

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 XXXI I

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RESCUES & ADOPTIONS since September 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 is still with us. His foster mom had to move and she is to make a forever home for him soon.

313-07 Sophie has finally found her forever home with one of her pups in Delaware. There is a beautiful picture of her looking out over a mountain range in our new calendar.

322-07 Saffie found her forever home in Oakton, VA.

323-07 Savannah's new companions came all the way from Massachusetts to take her to her forever home.

328-07 Sammy was rushed back to us when he became so sick with an infection that went from his head down through his neck. He got out of the hospital with a drain in his neck and Pam and Curtis Robbins spent many days and nights caring for him. The swelling went down but there was still a mass in the neck. Further medical treatment showed it to be cancerous. Sammy was kept comfortable but when it was obvious that he was suffering, he was gently put to sleep surrounded by those persons who loved him.

330-07 Gensu was brought part of the way from Ohio by Trace Hanes. She put her head on his shoulder and helped drive. That won his heart. She now lives with Emma, a rescue and Trace.

331-07* Nanjing is being fostered and living with another Pei rescue in Hagerstown.

332-07* Andy is being fostered with the Tankersley family and is getting along well with the other Pei rescues but

with three other dogs in the house things are getting a little crowded so he is still looking for a forever home.

333-07* Wendy is a beautiful, young, fawn, black mask, meat mouth gal. She was running wild in the Poolesville, MD area for several months. No one could catch her. Finally a trap was set up and she went in for a cheeseburger. Hence the name – Wendy. She is friendly and gets on with most dogs.

334-07 Max, a fawn young male came to us from Tennessee. He was about to be “put down” and we had him kenneled until Pam and Curtis actually went and picked him up – and it was worth the trip. He is a sweet boy who was fostered in a family with several young children until his forever family came from Pennsylvania to get him.

335-07* Babe, a fawn female old was found on the road near Baltimore and appears to have been bred before reaching one year of age and then used in a fighting facility. She was badly wounded when found and needed immediate medical care to sew up large torn areas. She healed fine and except for some scars, she is a pretty girl. She is shy and a little “stand-off-ish” at first but when she knows you, she showers you with kisses.

336-07* Benji, an older fawn male, was another dog about to be put down unless someone spoke up for him in Spotsylvania County. No one wanted a heartworm positive dog – but us. He is currently being treated, expects to make a full recovery and is looking for his forever home with people who know that oldies are goodies.

337-07 Charlie is a two month old meat mouth male who was placed in a shelter. A puppy that young has not had a chance to build a strong immune system. He had to be kept in the shelter for 10 days as a stray and by the time we got him, he was terribly sick. He had pneumonia and spent several days in an oxygen tent. He is still in treatment for medical problems and is being well cared for by Brian and Jeannie Johnson.

can to keep funds coming in. If you have any thoughts that could help us, please let us know. Of course, we appreciate your donations as well. Thanks for keeping us a reality.

Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capitol Area We are again eligible to receive donations through CFCNA our number is **38983**. Please don't forget us as you pick your CFC charity. n

| INCOME AND EXPENSE STATEMENT | |
|---|----------------|
| 1 September 2007 thru 31 October 2007 | |
| Prior Balance: | \$3,410.21 |
| Income: | |
| Adoptions | \$1,080.00 |
| Membership & Donations | \$5,080.00 |
| Sale Items | \$34.00 |
| iGive | \$27.73 |
| Donations/PayPal | <u>\$91.34</u> |
| | \$6,241.07 |
| Expenses: | |
| Medical Care, Kenneling and Heartguard Care | \$8,121.19 |
| Adoption Refund | \$250.00 |
| Home Again Registration | <u>\$74.95</u> |
| | \$8,446.14 |
| Balance: | \$1,205.14 |

Health Articles

Bloat is a Killer of the Shar-Pei

By Pam Robbins

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.

As you can see from our recent rescues, we have had tremendous medical expenses and have to beg and borrow funds. But if you could see those wagging tails and tender trusting eye looking up at you as if they know their lives have been saved, you would not have it any other way.

