

# Mid-Atlantic Chinese Shar-pei Rescue Operation

Non-Profit, Tax Exempt

Dedicated to the  
rehabilitation  
and adoption  
of purebred  
Chinese  
Shar Pei

Quarterly Newsletter

June, 2007

Volume XXX

Pam Robbins  
Co-Chairperson  
Phone: (703)961-9349  
Email: curtisrobbins@cox.net

Joyce Hanes  
Co-Chairperson  
Phone: (301)881-1221  
FAX: (301)770-2731  
Email: momofmai@aol.com

Debra Pope  
Web Administrator  
Phone: (703)330-3694  
Email: saveapei@gmail.com



Email: peirescue@macspro.org

Mailing Address: **P.O. Box 34034 Bethesda, MD 20827** Web site: **macspro.org**

RESCUES & ADOPTIONS since March 2007 – 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.

**290-06\* Chico**, a young fawn male, may not be 100% Shar Pei, but he was gentle, sweet, frightened and scheduled to be put down if we did not take him. If you could look into his eyes you could see why we couldn't leave him. **Special plea: Chico's foster family can no longer keep him. We are looking for someone who can find it in their heart and home to take Chico and make him a part of your family.**

306-07 Caleb was brought to the shelter because he had some allergy and skin problems. All he needed was to just need to eat some good food and get some supplements for his coat. He found his new home right in his foster home. Everyone, including Caleb decided it was a good fit.

307-07 Isabella is a 2 year old who came to us with severe entropion. After surgery she went to be fostered and wormed her way into their hearts. So, she now has her new forever home.

308-07 Thumper came to us with heartworms and Ehrlichea. This absolute sweet, loving guy has been through so much (see article in this issue) and he is ready for a home and a family to love. He is about 3 years old and is a Shar-Pei/Golden Retriever mix. He found a “forever home” with the Burns family in D.C.

309-07 Hennesey came to us from a private home in Frederick, MD. He was totally unsocialized and fought with everyone who came near him. No one could handle him and he had to be put down. It's a lesson to all to let your dog become acquainted with people other than the

immediate family. Having been sequestered all his life, cost him his life.

310-07 Abby was found in Maryland with a broken leg. She was all of 7 months old. After getting a pin in her leg and a cast it was felt she needed to be someone other than a kennel. Jim Pearl and Deb Pope took her to foster her and like the story you've heard before, Abby, now Mickey became very attached to Jim so made a permanent home of it.

We've gained three forever homes and lost three foster homes!

311-07 Ursula was a little gal found in Tennessee. We worked with “Jerry's Rescue” in getting her placed.

312-07 Biscuit was rescued at the ripe old age of 4 months by a nice lady who didn't want to see him put out on the street but she couldn't keep him. The Cotners, however, were quite ready to add to their Shar-Pei crew and so Biscuit, now Sparticus Alii-Nui Chen San, has a wonderful forever home in Virginia.

**313-07\* Sophie** came to us with seven new puppies. All puppies were adopted and went to their homes on April 27+ 28! Sophie had to go to Dumfries to start her heartworm treatment and be spayed. She is doing well and just went to her new foster home where she has “adopted” their two young boys. She was smiling all the way home.

314-07 Pup #1 went home with Jeanne and Adam who took such good care of Ellie.

315-07 Pup #2 was welcomed by Heather Kline.  
 316-07 Pup #3 traveled to Delaware with Mr. Lau.  
 317-07 Pup #4 went to live with a Retriever in Cumberland with the Dowdell's.  
 318-07 Pup #5 lives with the really big Padua family (5 people + 5 animals).  
 319-07 Pup #6 moved to New Canton, VA with the Harris family.  
 320-07 Pup #7 joined the Mitchell's 3 children and Lab in Woodbine, MD

**321-07\* Neil** was rescued out of a backyard by a generous and loving person. He had heartworm so the person who rescued him treated him and is fostering him. Even though Neil is living with 5 other dogs, he would be happier as a single dog. Neil even comes with his AKC papers (not that we care about that). He is 7 years old but you would never know it.

