

Mid-Atlantic Chinese Shar-pei Rescue Operation

Non-Profit, Tax Exempt

Dedicated to the
rehabilitation
and adoption
of purebred
Chinese
Shar Pei

Quarterly Newsletter

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Volume XXXIX

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RESCUES & ADOPTIONS since December 2009 – below is an updated list of our rescues and adoptions since our last newsletter in December. Those listed with an “*” next to them are dogs that are still available for adoption. All our dogs are spayed or neutered prior to adoption (health/age permitting); have been heart worm tested; parasite tested and have all necessary shots.

383-09 China is still working on getting over the trauma of her near death dog fight. She is still quite shy of everyone except the people at the Debendale Kennel.

390-09 Sedona is surrounded by female Shar-Pei in his new home in New Jersey.

392-09 Chip, as you will read later, is recovering from heartworm but happy in his new home in Virginia.

393-09* Deja is still with us. She barks when you meet her but we think she is asking if you have a cookie!

394-09 Zoey had two entropion surgeries and finally a brow lift before she could really see. She has been adopted and doing well.

397-09 Lilly fell in love with two young girls and their parents and went to live in D.C. without a backward look!

398-10 Enzo a beautiful young male was only with us a few days before he met Sophie, a four legged gal. Immediately starting giving her kisses and went home in Maryland with her.

399-10* Moe is a flowered male whose family had to give up due to the daughter's allergies. He was very frightened at first as he had never been socialized. But today he is bouncing around and playing with toys. He is also waiting for a loving home.

400-10 * Robin came to us from Fairfax shelter and is currently recovering from spaying, entropion and hernia

surgery. But no matter how bad she feels she always has a kiss for Jeanne Johnson who has been visiting her each day.

401-10 Gracie came to us for entropion surgery and has made her foster home a forever home in Columbia, Maryland. n

Annual MACSPRO Yard Sale

The MACSPRO Yard Sale has proven the biggest money maker we have. This year it is going to be May 15th instead of June 6th (like it has been for years!) so we need to have confirmation of people who can work the yard sale as well as a commitment of donations. We need to know that we have enough to make it worthwhile. The yard sale is a lot of work, so, we need to hear from you. We can start taking donations the third week of April but we need to know what those donations are going to be and how much so that we can judge what we are going to be selling. This yard sale has been the biggest fund raiser for us for two years and would hate to miss the opportunity. So please let us know! n

Health Articles

The Human End of the Leash

You've decided to add a Shar-Pei to your household – congratulations!

As Rick said in *Casablanca*, "...I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship." Some of you will have experience with this breed or you have had other dogs in the past. Some of you are newcomers. In any case, you're on the way to one of life's most rewarding experiences: sharing your home and time with a dog.

I'm a long-time dog owner, have done a lot of rescue work and fostering. For a number of years I worked in health care. I now work as a dog trainer, with a particular passion for training Service Dogs and therapy dogs. One of the very first questions I ask myself when a new dog comes into my own home is "What do I want this dog's behavior to look like and what do I want my relationship with this dog to look like?" These are also some of the first questions I ask new clients to begin to address their training needs with their dog. Your training approach will absolutely reflect the relationship you will have over the course of your life with that dog.

In approaching a relationship with a new dog, I often ask clients to imagine themselves as a preschool teacher or, as a bit of a further stretch, someone who's been paired with a possible romantic partner (okay, in this case, it's a dog) through a dating service: How will you start the relationship out on the right foot? How will you continue to develop the relationship? Will that person (dog) be absolutely delighted to see you if you've been separated for awhile? And what will that look like? Will you be BFFs (Best Friends Forever)? Even though that dog is really cute, is it possible that the dog may have some issues to work through – particularly if this is a rescue with little known about its prior life? Is it possible that you may have questions and need to know more about dogs and dog behavior in order to have the dog you want?

A trainer in south Florida, Madison Moore (1), writes a thought provoking and delightful blog "The Conceptual Dog" (<http://conceptualdog.blogspot.com>) which is also the title of her upcoming book. She writes: "Let's face it, we are nuts about dogs. Not the actual animals, mind you, but the ones we have a picture of in our heads. The ones that behave just exactly the way we want them to. The actual animals do things that we think are aggravating, wrong, bad, impolite, and just plain yucky. And when they do, we will stop them immediately; we will resist and punish – automatically and unconsciously. Some of us appear to be trying to yank the dog right out of the dog."

