-COA registered crosses (7%) Cross males (COA): n=37 Cross males (non-COA): n=5 Cross females (COA): n=23 Cross females (non-COA): n=11
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Female Demographics:	Male Demographics:
Total Number: 123	Total Number: 112
Intact: 53 (43% intact)	Intact: 46 (41% intact)
Spayed: 70	Neutered: 66
Total Purebreds: 89	Total Purebreds: 70
UKC Purebreds: 82	UKC Purebreds: 66
Non-UKC Purebred: 7	Non-UKC Purebred: 4
Total Crosses: 34	Total Crosses: 42
COA Crosses: 23	COA Crosses: 37
Non-COA Crosses: 11	Non-COA Crosses: 5

Year of Birth:

1989 – 4 dogs	1994 – 4 dogs	1999 – 23 dogs
1990 – 5 dogs	1995 – 8 dogs	2000 – 26 dogs
1991 – 2 dogs	1996 – 11 dogs	2001 – 48 dogs
1992 – 8 dogs	1997 – 16 dogs	2002 – 32 dogs
1993 – 5 dogs	1998 – 23 dogs	2003 – 10 dogs

One person wrote in their general comments, “I find it strange that you do not ask the birth date of the dog. Wouldn’t it be helpful to know at what average age the onset of certain problems begin?” The survey was designed specifically to encourage people to provide truthful, confidential health information about their dogs without fear of having someone figure out the dog associated with reported health issues. This is why the COA chose to ask for the year of birth and then to specifically ask for age of onset related to each health problem. By the number of people who provided the name of their dog, it is apparent that people are willing to share health information about their dog. We hope that people will continue to openly share health information about their dogs. Thus, future surveys will ask for birth date.

Overall Health Ratings:

Health Rating	Pure	Cross	Female	Male
Excellent: 163 (69%)	104	59	83	80
Very Good: 51 (22%)	37	14	28	23
Average: 18 (08%)	15	3	11	7
Fair: 2 (0.8%)	2			2
Poor: 1 (0.4%)	1		1	

91% of owners reported their dog to be in overall excellent or very good health. Only 1% of owners report dogs in fair or poor health.

Gender Health Ratings

Health Rating	Total Female	Pure Female	Cross Female
Excellent:	83 (67%)	57 (64%)	26 (76%)
Very Good:	28 (23%)	22 (25%)	6 (18%)
Average:	11 (9%)	9 (10%)	2 (6%)
Fair:	0	0	0
Poor:	1(0.8%)	1 (1%)	0

90% of females are rated in excellent or very good health. 94% of cross females receive this rating, while 89% of purebred females receive the same.

Health Rating	Total Male	Pure Male	Cross Male
Excellent:	80 (71%)	47 (67%)	33 (79%)
Very Good:	23 (21%)	15 (21%)	8 (19%)
Average:	7 (6%)	6 (9%)	1 (2%)
Fair:	2 (2%)	2 (3%)	0
Poor:	0	0	0

92% of males are rated in excellent or very good health. 98% of cross males receive this rating, while 89% of purebred males receive the same.

Of dogs rated with excellent health, there were 23 dogs described as all tawny, 2 described as all white, 8 black & tan, 3 gray & tan, 13 light buff, 8 medium buff, 6 tawny w/gray mask, 22 tawny w/buff mask, 74 tawny w/black mask. 15 reported extra thick coats, 12 had long coats, 12 had medium coats, and 124 had traditional coats. 84 were females, 79 males. 65% of purebreds (104) rated with excellent health compared to 78% of crosses (59) rated with excellent health.

Of those rated with fair health, both were purebred males, one tawny with a gray mask, one gray & tan. One described recurrent illness related to GI and skin problems for the rating, while the other described overall health problems including dysplasia, seizures, GI problems. The dog rated in poor health was a purebred female, tawny with a buff mask. Her owner reports that she is in constant discomfort, with hip and skin problems. This dog was diagnosed with Canine Atopy: “Atopy is a disorder by which dogs have a predisposition for developing antibodies to environmental allergens.” The ages of these three dogs were 6, 5 and 3.

Coat types:

78% of the dogs are described as having “traditional” coats (n=183). 83% of the purebreds (n=132) and 67% of the crosses (n=51) have traditional coats. 96 were female, 87 male. Of these 183 dogs, 103 had at least one hip x-ray with 17 being dysplastic, demonstrating a rate of dysplasia of 17%. 73 dogs had at least one eye exam, 10 of which were abnormal, demonstrating a rate of noted eye issues of 14%. 11%, or 20 of

the 183 dogs had experienced a loss of body control. 13 of the 20 females attempting breeding conceived, with a conception rate of 65%.

