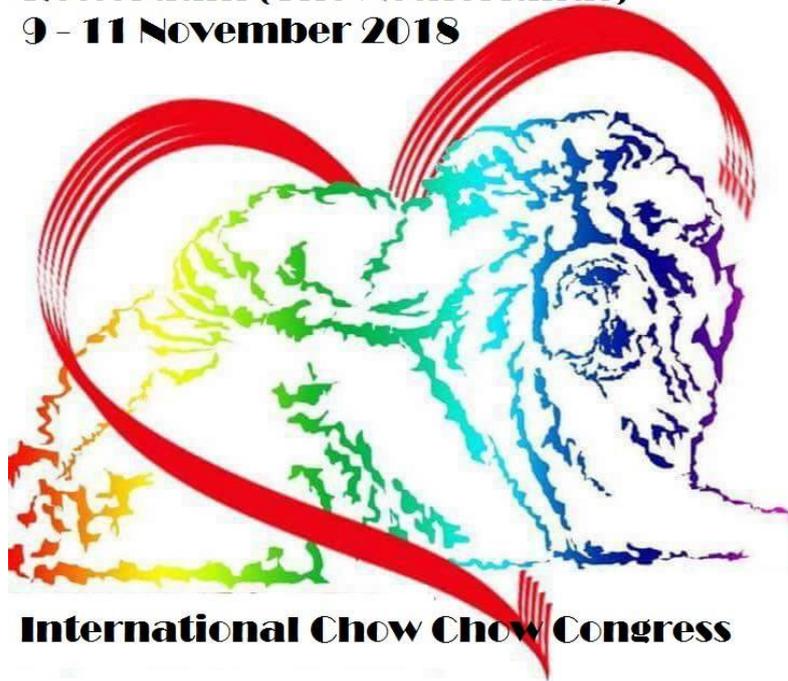


2018

International Chow Chow Congress

**Rotterdam (The Netherlands)
9 - 11 November 2018**



International Chow Chow Congress

Introduction

November 9th -11th, 2018 the Royal Belgian Chow Chow Club and Chow Chow Vereniging Holland organised the 7th International Chow Chow Congress in Rotterdam (The Netherlands). We are very pleased that we have jointly reached a number of points to work on in the coming years.

In this presentation you can find a short summary of the topics of the congress. During the congress, we devoted a lot of time for discussions, these discussions led to the establishment of a number of goals and next steps.

One of those steps is to create an international Chow Chow club, the following people were asked to form the board and they signed up for this task until our next Chow Chow Congress: Zerilda Boleska (Canada), Lene Shila Hedengran (Sweden), Rhys Green (United Kingdom), Martine Kabergs (Belgium), Annemiek den Os (The Netherlands).

Another subject we were very passionate about is the petition that we all agreed upon, this petition will be published shortly.

We would like to thank all the participants for their cooperation, good ideas and willingness to work together for our beautiful breed Chow Chow.



Figure 1 Chow Chow Congress team 2018

Presentations



DNA: Inheritance and disease

Peter Leegwater

Mr Peter Leegwater explained us that genes and their mutations are responsible for breed characteristics. Some mutations are harmless (short/long/curly hair, colour, coat dilution, ...) while others cause disease. We can map a disease because all patients inherited the mutation from one ancestor through both parents.

Mr Peter Leegwater pointed out two important inherited diseases:

- Degenerative Myelopathy (DM)
- Elbow dysplasia.

The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals ranked the Chow Chow #1 for elbow dysplasia!



Orthopedic Foundation for Animals

Chow Chow ranks #1 for elbow dysplasia

Elbow Dysplasia by Breed with at least 50 evaluations from 1974 thru 2017							
Breed	Rank	Evaluations	Normal	Dysplastic	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
	▼ # ▲	▼ # ▲	▼ % ▲	▼ % ▲	▼ % ▲	▼ % ▲	▼ % ▲
CHOW CHOW	1	1,174	49.9	48.4	25.0	16.9	6.6
PUG	2	191	58.1	41.4	24.6	14.7	2.1
ROTTWEILER	3	19,235	60.7	38.9	29.5	7.9	1.4
BULLDOG	4	438	63.0	35.8	24.0	10.7	1.1
FILA BRASILEIRO	5	214	67.8	32.2	19.6	10.3	2.3
BOERBOEL	6	217	70.0	30.0	17.1	7.8	5.1
OTTERHOUND	7	120	71.7	28.3	23.3	4.2	.8
BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG	8	16,897	72.2	27.4	18.1	6.6	2.7
BLACK RUSSIAN TERRIER	9	715	73.1	26.6	19.4	6.0	1.1
CHINESE SHAR-PEI	10	787	74.1	25.3	13.3	9.0	2.9