**322-07\* Suzanne** is a young shy female who came to us recently from the DC shelter. She is now presently being fostered and will hopefully have a new permanent home soon.

**323-07\* Savannah** is a young female presently at Dumfries. She needs to be in an "only dog" family. She is aggressive but totally beautiful.

**324-07\* Taffy** is a young female who came to us from Johnson City, TN. She is a young, small, lovely meat mouth fawn female. She loves to play and does the "Shar-Pei" dance upon meeting our other rescue Pei.

**325-07\* Lavender** is a fawn young female from Montgomery County, MD. She is very thin and somewhat shy, but a good meal will do wonders!

---

**Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capitol Area** We have again this year become eligible to receive donations through CFCNA but have not yet received our designation number. It will hopefully be posted on our web site before the end of the month. n

**It's so easy and makes such a difference!** For the past several newsletters we have reminded people that using iGive for internet purchases could help us. I'm the one who puts the newsletter together, prints it, staples it, addresses it, and sends it out. So each issue I've seen this plea again and again. And yet, until about a month or so ago, I hadn't done anything because I didn't really believe it made that big a difference.



I finally decided to "eat my own dog food", if you will, and

I followed the link on the MACSPRO web site and signed up. It probably took me a total of 3 minutes of my time. Now without thinking about it, when I go to any number of online shopping sites (certain Ebay vendors, Drs. Foster and Smith, Peapod by Giant, Lands End, and many many others), I get a pop up letting me know that a percentage of my order is going to MACSPRO. I'm donating regularly and not doing anything other than buying I would have done anyway. Won't you give it a try? You'll feel better for it, I promise. n

## INCOME AND EXPENSE STATEMENT

1 February 2007 thru 31 May 2007

Prior Balance:	\$8,756.02
Income:	
Adoptions,	\$2,461.63
Membership & Donations	\$2,465.00
Sales	\$60.00
Raffle Proceeds	\$311.00
iGive Proceeds	\$27.17
CFCNCA	\$2,392.50
CSPCA Rescue Trust	<u>\$1,064.00</u>
	\$8,781.30
Expenses:	
Medical Care	\$6,045.06
Kenneling	\$2,720.00
Micro chips*	\$456.16
Booth Fee (Reston)	<u>\$50.00</u>
	\$9,631.22
Balance:	\$7,906.10

\*We were able to purchase a bulk quantity of micro chips directly from the distributor, thereby cutting down dramatically on our chipping expense.

## Health Articles

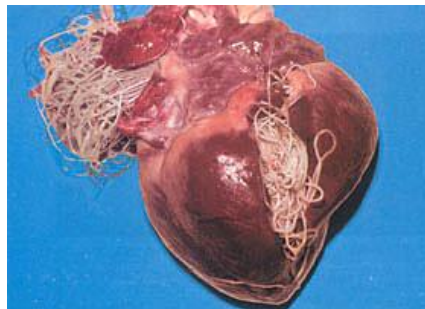
### Heartworm -- What the Treatment is Like

*By Pam Robbins*

Thumper is the second dog I have fostered with heartworm. I had no idea what was involved when I did it the first time for MACSPRO. That time took 8 months for us to get the dog healthy since another vet botched the first treatment. Anyway, we found out that Thumper was a Level 5 heartworm case. There are 5 levels of heartworm, each level exponentially worse than the level previous to it. When we were shown Thumper's xrays, his heart was so bad his ventricles were bulging! You could see it on the xray. Thumper was having difficulties breathing and coughed whenever he walked.

