

Chows & Chow Mixes

Know What You Are Getting Into!



By: Ed Frawley



Leerburg Kennels

Foreword

When you view this eBook in PDF format. Click on **BOOKMARKS** on the top left side of your PDF reader, these bookmarks are eBook chapters.

[Leerburg® Kennel](#) and Video is owned by Ed Frawley.

Ed has owned German Shepherds (GSD) for over 45 years. Since 1978 he has bred over 350 litters of German working bloodline GSD's. His dogs work in law enforcement, as S&R dogs, as competition Schutzhund dogs, and as family companions and protectors.

Since 1980 Ed has produced over 120 dog training videos and DVDs. He was a police K-9 handler for 10 years, competed in several dog sports, including AKC obedience and Schutzhund. In addition he has built one of the top dog training supply businesses in the world.

If you go to the web site **Leerburg.com®** you will see that it has over 10,000 printed pages. The Leerburg® Web Discussion board has over 10,000 registered members_ and over 120,000 posts in the archives. Learn to use our site search function.

Chows & Chow Mixes

Know What You Are Getting Into!

By Ed Frawley



I get about 100 emails every day. Probably 30% of them relate to behavioral problems, many of these emails concern overly aggressive dogs. In the past few years I have noticed a dramatic increase in the number of people who contact me with aggression problems with Chow's and Chow mixes. People who are considering acquiring this breed need to become better educated.

The “Breed All About It” show on animal planet recently did a segment about chows. They mentioned the problem with this breed is that they are cute to look at (especially when they are puppies) but they were bred to be independent, suspicious and not sociable (unlike goldens or labs.)



CHOW Mix

Information from Chow Rescues:

More than 2,000 years old, the Chow was bred to be an all-around working dog capable of surviving in a hostile environment. Hunting, herding, guarding, or pulling sleds. The Chow could do it all. First kept by fierce Mongolian tribes in China as a hunting and guard dog, the Chow was also used for their meat and fur.

Chows make exceptional house pets. Despite their size (17-21” at the shoulder, 45-85 pounds), they are very quiet, naturally well-behaved, not diggers or barkers and aren’t destructive. They’re one of the easiest breeds to housebreak. Chows do, however, have a very different personality than other dogs. They are catlike in their attitudes: aloof, reserved with affection, independent, dignified and stubborn. Although their soft fur is ripe for hugging, they don’t always enjoy being fussed over by children or strangers. For people who want a cuddly lap dog that will instantly love all their friends, the Chow is likely to be a disappointment.



Rusty a Chow mix rescue dog

Ed Frawley's Philosophy of Dog Training



eBook

The Chow is very intelligent but not always easy to train. They don't have the strong desire to please their masters as do breeds like the Golden Retriever. They seem to please themselves first and don't respond to the standard methods of training and motivation. They do not tolerate physical punishment and can't be forced into anything. Hitting or beating a Chow will either result in viciousness or a broken spirit. Like a cat, a Chow is only willing to do what suits his mood at the time. He's an independent thinker and will make his own decisions if you don't stay a step ahead of him!

The strong-willed Chow needs an equally strong-willed owner. They definitely have minds of their own and can easily become your master if you allow it. Chow puppies are naturally well-behaved, more so than most breeds. They're seldom destructive or disobedient. Because of their good behavior, many people fail to train them properly.

When an untrained Chow reaches adolescence, that dreadful teenage stage all dogs go through, he may refuse to accept your authority. We've found that most people who've had behavior problems with their Chows failed to train them and earn their respect.



Rusty a Chow mix rescue dog

In all honesty, some Chows do have temperament problems. The breed went through two periods of dramatic public popularity, once in the 1930's and again during the 1980's. In a rush to cash in on this popularity and sell puppies quickly for a profit, unscrupulous or inexperienced breeders and pet owners often used Chows with unsuitable temperaments for breeding. Believing the myths that Chows were supposed to be unfriendly or aggressive, they didn't know or didn't care that this

kind of disposition is not acceptable in reputable circles. Experienced, responsible breeders with a sincere interest in what's good for Chows and the people who buy them refuse to use breeding stock that is aggressive or shy.



Problems with Potential Pet Owners:

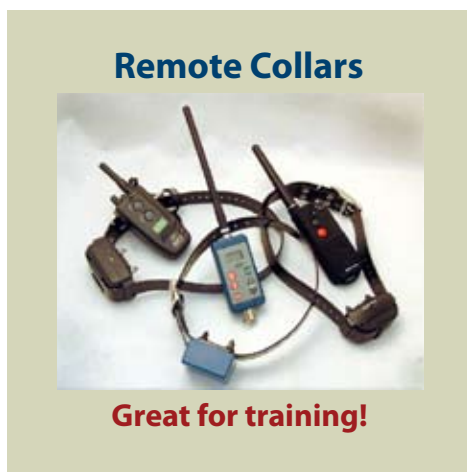
The average new dog owner can't control a friendly Lab or Cocker Spaniel let alone a suspicious dog with aggression issues. Chow puppies are one of the cutest puppies there are. But puppy cuteness only lasts for 3 or 4 months.

Chow owners need to start obedience training at a young age. Actually the fact is all dog owners need to start training at a young age, but dogs with a genetic tendency to be aggressive really need to make the effort to train.

Chow's are independent and their training should include the use of a prong collar and probably an electric collar. I do not recommend a novice dog owner use an e-collar unless an effort is made to learn how to use it. There is a lot more to training with an e-collar than strapping it on a dog's neck and pushing the button.

Teaching a dog to sit, down and stay when the dog is home is fine, but that is only a small part of having a trained dog. Dogs with the potential to become aggressive need to learn to mind in the presence of other dogs or when they see someone that they want to become aggressive towards.

This is where the average dog owner gets in over his or her head and drops the ball. Most pet owners are not capable of controlling their dogs when they become distracted (aggressive) by other dogs.



The mistake many people make is to assume "THEIR BABY" would never bite anyone. After

all it has never shown aggression before? The fact is that most aggression does not raise its ugly head until the dog begins to mature (usually between 15 and 24 months of age). Owners should realize that this is coming and begin training when their dog is 8 weeks old, puppies at this age can learn a lot if the training is done properly (I refer you to my video titled Your Puppy 8 Weeks to 8 months), Training should continue to increase the level of control as the dog ages. Now I do not mean that you should put an e-collar on an 8 week old puppy. But I do mean that dogs can begin to learn manners at 8 weeks and as they get older more and more control can be added to the dog. If a dog grows up “LEARNING TO LEARN” you will find it much easier to control.



People who wait until AGGRESSION has shown its ugly head have a difficult job. They need to get their dogs up to speed in a hurry. They will have to apply more pressure (aggression) or a higher level

of correction to control their dog than they would have had they started training at a young age.

I listen to the dog training segment of NPR (National Public Radio) on Saturdays. I smile when I hear the nice lady that laughs a lot tell people to put a halty on a dogs head and use food to teach the WATCH-ME command to correct this kind of aggressive behavior. She explains that if the dog is watching your face it cannot get aggressive to other dogs. I am sorry - she is a nice lady but her advice sometimes sucks. A halty may work with PHOO PHOO the soft poodle but its not going to work on a CHOW that wants to eat that poodle and its owner for lunch. This eye contact concept may work but only if you get eye contact by helicoptering this dog in a 360 degree circle about 3 feet off the ground - he will be looking directly into your eyes and know for sure that you are pissed off at what he is doing.

When you have dogs that are this aggressive the concept of control is very simple. The level of aggression from the handler needs to be at a higher level than the level aggression that is coming from the dog, if the handler cannot do this the dog wins.

