



CMDR Colorado Mountain Dog Chronicles

A quarterly magazine for C-M-D-R Colorado Mountain Dog Enthusiasts

Volume 1, Issue 1

November 2024

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Talk Around the Trough

By Wendy Francisco

Livestock Guardian Dog (LGD) breeds vary in their guarding styles and aptitudes. LGD packs are often a mix of breeds so that all bases are covered. **Our LGD breed, the C-M-D-R Colorado Mountain Dog, is being bred for a distinct purpose -- to work closely with both resident and visiting people, on small farms or places with agrotourism.**

The Colorado Mountain Dog breed is being selected for acceptance of all people, *unless there is a perceived threat*. Dogs should come to the fence to greet people with wagging tails, if you are there. Dogs can perceive things humans cannot ... and this includes intent from humans. The communication of canines includes a far greater percentage of body language than our communication and dogs are keenly aware of intent. Continued page 5



CMDR Colorado Mountain Dog Founder Wendy Francisco enjoying some quality time with Atreyu, Legolas and Erebor

CMDR CMD Memory Lane...



Founding Dog of the Colorado Mountain Dog breed:
CNK Caspian



From the editor



Welcome to the first edition of the CMDR Colorado Mountain Dog Chronicle. A quarterly magazine for CMDR CMD enthusiasts. This magazine is brought together through the experience and years of very hard work by people developing this unique Livestock Guardian Dog. (LGD)

There are five sections that cover most aspects of living with an LGD, some more specific to the working lifestyle and some applicable for the retired or companion exclusive CMDR CMD.

Talk Around the Trough will discuss aspects of CMDR CMD temperament. You will find discussions on genetic and overall medical care of the parent breeds of the CMDR CMD in the **Spotlight on Health**. **Conformation Corner** will discuss the CMDR CMD's physical form as described in the breed standards; the vision that is a strict set of goals to achieve in the perfect example of a CMDR Colorado Mountain Dog. **The Things Dogs Teach Us** draws on the experience of CMDR

CMD owners past and present, telling the reader what worked for them, and how they got there.. Find meet-ups and things to do with your CMDR CMD in the **EVENT CALENDAR**. Finally, **MARKETPLACE** gives our farms a chance to connect their products to CMD enthusiasts all over the world.

We would enjoy your submissions for any of these sections. Submission information can always be found on the bottom of page 2.

The Things Dogs Teach us... - Life Lessons in Dog Training

Right now, at the Atlanta Aquarium, there is a young sea lion being trained to walk from one enclosure to the next. A total of 100 foot adventure that will take anywhere from 2 to 3 months to complete training. Not only is varying environment good for species care, it is a necessary part of keeping the animal destressed and comfortable living in close proximity to humans. The young sea lion will walk in a group with other adult sea lions and their handlers on a daily basis. Not only will the training involve getting the animal down the hall, but it will need to include other living beings. Even though this young sea lion was born at the aquarium, the instinctual fear behaviors and anxiety in unfamiliar situations is forever present. As I watched the television show, "Aquarium", featuring the sea lion's training, it occurred to me that life might be much easier for me if I trained my dogs for the specific situation in which I will be bringing them. In particular next year's CMDR Colorado Mountain Dog Festival. We will encounter other CMDs, spend hours in transit, and sleep in unfamiliar quarters.

I am centering my energies on one dog, but I will be doing some work with a couple other dogs, so I have a "backup" in case my first choice isn't able to accompany me to the 2025 CMDR Colorado Mountain Dog Festival. We will need leash skills, travel etiquette, and social skills appropriate for a crowded house. Cont'd page 4



CNK Tofu & TOF Frankie sporting their *front-cinch* harnesses

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Have an idea or suggestion for the CMDR CMD Chronicle?

Submit stories and copy to : cmdnewsletter@gmail.com

Classifieds: 8 lines (includes 2 bold lines) \$20
go to www.coloradomountaindogs.com/store
Submit payment and copy.

Conformation Corner - Rear End Carriage

Rear end carriage refers to the total assembly of hip joint which



connects the femur to the tibia and fibula at the knee joint. It gives the dog forward thrust and drive.

