

BREED COLUMNS

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Chair of the Southern Bullmastiff Society, for encouraging me to make the trip, and to Judge Mary Barbara Walsh for being a great friend and a wonderful traveling companion, and for sharing so many good times and so much laughter.

Thank you to everyone who made us so welcome. We will never forget it, and we will be back!

—Lindy Whyte,
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Chinooks

CHINOOK DOGS AS STEIFF PLUSH TOYS

The Steiff company, based in Germany, has been a maker of stuffed plush toys since the late 1890s. Steiff was one of the first producers of stuffed-toy bears. From 1930–32, following Chinook’s participation in Byrd’s Antarctic Expedition and subsequent fame, Steiff made several plush-toy models of Chinook. Following is information on these.

“Chinook-dog plush pieces by Steiff are rare. Occasionally, the Steiff pieces do come up for auction. Still, you’re likelier to see a unicorn than stumble across one of these historical toys.

“Steiff called these dogs ‘Chinook, Byrd’s Antarctic Expedition Dog.’ When they were brand new, the sitting Chinook was made from cream-colored wool plush that was airbrushed with light-brown and black detailing. The sitting models have an open, pink-lined felt mouth, brown glass pupil eyes, black stitched nose, and claws; they also sport a leather collar. He features a tail-turns-head mechanism. Steiff only manufactured this particular Chinook model in 23, 29, and 35 cm sizes, in 1931 and 1932.

“In addition to this sitting tail-turns-head Chinook, Steiff made three additional Chinook models in the 1930 through 1932 timeframe. These included standing (17, 28, and 43 cm), lying down (22, 32, 35, and 50

cm), and just sitting (22, 28, and 35 cm) versions. All have the same general look and sport elaborate leather collars studded with Steiff ‘ff’-style buttons. Only the two sitting-up models have open mouths.

“So what’s a Chinook, and what does it have to do with Byrd’s Antarctic Expedition? Chinook dogs were created by Arthur Treadwell Walden of Wonalancet, New Hampshire, in 1917 as working dogs.

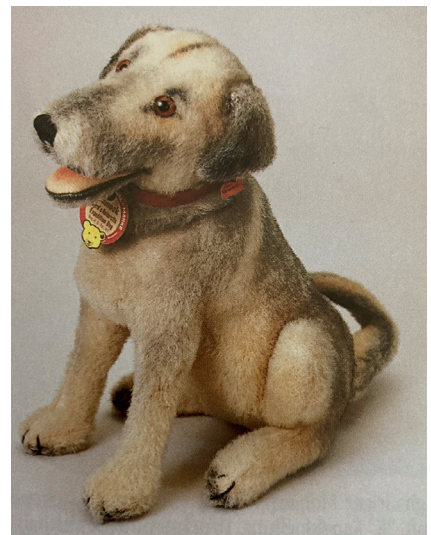
“Walden was an experienced dog driver with years of experience in the Yukon. For that reason, he was selected as the lead driver and trainer on the 1929 Byrd expedition. Walden brought the 12-year-old Chinook and fifteen sons to provide surface transportation on the Antarctic ice for this critical exploratory mission.

“Of Chinook, Byrd wrote: ‘... there was no doubting the fact that he was a great dog. ...Walden used him as kind of a ‘shock troop,’ throwing him into the har-

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Following Chinook's fame due to his key role in Byrd's Antarctic Expedition, the Steiff company produced several models of plush-toy Chinooks in the 1930s. Bottom: Boston Globe coverage of the real Chinook meeting one of the plush toys.



ness when the going turned very hard. Then the gallant heart of the old dog would rise above the years and pull with the glorious strength of a three-year-old.

“On the night of January 17, 1929, Chinook's birthday, and after a tough day of work, Chinook wandered

away from the base camp and was never seen again. Walden and the entire team were devastated. A highway in New Hampshire is named the Chinook Trail to commemorate this dog and his heroic contributions to exploration.

“What does this mean

in terms of Steiff? Since the turn of the last century, Steiff has often used ‘celebrities’ to inspire new products. Steiff Teddies can partially credit Clifford Berryman's 1902 cartoon of Teddy Roosevelt's ‘Not Hunting’ for their appearance and popularity a century later! The world loved Chinook; why not make him a lovable toy?”

(Paul Steiff's U.S. patent

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for the stuffed toy can be found at [https://patents.google.com/patent/USD78988S/en?q=\(paul+steiff\)&o-q=paul+steiff.](https://patents.google.com/patent/USD78988S/en?q=(paul+steiff)&o-q=paul+steiff.))

Appreciation to Rebekah Kaufman for locating photos and Steiff's Chinook product details.

—Kathleen Riley,
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[Chinook Club of America](#)

Doberman Pinschers

THE FUTURE OF THE SPORT: WHERE TO NOW?

With another year upon us, it's a logical time to ponder the state of purebred dogs and the future of our sport. A while ago the DPCA was asked to provide the names of suggested AKC breeder-judges to be interviewed for a Doberman Pinscher feature in an all-breed publication. The board members came up with more names than needed, in case someone did not want to, or could not participate.

When the list was com-

plied, something jumped out at me: Most of the people on the list were in their early to-mid 60s. Chock full of boomers. This revelation led to contemplation about the “graying” of our mentors and breeders. Of the DPCA's members, only a small percentage are juniors. Youngsters in their teens or people in their 20s or 30s are a rare sighting at our national specialties—though AARP is well represented!

Some AKC events, such as dock diving, lure coursing, and agility, are filled with younger participants. The conformation rings, however, are not overflowing with new entrants.

What can we do to generate interest in the sport with the “instant” crowd—the Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook and selfie set? How can we get the next generation of breeders, exhibitors, and mentors to be excited and interested in participating in a sport that requires years of experience to obtain excellence?

Our sport is also one with

high expenses. When a child becomes interested in handling, whether by watching Westminster or going to a local show, it's a long road ahead. It takes the support of a junior's family, both financially and emotionally, to enable the junior to follow their dream. Our breed does not have the additional cost in time and equipment of daily grooming, bathing, and more, like a Poodle or terrier. Hand-stripping a Norwich or Cairn takes much time to perfect, and one must have access to others who can teach.

A show-prospect Doberman puppy can be thousands—a high cost for a young teen. Then the cost of finishing a conformation championship is high, including entries, clothing, transportation, and lodging.

Breeding a litter of Dobermans can be very costly. Our last large litter of nine, whelped in 2006, with no stud fee or stud puppy in the mix, cost more than \$12,000 to the age of 10 weeks. This total does