We seem to forget that dogs are animals or that they are a different species. We have a model of a dog in our mind and he or she is often a huge departure from the actual dog in our life."

"Oh, but Shar-Pei are different than other dogs!" many will say.

This is true, but only to a point: Shar-Pei are different than retrievers (although I've met 'Pei' who love to retrieve). They're less stubborn or more stubborn than many terriers. They have a reputation for being "hard to train" but many 'Pei' are among the smartest dogs I've ever met and LOVE to problem solve. While they may not have the "Velcro" affectionate behaviors of, say, the Golden Retriever – Shar-Pei want to be with you and are extremely loyal dogs. They are different than Greyhounds, Poodles, Chows, etc.

They are Shar-Pei, but they are still dogs.

The Encyclopedia of Dog Breeds (2) describes the Chinese Shar-Pei temperament this way: "The Shar-Pei is self-assured, serious, independent, stubborn and very much self-possessed. Although not particularly demonstrative, it is devoted and very protective of its family. It is reserved, even suspicious, toward strangers. It can be aggressive toward other dogs and may chase livestock and other animals although it is generally good with other pets." The Complete Dog Book (3), published by the American Kennel Club, describes the Chinese Shar-Pei temperament as "Regal, alert, intelligent, dignified, lordly, scowling, sober and snobbish essentially independent and somewhat standoffish with strangers, but extreme in his devotion to his family. The Shar-Pei stands firmly on the ground with a calm, confident stature".

The description of the temperament is impressive, particularly in terms of loyalty and devotion. Shar-Pei are very intelligent and can be independent – as can many dogs of other breeds. If you have a Pei – why not capitalize on the dog's inherent strengths?

Back to the analogy of approaching your new dog as you would a new friend, student or long term partner. How you approach training will affect how much you're going to accomplish. View it as an opportunity to strengthen the bond between you and your dog. You'll have a better chance at succeeding, and you'll both have a much better time. In the interests of full-disclosure, I must tell you that I am a trainer who has "crossed over" to positive training methods because more and more, research and long term studies (4) prove that punishment and coercion do not work well or effectively in training – either with dogs or with humans. Punishment does not build strong relationships and trust. As a parent, spouse, dog owner, trainer and clinician I find this to be true. While positive methods may take "longer" (a common critique of positive training methods), the training tends to "stick" a bit better. A scenario to visualize: your dog is off-leash, chasing a squirrel or has otherwise bounded out of the house and is heading toward a busy road. You call the dog: what happens? What you don't want is the dog responding with "hmmm, not sure I can trust you... I come to you and bad things happen"...and the dog continues to run away from you.

Please note here that having a reliable recall for your dog involves a number of different measures, but having a positive relationship with your dog is only going to help YOU IN training that reliability in the behavior!

Training is about teaching. It's about showing your dog the things he needs to learn to be a member of human society. You need to approach the task with love and respect for your dog, both of which he will return in kind although your Shar-Pei may be a bit more "reserved" in demonstrating this to you compared to other breeds.

Much like a young child, your dog needs structure in his life, and you need to provide it. You also need to know how to respond when he makes mistakes or pushes the limits, which he will most certainly do! You will need to learn to communicate with your dog, to foster in him a clear understanding of his place in your human environment.

No one likes a teacher, boss or spouse who's always ready to pounce on every misdeed. Your dog doesn't like it either. If all you ever do is tell your dog "no" (and especially if you shout it) your relationship isn't going to be a very good one. You need to be positive in your training.

So does this mean you should never correct your dog? No, it just means that you need to think about ways to change your dog's behaviors in ways that will not physically harm him, frighten him or otherwise damage your relationship. You may change the dog's behavior by withholding of praise or using a distraction to stop the offending behavior and redirect your dog: You can throw treats or a toy to distract or redirect the dog; You can use a verbal interruption ("oops!" or "uh-uh" are commonly used). Yelling at, scruffing, "alpha-rolling" or hitting your dog isn't communication or training. It's abuse. If you're part of the MACSPRO group, your dog is a "rescue" or is being rehomed for any number of reasons. You may or may not know if the dog's history includes abuse from humans. You offer this dog a better life and quality of life in taking him into your home.