MACSPRO has decided that after several years with no increase, we must raise our adoption fee to \$300.00 per dog. Our adoption fee includes, Heartworm, Lyme's, Ehrlichea, all shots, micro-chipping, spay/neuter, Entropian surgery if needed, any other medical care as needed and a six month supply of heartworm meds. Even with the increase this is a bargain. Our average cost per dog is \$875.00! An average spay for a female dog is \$250.00 and the yearly shots can easily cost \$150-\$300 depending on which vet you use. So you a getting a great bargain, plus adopting a great dog. As you know we are a non-profit 501c (3) organization and exist by donations alone. We thank you for your understanding.

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. Not all dogs however appear to be in pain. The main symptom will be vomiting and lying on their side. 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

The balance on the I&E statement is misleading. We owe at least that much to Dumfries Animal Hospital but are just awaiting the bills. The increase in our adoption fee isn't going to be enough to keep us afloat. Sadly, we again have to turn to you, are faithful friends and ask for help. We are looking for any creative and helpful ways we

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.

Lastly, there is a surgical solution that can be done as a preventative to the stomach twisting. The dog's stomach can be "tacked" to prevent twisting. This procedure is called gastropexy. Your dog can still bloat, but gastropexy can prevent the stomach twisting. There are many websites available to give you more information about the surgery. If you suspect your dog is bloated DO NOT WAIT TO GO TO THE EMERGENCY VET! n

Holiday Stress...Does it Affect Your Dog Too?

Reprinted from PetPlace.com

Ah, the sights, the sounds and the smells of the holidays! For some dogs, the holidays are a cornucopia of joy. A friendly dog loves the hustle and bustle; new people, new things and, best of all, good food stream into the house. For all he knows, the show is being put on for his benefit. It's like a never-ending car ride. The real question is...do dogs experience holiday stress like we do?

Dog Stresses

The holidays put a lot of stress on everyone involved, some of it good and some of it bad. Our pets have to withstand any number of unusual circumstances that are novel each year because they don't have the chance to get used to them. Do dogs experience stress? We believe they do.

These are just a few of the situations dogs have to deal with:

- A constant stream of company. Friendly dogs may go through a paroxysm of joy because they have an ever-changing audience to applaud and adore them. However, shy or fearful dogs will see their once safe haven overrun with strangers.
- Lousy eating habits. One of the side benefits to all that company is the chance to sneak some snacks, either from the floor or from a surreptitious hand under the table.

This usually isn't healthy. Or in the hectic days that lie ahead, your dog's feeding schedule may get disorganized. Either way, her nutritional balance may get thrown off track. She won't know when to expect her next meal. Also, these extra snacks can cause gastrointestinal disturbances such as vomiting or diarrhea.

- Less exercise. How much exercise have YOU been doing since the holiday season began? At least you have to huff stuff up and down stairs, in and out of cars, not to mention hike all those miles in malls and supermarkets. Your dog has come to expect and enjoy a certain level of activity. Depriving him of exercise is stressful. (Think about how you feel about it.)
- Foreign objects. Your dog isn't going to understand just what the heck this tall green thing, sitting in the middle of the living room, is meant to do. Is it a toy? Food? Furniture to climb? Lacking your aesthetic tastes, your dog just doesn't appreciate seasonal décor. Then there are the objects under it, as well as the other things around the house that mark the holiday season. (And let's not mention the consternation caused by the singing, swaying Santa Claus or Hanukkah Harry dolls.) Worse even, dogs are often discouraged from exploring.

- Frequent scolding. Many dogs like being where the action is – which is you struggling to carry bags of gifts or groceries into the house. Some dogs don't understand your frequent scolding or cursing, not necessarily at them but at the fact that you had to drop the bag containing three dozen eggs. Your emotions can add to the stress level.

- Kenneling. The other side of traveling during the holidays is putting dogs into a kennel. For a dog, a good kennel should be like vacation, with a lot of activities to keep him occupied (although he's still going to miss you like mad). However, some dogs are very stressed at the kennel. It is a different environment, different routine, different smells, different people and he'd generally prefer his normal little routine with you.

Tips to Help Minimize Dog Holiday Stress

So what can you do to ease the burden? Three words: routine, routine, routine. Keeping as close as you can to your pet's normal schedule is the best antidote to holiday stress. Stay consistent with feeding times and amounts, and be on guard against illegal snacks.