Genetics of Elbow Dysplasia

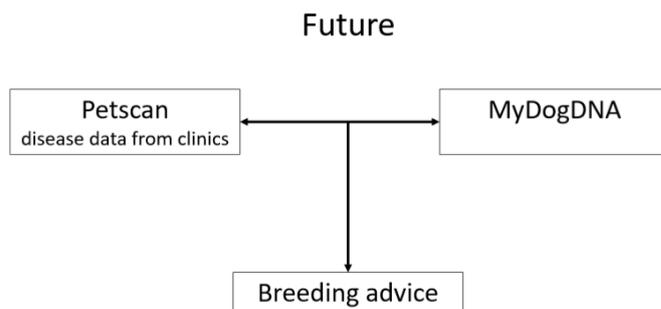
Many genes play a role in elbow dysplasia

The contribution of each gene is small

The frequency of the gene variants in the population may be high

Difficult to identify genes

The elbow status of a dog does not reflect its genetic quality!



The future is undoubtedly to favour breeding based on DNA study rather than pedigree.

This will allow weddings that will preserve genetic diversity and improve the breed as a whole

After the intervention of Mr. Peter Leegwater, participants brainstormed on the subject. Here is an overview of our thoughts:

- What is the proportion of hereditary and environmental factor in elbow dysplasia?
 - What is meant by a healthy puppy?
 - What factors can puppy buyers rely on to choose a good puppy or breeder?
 - Buyers are asking more and more often if the health tests were done before buying a puppy. However, do they know how to read and interpret the results?
 - About elbow dysplasia, are the buyers aware of the best practices to raise a puppy in the best possible conditions so that he can grow and be in good health as long as possible?
- ➔ How can we best inform / educate buyers?
- In order to preserve the genetic wealth, the circulation of individuals should be encouraged. To this end, it would be necessary to establish a list of all the breeding rules of application in the different countries to the breed clubs. Once consolidated, the list could be published centrally



Color inheritance

Wilma Roem

Mrs. Wilma Roem explained to us that a gene was responsible for each characteristic. As a puppy receives one gene from each parent, knowing the genotype of the parents we can predict puppy colors. By knowing the color of the puppies, we can deduce the color of the parents. Chocolat is not a color which is present in the genes of the Chow.





The role of nutrition in Chow health

Jos Decuyper

Jos Decuyper explained how food can have an effect on health. However, he insisted that it is not a miracle solution to all health problems.

Canine feeding research has evolved tremendously in recent years. We now have specific food by size, age group, lifestyle, etc. The food is in some cases even breed specific.

“ No breeder can change a bad animal into a good animal through a special diet. The inner and outer characteristics are determined by the composition of the genes. Due to the influence of the environment, including nutrition, a property can only weaken or strengthen the eye.”

J. De Cuyper

Mr. Jos Decuyper explained how to calculate the feeding needs of our dogs based on breed and activity level. He also showed us that each breed has its own specificities in how to approach and absorb food. He explained to us the essential role of feeding in the breeding and in the different phases of gestation. He showed us the catastrophic effects on puppies of a problem in the diet.



Puppy Evaluation

Roelof Nuberg

Mr. Roelof Nuberg explained us how to evaluate a puppy using the puppy puzzle. The puppy puzzle is a stepwise morphological assessment of each puppy in order to select the best one.

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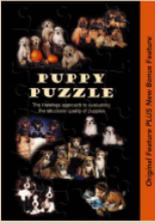


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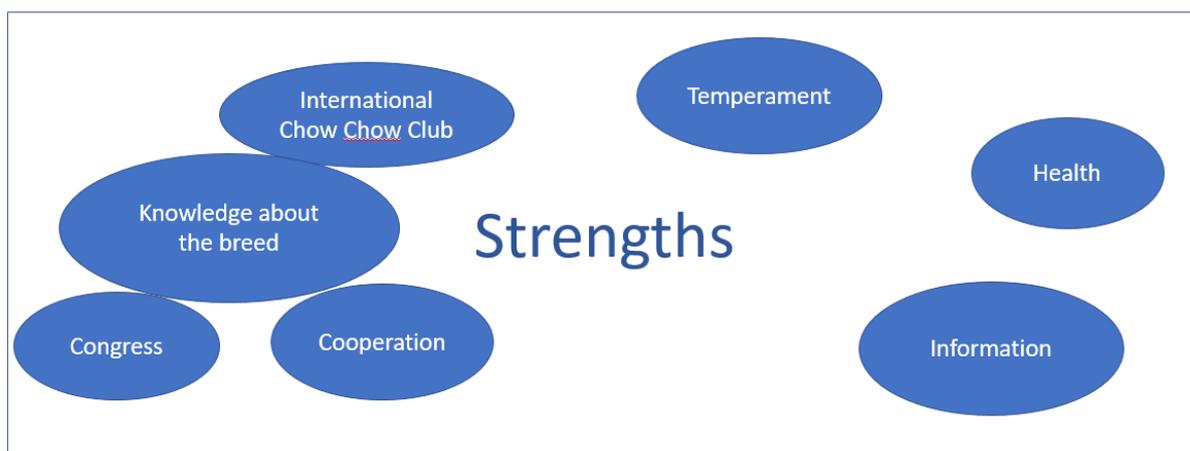
What do we think about our breed?