Dogs need to respect their pack leader and the level of correction they are going to get EVERY TIME they show aggression. They need to respect this correction more than they have an urge to run off and attack something or someone. I will tell you that with many dogs this level of correction

may mean jerking the dog off his feet with a prong collar. It may mean that the owner has to put his dog into total avoidance to get his attention. This is not rocket science, once the dog understands that EVERY TIME IT SHOWS aggression it is going to have its head taken off - it will mind. Now herein lays the problem. Most people cannot correct at this level. These people should not own Chows; these people should find new homes for the Chows they own.



One last thing here, owners also need to do a better job of controlling their dog's environment. This means the use of a dog crate when visitors are over. It means keeping the dog in a fenced yard and even within a dog kennel inside of a fenced yard. It means YOU DO NOT TAKE CHOWS to dog parks. It means you do not ever let your dog be totally off leash unless you are in a secure environment (even if he is trained) It means you do not ever let your Chow meet other dogs and it means you do not let strangers pet your dog.

There is no reason for my dog to MEET any other dog and there certainly is NO REASON for me to let anyone pet my dog. This concept really baffles me. People who allow strangers or guests or friends to pet their dog are asking for problems. Especially if their dog is a CHOW or other aggressive breed. Dogs are pack animals. The only people who need to pet them are their pack members.



NEED MORE INFORMATION?

If you have other questions, here is a list of other articles I have written on my web site about the issue of aggressive dogs.

Please do not email me with your questions unless you have read everything I have written. I can't reply to answers to questions that are already here on my web site.

- [The Theory of Corrections in Dog Training](#)
- [Dealing with Dominant Dogs](#)
- [Overly Aggressive Dogs](#)
- [Q&A section on Dogs that are overly aggressive to people](#)
- [How to Break Up a Dog Fight without Getting Hurt](#)
- [Q&A section on Dog Fights](#)
- [Q&A on Dog Bites and Overly Aggressive Dogs](#)
- [Q&A section on Dominant Dogs](#)

Training DVDs I have produced to help you:

- [Basic Dog Obedience](#)
 - [Dealing with DOMINANT and AGGRESSIVES](#)
 - [E-COLLAR training for Pet Owners](#)
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Emails and Questions About Chows & CHOW Mixes

Email About Chows:

Hello,

I'm a paramedic in a mid size Southern town. One day while working, we got a call for a welfare check of a citizen. Out of town family members called 911 when they failed to contact their love one. We arrived on the scene at a house that at first appeared to be empty. When we look through a window, we saw a man lying on the floor. I pried open a window to gain access to the patient. I have learned the hard way, that before climbing through the window, whistle for rover. It only took a few notes before a bear size chow came running into the room looking for a fight. I notice the chow was covered in blood. We went back to the main window where we saw the man on the floor .The chow went back to his master, to protect him? No, he went back to finish his supper. The man down was still alive. He had a massive stroke affecting his right side... The chow was actually eating the man's (owner, master) right arm. The police show up on the scene, one bullet from a 9mm took care of the dog problem, and then we rushed the man to the hospital.

Email About Chows:

I have an eight month old lab/chow mix puppy. His mother was a lab and his father was the chow. He is beautiful and I love him a lot, but in the past two months he has become too aggressive for me to control. I found your website and read numerous articles on aggressive and dominant dogs. I just don't think I have what it takes to properly train my dog, and I want him to be properly trained. He is very intelligent and playful. I was hoping you could tell me where and how to find a good home for him. I don't want to give him to just anyone. Please help me, I just don't know what to do, if he doesn't get proper training soon he is really going to hurt someone. He doesn't have interaction with other dogs or people. When company comes I put him up where he can't jump up on them. My mom, brother and I are the only ones who handle him. I don't know if you need any other kind of information. Please let me know if you do or if you can help. I want my puppy to have a good life. Thank you.

Janessa Dyer

Question About Chows:

I have an 8 year old Chow-Chow that until recently has been the most mild mannered dog I have ever known. He has never demonstrated aggression toward a human or animal. We did

not have children when we brought him home, and he has never really had the occasion to be around a lot of children besides the neighborhood kids, with whom he was always very gentle. He has been through a great deal in his 8 years and I blame myself for a lot of the trauma he has experienced. When he was only about 9 months old he was diagnosed with congenital arthritis of the hips and we were advised to put him to sleep. We couldn't bring ourselves to put him down and we've spent the past 8 years trying to make him comfortable. Some days are better than others, but he has done quite well. When he was about a year old my husband and I brought home another male Chow-Chow, thinking they could keep each other company while we worked during the day. At first they got along well but within a month the pup started to demonstrate dominance and aggression. On Christmas Eve, 1996 upon returning to our house we found our dogs fighting in the back yard. My husband attempted to break up the fight and was bitten by our oldest dog. The dogs were put in quarantine and the pup was put to sleep much to our chagrin. Our Chow-Chow had changed in some ways, but as time went on he seemed to become his old self again. A few months ago we brought home a Red Heeler pup, a female. She is an extremely playful pup, almost too playful, and she torments our Chow. She is constantly biting at his heels and demonstrating dominance. She was spayed at four months, but has continued to dominate our chow. We have recently moved into

a new home, in a neighborhood with several small children. We live two houses away from a public elementary school, so children are everywhere at all times of the day. A few nights ago my 5 year old daughter was playing with a neighbor girl at our home. The girl moved to walk past him toward her mother and he barked and snapped at her. I was truly shocked. He had never barked at anyone like that before. The next day I arrived at home with my daughter and the neighbor girl came over to play. They approached the house and opened the door and the Chow pushed on the door as he usually does - I'm not sure exactly what happened at this point because I was behind the vehicle and could not see, but the girl screamed and began to run. He ran after her, growling and grabbed her arm, when he saw me run from behind the vehicle and yell his name he released her. The bite was pretty bad. It punctured the skin in one spot and bruised her in several others. I'm mortified! My husband doesn't want to put the dog to sleep and feels that this was an isolated incident. I fear for my own daughter and the safety of the kids in the neighborhood. I've convinced my husband to take him to our Veterinarian and seek his advice, but I'm worried that he does not understand the severity of the incident since he was not at home when it occurred. The letters that I have read on your website have been very helpful. You seem to have a great deal of experience with similar instances. What would you do? What is the right thing to do?

Question About Chows:

Hello, Help!

I recently adopted a 2 yr. old female Akita/Chow mix 3 months ago. She was only in the pound about 4 days and my boyfriend is home with her all day since he works from home. He is able to walk them about 3 times during the day. We already had a male alpha Akita (Saki) for the past 7 years and got her as a companion for him since we recently lost our other dog. When we first brought Bridget (the Akita/Chow) home she was very nervous and we had trouble getting her to eat for the first 2 weeks. Now she is displaying separation anxiety traits, you name it she does it! She poops and pees in the house even when we're only gone for 5 minutes. We've tried crating her and she poops and pees and throws up in her crate and then she's covered in it. She also freaks out as soon as we put her in it and has injured her face and her feet, to the point where we can no longer crate her, and barks and shrieks until we return. We've tried keeping her in the bedroom thinking it was a bigger space and she sleeps on the side of the bed with us at night, but she displayed the same behavior and destroyed the rug and buried her poop under clothing etc. She follows us in and out of every room to make sure she can see us at all times. The pound told me that her previous owners kept her on a run all day and she was somewhat neglected. Saki our 7 yr old male is perfectly fine

when crated. I've tried Rescue Remedy to calm her down when we leave, I've tried not making a big deal out of leaving or coming home and not petting her until she calms down but nothing seems to help. She only seems to be getting worse, much worse. Yesterday she pooped in the living room right after I had left and then later immediately after my boyfriend had taken her out for a walk pooped in his workshop, he scolded her because he caught her in the act and then she went upstairs and pooped again in the study and later that day in the study again. The vet says she's healthy; she's not spayed and had a litter about 1 year ago. She definitely has low self esteem except when it comes to Saki she is still a little stubborn. She flinches sometimes when you raise your hand to pet her head as though she thought we were going to hit her, which we never have. We have tried the Alpha roll with her (she has that stubborn Chow in her) which we used when training Saki and she isn't trust worthy of us enough yet so we are giving it time. Any advice would be hugely appreciated!! I very much love her and want her to trust us and feel comfortable.