When you view your dog from behind, the hocks should form two vertical columns of support. They should appear just slightly outside the hip sockets and be parallel to each other, as shown in this puppy Colorado Mountain Dog. “Cowhocks” are when the rear pasterns turn in toward towards each other. This causes impairment of efficiency in pow-

er and movement. A fault for any breed, but especially damaging to heavy dogs. The inheritance of cowhocks seems to compound as the generations affected continue. Pups will inherit a total of both parents’ fault, often being more affected than their parents. One parent with perfect conformation and one parent slightly affected have a good chance of having pups with improvement on the affected parent.

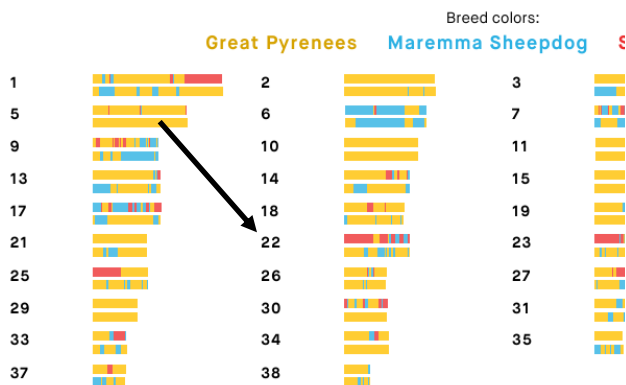
There seems to be a high incidence of cowhocks in dogs that have rear dew claws. This is one of the reasons the CMDR is working to eliminate them as a common breed trait.

Spotlight on Health—Copper Toxicosis

Recently, a condition known as Copper Toxicosis has revealed it’s location on the dogs genome. - #22

Copper Toxicosis (CT) is an inherited disorder in which the dogs system will store excess copper in the liver instead of eliminating it from the dogs body. This build up will cause symptoms like lethargy, jaundice, vomiting and weight loss. Labradors, Bedlington Terriers, and Doberman Pinschers are particularly affected, but any breed can carry the autosomal genetic mutation. The protocol for capturing and evolving traits that function as an LGD, while maintaining genetic diversity is a science and an art. Being a breed in it’s infancy of development, genetic diversity is at the absolute forefront of a CMD breeder’s criteria for making selections. To date, the CMDR is not aware of any of the 1000 plus registered Colorado Mountain Dogs as having being clinically diagnosed with CT. In several lines, the CMDR has been notified of some dogs carrying single copies of the mutation that would bring the disease to the surface.

Armed with knowledge, CMD breeders will make careful pairings eventually eliminating the mutation from our breed. The CMDR will remain diligent on curating the DNA results of carrier and affected dogs in the pedigree database, and make this knowledge freely available to all CMDR registered farms/breeders.



Copper Toxicosis has unique behavior with each breed it affects, inheriting differently in the Labrador than it does in the Bedlington Terrier. Science is just starting to understand how the mutation behaves in the thousands of different pure breeds worldwide. Depending on the laboratory company that produces the DNA results, most breed content of your dog can be detected by the chromosome. The CMD is comprised primarily of landrace or historic LGD breeds. We can greatly lend to scientific advancement in knowledge of how the disease would work in the parent-breed of the CMD. Depending on the laboratory, some DNA tests come with a report breakdown of breed content by chromosome (left). If the same band of breed content keeps showing up in the same place of CMD carriers of CT, we can reveal the parent breed and how the inheritance of the mutation should behave, effectively helping advance the knowledge of CT species wide.

The Things Dogs Teach Us ...

The CMDR CMD Festival is at the end of July, which means I have 8 months or so to prepare.

My first goal is to get my CMD's proficient at using a leash. For me, at my age, I cannot control an untrained enthusiastic 100 lb dog with a leash and regular buckle collar. So I use a front cinching harness for backup. This tool works in such a way that it puts counter pressure on the shoulders and front legs, essentially lessening the dogs power, rendering the dog unable to pull even if it wanted to. The harness also "hugs" the dog on certain pressure points should it become spooked and decide to back out. My sensitive CMDs will fall

apart and shut down if I try to use harsh or forceful methods with them. So I always have a clicker handy in case I need to reteach or alter a lesson once I'm in a real life situation. My clicker sets a learning pattern with my dogs, so I can whip it out and teach a new behavior in minutes. Handy little thing.

I know that I will need to pack lots of stuff for my dog when travelling.

Collapsible bowls and roll up bedding can be so "different" for a dog they simply cannot figure it out right away. About once a week I'll bring out the collapsible water dish and fill it with 1/2 cup chicken or beef stock.