Heartworm is transferred by the bite of a mosquito. Adult heartworms are about six inches long and live mostly in the heart. Baby heartworms are microscopic and live with the blood vessels throughout the body. Each stage must be treated separately. The adult worms are eliminated first by giving a series of shots over a two day period, well unless your dog is so ill he could not withstand the two day shots, then 1 shot is given. Over a five week period, the worms break up into smaller and smaller pieces until the fragments are tiny enough for the body to eliminate them. The critical period is when the worms are small enough to disperse into the body but still large enough to plug small arteries by pushing bits of dead heartworm out into small blood vessels. After four weeks, another treatment is given if your dog was unable to withstand the two days of shots. Wait another four weeks and then you have to kill the baby worms. This is done with medicine given orally. However, since you are killing microscopic organisms throughout the body, there is a high chance of a severe reaction. Therefore your dog has to stay in the hospital overnight. On our first dog (Baby), she stopped breathing twice in about 3 hours after this treatment. Dumfries was on the ball and saved her. Thumper goes in this week for this treatment. We are keeping our fingers crossed.

The drug of choice is an arsenic-containing drug called Immiticide. It is safer than what was used in the past but much more expensive. It is extremely irritating and painful. It is painful even when injected properly, but if an injection is placed in the wrong place it causes GREAT pain sometimes for days. To help mitigate this, xylazine, a potent pain killer and sedative is given before the injection. With Baby, the vet injected her in the wrong place. By the time I got her she was nearly paralyzed with pain. Dr. Nichols recognized what was going on and immediately got her treated with xylazine.



Here is a typical schedule for heartworm treatment:

Month 1 – Give the dog the first shot (very long needle inserted between the hip bones on the back into deep tissue) – This requires the dog to stay for several days in the hospital.

During this time you must keep the dog absolutely quiet. No running, jumping, playing. He/she must either be kenneled or tethered when out of the crate. If your dog is not kept quiet, the worms can fall off of the wall of the heart and block the arteries, causing death. Both dogs that I have fostered almost died during this first treatment. Both of their cases were severe, it is true, but still any level can cause death.

Month 2 – Give the dog two shots – 1 shot per day for two days. This treatment also requires the dog to stay in the hospital for several days and kept absolutely quiet. This second treatment is for severe cases.

Month 3 – Give the dog heartworm pill – dog must stay in the hospital overnight in case of reaction. This treatment is to kill the baby worms.

Month 4 – Check to see if the heartworm test is negative and proceed to put your dog on heartworm prevention. No vigorous exercise is allowed for an additional 8 more weeks once the treatment is complete.

I know that this is a graphic story and heart wrenching also, but I don't think the vets make it clear exactly what the ramifications are of not giving our dogs heartworm meds ALL YEAR ROUND. So far Thumper's treatment has cost the rescue over \$2,000 due partly to the emergency vet care that has been necessary. So remember to schedule your heartworm pill every month. n

## Some Myths About Heartworms

1. "You can stop and re-start heartworm preventative at any time" -- *WRONG*

If you miss giving your heartworm treatment meds for over 30 days, you should have your dog re-tested. Giving preventative to a dog that is infected with heartworms can kill the dog.

2. "Heartworm is seasonal. You don't need to give meds all year" -- *WRONG*

If the temperature is 57 degrees heartworm larvae can develop to the infective stage within mosquitoes. Temperatures vary not only from area to area but from downtown to the suburbs. As areas grow, warmer temperatures can be found in places where there is standing water. Preventative should be given all year round.

3. "I live in a region that does not have heartworm" -- *WRONG*

All 50 states have heartworm. Although we have found that we are getting more cases from dogs received from southern states, we have also found it in this area.

4. "It's easy to treat heartworm" -- *WRONG*

The treatment is very costly, very involved and the treatment can also sometimes kill your dog. Treatment is extremely painful and lengthy for your dog .

We have learned that some Veterinarians do not ask if you are giving heartworm preventative. That is not because they do not feel it is important. It is because they assume you realize the importance and give the preventative just the same way you remember to feed and walk your dog. n

## Heatstroke – Warning Signs & Treatment

- Brick red gums
- Drooling or frothing at the mouth
- Heavy panting
- Glassy or glazed expression eyes
- Rapid pulse
- Temperature above 104<sup>o</sup> (normal temperature 101<sup>o</sup>-102<sup>o</sup>)
- Unsteadiness or incoordination
- Seizure
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting

Dogs with shorter faces such as bulldogs, pugs, sharpeis and Boston terriers have less ability to cope with a heat load due to their short and narrow respiratory systems.