Thank You!

AMY

Amy J. St. Pierre

Ed's Comment:

This dog is very likely going to have fear aggression as an adult. Read the sections on Fear Biters and behavioral problems on my web site.

Question About Chows:

I have a 1 1/2 year old Lab/Chow mixed. At least that is what I was told. This dog was given to us by someone in our neighbor whose dog was the neighborhood dog and had puppies. For the most part, he has been friendly. As a puppy he was wonderful. He was easy to train and obedient. At least I thought. Lately, he has been displaying some disturbing behavior. Whenever we try to restrain him, he always growls and seems (although he has never) like he want to bite us. The veterinarian told us that literally he was retarded because that is what happens when you mix the two breeds, (more so the Chow breed) and that putting him to sleep would be best for him. I have a 9 year old daughter and my worse fear is that he may someday bite her because his temperament can change at the drop of a dime. I have grown very attached to him and hope that putting him to sleep would be our last resort. I am afraid to take him to a trainer because he is not very friendly to outsiders and will not let anyone (including me) to restrain him.

My question is--Is this dog fixable? Is there any behavior modification that we can try at home? I admit that my lack of training has not helped me deal with the dog at all, so is there anything I can try also. I am open to anything and would respect your honesty.

Thank You

Comment About Chow Information:

Great information on your website about Chows. I have trained several aggressive ones the last few months and when I read the write up it was like you were reading my mind.

Thanks,
Leader of the Pack Dog Training
Abe Mashal

Question About Chow:

Ed, I have read most of your site and like your approach. I think I can get a handle on a serious situation that I have allowed to develop with a 3 yr old male chow. I respect your experience and knowledge, and hope you have some good advice. You may think we are crazy but we have lived in a very big house with 7 Chows. Two males, father and son, who had to always be separated. Four females who have their pecking order established. The oldest males just died from a long bout with nasal cancer. His son Youngee has always been aggressive toward all other dogs outside his pack. He never shows aggression towards me or my family. I feel strongly that he knows I am the alpha of the pack. He will listen to me when I demand that he go into a separate room. He is generally

very well behaved. He does not fight over his food, toys or jealousy, but when I take him out he wants to dominate the neighborhood. He also displays an unbelievable myopic focus on anything in his environment that moves especially light or shadows. We have I think made a mistake in allowing our grandson to play with him and a laser light which he will chase to exhaustion if we let them. First I suppose I should end this chase game? We have been taking our dogs to a large open area with a cement seawall step where he loves to swim. There are many dogs around off lease. I keep to myself as I see no reason to let them all play. I keep him on lease and have been trying to teach him to ignore other animals. I let him off to go into the water. The other day I lost my attention to him and he got away. Once he is out of verbal range he kept on running and attacked and killed another dog. I finally got to him it was almost a mile away and he had the dog like a stuffed animal playing with it. It was horrible. I pounced on him and he did not fight me at all. I almost killed him right there with my own hands. For the next days he was very sad but when I bring him out he is still being very aggressive. He will never be off lease again. I can't change what has happened but I am willing to go to extraordinary lengths to change this behavior. I am a hard headed person who has raised large dogs all my life. I live in the inner city of New Orleans and my dogs afford my wife and I great protection. He is very good with my friends and grandson. I want to have a heavy hand but not

ruin him or ever let him hurt another dog again. I am prepared to use a muzzle and a shock collar but want to hear your thoughts before I make any more mistakes. I know this is a very unusually situation and I thank you for your time. Roy Maggio

Roy Maggio

Answer:

I would never allow the dog out without a very good electric collar on with a lot of range - like the Dogtra 2000 (you can read about it on my web site).

There are other things you can do but I cannot write them in this email.

Remote Collar Pet Training

\$40.00 +s&h

LEERBURG
VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

Remote Collar Training
for the Pet Owner

2 Hours 45 Minutes Long

Question About Chows:

Hi,

I bought an AKC registered 10 month old male Chow Chow the beginning of September. He was matted and in need of a couple of baths, I bathed and brushed him out. He was a bit jumpy, but not too bad. He seemed to adjust fairly well over the next few weeks. In November I took him to the vet to have 1 yr. shots and to see about having him neutered.

When we went in to the exam room, he urinated a couple of times while the vet was getting ready. My dog started to shake when he was checking an ear and then bit him on the back of the hand, he called for a muzzle. I had a hold of his leash and the vet tried to put the muzzle on, my dog scurried around him and growled. He tried again, my dog barked and jumped towards him; he raised his hand and struck him on his face with the muzzle. Well his bark then was very ferocious sounding; he got a hold of him from behind and stood him up. His assistant came in and helped get the muzzle on. They gave him his shot and took some blood from him; he was not growling or shaking then.

Is this how a muzzle is put on a dog, by stunning them to get hold of them? Is there an actual obedience technique that does not involve striking the dog? I should have had a hold of him better but all this happened so fast, I was not getting any

direction from the vet on what I should do. I'm sorry that the vet got bit, and thankful that he was not seriously hurt.

What do you think?
Thank you for your help.

Laurie McKenney

ANSWER:

The vet did the right thing. Your dog has weak nerves. You can read about it on my web site. You need to read the [training article](#) and [Q&A](#) section on fear biters.

If you want some good advice – buy a [prong collar](#) and start to obedience train this dog.

If you would like to learn more about the principles of obedience training a dog, read the description for my [Basic Dog Obedience](#) video. You will probably find that you have not had the full picture on the steps of training a dog must go through before it can be considered fully trained. You can also read why I am not a fan of taking an untrained dog to obedience classes. Get this tape and a prong collar. If you do not have a prong, we also sell those on our web site at <http://leerburg.com/822.htm#824>.

If you do not have experience with a prong collar I have written an article on my web site that explains how to fit a collar, and how to put it on. You can find this at <http://leerburg.com/fit-prong.htm>.

You are doing the right thing in trying to educate yourself on the issues with your dog. This dog is going to bite someone else if you don't get a grip on it. He has not even started to mature yet. Keep children AWAY from this dog. Get a dog crate and use it.

Basic Dog Obedience

\$40.00 +s&h



4 Hours Long

Testimonial About Chows:

I sure wish I'd read your comments a few years back before I brought a chow/shepherd mix puppy home from the pound. On our first day at training school the trainer looked at her and said, "I don't like that dog." He was right. I did my best to work with the dog, but training school with other dogs was a constant battle and she ended up spinning from a pinch collar for most of

the class. She quickly became more than I could physically handle and would not accept training from my husband at all. My Dad and I were the only ones who could control her. She was highly intelligent but had severe fear/aggression issues. When she cornered my kids in the yard one day I knew it was all over. At only 8 months of age she was taken back to the pound where the “nice lady” there belatedly said, “Oh, this dog should never have been released to a family.” I certainly learned my lesson about impulsively adopting a pet before extensive research, no matter how beautiful it looks! Thanks for posting this information, hopefully it will keep someone from making a mistake like I did.