Praise is free - use it generously. Mark desired behaviors with a "Yes!" and reward your dog. Rewards can be food, petting, or a toy depending upon your dog. Your physical manner, tone of voice and facial expression will convey much to your dog. I often ask owners if they can say "good puppy!" repeatedly in a grouchy tone of voice. Tough to do, isn't it? Your dog is going to want to be around you more if you're speaking in a happy tone and seem to be a safe, calm person. Food rewards are often a source of discomfort for owners, for reasons that trainers are continuing to try to figure out. Karen Pryor (5), a well known and highly regarded trainer, has written that there seems to be an undercurrent of frugality in our culture, almost of

stinginess – which is the enemy of positive training. For some people when thinking about food rewards, there is a concern that the dog may get fat. Try training as part of your feeding routine – all meals do not have to come from a bowl. You can adjust the amount of food offered at meal-times accordingly.

So how much training do you need to do? How much time will training take? Training takes place all the time, every day that you interact with the dog over the course of its life. The dog is always learning something from you, even if you don't think you're actively teaching at the moment. Ever watch or hear of the dog who just "knows" that the owner is getting ready to leave the house? Even if no announcement ("Lan-Mei, I'm going to Safeway!") has been made. Dogs are masters of association and can figure things out pretty quickly. Smart dogs (like Pei) even faster. However, it takes more than the 30 to 60 minutes portrayed in many popular and heavily edited television shows to fully train your dog. Training takes more than several sessions at a group class. Learning and practice need to become part of your dog's daily life. There's a dog who often appears in group training classes: the dog responds well at home but will not respond elsewhere - often this is described as "well, he sits in the kitchen, but won't sit outside or listen to me anywhere else but in the kitchen!". The dog hasn't been exposed to other environments for training or socialization. Introduce your dog to other people and other dogs. Practice and reward behaviors that you want to see again. Practice everywhere. The more opportunities for interaction and practice you have, the faster your dog will learn and the more reliably he will respond. There's a short hand used by some trainers: You get the dog you pet. What behaviors are you reinforcing?

You will want to find a trainer. Please do not be shy about getting help with your dog. I've had dogs all of my life. I'm a trainer. I recently got a puppy. Guess what? We're going to training classes – we both need the practice in a group setting and I need the feedback on my handling skills with her. Your dog's training will build a little bit at a time. You will have success by degrees. I strongly encourage you to interview a few trainers and look for a positive trainer. One question to ask is "If I make a mistake with my dog, how will you give me feedback regarding my handling and training skills? How will you let ME know I'm doing the right thing?" A positive trainer will build on your strengths in handling and managing your dog while suggesting changes. There are dog trainers out there who claim that they train because they 'love dogs' but are so harshly critical of the human end of the leash that the humans don't return to classes with their dogs or don't follow through with their dogs. Your dog needs positive feedback. Look for a little positive feedback for yourself, too: we're so used to being critiqued that standing there listening to things we did right and how we can do them better that can be a really wonderful experience for us.

Enjoy your new dog!

Cathy Reisfield, CABCDT, ADPT member, is a former clinician with several years experience training Service Dogs and screening shelter dogs for Service and therapy work. She also assists in teaching a Delta Society class in Maryland. Private lessons and consultations available. Contact Cathy at dependabledogs@msn.com.

References:

- 1 Madison Moore:
<http://conceptualdog.blogspot.com>.