Heat stress can happen quite rapidly, sometimes only in a few minutes, especially in dogs that live primarily indoors. Even pets that live or spend a lot of time outside can succumb to the heat if their cooling mechanisms are exceeded by weather extremes. If your dog displays these symptoms, use cool water on entire body and if severe, get to the veterinarian. n

## Human Foods that are Poisonous to Your Dog

There are human foods that should not be given to your dog. They are poisonous or will do damage in some way. Here is a list: onions, garlic, chocolate, raisins, grapes, macadamia nuts, potato peelings (green), yeast dough, broccoli (in large quantities) and rhubarb leaves.

Onions and garlic contain the toxic ingredient thiosulphate. Onions are much worse than garlic. Garlic given in small amounts is ok. Pets affected by onion toxicity will develop haemolytic anaemia, a condition where the pet's red blood cells burst while circulating in its body. One dose of onions won't cause this condition unless it is a very large dose or given on a regular basis. Chocolate – won't go into – we all know it affects the heart as a stimulant.

Raisins and grapes – Cause severe renal failure.

Macadamia nuts – Dogs develop a tremor of the skeletal muscles and paralysis. The toxin is not known yet. Research is being done to discover why this happens. Dogs have been affected by eating as few as 6 nuts.

Potato peelings that are green contain a toxin. People should not eat them either. The peeling should be removed before eating.

Yeast dough, broccoli and rhubarb – don't know the reasons why. The article just mentioned these as a side line.n

## Sweetner Poisonous to Dogs!

Xylitol is poisonous to your dog. Xylitol is found in a lot of products like gum, candy, diet products and much more. I personally use Xylitol as a sweetener for my tea and coffee. I am now throwing it out. Xylitol causes liver poisoning and it doesn't take very much to kill a dog. As few as 6 sticks of gum is enough Xylitol to kill a 50 lb dog. So beware and make sure you keep your gum and candies away from your dog! n

## 16 Common Dog Myths

*Reprinted from PetPlace.com*

1. Dogs should have a litter before they are spayed.

This is not true. Dogs that have a litter before they are spayed are not better for it in any way. In fact, spayed dogs are at lower risk for breast cancer and uterine infections.

2. Dogs are sick when their noses are warm.

The temperature of a dog's nose does not indicate health or illness. It also does not indicate if they have a fever. There is an "old wives tale" that cold wet noses indicate good health and that warm or dry noses indicate a fever or illness. The only accurate method to access a dog's temperature is to take it with a thermometer. Normal dog temperature is 100.5 to 102.5 degrees F.

3. Mutts are always healthier than purebred dogs.

This is not true. Both mutts and purebred dogs can be either healthy or unhealthy. However, mutts generally do not have many of the genetic diseases that may be common in purebred lines.

4. All dogs like to be petted on their heads.

Some dogs do like to be petted on their heads but many do NOT. (*I think you will find that few Shar-Pei like to be petted on their heads*)

# “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



Sophie



Chico



Taffy



Savannah



Lavender



Neil



Suzanne



Adopt me now!

Adopt me now!

