

Chow Chow – Quiet Dignity!!!

I'm the beautiful, proud, Chow Chow, usually just called a Chow for short. People know me right away because of the thick "ruff" around my neck which makes me look a little like the lion in "Wizard of Oz", and for my unique black tongue. I have a large fan club who know that, with proper training and lots of socialization, I'm a wonderful, loyal, family dog.

Originally I came from China, where I was used for guarding things, hunting, and pulling carts. That's made me really strong and loyal, but pretty bossy! I'm very smart, but you have to remind me who's boss, and make sure that I get good training from the time I'm very young. If I'm with a loving family, I'll be extremely loyal and protective (sometimes too protective!), so you need to make sure that I'm socialized regularly.

Here are some tips to help you decide if I'm the right dog for you:

- I live up to 15 years old.
- Whether I'm the "rough-haired" or "smooth-haired" Chow, I need to be brushed weekly. I shed seasonally.
- Even though I'm prone to hip dysplasia as I age, I can still live a long, happy life. So please make sure that I see the vet regularly.
- I'm very smart, but sometimes not easy to train because I can be stubborn. That's why it's really important to train me!
- I'm extremely loyal to my family, so I may greet strangers in an unfriendly manner. You need to introduce me to lots of people so they see that I'm not mean – just taking care of my people!
- I like to live in the house with you, not just left alone in the yard. But I do need exercise!

Like all breeds, my personality is still individual to me. I usually love children and sometimes get along great with other large dogs. Unless I've grown up with cats, I often don't like them or small dogs because I was a hunter at one time. If you have another dog, just bring him or her to the shelter to meet me and we'll see if we get along.

Depending on my own personality, I may be a bit aloof and not as affectionate as you'd expect me to be since I look so cuddly. But, with the right people, I'm a wonderful family dog who will be your best friend!! There are numerous websites dedicated to me, so if you want to know more about me, please learn all you can!