Denise Olson

Question About Chows:

Dear Mr. Frawley,

I am inquiring about the aggressive dog. I hope I am not in the wrong for asking you a question(s). I have an almost 2 year old Chow/Shep mix (neut. m), and an 8 mo. old Chow/Lab mix (spayed-f). Well my question is... what can I do about territorial aggressive behavior when people walk past our home, especially with their dogs. When they are kenneled they are fine. We also have a Dachshund (female 12 years old), she is fine. The male chow mix seems to listen to me (wife,

mother) the most. I am not getting the help I need from area trainers, so conflicting. I am scared. I love these dogs. But I want to make sure that they mind us and that they do not hurt anyone. When they are outside they will tug at the fence, growl, etc... I have replaced screens from when he is inside the house, we have a bay window in front, he has grabbed wood. We have kept on top of him lately. He is getting better slowly. He will even back out of window if I tell him OUT (but I know I also use OUT for going outside, sooo.) People have shown him fear and left literally. When they are in the home with the family they are fine. Even when we have friends come over they are fine. They love to see new people in our gate. I know that kids on the street have made fun of the dogs. We finally have the neighborhood kids just nicely walking past, explaining about safety with ALL dogs. We used food as our males basic training at a local pet food store. He does mind, but not 100% of the time, our female has not been trained. I am up in the air about training properly. Yes I can be a wimp, but I do not want to cause my dogs pain. I am so confused. We have been firmer with them that is for sure, but just DO NOT know how to deal with this behavior. We have been told my male is not even trainable, put him down... do the basic with food over again. Some will not even touch my male because he is a chow mix. You can kiss, tug on their mouths, ears, feet, tails while they are sleeping and awake. I am so sorry if I have confused you. But I am confused

regarding training. I looked at your site, and it is very informative. Would your basic training tapes help us?

~Thank you so much,

Melissa

Answer:

With three dogs you own a dog pack. That changes a lot of things in a dog's mind – there are big differences between two and three dog families.

Unless you make some changes you are an accident waiting to happen.

You have to change the way these dogs are handled. The two larger dogs need to have dog crates in the house. I would NEVER allow them to be loose at the same time.

I would obedience train these dogs. I am 100% sure these dogs are not fully obedience trained. Saying a dog is mostly trained or partially trained is like saying a woman is only partially pregnant. These dogs are not trained to mind under extreme distraction. You need to change this and I think the training needs to be done with an [electric collar](#). I use a [DOGTRA 1700 NCP](#) on my personal dogs.

The reason you don't get good information from local trainers is that very, very few people understand aggression and pack behavior. But then you have already found this out.

Read the article I have written titled [DEALING WITH THE DOMINANT DOG](#). You can find this article in the list of training articles on my web site. I believe you will find some of the answers you need in that article or in the Q&A section of my web site.

I would also recommend my [Basic Dog Obedience training video](#). I did my first obedience video in 1982. That tape had a new version released in 1988. Then that version was replaced in Sept 2004 with my current 4 hour DVD that we now sell.

If you go to the URL for this DVD you will be able to read the outline of what is covered. This DVD not only deals with teaching people how to train the basic commands that every pet owner needs, it also tells people how to structure their lives and homes in ways that make living with a dog very easy and trouble free.

Small changes in how you handle a dog result in big differences in how the dog relates to you. The average pet owner does not realize how pack drive and rank within the pack control a domestic dog. The DVD goes into detail on pack drive. Becoming a pack leader is not about bullying a dog but rather becoming the dog's friend and then establishing the rules in how you relate to the dog. When this is not done correctly owners end up with dominance and aggression problems.

Occasionally I buy an adult dog to introduce into our breeding program here at the kennel. Even

if the dog is already trained I run it through my obedience program. I never assume the previous training was correct. I never assume the previous owner had a good relationship with the dog or that the dog enjoyed training. So I teach the dog what I expect and it learns through our work that I am always fair, that I am always consistent, and that I make training fun. This is the foundation of the relationship that I have for the rest of this dog's life.

I have been doing training tapes for almost 24 years - I feel this is the best tape I have done.

Dealing with the Dominant Dog



eBook

Question About Chows:

Mr. Frawley,

I am writing because of an incident that happened this past week:

My dog killed another dog. The other dog appeared to be a Miniature Schnauzer.

The other dog was on a leash walking down the road. I was standing on my property, with my dogs on a “Y” leash taking them out to go to the bathroom. I was standing on the snow, my dogs pulled me and I fell down.

When I fell down, my dogs went over to the other dogs. My dogs started sniffing the other dog. I went over to the woman and apologized and as I was talking to her, chaos happened.

I don't know which dog acted aggressively first, but of course, the other woman said it was my dogs. I am being told by many people that Schnauzers are known to act aggressively to other dogs, no matter how big. It was then that my dog #1 got her dog in his mouth and shook the other dog.

It all happened in maybe 5 seconds. I offered to take the woman and her dog to her vet. She said o.k. As I was getting my vehicle, some guy working on a house down the road, called animal control. The woman said she would wait for animal control instead. It took them over 30

minutes. By the time animal control came, the dog was dead.

The next day, animal control called me wanting to clarify the story. He asked me if the guy that helped me, if he was there the whole time. I told him, “No, only after everything happened and he helped me get my dogs into my house.” The officer said the other guy told him my one dog, Willy, also nipped the other dog on it’s behind. I told the officer that I never saw my one dog bite the other dog, only sniff...it was all the first dog. He said it was my word against his and he was going to declare them both potentially dangerous to make sure this doesn’t happen again.

My husband DEFINITELY does not want to keep the dogs. The vet said that they now have the taste of blood in their mouth and that we couldn’t guarantee that it wouldn’t happen again. My husband says he does not feel completely comfortable around them and wants them gone.

Dog #1, which is a black lab/chow mix has growled at him before. We’re not sure of why. Also, he may have killed a cat when he got out of a chain-link fence in a previous home. I have not noticed these behaviors in my black lab/chow/German shepherd mix except he does bark with a high-pitched bark at my cat on occasion, but not in a few months.

My husband does not want them euthanized, but he definitely wants them gone. In the letter the animal control officer gave us, it states that the dogs either

must be kept inside or if outside, they must be in a covered pen. The pen must be at least 5 feet in width, 10 feet in length and 6 feet in height.

Also, I have to pay \$50 for each dog to register them as “potentially dangerous.” “Failure to notify the director within 24 hours if they are unconfined, has attacked another domestic animal, has died, or has been sold or given away...” that we are to provide the director with the name, address, and phone number of the new owner. If we don’t it will result in fines up to \$1,000. I don’t know how I could give my dogs to another owner with all of these stipulations on them...I don’t know who would honestly take them.

Are there any places that would be willing to take dogs like this? I have had these dogs for over 7 years and have only recently had this problem in the past year or so. My new husband has really only seen these behaviors and not the 6 good years without incident.

Thank you for your time,
Carla

Answer:

I not only doubt that you will find anyone who wants these dogs, I am sure that no Rescue Org is going to accept them either.

The fact is your dogs are not trained, you cannot control them. If they were trained you would have been able to call them back before they killed this

dog. If they were trained you would have seen the lady and her dog and you would have said “NO” and they would not have pulled you down.

I cannot say if you are capable of training a dog. But when you tell me that you have owned them for 7 years and they are still untrained - well what would you expect people to believe.

Chows and Chow-mix dogs are dangerous dogs by nature. People who are not willing to put 110% into training them to mind under extreme distraction (being challenged by another dog) should not own them.

If you came to me looking for sympathy you came to the wrong place. I feel sorry for the dog that died and its owners.

Ed Frawley

Establishing Pack Structure with the Family Pet

\$40.00 +s&h



4 Hours Long

**Your Puppy
8 Weeks to 8 Months**

\$35.00 +s&h



3 Hours 18 Minutes Long

Question About Chows:

Ed,

Three days ago, my wife got me a nice birthday present. She brought home a chow mix 3 month old puppy from the SPCA. They called me to ask if it was ok. I asked a few questions, I was concerned because I knew some of the aggressive tendencies and character traits of a chow. The lady at the SPCA said that the mix was probably shepherd or lab. She said that the mix usually tempers the aggressive tendencies of the chow and that chow mixes make great family pets. So I said ok. The puppy is a female. She is very loving and playful. I have box that she can get in and out of that we've made into her bed. When we go to bed, I put her in her bed and she sleeps until between 6 and 7am. We get up first thing in the morning and I take her out to "use the facilities" and we go for a walk, (for

her benefit and mine!). We feed her twice a day at 7 and 7 and take her out 20 to 30 minutes after she eats. We've had a few accidents but I think we're on track housebreaking her. She is starting to recognize no and she'll usually stop when I clap my hands loudly. The reason I'm writing, I'm still concerned about behavioral issues after reading your description of chows. Is the SPCA lady right? Will the mix tone down the aggression? What steps can I take now with this specific dog to keep it a loving family pet? I don't want a dog I have to keep locked up all the time

Answer:

No the SPCA lady is 100% wrong. She is taking the approach "find a hole and stick your head in it".