Ms. Moore's canine partner is miniature greyhound named Jack. Jack's training is impressive on a number of levels and great fun to see. (search for "IggyJack" on You Tube then visit iggyjack.com to get free education guides for Jack's clever tricks).
- 2 The Encyclopedia of Dog Breeds, Second Edition. D. Caroline Coile, Ph.D. ISBN-10: 0 7641 5700 4
- 3 The Complete Dog Book, 20th Edition, Official Publication of the American Kennel Club. ISBN: 0 345 47626 3
- 4 Dominance Position Statement by the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior (www.avsonline.org)

Veterinary behavior society announces position on punishment, Feb 2008 (<http://www.avma.org>)
- 5 Karen Pryor: an author with an international reputation in the fields of marine mammal biology and behavioral psychology. Through her work with dolphins in the 1960s, she pioneered modern, force-free animal training methods, and became an authority on applied operant conditioning—the art and science of changing behavior with positive reinforcement. She is a founder and leading proponent of clicker training, a worldwide movement involving new ways to communicate positively with pets and other animals.
www.clickertraining.com

Recommended reading and other resources:
(not an exhaustive list, but a place to start!)

Books:

Click for Joy, Melissa Alexander; ISBN 1 890948 12 8

The Thinking Dog, Crossover to Clicker Training
Gail Tamases Fisher; ISBN 978 192924262 7

The Other End of the Leash, Why We Do What We Do Around Dogs, Patricia B. McConnell, Ph.D.; ISBN 0 345 44678 x

Bones Would Rain from the Sky, Deepening Our Relationships with Dogs, Suzanne Clothier ISBN 0 446 69634

Canine Body Language: A Photographic Guide Interpreting the Body Language of the Domestic Dog
Brenda Aloff; ISBN 1 929242 35 2

Magazines:

The Bark
The Whole Dog Journal

Websites:

www.clickertraining.com
www.dogstardaily.com

Television:

It's Me or The Dog
Victoria Stillwell, trainer. Usually airs on the Animal Planet channel

Barking Mad
May deal with a number of different animals, not just dogs. Usually airs on the Animal Planet channel

Videos:

Perfect Paws in 5 Days
Jean Donaldson
Available through Dogwise.com
Take a Bow Wow! & Bow Wow Take 2!
Clicker training tricks
Available through Dogwise.com or
www.clickertraining.com
The Language of Dogs
Understanding Canine Body Language and Other Communication Signals
Sarah Kalnajs
www.bluedogtraining.com

URGENT – ATTENTION

The medication for treatment of heartworms is now only being made by one company and the supply is very short. So if it is found that your dog has heartworms, you may not be able to get the only meds

necessary for treatment. If you do not give heartworm preventative each month, have your dog tested immediately and start the preventative. DO NOT start the preventative before testing. The shortage of treatment medications will last throughout this year.

Yep, Another Article about Heartworm – *This one you really need to read*

By Pam Robbins

Chip was recently adopted to a young couple and we all got a big surprise when they took him into the vet for his heartworm test and meds. You see his heartworm test had come back positive. Joseph called me and told me while he was at the vet. I can say that I was shocked and initially didn't believe it since Chip had been tested in October '09 and had been on Heartguard during the whole time. MACSPRO immediately took Chip to Dumfries to be retested and treated if the test did indeed come back positive.

I started doing a lot of research into Heartworm once again, thinking that I already knew more about heartworm than I ever wanted to know. Boy did I get a surprise about just how ignorant I was about heartworm. I apologize if this article gets technical. It is necessary to explain what happened to Chip.

First let me state that there is no test or heartworm preventative that is 100% effective. Some companies guarantee their products if your dog gets heartworm while on their products. They will actually pay for the treatment. Note though that most companies will not honor the guarantee IF YOU BUY YOUR HEARTWORM MEDS ONLINE! Since Chip's medicine's were bought online and he had a period of time in which he was not covered, the guarantee would not be honored. Since his treatment was over 900.00 one should seriously think about where you buy your heartworm meds. I went back to my vet and bought my meds from them. It turned out that they were actually cheaper than the online place.

There are two different types of tests that are done to test for heartworms. One is to look for the Microfilariae (the baby heartworms) under a microscope and the other is to do an antigen test. Antigens are put out by the female heartworm and the test is sensitive enough to detect as little as a single FEMALE heartworm. I stress female because there are circumstances in which the female adult heartworm does not put out the antigen AND there can be only male adult heartworms present. In those two cases, the heartworm test can be negative.