Maintain his exercise, walking schedule and playtime. A tired pet is a happy pet. This advice, by the way, goes for people too. Exercise is a great stress reliever. If time is precious, combine your exercise with your pet's by setting aside a specific amount of time each day – 20 minutes for instance – for you both to play and work up a little healthy sweat. Staying in shape improves attitude and behavior in pets and people.

Getting your pet used to crowds in the home also helps. Bring your friends or family over to get your pet used to it, and reward him if he behaves correctly. Learn more points of etiquette and safety by seeing the story on guests and pets.

It is important to reserve a room for your pet to retreat to, equipped with his favorite toys, a bowl full of fresh water, some food perhaps, and clothing or blankets with your scent on it. This gives your pet a safe comfortable place to which he can retreat from the madness.

As for Christmas trees and holiday decorations, there are a lot of hazards your pet faces – it's important to know what to look for and how to secure your home.

Traveling during the holidays is stressful whether you bring a pet or not. Dogs usually travel better because they are by nature in love with car rides. Pre-planning is an absolute must, whether by car or by airline.

If you decide to put your pet in a kennel, don't try to find one at the last minute. Research the facilities in your area and ask around. A kennel should see to your pet's emotional needs as well as to his physical requirements. Be prepared to ask many questions when you visit a kennel in person. **n**

A Retrospective

By JoAnn Redditt

Ah, the good ol' days! They were back in the late '70s, 1979 to be exact. We had just bought the first Chinese Shar-Pei we had ever seen and "green" as we were had not asked all the pertinent questions we should have. We were just happy to have such a rare specimen that had come from Hong Kong. The seller had mightily impressed us with her credentials and knowledge? and we KNEW the \$2500 price tag was a bargain. Never mind that we couldn't afford it; never mind that we had to dig into our savings! "He was the perfect specimen of a Shar-Pei," she said "and you can get your purchase back with just one stud fee." He was two years old and a mighty, muscular dog and we proudly took Down Homes Prophet, CSPCA Number 169, home to get acquainted.

A short time later, we wrote Matgo Law in Hong Kong to purchase a female for Prophet. We called her Nuyen. She was another \$1500 plus shipping from Hong Kong and not what we expected, but I didn't have the heart to ship her back to Hong Kong. That was when I met Joyce Hanes. She had Shar-Pei before we did and was sent by the CSPCA to examine my dog and assure them that I did indeed have a Shar-Pei and not some mongrel off the streets of Hong Kong (although I was never sure just how Joyce knew that).

We bred the two when she was two years old (that was a farce, but we did get one breeding), and she presented us with four beautiful puppies. That is, she presented us those puppies after a bout with uterine inertia. She could not deliver the puppies so had to have a cesarean. However those puppies were a delight! I don't think I have ever had so much fun as I did with those puppies. I slept by their bed for months making sure they were warm enough, ate enough, and grew enough. I hadn't fussed about anything like that since my own kids were born.

I was told that the Chinese named their litters with letters of the English alphabet. This being our first litter we named them Angus, Ark Kee (after the Chinese gentleman who loaned us the money to send for Nuyen), Asia and Audacity. More about these wonderful dogs later.

It was about that time that we formed the Mid-Atlantic Chinese Shar-Pei Club and some very close relationships. We had our first show at the home of Michael and Madeleine Litz' farm in Clarksville, Maryland. We advertised it weeks in advance in the Washington Post and on WMAL radio. Richard Tang was our judge. Everyone pulled together and donated something. Ronnie and Joyce Hanes made egg rolls and fried rice. Judd and Arlene Richmond also cooked and sold food. I silkscreened T-shirts and made pin cushions that looked like Shar-Pei.

People came from everywhere, and they came, and they came. Even after the show was over, the fireman at the Clarksville Firehouse said people were stopping to ask directions to the "Litz Farm" to see Shar-Pei. We all had a ball and our club was very active in other endeavors for the Shar-Pei. Joyce has always championed the rescue effort and has made great strides in helping so many abandoned or abused members of our breed.

These dogs have brought so much into my life -- both friends and personal accomplishments. It is because of the Shar-Pei that I became a writer and publisher and established my own business. It is due to these dogs that I have friends literally all over the U.S. and some in foreign countries. I hope I have been able to pay a little back of what I owe this breed by passing on my knowledge through my publications as well as those who traveled with me through their stories and articles. I am indeed fortunate to have known so many true friends who have helped spread the word about these wonderful dogs.