**Success Stories**  
**A few of our Alumni ...now**



**Emma**  
**aka**  
**Pup 2**



**Sophie and**  
**her “new**  
**kids”**



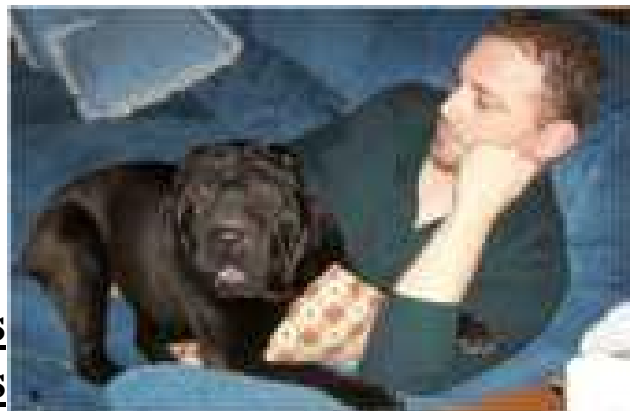
**Mickey**  
**aka Abby**



**Spartacus**  
**aka Biscuit**



**Connor**  
**and**  
**Penny**



**Atlas**  
**aka Linus**

5. Happy dogs wag their tails.

This may be true but aggressive dogs often wag their tails too. There are several physical body motions and cues that help dogs communicate their intent. A wagging tail can mean either agitation or excitement. A dog that wags his tail slowly and moves his entire rear end or crouches down in the classic “play bow” position is usually demonstrating a friendly wag. Tails that are wagged when held higher, tails that “twitch” or a wagging tail held over the back may be associated with aggression.

6. Only male dogs will ‘hump’ or lift their leg to urinate.

This is not true. Female dogs, especially dominant female dogs, will lift their leg to urinate and “hump” other dogs or objects. This can be true even in spayed female dogs.

7. Table scraps are good for dogs.

Some table scraps such as bones and pieces of fat can be dangerous to some pets. Dogs may not digest the bones and the fat may cause gastrointestinal problems such as pancreatitis.

8. Garlic prevents fleas.

Garlic has NOT been proven helpful for flea control. Large amounts of garlic can even be harmful.

9. Household “pet dogs” don’t need to be trained.

This is not true. Every dog should be trained.

10. Dogs eat grass when they are sick.

Dogs descended from wild wolves and foxes that ate all parts of their “kill”. This included the stomach contents of many animals that ate berries and grass. Many scientists believe grass was once part of dog’s normal diet and eating small amounts of grass is normal.

11. Dogs like tasty food.

Dogs have very poor taste buds and eat primarily based on their sense of smell.

12. Licking is Healing.

It is natural for a dog to lick its wound but this not necessarily always “healing”. Too much licking can actually prohibit healing.

13. Dogs will let you know when they are sick.

This is not true. Dogs generally are very good at hiding

that they are sick by survival instinct, thus not to appear vulnerable to “prey”. Often by the time they show you that they are sick, their disease or condition is quite advanced.

14. Dogs that are mostly indoors don’t need heartworm prevention.

This is not true. Indoor pets are also at risk for heartworm disease. Heartworm disease is spread by mosquitoes, which can come inside.

15. Dogs eat rocks, lick concrete or eat their or another animals stools because of nutrient imbalances.

No one knows why dogs eat “stuff” that they should not eat. Some veterinarians believe that some dogs that eat “things” may be trying to get attention or acting out of boredom. It is important for dogs to eat a well balanced diet that will fulfill their dietary and nutrient requirements and have plenty of opportunities for play and exercise.

16. Dogs don’t need housebroken – they naturally know where to go.

Oh...if only this were true. You need to train your dog on where to go. This preferably happens when you start at a young age and give your dog positive encouragement for jobs well done. **n**

Next issue: Obesity problems in our dogs and the history of the Shar Pei.

We hope that the health issues we research and publish for you are beneficial. If there is a subject you would like to see in future issues, please let us know at: [peirescue@macspro.org](mailto:peirescue@macspro.org).



If you are interested in getting a family photo with your pet or just getting photographs of your pet, please consider using Paws and Claws. Any bookings generated from MACSPRO members (make sure you tell her you are from MACSPRO) will generate a 10% donation to the rescue. Paws and Claws can also put any photo on any item you want! She even put a picture of a lady’s dog on her tire cover on her SUV! So, please give them a call and get some pretty pictures taken.

Be sure to visit the Paws and Claws website at [www.pawsandclawsphotography.com](http://www.pawsandclawsphotography.com). Their phone number is 571-641-1044. **n**



*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 for your dues renewal for Year 2007. 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](http://www.macspro.org)) Thank you for your support.*

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

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

**MACSPRO  
P.O. BOX 34034  
BETHESDA, MD 20827**

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