My travel-food-dish is used as a treat dispenser with the same approximate timing as the water dish. By the time Festival rolls around my dogs get excited when they see they dishes come out.

I use my rollup dog bed as a "place" marker. With the clicker, practicing indoors, I teach the dog to put all four feet on the mat. Then I add a sit-down-stay that lengthens to half an hour. With a little determination and diligence, I'll have a readied set of dogs to celebrate with at the 2025 CMDR Colorado Mountain Dog Festival.

- Shawna Davies



EVENT CALENDAR

If you have a CMDR-related event you would like included in our calendar, please email CMDRFest@gmail.com with the date, time, location, and a brief description of the event.

- **October 27th—10am—3pm ZOMBIE RUN** Evergreen CO— **TOF Vendor Booth**
- **December ?? - 7 pm CMDR Christmas Party—Via ZOOM—RSVP required**
- **March 30th—Colorado Mountain Dog Club—Cabin Fever Party—time & location TBD**
- **Memorial Day weekend –Colorado Mountain Dog Club Grand Meet-Up Adventure—Cripple Creek Colorado**
- **July (last weekend) 4th Annual CMDR Colorado Mountain Dog Festival /Jefferson County Fairgrounds**



Talk Around the Trough

This trait of acceptance of friendly strangers will never be arguable in the breed.

It is the core niche, the reason for the breed.

There are individual dogs in many LGD breeds who have this trait. We are selecting it from many LGD breeds. It is a trait associated with intelligence.

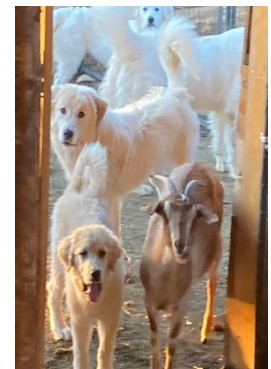
The CMDR CMD will be bred from two stable accepting parents. Socialization should be a priority so that the dog's temperament and aptitudes with people can be assessed. It isn't good breeding to use a suspicious or feral dog as a CMDR CMD

parent. Because the breed is in development, placements need to be done carefully and appropriately, with each breeder knowing the work drives of their lines, and assessing puppy temperaments at an early age. Training and socialization plays a part too, not just genetics. Make sure your pup gets a lot of appropriate socialization for the lifestyle you want to enjoy with them.

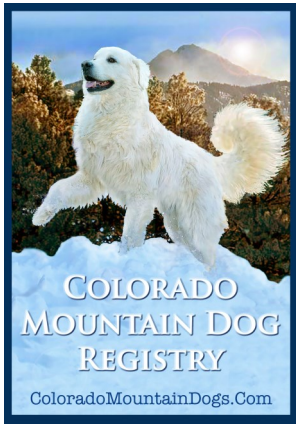
In some countries in Europe, the trait in LGD's of default hostility to humans is being discussed because it has become incompatible with

wilderness tourism.

One of the biggest blows a farm can have, is a dog bite lawsuit. The problem with having a guardian who holds off people, is that there will always be flex in that trait and bites are possible. Plus it is simply not good business to have a dog on the premises who shows hostility when your milk-share clients come on site. It is anxiety producing and negative for customers... especially if they bring their children. It is not even acceptable to have such a dog bark with hostility from behind a fence. That is an accident waiting to happen.



“The CMDR CMD will be bred from two stable (people) accepting parents”



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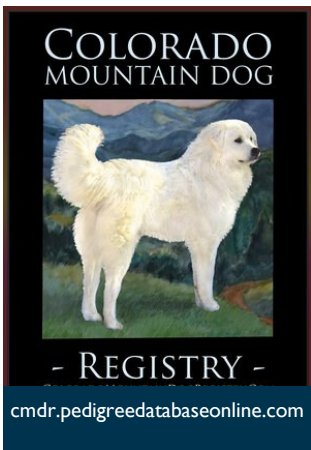
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 To apply for
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 EVENT TICKETS

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Bumper Stickers, TShirts,
 magnets, patches
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CMDR Colorado Mountain Dog Chronicle

Marketplace

CLASSIFIEDS—*To place an ad for CMDR Colorado Mountain Dog Chronicles, please send your text (20-25 words) and contact info to cmdrnewsletter@gmail.com. If placing an ad for puppies, make sure to include CMDR litter #. Ads remain posted for 3 months, and are \$20. Pay for ads in our store www.coloradomountaindogs.com/store

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