Read the article I wrote titled Dealing with the Dominant Dog - You can find this on the article page on my web site at <http://leerburg.com/articles.htm>

The solution is to raise this dog properly and to not lose control.

I would recommend you purchase the video I produced titled Your Puppy 8 Weeks to 8 Months <http://leerburg.com/120.htm> I have owned and trained German Shepherds for 40 years. In the past 25 years I have bred over 300 litters of working bloodline German Shepherds. I give this video to

all of my puppy customers and never get questions on how to raise a pup. Read the description of the tape on my web site. Dog training is not rocket science it's simple common sense ideas on how to handle and train a dog, The VHS version has 2 hours of excellent information, the DVD version has 2 ½ hours of training information along with 15 puppy training articles that I have written.

I would also recommend my Basic Dog Obedience training video. <http://leerburg.com/302.htm> I did my first obedience video is 1982. That tape had a new version released in 1988. Then that version was replaced in Sept 2004 with my current 4 hour DVD that we now sell.

If you go to the URL for this DVD you will be able to read the outline of what's covered. This DVD not only deals with teaching people how to train the basic commands that every pet owner needs, it also tells people how to structure their lives and homes in ways that make living with a dog very easy and trouble free.

Small changes in how you handle a dog result in big differences in how the dog relates to you. The average pet owner does not realize how pack drive and rank within the pack control a domestic dog. The DVD goes into detail on pack drive. Becoming a pack leader is not about bullying a dog but rather becoming the dog's friend and then establishing the rules in how you relate to the dog. When this is not done correctly, owners end up

with dominance and aggression problems.

Occasionally I buy an adult dog to introduce into our breeding program here at the kennel. Even if the dog is already trained I run it through my obedience program. I never assume the previous training was correct. I never assume the previous owner had a good relationship with the dog or that the dog enjoyed training. So I teach the dog what I expect and it learns through our work that I am always fair, that I am always consistent, and that I make training fun. This is the foundation of the relationship that I have for the rest of this dog's life.

You also will want to read article I wrote titled [GROUND WORK to becoming a Pack Leader](#), also found on the article page.

**Ground Work to
Establish Pack Structure
with Adult Dogs**



eBook

Question About Chows:

Dear Ed,

Prior to the arrival of my twins 4 weeks ago, my wife and I raised Moby a chow chow/shepherd rescue puppy who is now 1.5 years old. As a puppy he was very dominant and aggressive. Had extensive training and improved. At 6 months of age he was neutered and had duclaws removed.

During his recovery we had company, and he bit 2 people. Trainer could not believe this and tested him by grabbing his flank - Moby bit him and he was severely corrected. Excellent trainer who said Moby might not make it. He re-evaluated him and worked closely with him. He made it and actually has been a good dog for the past year. We moved and set up an invisible fence. Obedience inside the house is good overall (but barks like crazy at any visitors), but obedience outside is poor (will not listen, will not come on command, barks at all strangers and dogs in the front yard). Never shown aggression towards a child and he has been around young children 2-10 years old well supervised with no problems.

On one occasion I had to restrain him because he was about to jump on a toddler seemingly to play with her. When twins arrived, life was chaos as you may imagine. No aggression exhibited towards

the infants.

However, in a small room growled at my mother and began barking at her. This is the first “growl” towards a person in the past year. To make a long complex story a bit shorter, I basically did not feel comfortable with Moby around the babies, and especially when they are toddlers and cannot be supervised 100% of the time around the dog. My wife and I love this dog, but I felt he was just too unpredictable and he would require constant supervision and further training. I drove 10 hours to the rescue shelter where Moby was initially trained. As sad as it was to give him up, I have felt it was absolutely the right thing to do.

When I called to see how he was doing, the trainer told me he was great. He felt I may have been premature in my assessment of the potential risks with Moby. The trainer took Moby home with him and did extensive temperament testing which he passed. He was exposed to young children and he did great. The trainer thinks Moby would work well in our house, and he even offered to do 1-2 months of additional training if we wanted him back. My wife wants to consider this option as she is very attached to the dog. I’m willing to admit that my decision may have been premature, but I think there are still red flags with his history and he would require constant work and supervision with 2 young babies. I have read many excellent articles on your website, and I would be very interested in

your perspective. Thank you so much.

George

Ed's Answer to Chow Question:

George,

I commend you in your dedication to your dog. This is a difficult breed and living with and handling Chows must be done 100% correctly or dog aggression will raise its ugly head.

One point that jumps out at me is that you are relying on OTHER PEOPLE TO TRAIN YOUR DOG - this results in a dog who minds these people but not you. Dogs are opportunists; they live by a genetic code called pack drive. If handlers and owners do not follow this code things go down hill. That is your biggest risk.

Your dog should be crate trained. It should be trained to go into the crate when the door bell sounds. Normal dogs do not need this training, your dog is not normal. The SOP for a visitor in the home is the dog is in the crate - very important from a dominance standpoint. It is a HUGE mistake to allow this dog to meet strangers. We already know he does not like them so why push the envelope? Makes no sense.

A dog that is crate trained is not going to bite a child or a stranger if it is in the crate. That's pretty simple to understand.

If this were my dog it would ALWAYS have an

electric collar on. Its life would revolve around having the collar on the instant it came out of the crate. It would also go through the work I describe in my article titled [GROUND WORK TO BECOMING A PACK LEADER](#).

You need to change the way you live with this dog, read the article I wrote on [PREVENTING DOG BITES IN CHILDREN](#).

I would also run this dog through [my Basic Obedience program](#). Even though it has some training I would want it to know EXACTLY what I expect from it. I would want it to know how consistent I am, and I want it to know that I am capable of administering a correction at a level that is a deterrent. This means that I am willing to correct hard enough so that the next time the dog thinks about doing something it knows is wrong, it remembers the correction I gave it last time and will choose not to misbehave because it would rather not get a similar correction. A very simple concept that many dog trainers do not understand.

So to answer your question on SHOULD YOU TAKE THIS DOG BACK - my only answer can be ARE YOU PREPARED TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU LIVE WITH AND HANDLE THIS CHOW CROSS?

Preventing Dog Bites in Children



eBook

Question About Chows:

Mr. Frawley:

I am concerned for the safety of my granddaughter and daughter because of my son-in-law's dog. My son-in-law's dog is a chow mix and is very aggressive at times and untrained. She is 5 years old and has been kept in a fenced area most of her life and has been very aggressive whenever she sees someone she doesn't know - barking, growling, and leaping/slamming at the fence. She is a very nervous dog as well. Another dog (lab) was previously owned by son-in-law and lived in the same fenced yard with the chow and then eventually they were kept in a kennel together during the day. The chow use to attack the lab out of the blue all the time. Both dogs have escaped repeatedly and roamed the neighborhoods until

they were caught. Eventually animal control was called and animal control decided that the lab was neurotic and put her down (not the chow???) Now the chow is leashed on a decked in an unfenced yard. The chow has repeatedly growled (hair raised) at my other grandchildren and also adults. She bit at my one granddaughter when she was goofing off with my son-in-law and got only her hair (thank God). My son-in-law said the dog was just “protecting” him; she’s not vicious and very lovable usually. She has walked toward my granddaughter growling, and my granddaughter was only sitting in the front room playing with toys - my daughter was right there fortunately. This same dog has bit at my daughter and at my son-in-law as well (needn’t puncture the skin though). She attacked another dog that was in the home, and got a old of her leg and wouldn’t let go - my son was holding the other dog (husky) in the air to try and break up the fight and my daughter was trying to make the chow leave and had to get her back with a bar stool. The other dog (a husky) required stitches in her leg after that. The chow was again defended, saying that this was her home and it isn’t fair to have the other dog there. That is true, but everything together I believe makes for a very dangerous situation. The chow has done this same thing to other dogs, but fortunately none were seriously injured. The dog is afraid of most people, her hair stands up and she growls and barks erratically at people, the dog control officials labeled her a “fear biter” and said she is like this

because she is untrained and un-socialized. My daughter tried to introduce a woman to the chow that she babysits for, and the dog was completely sketched. She wants to run a daycare at the home.

