

# 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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RESCUES & ADOPTIONS since December 2004 – below is an updated list of our rescues and adoptions since our last newsletter in July. 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.

**248-04 \* Della**, one of our “DC Eight” is being fostered in a lovely home on Capitol Hill and is even going to school at Olde Town School in Alexandria. Not bad for a gal who spent all her life, 23 hours a day, locked in a crate.

**253-04 \* Baby** also came to us from D.C. where she was found wandering around Ohio Drive which is a heavy tourist and traffic area. Baby has heartworms and the Robbins are fostering her during the treatments. Her initial treatment given by a vet chosen by the shelter in D.C.. It was not properly given and the vet then claimed he did not keep records. Baby went through 3 treatments and still had heartworms. She suffered greatly and even went into shock during one treatment. She is now again, going through the entire series of treatments. Her treatments and the numerous trips to the emergency clinic when her breathing becomes very labored have been quite an expense. But Baby is such a good girl, so young and she does not deserve what she is going through because of an owner that would not give her monthly heartworm pills. The Curtis family deserves a commendation for the many hours, night and day, that they have spent looking after Baby.

256-05 Sheba, a sable female, came to us from Prince George’s County Shelter. Her tail never stopped wagging. She is now exchanging kisses with the Pettorino family in her forever home.

**257-05 \* Zipper** a fawn female, was the “secret” companion of a person who lived in an apartment and never took her out as she was not allowed in the apartment. She was “discovered” and turned in to the Montgomery County Shelter. Never having been exposed to people, collars, leashes, etc., she has been quite a hand full. But the great people at Club Pet in Chantilly have turned her around with LTC. Right now she would do well in a quite home.

**258-05\* Honey** is also a fawn female. Jeannie Johnson transported her to us from Montgomery County shelter. She is extremely friendly and just begs to be loved. Honey is also being housed at Club Pet in Chantilly.

259-05 Emma is a young “blue” female whose owner was sent overseas. She has just had to undergo eye surgery to correct severe cross eyes and entropion. She appeared to be shy or aggressive but was truly unable to see what was around her. Further, she has worms and bladder problems. She is currently being fostered and will probably be adopted by her foster parent.

**Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capitol Area #7122** Government employees – We have again, this year, become eligible to receive donations through CFCNCA. Don’t forget to list us as your designed charity. Thank you. n

## INCOME AND EXPENSE STATEMENT

1 January 2005 thru 31 March 2005

Prior Balance:	\$7,546.93
Income:	
Adoptions	\$550.00
Membership & Donations	\$1,435.00
Pay-Pal	\$91.34
Combined Federal Campaign	\$476.05
Fannie Mae	<u>\$500.00</u>
	\$ 3004.14
Expenses:	
Medical Care	\$ 752.03
Register micro chips	\$12.50
Kennel	\$1,654.18
Website redesign*	\$400.00
Bank charge for stop payment on lost check	<u>\$28.00</u>
	\$2,846.71
Balance:	\$7,704.36

*\*The new web site cost of \$800.00 was totally donated*

Accounts receivable: medical & kennel costs not yet billed for March will total approximately \$2,000.00.

We want to extend our wishes for a speedy recovery to Bill Davenport, who took the "quick" way down a flight of stairs and broke a lot of bones. Bill and Joan have been loyal supporters of rescue for many years. n

We were pleased to receive from Sharon Kessler, Executive Director, The Montgomery County Humane Society, Inc, a Certificate of Appreciation as "your rescue group not only saves the lives of animals, but you find homes where they will be well cared for and loved – our ultimate goal". n

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### Time for Heartworm Testing

If you have not had your dog on heartworm meds all year, this is the time to have a blood sample done and start the once-a-month pills. Do NOT start the meds if your dog has not been tested first to ensure that heartworm is not present. Heartworms are present in every state in the country and the meds will also take care of other types of parasites (worms). You don't want to put your dog (and

yourself) through the treatment procedures that Baby is going through now. n

### Stress –is your dog feeling it?

Everyone has heard how an animal can instill a sense of well-being in a person. Lower the blood pressure; stem depression and raise self-esteem. But what about the stress in the dog? We always tell our new "parents" to confine the new dog when you go out. It must be confined until it has acclimated to be alone for long durations. Stress and anxiety can rear its head in many forms. Tearing up the house is one. "Child proof" your house by removing items that the dog could easily chew or destroy. Do not give them household items to play with (like old slipper, socks). Give them safe toys and confine them initially. Some of the best items that help calm your dog are Comfort Zone which is a plug in that contains pheromones that calm and reassure dogs. There is also Rescue Remedy which can be purchased as a spray and put in the dog's water bowl. There is a new product that we have not tried called Calms Herbal which claims to do just what its name states. There are even Ultra Calm biscuits. These products and many more can be found at [www.drsfostersmith.com](http://www.drsfostersmith.com) or [carealotpets.com](http://carealotpets.com) if unavailable at your local pet store. n

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If you want to find a reason to stop feeding your dog commercial dog food take a look at [www.drweil.com](http://www.drweil.com) and go to the "Pet Center". It discusses the animals used for pet food as being 4D (dead, dying, diseased or disabled). If the label says "meat by-products", it could be everything from organs to bone. The article tells a lot more than I care to report here. Please take a minute to read it. It seems like a great deal of trouble but I no longer use commercial food. n

### Health Articles

We are repeating in this issue an article that first appeared in the newsletter in 1998. It concerns Bloat. Lots of recent Shar-Pei owners have no idea what it is or what to look for. We hope you find this article worth saving.

