

Mid-Atlantic Chinese Shar-pei Rescue Operation

Non-Profit, Tax Exempt

Dedicated to the
rehabilitation
and adoption
of purebred
Chinese
Shar Pei



Quarterly Newsletter

August, 2005

Volume XXV

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RESCUES & ADOPTIONS since May 2005 – below is an updated list of our rescues and adoptions since our last newsletter in May. 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” was adopted by her foster parent and now travels between Capitol Hill and Canada. She flies in the cabin as a “hearing assisting” companion.

253-04 Baby III was initially treated improperly through the shelter for heartworm. Bringing her back to health took us eight months and lots of vet bills. But she is now safely in her new “forever” home in PA with Mr. Harvey.

257-05 * Zippers a fawn female, has been in the kennel for many months as we had no foster homes for her. Everyone at the kennel loves her and she has completely come out of her shell thanks to Club Pet.

258-05* Honey is also a fawn female. She is now being fostered with the Robbins family. She had tape worms but now has a clean bill of health and is just waiting for her forever home.

259-05 Emma is a young “blue” female. Her foster home has adopted her and she now lives in Rockville, MD.

260-05 Yanni is a black bear coat male who came to us from Prince George’s County, Md. He stayed in Dumfries Hospital until he caught the eye of one of the fine attendants there and went home with her to join her two cats and two children.

261-05 Zeus also came to us from Prince George’s County, MD. We had a full house, a tremendous kennel bill and no foster homes. Shar-Pei Rescue

of VA agreed to take him as they had a foster home and he was transported to them.

262-05 Babe came to us from Hagerstown, actually Washington County, MD shelter where she had little time left. A gentlemen who lives south of Richmond saw her on the web, met her as she was being brought in to Dumfries and was able to adopt her and give her a forever home after her medical work was completed.

252-05* Ray (now Thai) was one of the “D.C. 8”. He was adopted along with Giant soon after his arrival. Unfortunately, his owner had to move to smaller quarters and could not keep both dogs. Thai is now in Club Pet and is very sad not understanding why he has been abandoned. He is looking for a foster or “forever” home.

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

Correspondance Volunteer Needed

We would like to keep in touch with our adoptive parents. So we need someone to send out form letters with return envelopes, which we will furnish, to gain information on our rescues. Time wise, initially it would be four to six hours. Then in several months, it might be one to two hours to keep up with the new adoptions. Are you interested? n

Our Special Heroes

We want to express our heartfelt thanks to Tracy Lewis of Shar-Pei Rescue of VA. For accepting a needy dog that we did not have the room to save.

We also want to express long overdue thanks Jeannie Johnson, Charlene Nemitz and Pam & Curtis Robbins who have fostered many, many dogs.

Our transportation friends deserve thanks too. Chris Jeffery has transported for us many times and last month he drove from Prince George's County, MD to Fredericksburg, VA. Trace Hanes took the day to drive to Hagerstown, MD and back to Dumfries, VA and met with an applicant for adoption. n

INCOME AND EXPENSE STATEMENT

31 March thru 8 August 2005

Prior Balance:	\$7,704.36
Income:	
Adoptions	\$1,000.00
Membership & Donations*	\$2,227.00
Combined Federal Campaign	<u>\$639.63</u>
	\$ 3866.63
Expenses:	
Medical Care	\$ 4,365.63
Register micro chips	\$72.50
Kennel	\$3,716.13
Business Cards and design	<u>\$178.08</u>
	\$8,332.34
Balance:	\$3,238.65

*\$1,100.00 was donated in memory of Joy, the beloved companion of Karen and "Smily" El-Abd, who died suddenly last month.

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

We thought you might like to know about the background of the eight Shar Pei that we received in November. The following is the article that appeared in the Washington Humane Society's newsletter. Note they write a "local Shar Pei rescue group". They did not even mention our name. That rescue has cost us over \$7,000.00 as those dogs had no medical work while in the kennel.

Another Victory for the Animals

From "News From the Washington Humane Society"

It is a very exciting time at the Washington Humane Society! WHS has won a landmark case with potential precedent setting value! Our Humane Law Enforcement division has been at it again; trying to clarify the anti-cruelty laws to enable us to better protect the animals of the District of Columbia. From the Washington Human Society comes yet another huge victory for animals.

