

Regional Club Spotlight

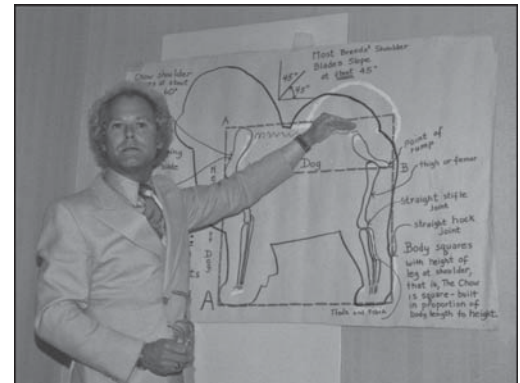
Chow Chow Club of Greater New York, Inc.



In the late 1970s, there were two well established regional Chow Clubs in the Northeast. The “New England Chow Chow Club” (NECCC) in Boston, MA and the “Southern Chow Chow Club” (SCCC) in Washington D.C. Both clubs were approximately a 10 hour round trip drive from New York City (55 MPH speed limits were strictly enforced in those days). So, several relatively new Chow breeders from the New York City area, who were interested in forming a local regional Chow club, started tossing the idea around with the primary purpose of the club being breeder education. In March 1978, interested Chowists informally met at the KC of Northern NJ show and started the “Tri-State Chow Chow Club” with a temporary slate of officers. The first formal meeting was in May 1978 at the Ladies KC show in Long Island, NY to organize the club with a permanent meeting site, fund-raising and educational activities, future relationships with existing Chow Clubs,

and a new name, the “Chow Chow Club of Greater New York” (CCCGNY). Committees were appointed to organize the new club, including a Nominating Committee to recommend Officers and Board Members, develop an AKC approved Constitution and Bylaws and an AKC compliant membership list. The next meeting was June 1978 at a member’s home in Staten Island, NY, after an unofficial supported entry at the Staten Island KC show which drew a large entry. This meeting started a long tradition of meetings at member homes with a veritable feast at each meeting. The club was off and running with 34 members.

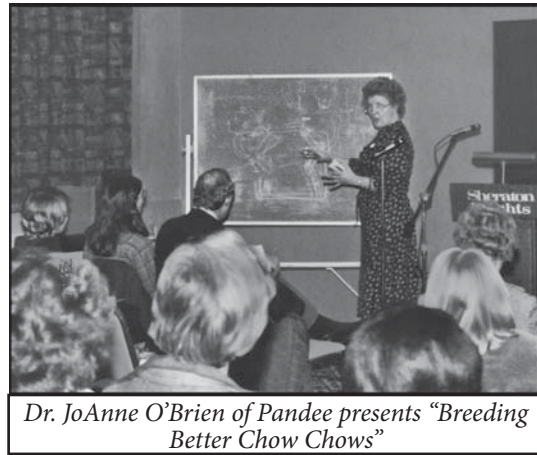
The CCCGNY had a group of founding club members with diverse educational and show interests. Alex & Irene Cartabio, Larry & Alice Thompson and Lewis Klein & then wife Michele Kaye were primarily interested in health and breeding issues and



orthopedic soundness. We were very fortunate to have excellent veterinarians who enjoyed going to club meetings to give seminars on these topics “at their own expense”. Prominent members Desmond (Desi) Murphy & Dr Samuel Draper of Lontamer Chows, also got well known Chow breeders to speak about various aspects of showing and breeding Chows, as well as a prestigious seminar accommodation at the Lyndhurst Estate in Tarrytown, NY, site of the Westchester KC show. The first such seminar was given by a Canadian exhibitor and breeder Herb Williams of Shang-Hi Chows in September 1978 about “Chow Anatomy”. He used a new photography technique called stop-action to demonstrate Chow movement. At the another meeting, the President Desi Murphy gave a seminar on “Show Conditioning and Grooming”, as well as some of his special techniques (but probably not all of them). We had a huge turn out for a seminar given by Dr Joanne O’Brien of the well known Pandee Kennels on “Breeding Better Chows”, where she also demonstrated her new born puppy accordion rescue technique. Another well attended seminar was given by Jim Faccioli of Fa-Ci Chows on “Selecting a Stud Dog”. Many other educational seminars were given by informative speakers throughout the Club’s existence.



Secretary, Michele Kaye greets seminar attendees.



Dr. JoAnne O'Brien of Pandee presents "Breeding Better Chow Chows"

Of course every club is also about socialization, so we especially looked forward to the annual August pool party and barbecue meeting at members John & Cecelia Strickland's home in Brookhaven, NY, who also bred and raced sled dogs. Like every other club, we also started having an annual Christmas party in December 1981, where we also exchanged gifts, held an auction or had an educational seminar, such as Carmen Blankenship on the importance of Chow balance. I must also mention long time members Linda & Elaine Albert who were avidly active in rescue early on, as well as exhibiting and breeding Chows. Starting in the early 1980s, there were a lot of Chow show exhibitors and breeders in the New York City area, as the Chow entered the top 10 AKC breeds in popularity. So there was a constant flow of new, working club members. We also encouraged people who purchased our show and pet quality off-spring to join the club for the benefit of learning to be a better exhibitor, breeder and/or pet owner.