Let me back up a bit here. Chip had been tested in October when he came to us. His test was negative. He was put on heartworm meds. End of story – well so we thought. He was rechecked at the beginning of March and was

positive. I know you are thinking that “they just forgot to give him his HW preventative”. Well I can tell you that is not the case. Our kennel owner is the most diligent caretaker and I can guarantee that was not the case. I had even personally given Chip one of his heartworm pills when he was at my house. So I got on the phone and tried to get some answers. I found out that the heartworm must be at least 6 months old (must be an adult heartworm) before it shows positive on the antigen test (sometimes called the Snap test). So Chip could have been bitten the day before or even the hour before he was tested and the test showed negative. Now most of us get our dogs checked once a year. That is fine if you give your dog heartworm meds all year round and KNOW that he did not have a period of time in which he was not covered by heartworm. Otherwise all bets are off. This really alarmed me since we test our rescue dogs when they come to us and then recommend that dogs be tested at one year. MACSPRO is now recommending that unless we know 100% sure that the dog has been on heartworm preventative BEFORE we received the dog (which is very very seldom) then a new adopter MUST recheck your dog 6 months after we have tested the dog. Of course if the dog is still with us at that time, we will recheck the dog.

I had always been told that giving a dog heartworm preventative was dangerous if that dog possibly had heartworm. Well here is a possible scenario of what can happen if you miss your dog's heartworm meds for a few months and then restart them without testing.

- 1 You stop giving heartworm meds in Fall and Winter
- 2 Your dog is bitten and infected with heartworm. In order for the larvae to be transferred, it must be in Stage 3 (heartworm have 6 stages). This means that the heartworm is already several weeks old.
- 3 You don't give your dog heartworm meds for 2-5 months. The microfilariae (baby heartworms) have now grown to Stage 4 or 5 heartworm and possibly could show positive with a heartworm test. The adults are now reproducing more microfilariae.
- 4 You give your dog the heartworm preventative meds. These meds ONLY kill the baby heartworm. Some meds are more effective at killing later stage microfilariae than others. Interceptor is more effective at killing Stage 4 heartworm where Heartguard and others are not. Your dog starts showing signs of difficulty with breathing, choking and possibly could collapse and die. The heartworm meds are killing the microfilariae and since the HW meds have not been given for a couple of months there is a pretty good infestation present. Dogs have actually died from this process since the dying worms move to the lungs and cause embolisms. If you are lucky that your dog survives this process, what you might not realize is that your dog still has live adult heartworms present in the heart. Adult heartworms ARE

NOT KILLED BY THE HEARTWORM MEDS. Only an Adulticide medicine can kill adult heartworm and they can live for 7 years in your dog's heart.

This whole process really alarmed me since I had recently acquired a Labrador puppy I am training as a service dog for myself. She had been started on HW preventative at 2 months. Now she is 9 months old and we have had some episodes of coughing. I just thought that she had eaten something (which is what Labrador puppies do all the time). Well, when I read and found out about how heartworm infection occurs, I became frightened that my pup had

heartworm. I called our vet and was told that yes, in fact she could have been bitten in the first 8 weeks of her life and the heartworms were just now getting to be adults. UGH. Off I went to have her tested to find out that they can only guarantee that she is heartworm negative with a 95% certainty. That was an eye opener to me.

Personally, after all this I believe I am going to start doing the heartworm test every 6 months. The test costs about \$40.00 and that is a lot of peace of mind compared to the horrible treatment and the cost. n

“Our Gang”

Available for Adoption through the Mid-Atlantic Chinese Shar-Pei Rescue Operation
Website: www.macspro.org Phone: (301)881-1221



Robin



Deja



Moe

Adopt me now!



The Mid-Atlantic Chinese Shar-Pei Rescue Operation, Inc.

Non-Profit, Tax Deductible

Application for Membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

It's time to pay your MACSPRO membership for 2010. It's the same low price of \$25.00

If you enjoy the various information available in the newsletters, please show your appreciation by sending in your contribution today. Thank you.

Contribution enclosed: _____

(You may pay by credit card via our web site: www.macspro.org) Thank you for your support.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Want: Inside there is a poster suitable for hanging anywhere you want to advertise our rescues.

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