The path that Prophet and Nuyen and their four progeny was a happy one but not without its sad times. There were many health problems and sometimes I thought we had experienced almost anything that could go wrong. By far the worst problem was the dreaded BLOAT. When Audacity was just two years old, she bloated while recovering from anesthesia after a hip x-ray. She had surgery and recovered and I lost track of her when her owner moved. At seven years old Asia bloated and I rushed her to the veterinary clinic in Vienna. The vet called me at two a.m. to say she had died. Angus died of bloat at

eight years of age and Ark Kee was nine when bloat struck once again. He had just eaten breakfast (only rice and cottage cheese) and I noticed he was trying to throw up and was bloated. Again, we rushed to the vet and he was on the operating table within the hour, but it was too late. The vet said that the bloat had moved into the small intestines and there was no way to correct it. Dear old Prophet live to be 17 and I thought, "Surely this dog will die of old age -- not bloat." It was not to be! Just past his 17th birthday, he bloated. I took him to the vet immediately who pumped his stomach and tranquilized him. He said we could take him home and keep him sedated, but if he bloated again there was nothing that could be done at his age. He bloated at two a.m. and I rushed him to the emergency vet and told them to kindly put him to sleep. He had a good long life and had truly been a wonderful companion.

There is no one who can convince me that the tendency to bloat is not inherited. There is an excellent article in the August 2007 AKC Gazette about bloat, "Twisted Inside," by Matthew Schenker. He agrees that a dog may be predisposed to bloat and that those dogs with deep chests and high tuck-up are most vulnerable.

I look back on the last 26 years and as I count all the positives and all the tears, I am on the plus side. My smiles and happy times have definitely outnumbered the sad times. n

MACSPRO Online Store

Hey everyone, MACSPRO has a new online store! The link is www.cafepress.com/macspro. We make Shar Pei products for sale. Pam Robbins and Deb Pope put the calendar together from pictures we have received of our rescue dogs. Rescue gets a percentage of each calendar sold. Your dog may be on the calendar.

Please check out the store for great Christmas gifts for everyone. We will make custom products for you. Each item depending on what the item is will have a surcharge above the normal price since it is a custom product with your Pei photo on it. You send us the digital picture(s) and we will produce the product for you. Check it out and get your Christmas shopping down now! n



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. Their phone number is 571-641-1044. n

10 Steps for a Dog Safe Holiday Tree

The day after Thanksgiving kicks off the Christmas holiday season, and millions of homes sport either real or faux trees that can pose a threat to your pets. Before you put the tree up, take a few moments to go over some safety precautions.

1. Choose the Right Spot. An area by the wall or in a corner is ideal and out of the traffic flow pattern of the house.
2. Prepare the Area. Lay down plastic sheeting or buy a "tree bag." Center the tree on the bag. This will catch the pine needles as they fall from the tree – and prevent them from being chewed or swallowed by your pet.
3. Secure the Tree.
4. Hide the Cords.
5. No Hooks. Check your ornaments and replace hooks with a loop of string tied in a knot.
6. Choose Safe Ornaments.
7. Ribbons. Velvet ribbons are a lovely addition and may replace tinsel and garland that can be eaten dogs and caught in their intestine. Intestinal obstruction that may require surgery.
8. Presents. Consider storing the presents in a safe area until right before the holiday or make sure your pet is always supervised while investigating and searching for his special gift.
9. Sweep and Water. Sweep up the pine needles. Ingestion of needles can cause vomiting and gastric irritation. Keep the tree watered and only turn the lights on when you are at home.
10. Supervise. The safest thing to do is to allow your pet access to the tree only when supervised.

For more details, visit <http://www.petplace.com/dogs/10-steps-for-a-dog-safe-holiday-tree/page1.aspx> n

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. You can also go to www.macspro.org/archive.html for a listing of past issues and articles. There are links to the past articles. n



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

Non-Profit, Tax Deductible

Application for Membership

Name: _____

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Your last chance to renew your MACSPRO membership 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) 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.

“Our Gang”

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



Andy



Babe



Chico



Max



Savannah

Adopt me now!



Wendy



Benji