#### Bloat is a Killer of the Shar-Pei

*Every Shar-Pei owner should read and remember this article.*

Many Shar-Pei die due to bloat but primarily because their owners do not know what is wrong with the dog and react too slowly to save the animal.

Bloat is a mixture of foamy bubbles and gas. It can be

caused by stress, rotten food (garbage can raiders), eating too fast, immediate exercise after eating, etc. There is no one single reason for bloat to start to form.

The stomach becomes distended and pressure is put on the ligaments connecting the stomach to the liver and spleen. The stomach rotates and there is no chance of relieving the problem. The decreased blood flow to the tissues of the stomach cause the stomach and intestines to become necrotic and the tissue dies within hours. Death of the dog results if immediate action is not taken.

Symptoms are usually a dog in extreme pain, unable to sit or move and the stomach is hard and distended. The dog is usually standing spread legged and screaming in pain. Don't try home remedies or wait to call a vet – get your animal to a knowledgeable clinic immediately with as little movement as possible of the animal as it will only increase the chance of the stomach rotating.

Emergency clinics usually have the best knowledge of these conditions as they see this often with deep-chested dogs (horses also bloat). Tubing (inserting a plastic tube through the mouth to the stomach) is at best a temporary measure and usually wastes valuable time. Surgery is always required to empty and tie the stomach (and sometimes the intestines) back in place. The spleen is almost always lost during this procedure. Part of the stomach and intestines may be removed if the blood circulation has been cut off for any length of time and they are retarded. The animal can function well without a spleen and a loss of part of the stomach may mean smaller more frequent meals.

The dog must be kept under observation for at least 24 hours in a supervised veterinary clinic to be sure the bloat does not reoccur. I have gone through bloat three times and in one case that I am aware of, after several hours, the owner was told they could take the dog home where he bloated in the car and died before he could be returned to the vet.

Surgery seems extreme but in as many cases as I have heard of with Shar-Pei, tubing only puts off the inevitable and you might get caught where you cannot get back to the vet.

As a general rule, you should never feed the dog before you leave the premises or intend to exercise the animal. If you plan to go out, have the dog wait until you return, hopefully, in quiet surroundings. Try to space his exercise for at least half an hour after resting. If your dog eats in the morning before you go to work, feed the dog first thing so you are home getting ready for at least half an hour before leaving your animal. n

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*We are reprinting parts of several articles (credits below) on **Shar-Pei Fever, Swollen Hock Syndrome and Amyloidosis** for the benefit of our readers.*

Recently a Shar-Pei became ill with a fever and was taken to a vet who treated the dog as if it had an infection. The dog, a beautiful little female, subsequently died and was necropsed. The vet asked the owner "Have you ever heard of Shar-Pei Fever or Amyloidosis"? The vet had not. Familial Shar-Pei Fever is similar to Mediterranean Fever, a disease of humans that is an inherited disorder of Jews and Armenians in the Mediterranean area. We can determine something about the symptoms, since the disease appears to be the same in both humans and Shar-Pei. In people who have this disease it begins between the ages of five and fifteen years of age. There is abdominal pain, chest pain, joint pain and swelling and inflammation of the skin about one of the lower leg joints. The individuals are usually free from symptoms between attacks and the attacks can last anywhere from 24 hours to 72 hours.

#### Symptoms in a dog

Loss of appetite; swelling of hocks (knees) in rear legs; limping; fever, displays pain by perhaps arching back, reluctance to move or walk, trembling, shaking and high fever.

#### Immediate Treatment

Have a thermometer handy (I have a digital thermometer I have labeled "dog only"). A normal temperature is between 101° and 102°. If it is higher then that, give a coated aspirin such as Ascription® and surround the swollen hocks with ice packs. I even put one at the base of the skull or head. I put a light towel between the ice pack and the dog's body. Continue to monitor the temperature hourly, if it increases above 103°, its time to go to the Vet. Besides the obvious danger, if it goes as high as 105° the results could be brain damage, seizures or death could result. The vet will give a shot of Ketoprofin to lower the temperature. You must continue to monitor the temperature and be sure it goes down and stays down. Afterwards the dog will appear exhausted and then return to his/her normal behavior.

#### After the Episode

Have your Vet run a complete profile on your dog. A urine special gravity test to measure the concentration of the urine (This will tell if the kidneys are functioning properly) a blood count; a health panel; an immune panel and abdominal radiographs. The urine should be checked every few months to monitor the kidney function. Based on the results the following steps should be taken to manage the patient:

1. Colchicines tablets on a daily basis as per your Vet's prescription. Colchicine appears to prevent the formation of amyloid in the body.
2. A low protein diet consisting of either chicken or fish.
3. Daily vitamin-mineral supplement.
4. Monitor weight and water consumption and urination.