WHS first received a complaint in 2003, about several dogs who were being kept in a shed behind a house. WHS' humane officers went out to investigate and found eight Shar-Peis in individual airline crates lined up in the shed. The dogs had no water or bedding and were unable to interact with each other. Neighbors said that the owner took the dogs out once every 24 hours to feed them, walk them and give them water. The dogs were forced to hold their bowels for 23 hours at a time or soil their tiny living space. The owner said the dogs had no water because he didn't want them to urinate or knock the bowls over and make a mess. He also said that toys and blankets were messy so he withheld them as well. We worked for months with the owner in an effort to get him to provide a better life for the dogs but he insisted his dogs were fine and refused to cooperate.



Finally, in March of 2004 when it became clear that these dogs were going to be condemned to a life of isolations and discomfort, our Humane Law Enforcement Division applied for and obtained a search warrant to remove the dogs from their crates. The owner who was present during the warrant swore that he would fight the removal of the dogs in court as he was convinced they were unjustly removed. While all the dogs were in good weight and appeared healthy, several showed signs of psychological stress from being continually crated.



The case particularly interesting when the owner took WHS to court seeking to have the dogs returned to his custody

came challenging owner court

without compliance. He argued that they were unjustly removed and that he had not violated the anticruelty laws. We asked the judge to find that we had properly taken possession of the dogs based not only on the physical impact of their living conditions but also on the emotional impact. WHS' HLE Division, with the help of an expert witness presented testimony to show that the dogs suffered psychological and emotional harm from being deprived of proper space and water during the extensive periods they were crated. WHS presented what we felt was a strong case that the owner had been keeping his eight dogs in violation of the law and that they needed to be removed. The judge agreed that the owner had indeed violated the anti-cruelty laws and not only denied the owner's request to have the dogs returned before compliance but stated that WHS would be neglecting their duties if they returned the dogs to the conditions from which they were removed, as these conditions constitute animal cruelty under the law. The judge credited the testimony of the veterinarian in testifying, "Lack of access to water is extremely stressful to dogs."

In September 2004, six months after the eight dogs were removed from the owner, the court released the dogs to WHS permanently. A local Chinese Shar-Pei rescue group took on the challenge of socializing and placing the dogs who all suffer effects from years of neglect and improper confinement.

This case was a landmark one for WHS because it gave legal validation to our long held contention that animals can suffer from emotional or psychological neglect just as they can suffer from physical harm and neglect. Over the years WHS consistently strives to think creatively and enforce the animal cruelty laws to their fullest extent. In 2000 WHS succeeded in passing a law prohibiting chaining in the District of Columbia because we were aware of the psychological impact that results from the isolation that goes along with living on a chain. In 2001 WHS worked to make the most severe violations of the anti-cruelty laws a felony instead of a misdemeanor.

Anyone who has ever had a true relationship with a dog knows that there is more to caring for them than simply providing food and water. Depriving your dog of daily social interaction can be as devastating as physical abuse. The judge's groundbreaking decision supporting WHS's action removing the Shar-Peis has brought us closer to achieving our mission, "To protect animals in the District of Columbia from cruelty and harm." **n**

Health Articles

Cutaneous Mucinosis

By Jeffrey Vidt, DVM

Reprinted with Permission

Cutaneous mucinosis is a condition in which there is excessive amounts of a jelly-like substance called "mucin" in the dermis of the skin. While this condition is abnormal in other dog breeds, it appears to be normal in the Chinese Shar-Pei. In fact, the presence of cutaneous mucinosis gives the Shar-Pei its characteristic appearance. Some individuals are more severely affected than others, although treatment is seldom necessary.

Two forms are seen:

1. A vesicular form in which small blister-like bubbles appear on the skin primarily on the upper legs, chest, ventral neck and flanks.
2. A subcutaneous form in which the mucin collects in areas producing permanent "pleats" in the skin. These also appear as "socks" around the hocks.

In the vesicular form, the "bubbles" can be easily ruptured by scratching and result in bacterial skin infection. The bubbles themselves cause no problems and treatment is not needed although steroid therapy will decrease the production of mucin and temporarily alleviate the condition.

Cutaneous mucinosis is not a problem for the dog and so treatment is not necessary. The problem is the blisters will break open when the dog scratches due to itching. The mucin then leaks out on the skin and can lead to "hot spots" or areas of bacterial skin infection. Treatment must be directed at the cause of the itching such as fleas, allergic skin disease, etc.

For more information please refer to www.jwv.com. **n**

Can Dogs Get Sunburned?