The chow broke loose (collar broke) recently and leaped at a 7 yr old neighbor child that was playing at the house with my granddaughter who lives there (also 7 yrs old) - my daughter was able to get the girls in the house and my son grabbed the dog by the collar. My son-in-law wants to put a harness on her instead of a collar and then leash her in the same spot on the deck (the yard is not fenced). He believes that “the children just need to learn to stay away from her.” He then thought about putting her in a dog run with the other family dog who is about a year old now, my daughter said no to this idea. My daughter wants to put the chow in a dog run by herself, give her away, or have her put down. My son-in-law thinks she is basically a good dog and loves her to death, putting her down is out of the question in his mind. He still brings the dog in at night in a separate room with the door shut. To top all this off, my other daughter is going to be staying with them in a week with a new born baby. I am just sick to my stomach with worry. Please, what do you suggest?

Debra

Comment About Chows:

While reading your suggestions on how to break up a dog fight, I noticed the link to the Chow mix page ... boy did you ever hit the nail on the head. I am currently shopping for a couple of muzzles because my chow-mix (Chow Chow and Shepherd) and my Chesapeake Bay retriever are fighting. These fights are vicious and have resulted in both dogs and myself being badly hurt. I wish I had read your instructions before on how to break up a fight!! Hopefully, the muzzles I order will stop the fighting. I can't take it!

Sincerely,
Ramona

How to Fit a Prong Collar



eBook

Question About Chows:

Mr. Frawley:

I am at my wit's end! I have a neighbor that has a mean chow. She has witnessed the dog snapping at my son's fingers, along with attacking another neighbor's daughter. The land owner has on several occasions told the dog owner to keep the dog restrained or get rid of it. My children are terrified to go outside to play in the yard, and every time we take our puppy outside to play or to relieve herself, we are terrified that the chow will come over and attack us. The chow had one of my children so terrified, that he climbed on top of my car to escape from the dog. The chow tore at his clothing. We have repeatedly phoned our neighbor and told her that her dog is terrifying, and she only laughs! We have contacted the dog warden and he told us if the dog is over on our property threatening us, to shoot at it. I am an animal lover and cannot shoot at it.

Ed's Response:

Call the police, call the Mayor, call you local city councilmen – tell them all that you are going to call the news media and tell them that no one will do anything about this and you fear for your son's life.

Go to my web site. Print out the article I wrote on how I testified in court against the woman whose Rots killed the 9 year old boy. Then send copies of

this article to all of these people and tell them the news media will get a copy if they don't deal with this person. Elected officials listen when the news people get involved.

Comment About Chows:

Hi Ed,

I found your website a bit too late but I wanted to share our family's Chow experience which may be of help to someone else. I took our Chow from a friend who had died, leaving 3 Chows but no human family. Tiger, a Buff female was the baby, about a year and half back in July 2001. She was the best behaved of the group, probably due to the fact that she was the lowest ranking of that pack. Tiger was flown to Los Angeles from Chicago and was of course shy as she came out of the crate but seemingly grew to be a real family member. Jeremy, my older son, now off at college, was very gentle with her as were his friends. Tiger became close to Jeremy and was very accepting of his friends, although she would bark ferociously whenever anyone approached the front door. Things were different for my younger son, now eighteen, and his friends. The same level of front-door barking but she growled and retreated when he had friends over. Friends of my younger son had teased her when she arrived and it seems like she never forgot that.

Tiger was pleasant enough and would obey my wife, my older son and me, except when she'd get loose and then she'd run around the block. She just loved it if someone chased her and even better took the car out to chase her. If we took out the car generally she'd get in, end of chase. If we didn't catch her she'd return to the house after running around the block. These episodes occurred maybe eight times since she joined the family in 2001. Unfortunately, in general the reason for her bolting out was she sensed that there was a small animal around to chase, usually the neighbor's cat. Because she caught the cat once we paid a vet bill incurred by an understanding neighbor. When Ginger, a full sized poodle, was adopted by our other next store neighbor, Tiger would bark and growl incessantly when she saw her. Walking out the front door had become a challenge for us. We had to be careful that Tiger was properly restrained when we walked her and that she didn't bolt out of the house when we otherwise opened the door. My wife and I followed a routine. I'd walk Tiger in the early morning and she'd walk her at night. Tiger became used to the routine and hung around me in the morning whining until she got her walk. At night she'd hang around my wife. We regarded it as smart and endearing behavior.

Last Friday, our neighbor was at the door, the owner of Ginger. My wife opened the door a crack to assure that Tiger didn't bolt out of the house. Our neighbor left and then I heard my wife scream

“ouch Tiger.” I went to the front door and my wife was bleeding profusely from the leg where Tiger had bitten her. Tiger stuck around and was lapping the blood which was on the floor. When Tiger saw me she came up to me and licked my hand. We went through some serious first aid trying to decide whether or not my wife needed to go to the ER room. In the end she decided not to go (my wife has a medical background and calmly evaluated her situation.) but the wound was deep.

While this was going on Tiger started begging for her evening walk --- like nothing happened.

The next morning I took Tiger to the Pound. Family member or not, she seemed like she had become a danger to the family and the community. I related the detailed story of the bite. The Animal Shelter called my wife and got her version. The woman at the Shelter who took Tiger and interviewed us just shook her head and said Chows just get aggressive when they get older. I signed the permission slip to have her put down. My wife, my older son and I feel devastated but I felt like and still feel like we had no choice, Tiger had to be put down.

I know that this is a real downer for a holiday dog story but if it helps someone realize the importance of the training of a Chow, maybe it serves some useful purpose.

Bob Cohen

Here is an email that made me laugh out loud when I got it:

Ed,

Here is a picture of Duncan a Chow/Doberman mix.

He is a barking, hole digging, dirt eater, that is very aggressive toward other dogs.



Chow snaps at baby, what should I do?

Hi, my name is Wendy. I have a four yr old chow and a 20 month old baby. My chow is very loving and kisses the baby all the time. However if my

son falls down she runs to him and snaps at him. I don't understand why she is doing this. It scares me that she may bite my baby. Also if he has food she will stand by him and watch him eating so that he will give her food. I have given the dog to my parents because I am afraid that she will hurt my son. I would like to be able to keep her. Is there anything I could do? Also she hates company of any kind. She barks and runs backwards when people come over. She will not take food from strangers. She is territorial of the home and doesn't like people other than my parents to come over. Does she sound aggressive to you? She is a big baby. When we sleep she lays outside the bedroom door whining. She won't even go off the porch to use the bathroom unless you go out with her or stand at the door and demand it until she goes. If you do think she is aggressive, do you know any breeds that you would recommend with young children? Appreciate your time.

Answer to Chow Snapping at Baby Question:

This dog is dominant. It should NEVER be allowed near children.