8% of the dogs have “extra thick” coats (n=19). 5% of the purebreds (n=5) and 14% of crosses (n=11) have extra thick coats. 6 were female, 13 male. Of these 19 dogs, 15 had at least one hip x-ray with 3 being dysplastic, demonstrating a rate of dysplasia of 20%. 9 dogs had at least one eye exam, with 2 demonstrating, demonstrating a rate of noted eye issues of 22%. No dogs experienced a loss of control. 2 of the 3 females attempting breeding conceived, with a conception rate of 67%.

8% of the dogs have “long” coats (n=18). 6% of the purebreds and 11% of the crosses have long coats. 12 were female, 6 male. Of these 18 dogs, 10 had at least one hip x-ray. No dogs with long coats were dysplastic. 7 dogs had one eye exam, with 1 demonstrating an eye abnormality, demonstrating a rate of 14%. No dogs experienced a loss of control. Of the 4 females who attempted breeding, all 4 conceived.

6% of the dogs have “medium” coats (n=15). 6% of the purebreds and 8% of the crosses have medium coats. 10 were female, 5 male. Of these 15 dogs, 7 had at least one hip x-ray. No dogs with medium coats were dysplastic. 6 dogs had one eye exam, with 1 demonstrating an eye abnormality, demonstrating a rate of 17%. No dogs experienced a loss of control. Of the 3 females who attempted breeding, all 3 conceived. No dog had skin problems.

14% of dogs were described as long or medium coated. 29% of cross females are long or medium coated, while only 13% of purebred females are the same. 10% of cross and purebred males are long or medium coated. This population had significantly fewer health problems than those with traditional coats. Specifically, these dogs were completely clear of hip problems and seizure issues and had a significantly higher rate of conception. While these trends may not ultimately bear out, they deserve further study.

Coat Colors:

Color	Total	Pure	Cross	Female	Male
Tawny w/black mask	104	67	37	52	52
Tawny w/buff mask	39	27	12	19	20
All tawny	39	28	11	21	18
Light buff	15	11	4	8	7
Medium buff	13	9	4	11	2
Tawny gray mask	9	8	1	5	4
Black & tan	8	5	3	3	5
Gray & tan	5	4	1	2	3
All white	3		3	3	

The greatest numbers of dogs with the same coat color are tawny with a black mask (44%). All the black & tans and all of the “white” dogs were rated in excellent health.

No black & tan or gray & tan dogs had a diagnosed eye problem. Otherwise, no correlation could be drawn from color to any specific health issue.

Cryptorchidism – 32% of Males Affected

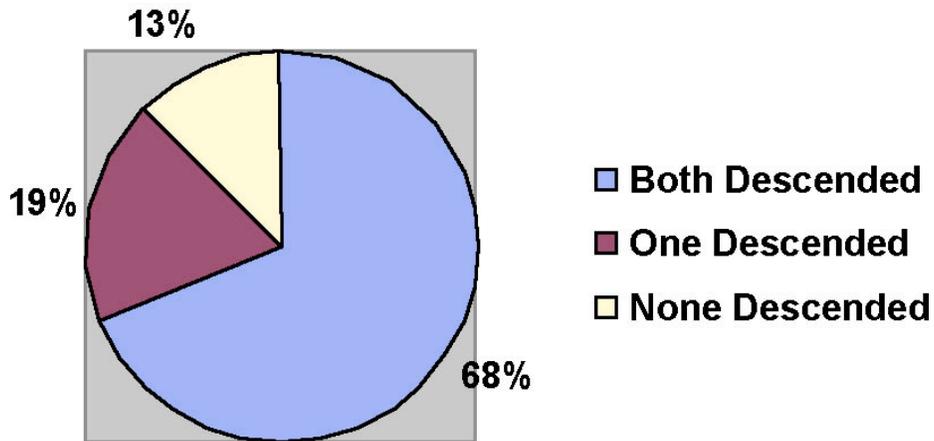
112 males participated in the study. 70 were purebred, 42 were crosses. 21 males were listed as not having either testicle descend, but comments indicate some of these males were neutered early or acquired after neutering. Looking at the comments, the status of 8 (5 purebred, 3 crosses) of these 21 dogs cannot be determined and they were eliminated from this portion of the study. The percentages below assume a sample size of 104 males, 65 purebred, 37 crosses).