### **Amyloidosis**

There are no tests that can be performed on a living dog to determine if Amyloidosis is present. Amyloidosis is deposits of amyloid (a pink jello like substance) which is found usually in the kidneys but can affect any major organ. It destroy normal kidney cells which can not regenerate and the kidney eventually fail. Early diagnosis and treatment can prolong the life of your dog.

### More Information

There is detailed information on our web site MACSPRO.ORG in articles by Dr. Jeff Vedt and JoAnne Redditt. Also check: CSP CHARITABLETRUST.ORG for undated medical progress reports. (It would not be a bad idea to print out some of the information found on our site and give it to your vet if he/she is not familiar with FSF or Amyloidosis). n

### **Amyloidosis and Familial Shar-Pei Fever**

*by Jo Ann Redditt*

*Jo Ann Redditt is the CSPCA Breed Columnist to the American Kennel Gazette.*

The following column was submitted to the Gazette on March 1, 2005 to announce the new research grant for FSF and Amyloidosis in Chinese Shar-Pei. It is scheduled to appear in the Gazette's June 2005 issue. Anyone wishing to access the new website of the Chinese Shar-Pei Charitable Trust for more information on this new study or other studies on Shar-Pei health issues may do so at [www.cspcharitabletrust.org](http://www.cspcharitabletrust.org). This article is reprinted with the permission of the author.

### **Another Chance**

Amyloidosis can attack any major organ in humans or canines, but in Shar-Pei it is usually the kidneys that fall prey to this disease. We don't know what triggers it, but amyloid deposits are laid down in the kidneys and eventually compromise kidney function. It is thought to occur in those with compromised immune systems and to date there is no cure and no definitive diagnostic test.

To that end, the Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America, Inc. established the CSPCA Charitable Trust (later named the Chinese Shar-Pei Charitable Trust) to fund research for Amyloidosis, Familial Shar-Pei Fever and other health

problems in the Shar-Pei. The Trust was set up as a separate entity from the parent club. In April 1995, Lee Arnold was appointed by the Club as Chairman of the Trust where he has served for the past ten years.

Fund-raising from Shar-Pei owners quickly collected over \$25,000, which was matched by one generous family, and that was matched by the AKC Canine Health Foundation. This allowed us to grant money to Dr. Gary Johnson of the University of Missouri for research. Previous to that, a grant was given to Cornell University by the Committee to Eliminate Amyloidosis. Sadly, neither research grant resulted in the isolation of DNA markers for amyloidosis or a test to diagnose the disease. Now, perhaps we have a second chance.

It was recently announced by the CSP Charitable Trust in its annual report that we are awaiting approval of a research grant for FSF and Amyloidosis through the AKC Canine Health Foundation. Dr. Anne Avery, an immunologist at the University of Colorado, and Dr. Dan Kastner at the National Institutes of Health, have submitted an abstract and proposal to the Grants Committee of the AKC/CHF. Action on this will be taken out of cycle through the efforts of Mr. Arnold and hopefully will be approved in March. It will be a two-year study. The grant will cost \$80,000, half of which will be matching funds from the AKC/CHF. The Trust will contribute \$40,000 for the two-year study. The premise is to (1) get a clinically useful biological test that will identify affected dogs and puppies and to monitor them on therapy; (2) Characterize some of the mediators of inflammation that cause the clinical signs, and (3) to characterize immune system disorders that have been described in Shar-Pei to determine if these disorders are related to Familial Shar-Pei Fever. Simultaneous with these studies, a search for the gene involved in the disorder is being carried out at the NIH, which can be used to identify both carriers and affected Shar-Pei early in life.

In 2004 the Trust initially funded a blood draw for \$2500 for the first 250 Shar-Pei sponsored by the CSPCA DNA Committee with the storage fee going to the University of Missouri and have pledged to fund an additional \$2500 for 250 more Shar-Pei.

It is with great hope that after ten years of the Chinese Shar-Pei Charitable Trust operating to serve the health needs of the Chinese Shar-Pei through it funding of research grants, that with this second chance, the medical research community will find the answers we are looking for. It could not only benefit our dogs, but their human counterparts who suffer from amyloidosis as well. Man's best friend may once again prove to be just that! n

# “Our Gang”

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



Baby



Zippers

**Adopt me now!**



Honey

## Happy and Home at last!



Anoki & Kyu-Jin (Daisy's pups)



Nickie



*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: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Renewal Dues for the Year 2005: \$25.00

We can not continue without your support. Your entire contribution will be used for medical and boarding expenses. 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](http://www.macspro.org)) Thank you for your support.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: MACSPRO, P.O. BOX 34034, BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20827

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**Wait! Inside there is a poster suitable for hanging anywhere you want to advertise our rescues.**