(Excerpt from [Vet on Call](#))

Yes they can! Dogs need sunscreen and shelter in the shade just like humans do. If your dog is repeatedly exposed to sun long term skin damage can occur and even cancer. Light skinned dogs are the most susceptible. Dogs with long dense coats are better protected than those with short coats. Since Shar-Pei fall into both of these categories, we need to be aware of the dangers and take precautions. If your dog does get sunburn here is a quick fix - spray the area with a mist

of witch hazel. It has numbing qualities and evaporates very quickly. Repeat the treatment every few hours. Of course this isn't an option if the burn is on the face. If the burn is on the face apply a cold compress. You will have to rewet the wash cloth to cool it down once it gets warm. It will be necessary to do this many times. The best method of all to control the pain of sunburn is not to expose your dog too long in the first place. Remember you can use sunscreen, our dogs can't. n

Would You Consider Fostering a Dog?

By Pam Robbins

MACSPRO is in great need for foster families. We are running very low on funds and have several dogs in local kennels. Our kennel costs are quickly going to cause us to not be able to take new dogs in or provide shelter and medical care for the dogs we already have. My husband and I have fostered 13 dogs (I think- I have lost count) in the last 2 years for MACSPRO. We have two dogs of our own - a Shar-Pei and an English Springer Spaniel. When we started, we weren't sure if our dogs would be able to handle it. Our Shar-Pei is an alpha female and our English Springer is on doggy prozac for his attitude and sometimes aggression problems. I told Joyce that we would give it a try and so we did. Joyce gave us suggestions on what to do to incorporate the new foster dog into our pack. When I say suggestions, I should clarify that she was very explicit with what to do and not to do. Her information enabled us to successfully integrate our first foster into our home. We had the first foster for 2 months, found a home and got the next one. This process has gone on for 2 years. I will tell you it is hard to put a lot of love and affection and attention into the dogs that we get and then watch them leave. We get attached to them. I can let them go to their new homes because I know that I can then help another dog. Recently we had a foster dog for the longest we have ever had - 8 months. Baby just got adopted last week. She had just started playing with our English Springer and just started playing with us. I know that sounds incredible but Baby had heartworm. She had to go through treatment twice because the animal shelter where we got her botched the job the first time. When we got her she was starving and could barely walk. I cried when she left to go to her new home. But I am checking on her regularly to make sure she is adjusting and doing well. I know this is a long story to tell you about fostering. I will tell you that sometimes it is difficult. I won't lie. The first couple weeks I have to watch the dogs like a hawk to make sure every one is getting along. Once they adjust to each other, then the foster becomes one of the family, playing in the yard, going for walks, sleeping in his/her bed (they are all

lined up against the wall in the family room) and getting the necessary love and attention that they need so that they will be ready to be adopted. People ask me why we do it. I tell them it is a totally selfish reason why we foster. We do it for us. It makes us feel like we are contributing; that we are making a difference. When one of our foster dogs leaves, we feel like we have managed to do a miraculous thing. Of course it helps that we love dogs. So, after this long and drawn out story let me tell you what fostering does for you other than the great feelings. MACSPRO pays for all the medical care of the dog, food and whatever the dog needs. You are not responsible for any expenses incurred with the dog. All you have to do is provide love, patience and understanding to a helpless creature that needs it terribly. So won't you please help us out? n

Law and Order

In Virginia, the first person to be tried under the 1999 Federal Animal Cruelty Statute could be facing up to 15 years in prison for distributing interstate videos of dog fights.

In San Francisco there is a new ordinance regarding the feeding, watering and dog housing that goes so far as to state "water must be changed at least once a day and provided in a non-tipping bowl and houses must be big enough for the dog to stand up and turn around and have a raised floor with dry, clean bedding". n

Support Legislation to Close Down Puppy Mills

The Pet Animal Welfare Statute, H.R. 2669/S.1139, would amend the Animal Welfare Act to cover facilities in which more than six litters of dogs or cats are whelped per year and that sell any dogs or cats to the public as well as breeders who annually sell more than 25 dogs and cats directly to the public or wholesale. Passage of this legislation would require that these breeders be licensed by the USDA and comply with standards of care set forth in the Animal Welfare Act. The loophole in the current law allows puppy mills to classify themselves as "retail pet stores," thus evading oversight. Contact your federal representatives and ask them to support S 1139/H.R.2669. n

Do You Have an Animal With Special Medical Needs?

Now there is available a packet that is the equivalent of a medical alert bracelet. This pouch, about 4"x2" can fit on the dog's collar and can contain necessary medical information should the dog get lost. The front of the pouch has a medical alert logo. For more information or to purchase, contact: www.rescuefacts.com.

“Our Gang”

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



George Wrinkles



Thai



Zippers



Honey

Adopt me now!

Success Stories



9 year old Puchi lights up a life and gets a second chance



Hershey helps Mom study for her Nursing Cap



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) 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.