Of the 104 males who reported known testicle health, 71 males (68%) had two testicles descend. 46 were purebreds, 25 crosses. 71% of purebreds and 68% of crosses were not affected by cryptorchidism.

20 males (19%) were bilateral cryptorchid (one testicle descending). 14 were purebreds, 6 crosses. 22% of purebreds and 16% of crosses were bilateral cryptorchid.

13 males (13%) had neither testicle descend. 5 were purebreds, 8 crosses.

Testicle Health



Of the 54 dogs who reported knowing the age that testicles descended, 48% descended by 8 weeks, 30% descended by 3 months, and 7% by 4 months. 7 dogs took at least five but no longer than eleven months to descend. On average, males in the breed fully descend by age 3 months. Retained testicles were found in the abdomen (4 dogs) and near the kidney, groin, and bladder (1 each).

Breeding Females – 28% Have Trouble Conceiving, 43% Have Problems Whelping

In the past two years, 29 females attempted breeding.¹ All of them were passing OFA/GDC and all but 2 had passing CERF exams (2 had not been examined).

Of the 11 females who were bred only once in two years, 9 were successful. Of the 15 females who were bred twice in two years, 7 resulted in 2 successful litters, 3 resulted in 1 successful litter, 5 did not conceive. 1 female was bred three times in two years, producing 2 successful litters. 2 were bred four times in two years and produced only 1 successful litter between them.

Of the 31 litters produced by these breedings, 25 were through natural breedings, 4 through artificial insemination (A/I) with fresh semen, 2 through AI with chilled semen, 0 through AI with frozen semen. 170 pups were produced from all litters over the two-year period. AI w/fresh produced 13 puppies (5, 5, 4, 3); chilled produced 6 puppies (5,1)

24 litters, accounting for 132 puppies, were purebred. The average litter size was 5.5, smallest litter 1 pup, largest 9 (notably, there were 5 litters of 9). 7 litters, accounting for 38 puppies, were crosses. The average litter size was 5.4, smallest 2, largest 10.

21 of 29 females conceived after breeding, a 72% conception rate. Only 1 out of 7 crosses failed to conceive (86% conception rate). 7 out of 22 purebreds failed to conceive (68% conception rate).

9 females had difficulty whelping, 4 required c-section to deliver the pups, 2 required oxytocin to deliver. 7 puppies were stillborn. However, there is a response indicating a litter of 7 was stillborn – the answers are inconsistent on the form, so it's difficult to understand if the entire litter was lost or if the litter included 14 puppies. In any event, there may have been as high as 14 puppies stillborn. 6 pups died within 24 hours of delivery. 3 puppies were lost during the first week. Only 3 pups demonstrated heart murmurs, but none carried the condition into adulthood.

Gastrointestinal Problems – 27% of Breed Affected, 11% Chronically

63 dogs (27%) reported having gastrointestinal problems. 33% of males (n=37) reported problems while only 21% of females (n=26) reported the same. 27% of purebreds (n=43) and 26% of crosses (n=20) were affected. Cross females had the lowest incidence rate at 15% (n=5/34), while cross males had the highest incidence rate at 36% (n=15/42).

¹ A couple of people clearly reported dogs who had whelped outside of the two year time requested. It was impossible to pull them out of the survey, so they are included here. However, the numbers are not entirely accurate for just the two-year period.

43 report loose stools. 13 report constipation. 29 dogs report problems with frequent vomiting; 9 of these dogs report semi weekly, weekly or bi-weekly incidents, 8 monthly. 10 dogs had at least two of these symptoms.

25 of the 63 dogs (11%) report chronic problems. 17 dogs with chronic problems are purebred, 8 are crosses. 13 of the dogs are female, 12 male. For all but one dog, age of onset of chronic problems was between 1 and 3 years of age. Only 4 dogs were tested for allergies. Two dogs who experienced loose stools were allergic to beef. Otherwise, there are no consistencies.

Skin Problems – 18% of Breed Affected, 9% Chronically

43 dogs (18%) reported some sort of skin problems. 25 were purebred (16%); 18 were crosses (24%). 21% of males (n=23) reported problems while only 16% of females (n=20) reported the same. Purebred females had the lowest incidence rate at 13% (n=12/89), while cross females and males both shared a high incidence rate of 24%. 5% of dogs (n=13) in the survey had both skin and gastrointestinal problems.