Irene Cartabio (center) presents the Humanitarian Award to Elaine Albert (Left) and Linda Albert (Right) at the first Christmas Banquet & Awards Dinner in 1981.

While the CCCGNY was primarily focused on education, a conformation Specialty club's primary mission was to hold dog shows. So, Desi Murphy & Sam Draper arranged permission to hold our first Fun Match in September 1978 the day before the Westchester KC point show on their show grounds. Needless to say, CCCGNY was proud to have our first Fun Match under the tents at a large, prestigious point show. We also supported the two point shows that weekend with majors both days. This first show weekend was such a success, that our club decided to hold our second annual Fun Match the following September, again the day before the Westchester KC point show on their show grounds. As a fund-raiser, we also held Fun Matches for all Non-Sporting breeds at a County Park in Hartsdale, NY in order to increase entries (in the early 1980s it was easy to find free match show sites). We all had a good time putting on Fun Matches and Supported Entries for the first several years but in 1981 it was time to get serious. We decided to become an AKC Sanctioned club, so we could hold point show Specialties. We held our first AKC Sanctioned B Match in September 1981 and our second B Match in September 1982. We held our required A Match in September 1983 all on the grounds of the Westchester KC point show. We received our official AKC Sanction shortly after the A Match. Since many of our members lived in Long Island, NY, our first Specialty and Sweepstakes was in the Spring of 1985 at the Ladies KC with a Supported Entry the next day at the Long Island KC. Besides a breakfast or luncheon each day depending on judging time, we



Kip Kopatich who judged our Match poses with Cindy McDonald and her Best in Match Puppy.

also had a banquet and auction. Over the years, our Specialty moved between Long Island, NY and Trenton, NJ to maximize entries and/or depending where the show committee lived, until it moved to the Big E in Springfield MA to team up with the NECCC to increase entries. The CCCGNY really thrived for the first 30 years from the late 1970s through 2008.

As with many other industries and organizations, the 2008 Great Recession wreaked havoc on the dog show organization and hobby. Unemployment was high in the Northeast due to the recession's impact on the financial industry and gasoline prices soared from \$1 per gallon to \$4 per gallon. Dog show entries dropped in many cases by 50% and many breeds still can't find majors in 2018. All-breed and Specialty clubs all across the country suffered from low membership, particularly Chows in the New York City area, where almost all of the Chow breeders and exhibitors are no longer active. So the CCCGNY was forced to suspend activities and go into abeyance at the end of 2015 after its Specialty at the Big E in Springfield, MA.



The current logo designed by Alex Cartabio.

However, founding members Alex & Irene Cartabio refused to let the CCCGNY be phased out. So early in 2018, Alex mounted a Facebook campaign which drummed up enough interest in the New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania area to rebuild a viable membership and hold a meeting at their Domino Farm in New Jersey. There, it was decided that the CCCGNY could be reactivated, so we informed the AKC and started planning future activities. We had a very successful Chow Fun Day and B Match at Domino Farms in June 2018, followed by another B Match in September. A major event is planned for May 2019 with a Supported Entry at Bucks KC on May 4th, followed by a B Match and barbecue later that day at Domino Farms, and the first Specialty after almost four years at the Trenton KC on May 5th. More information is available on the CCCGNY website, <https://www.chow.us/>. We will also be arranging more educational seminars in the future. Hope to see you there.

This article was written by Lewis Klein with Irene Cartabio and photographs courtesy of Alex Cartabio, Lewis Klein & Carol Ann Klein.

More Photos of CCCGNY: Then & Now



Stud Dog class winner at the CCCGNY Specialty in 2003 (From L to R: Judge, Joel Marston; Linda Albert with Ch Pazzazz Emperor of E-Lin, "Tang;" Carol Klein with Enchanted Fairytale Princess, "Cinde;" and Mark Hinebaugh with E-Lin Destine for Icon, "Destine").



Attendees listening intently to a seminar.



Camille Calcaterra showing off her custom Kip Kopatch grooming apron at a Specialty.



Chow Chow Club of Greater New York
— ANNUAL RAFFLE —
1st Prize - Basket of Cheer (\$80.00 value)
2nd Prize - ½ Gallon Whiskey (\$15.00 value)
3rd Prize - Case of Beer (\$8.00 value)
Drawing: Sunday, December 3rd, 1978
Atlantic City, New Jersey
Donation 50¢ Each 3 for \$1.00
WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT

NO 0031

Cindy Attinello getting ready to draw the raffle winners.



A seminar on the "Presentation of the Chow in the Show Ring" given by Larry & Alice Thompson with "Butch."



Jim Faccioli presenting "Selecting a Stud Dog" seminar.



A seminar on the "Presentation of the Chow in the Show Ring" given by Larry & Alice Thompson with "Butch."



Cindy Attinello's veteran dog being judged by Kay Long.



Socializing Lulu & Saffy at a recent match at Domino Farm. (From L to R: Dan Strachen, Tom Masog, Mark Hinebaugh, Tim Lawrence, and Carol Klein).



Waiting to go into the ring (From L to R: Irene Cartabio, Dan Strachen, Diane Myers, and Tom Masog).



Lew Klein examines Irene Cartabio's puppy.



Alex Cartabio relaxing after a Specialty at Trenton KC