We have debated and tried to approach it from different perspectives.

First, we pointed out the characteristics, which in our opinion, are the most important for our breed:



Then we reflected on our strengths. What are we already doing well, and that we should still need to encourage. What could we do more?

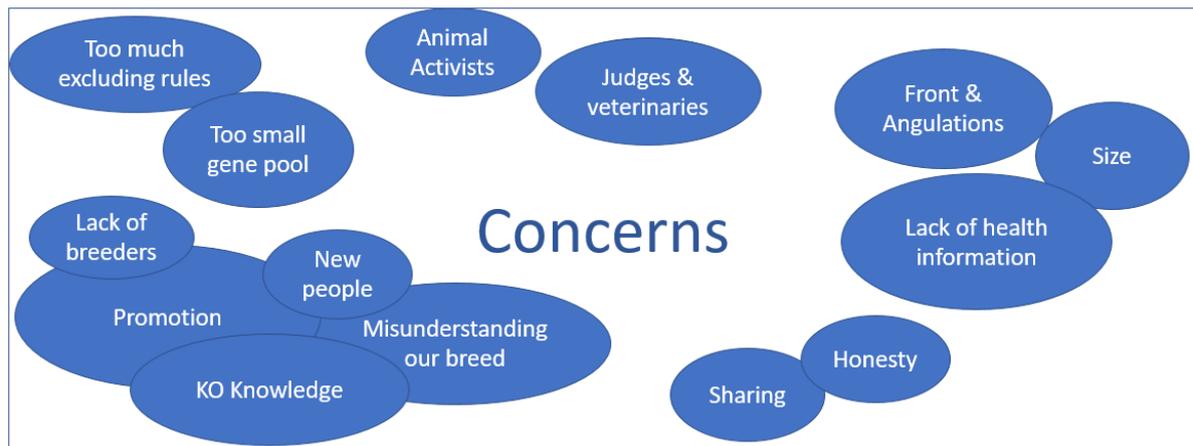


We are already working extensively on the knowledge of the breed so that we can improve it. This necessarily involves an efficient circulation of information as well as increased collaboration between the various actors (specialists, judges, breeders, etc.).

In this perspective of information, the international congress is a real strength and still needs to be worked on. We hope to be able to define a vision, a continuous plan of actions and evolution in the medium and long term.

In order to reinforce all these aspects, the creation of an international Chow Chow club seems to us to be an essential aspect. This club will bring together all nationalities and will oversee activities and actions. It will allow a centralization of information as well as increased visibility.

Then we reflected on our concerns, the problems that our race of heart knows today or could have tomorrow:



A big worry is the lack of new people, the lack of breeders. Lack of information and circulation of information. We need to promote our race to ensure its future. Our group also deplored a decline in collaboration and communication between breeders.

Conclusion ... Next steps

We have defined a series of actions to be undertaken during the next two years:

- The creation of an International Chow Chow Club and the definition of a board responsible for defining the vision and promoting the breed. The items highlighted by this club will be sent to all chow chow clubs of different countries. We hope that the different clubs will promote and disseminate information.
 - ➔ **We unanimously decided to create an international Chow Chow club that will be responsible for establishing a coherent long-term vision and will empower each actor by acting and talking as one group.**
- Each breed club must try to invest in the **promotion and dissemination of information**. It is also necessary to encourage as many people as possible to join the clubs. In our opinion, the support that clubs offer is essential. An idea that has been launched is to propose a year of free membership to the club.
- Everyone has to try to **offer support to all breeders**
- **Be honest**, congratulate and promote true communication in and out of the exhibitions
- Do not post defamatory messages about other breeders on social media.

We are committed to work together on these points for one purpose: improving the breed