17 dogs reported dry, itchy skin. 7 reported hot spots. 3 dogs had hair loss, all on their tails. 4 dogs had reactions to biting insects (all different insects). 3 dogs had reactions to food (2 to chicken, 1 to beef). The majority of dogs had skin problems related to their backs, tails and legs, with the tail region most frequently noted.

29 dogs experienced skin problems by 1 year. All but 6 dogs had symptoms by 3 years. The oldest dog was 10 before the problems developed.

22 dogs (9%) have persistent skin problems; of these 7 were crosses, 15 pure. 7 were female, 15 male. While 8 of these dogs were tested for allergies, no pattern emerged (grass, chicken, beef, chlorpheniramine hcl, tree sap).

Temperament – 15% Affected

49% of dogs are described as outgoing; 24% are easy going; 12% are reserved. Thus, 85% of the dogs fit within the breed standard definition for temperament.

Temperament	Total	Purebred	Cross	Female	Male
Outgoing	116	82	34	59	57
Easy Going	57	40	17	25	32
Reserved	28	20	8	19	9
Shy	24	12	12	15	9
Excessively Shy	9	5	4	6	3
Aggressive	1		1		1

10% are shy, 4% are excessively shy, 0.4% is aggressive (n=1). 17% of females are described as shy while only 11% of males are described the same. 21% of crosses are described as shy while only 11% of purebred are described as shy. Interestingly, 7 out of the 12 “shy” crosses, were male, while 10 of the 12 “shy” purebreds were female and 4 out of 5 “excessively shy” purebreds were female.

Shyness was demonstrated in 5 dogs by urination, 13 dogs by shaking, 9 dogs by whining, 9 dogs by pacing, 13 dogs by running, 3 by fear biting (2 of 3 euthanized); a few dogs noted hiding. Several dogs demonstrate more than two of these issues when stressed. A few dogs growl or bark when stressed. Noted stressors included: being alone (i.e. without other dogs), traffic, men.

45 dogs (19%) demonstrated problems meeting strangers. 10 dogs from this group were rated as easy going or outgoing. The rest were reserved, shy or excessively shy. 17 crosses, 28 purebred. 25 female, 20 male. 4 were listed as aggressive toward strangers. All 4 were crosses.

36 dogs (15%) had problems with new situations. 9 were listed as outgoing or easy going. 21 female, 15 male. 17 crosses, 19 purebred.

19 dogs (8%) demonstrated some problems with other dogs. 8 were crosses, 11 purebred. 12 were female, 7 male. 9 dogs were rated as outgoing or easy going. 4 dogs (1%) were described as aggressive toward other dogs – 3 were crosses, 1 purebred, one of these dogs is a rehomed dog. Of the 19 dogs, only 2 had trouble with other animals (cats), 3 had problems with children, 9 had problems with strangers. Only one had noted problems in all areas. Only one dog was described as “very aggressive with other dogs”.

15 dogs (6%) demonstrated some problems with children. 7 were crosses, 8 were purebred. 7 female, 8 male. Only 4 of these dogs were rated as outgoing or easy going. 4 were listed as aggressive toward children – 2 crosses, 2 purebred. Only three of these also demonstrated problems with other dogs.

10 dogs (4%) reported problems with cats. 3 crosses, 7 purebred. 4 female, 6 male.

7 dogs (3%) were reported to have bitten someone. 2 dogs (both described as excessively shy) were euthanized for aggression/biting related to people/children. 5 were crosses, 2 purebred.

Hip Health – 14% Affected by Dysplasia

133 dogs have had at least one hip x-ray and/or evaluation (57%). Of those x-rayed, 94 dogs were purebreds (59%) and 39 dogs were crosses (51%). Of those dogs who had not been x-rayed at the time of the survey (102), 66 of them were at or under 2 years of age. This demonstrates a relatively high rate of hip evaluation in the breed. 69 dogs were female, 64 were males. While 133 dogs were x-rayed, the results for 6 (5 purebred, 1

cross) of these dogs were not reported, so they were eliminated from this portion of the study. The percentages below assume a sample size of 127.

Of the six with no evaluative information, 2 were pending results at time of completion and did not provide information relation to their vet evaluation. 1 indicated dysplasia in both hips, but did not provide a source or rating. The remaining three provided no additional information beyond the fact that an x-ray had been completed.