Read the article I wrote on preventing dog bites in children. <http://leerburg.com/articles.htm>

The only way you should own a dog is if you get a grip on how to live with and train dogs. Any breed of dog can bite a child if pack behavior is not addressed. I would recommend two or three of my training DVD's if you get another dog:

Your puppy 8 weeks to 8 months

Basic Dog Obedience

Dealing with Dominant and Aggressive Dogs

Dealing With Dominant and Aggressive Dogs

\$49.00 +s&h



3 Hours 30 Minutes Long

**A Comment on Chows from a Chow Owner -
1/12/06**

Mr. Frawley,

I was reading the letters sent to you regarding Chow Chows and Chow mixes. The main topics of problems seem to rest in the ability of the people to train their dogs. You tell them to keep their Chows under control and you are absolutely correct. As a chow owner, I'm writing to add to your comments

and to help people understand the breed and hopefully not scare anyone away from the breed because they are great. A Chow needs correction, obedience and control from day one that a person owns it. However, what is great about them is that unlike a Lab or German shepherd, they only require a couple minutes, each day, and they're good to go. These dogs are not high-energy dogs and for this reason they are great apartment dogs and great for people who work all day. A short walk in the morning and evening is about all these animals need or want. The rest of the time they're happy just sacking out on the floor.

If I could pass along some good advise that was given me... from the moment my dog was a puppy, I encouraged people to play with him and get used to people and kids. I would take him everywhere in the car so he got used to traveling. And finely, I was told and have never played tug-of-war with him. He absolutely understands what the words "drop it" mean. I admit the hair can be a bit much, but then my dog has been brushed since the day he came in the house and is used to it.

I have found Chow's to be amazingly bright and gentle. But, from the moment they are a couple of months old and ready to be placed in a home, (or even before) they can and should be treated like an adult dog. If there is something you wouldn't want a 50-pound dog to do, then don't let them do it as a puppy. They will remember and you'll come across

as someone who's inconsistent. And no one likes inconsistency in people, so why would a dog be any different.

Jim

Ed's Answer on Chows

I will add this with comment.

1- The bigger problem seems to be with the chow-mixes. This is more where I think unstable temperament comes from

2- Having bred over 350 litters of GSDs in the last 30 years I would completely disagree with your comment on the breed. Training is NEVER breed specific – not ever. Training is temperament and drive specific. This means you train all hard dogs alike and all soft dogs alike. It means you train high drive dogs alike and low drive dog alike.

3- The correct amount of training is 2 to 4 times a day for 2 to 4 minutes per session.

4- In almost every case of behavioral problems in dogs the problems are a result of the other end of the leash. Un-educated trainers and owners who are not consistent (we agree on this)

Ed Frawley

Question About Chows:

Ed,

I have been reading a lot of your articles online and sometimes as a new puppy owner I am overwhelmed because I know what I want from my pup, but sometimes get a little frustrated. My wife and I about 5 days ago adopted a chow mix (which I just read your article on chow mixes this morning) so now I am a little nervous but think that our little puppy with the correct upbringing will be fine. She is about 4 months old and we are working on creating us as the pack leaders and the whole crate training thing.

First crate training, she has had some accidents in the crate about 4 total, which my reasoning behind that is a couple of things 1. is I should have taken her out more, but 3-4 hours during the day should be sufficient and just last night she wet the bed. Every night she has been fine until last night, which is confusing because I let her out at 10:00 pm and 5:30 am. Normally routine. However I think some of the problem lies within the animal rescue league, where she lived for 3 months or so before she was up for adoption. They probably did not care that she peed on herself.

Now for where my problems are... We are working on the pack leader stuff. She lets me and my wife go through doors first, but going on walks is brutal. When I take her she is reluctant to go and on the way back it is a dead sprint for the house thus she

is walking me, that's a bad deal. So I decided that until she learns more deeply that I am the pack leader than walks may be out. So I am looking for a way to take her on a nicely control walk where she is slightly behind me and at my side. Is that possible? Do we need a different kind of leash or collar?

Next issue, when it comes time for feeding she is jumping and going 100 mph and just cant wait. She knows sit and so I try to have her sit nicely while I get her food but that last like two seconds. So what the heck do I do?

When I crate her up after some play time she is reluctant to go into her crate because she knows it is ending play time. I toss treats in for her and when she goes in I say kennel, but... Also we have been working last night on the kennel command and she seems to be picking that up pretty well.

So to sum it all up.

Advice on crate training, are we on the road to completely trained?

Advice on walking her?

Advice on feeding time?

Also you kind of know my situation and I was wondering what DVDs you would recommend?

Thanks and sorry this is long

Chad

Ed's Answer:

Chad, the two DVDs you need that answer all these questions and a lot more are:

[Your Puppy 8 Weeks to 8 Months](#)

[Basic Dog Obedience](#)

Regards,

ED

Email About Chows:

Dear Mr. Frawley

I recently visited your website and couldn't believe the crock of crap I had to read on your page about Chow Chows at <http://www.leerburg.com/chows.htm> I just can't help myself. I have to tell you how I feel.

While I do agree with, * some* of your breed description about the nature, character and disposition of chows, your answer is to use electronic collars?? Outright force??? Become MORE aggressive than your chow????

Mr. Frawley, a good, solid and healthy relationship with a chow is a relationship which is cultivated between human, (NOT OWNER), and chow on a very unconditional basis. Chows are not owned by anyone. They share space with humans. Unfortunately, people buy chows without doing their research, then expect their chow to roll over, jump through hoops and play dress up doll.

Your training methods and problem solving techniques are more than archaic. I can't imagine any chow coming out of YOUR type of training and still have their self esteem left. To me all you are creating are chows with no or low self esteems, possible even HIGHER levels of aggression or worse, fear biters.

I've had chows for at least 25 years. I've never, ever had to resort to any methods that you are mentioning here, and my chows don't attack people, nor do they chew on my children.

I'll agree that half the dog ownership population is simply downright stupid and almost 100% of the time the problem is due to THEM and not their chows or dogs..... But to tell STUPID people these ridiculous training technique is worthy of a good horse whipping.

It's more than sad. Your website makes chows look like downright monsters, when in fact they are not. What a travesty. I hope the rest of the chow world community does write to you too.

And Mr. Frawley never equates a chow mix to have the same temperament with a purebred chow chow. Chances are excellent that the OTHER half of them offers more problems than the chow part.

Please stick to Lab and Golden.....

MM

<http://www.chowpei.net/>

Ed's Comments:

I guess all of the emails I get on these dogs are from fiction writers. An interesting thought.

There are a lot of ways to train dogs. Mine are the result of 45 years of owning and training dogs. If your methods are so much better you should be doing training DVDs

I am sure that anyone whose web page has a heading that says "The place where BLIND CHOWs RULE!" is a credible source of information

Ed

Email About Chows:

Frankly, Ed, I think you are an idiot!!! It is quite obvious that you have never had a chow and that you truly know nothing about this breed. I've had chows for many years and I've never had one that was aggressive. Chows are like any other dog - they are as they are taught. If you have a red neck idiot who wants a "mean dog" then a chow, just like a shepherd or Akita or any other large breed dog, can be made mean. Unfortunately, way too many people think like you as a result of people like you writing articles like that one on your web site.

Chows are independent, yes, but vicious by nature, absolutely NOT!!!

Jacqué
Kuddlebearz Chows
San Antonio, TX

Ed's Comments:

I will tell you what I tell anyone who writes me and asks if their breed can be trained to do one thing or another. Dog training is not breed specific. It is temperament and drive specific. With that said - genetics play a role and Chows and chow mixes have a higher genetic tendency to cause aggression problems in the hands of inexperienced or incompetent owners or trainers. The fact that you know how to raise and live with a chow has nothing to do with the problems that many people have. You have your head stuck in a hole and your eyes are closed.

Question About Chows:

I have been reading a bit around your site and wanted to ask a question...

My dog is a 7 year old lab/chow/possibly pit mix (we are not sure of her exact breed). She weighs about 50 pounds.

My dog has always barked at people on the “other side of the fence.” Her tail is always up and usually

the hair on her back is standing too. She constantly chases and tries to bite at kids on bikes when we are walking, but I do my best to avoid them. She does not bite at or bark at my kids on bikes.