Age of examination: 14 were under 1, 22 were age 1, 83 age 2, 3 age 3, 5 age 4, 3 age 5, 1 age 7, and 2 age 10.

Hard Numbers

OFA:	81 x-rays were rated by OFA: 10 excellent; 50 good; 14 fair; 1 borderline (1 left; 1 right); 5 mild (4 left; 1 right); 1 moderate (both) <i>*2 dogs who are GDC are also OFA (GDC Good-OFA Good; GDC Mild - OFA Moderate)</i>
Vet Read:	32 x-rays were read by vets: 3 excellent; 13 good; 1 fair; 5 mild (2 both); 2 moderate (2 right); 2 severe (1 both); 6 no info
GDC:	16 x-rays were read by GDC: 4 excellent; 6 good; 4 fair; 2 mild (1 both; 1 left) <i>*5 dogs who are OFA are also GDC (OFA Good-GDC Excellent; 3 OFA Good-GDC Good; OFA Fair-GDC Fair)</i>
PennHIP:	4 evaluations were performed by PennHIP: 1=80; 1=60; 1=50; 1=40 percentile <i>*3 dogs who are OFA are also PennHIP (OFA Good-PennHIP 40; OFA Good-PennHIP 50; OFA Excellent-PennHIP 70)</i>

Summary of combined results:

109 or 86% of the dogs x-rayed do not demonstrated hip dysplasia. 18 dogs or 14% of the dogs x-rayed are dysplastic. 4% of the dogs with dysplasia were rated as moderate or severe. Of the 127 dogs with know hip status, the ratings are as follows:

86% of breed has passing hips	14% of dogs are dysplastic
Excellent: 18 (14%)	Borderline/Mild: 11 (10%)
Good: 72 (57%)	Moderate: 3 (2%) (3 of 4 vet read)
Fair: 19 (15%)	Severe: 2 (2%) (both vet read)

5 dogs diagnosed with dysplasia had a second x-ray. None received passing evaluations after the second evaluation. One dog went from mild to moderate. Of the dysplastic dogs, 4 were dysplastic in both hips, 6 only in the left hip, 4 only in the right. 2 did not report which hip was affected.

21 dogs experience some hip pain. Of these, 3 have not been x-rayed; 6 were OFA Good or Fair; 8 were OFA or vet read as dysplastic. The majority of dogs experience stiffness and limping as symptoms. 7 dogs were 9 years or older at the age of onset of hip problems; 3 dogs were between ages 4 and 6; 7 dogs were ages 1-3. 4 dogs did not record age of onset. 5 dogs took supplements to reduce symptoms.

Purebreds: Of the 89 purebred dogs with known results, OFA/GDC/PennHip ratings demonstrated 8 were excellent (9%), 44 were good (49%), 15 were fair (18%), 5 were mild, 1 was moderate (7%). Of the vet read, 3 were excellent (3%), 5 were good (6%), 1 was fair (1%), 4 mild, 2 moderate, 1 severe (8%). This demonstrates a 85% passing rate, with a 15% dysplasia rate. Eliminating vet read results produces a passing rates of 92%.

Crosses: Of the 38 crosses with known results, OFA/GDC/PennHip ratings demonstrated 7 excellent (18%), 15 good (39%), 3 fair (8%), 1 borderline, 2 mild (8%). Of the vet read, 8 were good (21%), 1 mild, 1 severe (8%). This demonstrated a 87% passing rate for crosses, with 13% demonstrating dysplasia. Eliminating vet read results produces a passing rates of 89%.

Of the 18 dogs with excellent hips, 7 were crosses, 11 purebred. 9 male, 9 female.
 Of the 72 dogs with good hips, 23 were crosses, 49 purebred. 32 male, 40 female.
 Of the 19 dogs with fair hips, 3 were crosses, 16 purebred. 10 male, 9 female.
 Of the 1 dog with borderline hips, 1 female cross.
 Of the 12 dogs with mildly dysplastic hips, 3 were crosses, 9 purebred. 5 male, 7 female.
 Of the 3 dogs with moderately dysplastic hips, all were purebred. 2 male, 1 female.
 Of the 2 dogs with severely dysplastic hips, 1 was a cross, 1 purebred. 2 male.

Hip Health	Total Female	Pure Female	Cross Female
Females x-rayed	69	49	20
Excellent	9 (13%)	6 (12%)	3 (15%)
Good	40 (58%)	28 (57%)	12 (60%)
Fair	9 (13%)	7 (14%)	2 (10%)
% Affected	9 (13%)	6 (12%)	3 (15%)
Borderline	1 (1%)	0	1 (5%)
Mild	7 (10%)	5 (10%)	2 (10%)
Moderate	1 (1%)	1 (2%)	0
Severe	0	0	0
Unknown	2	2	0

Hip Health	Total Male	Pure Male	Cross Male
Males x-rayed	64	45	19
Excellent	9 (14%)	4 (9%)	5 (26%)
Good	32 (50%)	22 (49%)	10 (53%)
Fair	10 (16%)	9 (20%)	1 (5%)
% Affected	9 (14%)	7 (16%)	2 (11%)
Borderline	0	0	0
Mild	5 (8%)	4 (9%)	1 (5%)
Moderate	2 (3%)	2 (4%)	0
Severe	2 (3%)	1 (2%)	1 (5%)
Unknown	4	3	1

Other joint problems

Besides hip problems, other joint disease was not generally reported. Only 3 of 235 dogs reported any other joint problems. One reported pain and stiffness associated with Lyme disease. Another reported turned out ankles and short, curved legs. The final reported some problems with standing related to a possible knee injury. Thus, there is no indication that other joint problems are routinely occurring in the breed.

Eye Problems – 12% Affected/6% Cataracts

97 dogs have had at least one eye exam; this represents 41% of the dogs participating in the survey. 74 were purebreds (47% of purebreds had an eye exam); 23 were crosses (30% of crosses had an eye exam). 83 dogs had normal results. 14 dogs had abnormal results – all 14 dogs with abnormal results were purebred. No crosses, black/tan or gray/tan dogs had eye abnormalities. 4 of the 14 dogs were female, while 10 were male. 10 of the 14 dogs had passing hips; only one had dysplasia.

Two of the 14 abnormalities were caused by non-genetic trauma and are not of relevance. Both of these dogs were male. Thus, 4% of females and 10% males are affected. Of the eye abnormalities reported, 6 dogs demonstrated cataracts (2 have “large” cataracts, 1 “pinprick”, 1 “generalized”, 1 “congenital 10%”, 1 “anterior lens cortical” cataract). 3 of the 6 dogs had cataracts in both eyes. All of the dogs reporting cataracts were purebred males. No female reported cataracts. 2 reported retinal folds (1 female/1 male). 2 reported “PPM” (persistent pupillary membrane) (1 female/1 male). There was no consistency related to left or right eye. Two dogs did not report the diagnosis related to the abnormality (both female).

9 of the 14 dogs had at least one second examination. 1 of the 2 dogs with reported retinal folds had changed and the folds had disappeared. Otherwise, all of the results were unchanged. All of the eye problems were diagnosed between 1 and 4 years of age.

Other eye issues: 6 owners reported some issues related to runny eyes. There were no specified health issues related to this.

Loss of Control – 9% Affected

20 dogs (9%) have had some sort of episode where they were unable to control their body functions. 13 were purebred (8%), 7 crosses (9%). The crosses included 1 1st generation, 3 3rd generation, and 3 4th generation dogs. The dogs range in birth year from 1989 to 2003. 11 were females, 2 crosses (6%), 9 purebreds (10%). 9 were males, 5 crosses (12%), 4 purebreds (6%). 6 all tawny, 2 black/tan, 2 gray/tan, 1 medium tawny, 4 tawny/black mask, 5 tawny buff mask. Age, gender, color, and purebred status are completely mixed and no pattern emerges.

<u>Age of onset:</u>	<u>Duration:</u>	<u>Frequency:</u>
4 weeks – 1 dog	Less than 1 minute – 6 dogs	Daily – 1 dog**
1 year – 3 dogs	1-5 minutes – 11 dogs	Monthly – 2 dogs
2 years – 5 dogs	6-10 minutes – 1 dog	Every six months – 5 dogs
3 years – 2 dogs	Longer 20 minutes – 1 dog	Annually – 3 dogs
4 years – 2 dogs	1 unknown	Bi-annually – 1 dog
6 years – 1 dog		** This was daily for several days until treatment and thereafter the dog has been seizure-free.
7 years – 1 dog		
8 years – 1 dog		
4 dogs unknown		

Average age of onset is between 2 and 3 years of age. There was a difference in the age of onset between males and females – no male had an onset after age 4, whereas 3 females experienced the first episode after age 4. On average, symptoms last between 1-5 minutes. For dogs who report on-going control problems, the frequency of events varies.