Just yesterday she barked, quite “aggressively” at a girl my daughter brought into the yard (10). I told her no/bad firmly and put her inside. When the girl was leaving and we were heading inside, my dog ran out the door and ran to the girl and jumped and nipped at her elbow. She did not break the skin or hurt her, but she did scare me and her.

Once before she nipped at a young boy she didn’t know who was “bouncing” through our yard and playing with my daughter. She did not break the skin on him either.

She also barks a ton at people when they come to the door. She will just sniff them when I let her out, as long as they stand and let her. She tries to chase is they walk away before she is ready.

What should I do? Can she be helped, or are we on a path for disaster. I am pregnant with our 3 rd child and want to take care of this problem fast. I am planning on talking to my vet too.

Thanks.

Ed’s Answer:

In my opinion dogs like this need to be closely supervised or they are going to result in a law suit. I would also recommend training the dog

in obedience with a REMOTE COLLAR. I did a training DVD on how to do it. ([Click here](#))

Comment About Chow Article:

Hi Ed,

Just wanted to say how much I enjoyed your article on Chow & Chow mixes. It was right on from my experience. We recently had to put down our chow mix who was 12 yrs old. We got him from a shelter when he was 10 wks old and he was the cutest of the cute. Had never experienced that chow personality. Loved him dearly but was always watchful and extremely careful. He was taken to obedience and we did use a prong collar for security when walking him in public. Never had any serious problems with him as we were diligent in protecting him from situations that could become a problem. Oh, he was not a good patient at the vet's. My husband and the vet had to battle him to put him out to have his ears flushed. Of course he was 100+ pounds. Again, it's a matter of being aware of what you are dealing with and taking appropriate action.

Although he didn't like to be fussed over he was a loving and loyal dog.

I had a very strong bond with him.

Great job on an informative and accurate article.

Carol Shows

Lindsay, Ontario

The Theory of Corrections in Dog Training



Article

Comment About Chows:

Some Chow enthusiasts have called your training methods to my attention, as being overly harsh. From what I have read on your site, your expertise is in training your GSDs, and in correcting other peoples' problem dogs of various breeds. De-programming an already-aggressive dog is far harder than correctly training it in the first place. And I totally agree that the HUMAN is the source of all training success or failure, and that the Human must be the overall pack leader.

My wife is a world-class expert on training Chows, as evidenced by the numbers of [Chow] Service Dogs she has trained for people with neurological

disorders, and the numbers of Delta Society Certified Therapy Dogs [Chows] trained by her, who are currently working in hospitals, nursing homes and schools. Socialization and a clear understanding of Pack Order are begun the day after birth. Persistence and consistency are vitally important. Also, having several older dogs [males and females] to assist in the training of the puppies is very effective.

When the training facility [any place with doors and gates] can be configured appropriately, I have observed that the perceived psychological effects of non-physically-painful methods (such as scolding, shunning or shaming) are every bit as effective with Chows as your more physical methods. The Chow may be aloof and reserved, and may not require a lot of cuddly huggy-huggy affection, but he does not like to be ignored or avoided by his human. This can be used to great advantage in training a Chow.

I have not trained GSDs so I can offer no opinion about training methods for them. I have personally observed that the GSDs from The Seeing Eye are magnificently well-trained.

I thought that your answer to MM was inconsiderate- she is a leader in the field of training blind dogs [Chows and Sharpies] to function well in the world despite their visual blindness. Her methods do not include shock collars or prong

collars. I guess you stopped reading her website after the first line. Maybe you should consider looking through it more carefully.

This email represents only my opinions, not necessarily anyone else's.

-Ted

Ed's Response:

Ted-

I don't have a lot of patience for fools.

When people try and tell me that dog training is breed specific I know they are fools that lack experience.

Dog training is temperament and drive specific not breed specific.

With that said I don't know who MM is. I get enough emails from fanatical dumb asses every day that are blinded by their ignorance. My opinions are based on 45 years of owning and training dogs. I could give a rat's ass what MM or you or anyone else thinks.

Question About Chows:

Hello,

I have a BIG problem and desperately need your help. I recently acquired a dog from some people

down the street, who were moving and could not take him with them. He is a 4 years old male chow mix. I currently have another male Chow-mix who was a stray that came on my doorstep 4 years ago. I believe they could possibly be litter mates. But that is not my concern. I found out these people did not take very good care of this dog, he was constantly kept in a pen, did not have any of his vaccinations, and was basically just left be. So I brought him home, took him to the vet, got his shots, had him fixed, introduced him to our dog, and started bringing him into the house. The two dogs get along great, but the problem is when friends come to the door. He allows them to get into the door, but once they are in, he will start to attack them (violently and relentlessly). If we put him in his crate or on the back porch until they are already in the house and seated, he is fine and very friendly. This concerns me. I was trying to stop him from trying to bite the neighbor and he bit me! Can he be trained out of this habit? He is really a sweet dog. I would like to give him a chance. We travel a bit for work and often have the neighbors come in and let our other dog out while we are gone. They can't even get in the door now! We also have children that come for visitations, so we have seven months before they will be here again. If it is possible, I would like to have him trained in that time. I realize it will be an ongoing process, but again I just want to give this dog a chance. He has had a really hard life so far, and he is great in all other ways, other than this. Please help?

Ed's Comments:

I can tell you that you can get a grip on this dog. I can't tell you that you will be able to have a neighbor come and take care of the dog when you are gone. You could possibly train it to have one specific person come but they would have to work with you.

I recommend that you get the 4 ½ hour DVD I did called [Basic Dog Obedience](#), and the DVD [Dealing with Dominant and Aggressive Dogs](#).



Email About a Chow:

I saw on your website you are looking for photos of chows and chow mixes.

We have a chow mix we got from an animal shelter when she and her litter mate were about 8 weeks old. Her litter mate was killed when bitten by a snake when they were about 4 months old.

After seeing your website I realize we made a mistake in not getting them trained as soon as we got them. Now the survivor is 9 months old and getting aggressive. She has bitten one person on the hand, attacked our other dog and a cat, though she hasn't done any serious harm to them. But with my elderly mother now living with us we might have to take drastic action. The dog is great 99% of the time, but that extra 1% is what worries us. The shelter where we got her said they'd take her back and place her with a man who uses aggressive dogs as guard dogs, but our area is known to have people who train dogs to fight, so we are leery of this situation.

Anyway, I please feel free to use the picture. We believe she is part Retriever.

David

Ed's Answer

David-

Thanks for the photo and the story.

You can control this dog if you wish. It really comes down to you making the decision to do the

training. Dogs, unlike human, live in the presence. People live in the past. What this means is that a dog will react to what presents itself in its life today and for the most part does not worry about past events.

If you go to my web site on the left hand blue menu bar you will find a link to [FREE eBOOKS](#). Go and read the e-book title [THE GROUND WORK TO ESTABLISHING PACK STRUCTURE WITH AN ADULT DOG](#). You can start this work today if you wish.

I also recommend that you read the e-book or listen to the podcast of [MY PHILOSOPHY OF DOG TRAINING](#). You will probably learn something from this.

If you train this of and control its environment you should be OK. The eBook will point you to 2 DVDs should decide to give it the old kick at the cat.

[Basic Dog Obedience](#)

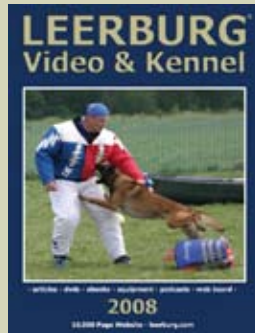
[Dealing with Dominant and Aggressive Dogs](#)

You may want to also read the article I wrote on dominant dogs. You can find the list of 300 or so training article I have written at <http://leerburg.com/articles.htm>

Once again, thanks for the photo.

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