All but 4 dogs reported the loss control of multiple functions. During episodes, 19 dogs lost the ability to stand²; 10 dogs experienced involuntary movements; 9 dogs became disoriented; 7 dogs had some sort of temporary paralysis; 2 dogs lost consciousness; 1 dog lost bladder control. One owner reported the dog appears confused. Another noted that the dog frequently opens and closes its mouth.

Treatment: All but three dogs were seen by a vet for treatment/diagnosis of reported symptoms. Only two dogs were seen by a neurologist. Only two dogs were diagnosed with a seizure disorder. Two dogs used Phenobarbital to control the seizures. Six owners treat the dogs through alternative treatments – rescue remedy after a seizure, vitamins to prevent seizures, “Seizure-eze” from Canine Medicine Chest, “diet with emphasis on taurine and magnesium” and two maintain blood sugar levels.

² The 20th dog noted paralysis, which would lead to the conclusion that the dog lacked the ability to stand. Thus, this may be a the common indicator.

Of the 20 dogs, 8 no longer experience loss of body functions. Two dogs report only one incident; one dog reports only two incidents.

Triggers: Only a seven owners identified triggers. Two dogs are triggered by potatoes. The others are triggered by loud, sudden noises, a startling event or something that makes the dog nervous.

Relational Issues: 9 of the 20 dogs had an eye exam, with two having eye issues – one PPM, one undisclosed. This is a rate of 22% affected for eye issues. 13 of the 20 had hip x-rays, with two being mildly dysplastic. This is a rate of 15% affected for hip issues. 5 had skin problems (25%). 8 have gastro-intestinal problems (40%). 3 of the females had been bred, and all three conceived.

Vaccination Reactions – 3% Affected

7 dogs (3%) had some reaction to vaccines, 2 were female, 5 male. 2 additional dog owners suspect vaccines are related to skin or gastrointestinal problems. Of the 7 dogs who had reactions, 2 experienced only mild edemas at the site of the vaccine (1 male/1 female). 2 dogs experienced swelling of the head associated with their first adult vaccinations (1 male/1 female). 1 dog had a reaction to a rabies vaccine, but did not offer more information (male). 2 dogs had severe reactions to rabies vaccines – one had bloody diarrhea, the other had swelling, fever, diarrhea and has lesser swelling related to parvo/distemper (both males). No seizures or loss of body control was associated with vaccinations.

Breakdowns by Gender/Status

	Health Rating (Exc/VG)	Hip Problems	Eye Problems	Loss of Control	Skin Problems	GI Problems	Vaccine Reaction	Excess. Shy/Shy	Coat Med or Long
Totals	91%	14%	12%	9%	18%	27%	3%	14%	14%
Purebred Females	89%	12%	4%	10%	13%	24%	2%	16%	13%
Cross Females	94%	15%	0%	6%	24%	15%	0%	21%	29%
Females	90%	13%	4%	9%	16%	21%	1%	17%	18%
Males	92%	14%	10%	8%	21%	33%	4%	11%	10%
Purebred Males	89%	16%	10%	6%	19%	31%	3%	4%	10%
Cross Males	98%	11%	0%	12%	24%	36%	7%	21%	10%
Purebred	89%	14%	12%	8%	18%	27%	3%	11%	12%
Cross	96%	13%	0%	9%	24%	26%	4%	21%	18%

General Comments of Note:

Several Chinook owners made general comments that seem noteworthy. They follow in not particular order:

Dog is prone to ear infections.

Two dogs from related line allergic to beef.

Dog is extremely allergic to bee stings.

Arthritis showed up in old age, treated with Rimadyl.

Her vaginal canal was too small to accept males; spayed her.

Female had two litters with two sires, producing 5 males, only 1 had both testicles.

After a year, outgrew stomach/digestive problems.

Dog is suspected to have Lupus – very ill with many symptoms.

Spaying resulted in lethargy.

2 pups from Husky/Chinook litter incorrectly diagnosed with heart problems due to nature of Husky heart – all very healthy pups with no health problems.

Dog has irregular heat cycles.

Dog had growing pains and joint pain from ages 10 mo - 1.3 years (x-rays normal).

I'm seeing mega esophagus and hydracelphalic puppy problems.

Report Last Updated: October 4, 2003. No Changes.