

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 November 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.

331-07 Nanjing has been adopted by her foster parents in Hagerstown.

332-07 Andy got on so well with the Tankersley's three, that he decided to stay there.

333-07 Wendy is now living in Connecticut where she is getting lots of attention from the Ball family.

334-07 Max went to live with two more Shar Pei in Pennsylvania with the Cornwalls.

335-07* Babe is one of the sweetest gals you would ever meet. She is in good health and her only problem is that, based on her prior life, she does not get along with other dogs. She is in Debendale Kennel and she spends most time in the office being the center of attention.

336-07 Outlaw met Mr. Ball and Mr. Rampano when they came to pick up Wendy. He made a good impression and Mr. Rampano came back and got him several weeks later.

337-07 Charlie came in very young and very sick. Jeannie Johnson took him home to nurse him – and you guessed it, he is now a permanent member of the family.

338-07 Beckham was as playful as his name might imply. He picked the Merrill family of Upperco, MD and now lives with four kids and a cat – almost enough for a soccer team.

339-07 Miles, a young fawn meat mouth male, has gone

to keep company with an older Shar Pei in Bethesda, MD.

340-07 Alex, the little guy who was hit by a car in N.C., was adopted but came back shortly due to the death of his owner. He is now living in Silver Spring with two cats and two other dogs and lots of people to love him.

341-08 Latte, so named because her coat was the color of a latte coffee. She was such a beautiful gal that Mr. Fitchett just had to take her home to go jogging in Geasonville, MD.

342-08 * Laycee is a petite fawn gal. who came to us from Anna Arundel Shelter. She doesn't mind being left alone. She gets along with adults but has never been around children.

343-08* Achilles is a beautiful fawn male from Montgomery County, MD. He is settling in well at the kennel but is still looking for his owner who gave him up after having him for three years. We're still wondering too, Achilles.

344-08* Roscoe, a young male is coming to us from Tazewell, VA. Too young to stay in the kennel, we have a foster home for him while he is with us.

345-08* Honey, a young female from Prince George's County, MD is going to undergo heartworm treatment and has a foster home during this 90 day procedure.

There are more on the way and many more waiting to be saved!

INCOME AND EXPENSE STATEMENT

1 November 2007 thru 31 January 2008

We are in the midst of a flurry of Shar-Pei business activity -- CSPCA grant application effort, the MACSPRO tax return, the Combined Federal Campaign required application. In addition to such mundane activities, the week of February 25, we take in one heartworm positive dog, and two that need eye surgery -- one is waiting in the Baltimore shelter and one that we saved just one hour before she was to be killed. We have to pay for out-of-state initial vet care and transportation from N.C.

We are doing what we do best, saving dogs and looking for avenues of revenue to keep our mission alive and well. We have opted to keep our focus on this important activity and forego generating the Income and Expense Statement for this issue. Simply put, we felt that getting a newsletter out was more important than delaying it while we crunch the numbers.

We are busy at work but continue to survive for the dogs thanks to the generosity of you, our MACSPRO members. We hope you approve and will continue to provide your support in every way you can. Please help us get these guys and gals healthy and ready for adoption.

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**

Health Articles

Skin Issues

By Pam Robbins

If your dog is unlucky enough to have skin issues, you know how miserable he/she is as well as how frustrated you are. Shar-Pei have a reputation for having skin problems. That is one of the first things that we hear whenever we get a call from the shelter, "the dog of course has a skin problem". I of course respond by telling them that it is probably a poor diet and will improve once they get some decent food and supplements. Sometimes it is that simple, but a great diet and supplements is not always the solution. I have spoken with several vets recently and skin issues are becoming more and more of a problem. One of the major culprits is *Staphylococcus Intermedius*. All dogs have it. It is all around. This form of Staph tends to be a zoonotic bacterium, meaning it stays in the animal kingdom. I know you have heard about *Staphylococcus Aureus*. That is another strain of Staph. *Staphylococcus Aureus* unfortunately can turn into the resistant strain called MRSA. This strain is highly or totally resis-

tant to all antibiotics. When a dog's immune system becomes too weakened to fight the bacterium, an infection occurs. MRSA has now been found in the dog world. See page 4 for more information on MRSA.

Our household has been dealing with a skin infection for several months. We went to a dermatologist and were given six weeks of antibiotics (2 different kinds), weekly bathing and clipping. Six weeks later, Simon was totally cured. Well, at least I thought he was. Four weeks after we stopped the antibiotic, the Pyoderma was back. We made a return trip to the dermatologist. This time a culture was done to determine specifically which bacteria we were dealing with and whether it was resistant. The results came back as *Staphylococcus Intermedius* and a medium resistance to antibiotics. The antibiotics he had been on previously were still effective against the bacteria so off we went on another round of antibiotics, bathing and clipping.

As you all know, I have been studying for a certification in Holistic Animal Companion Care. I sat down one day and asked myself why I was going through this typical treatment process when I had so many other modalities available to me? I had learned about essential oils (aromatherapy), homeopathy, flower essences, herbs, acupuncture, Traditional Chinese Medicine etc. Why was I not using this knowledge to help Simon? I also knew that as we repeated the antibiotic treatments, we had the potential to create a more resistant bacterium. I didn't want to end up with Simon having a bacterium totally resistant to all antibiotics.

So, Simon and I headed off to a holistic vet. We decided to go with homeopathy as the treatment. She would do research and then determine which remedy to give him and mail me the medicine. In the mean time he was not to have any vaccines, medicines, essential oils, highly smelling cleaning products, air fresheners or commercial soap baths and coconut oil. We were to stop the antibiotics immediately and stop bathing him. Let me tell you this is hard to do when you see your pet suffering.

We stopped all meds, oils, air fresheners etc and waited for the treatment to show up. She prescribed Sulphur 200c, 1 dosage only! We administered the pellets (can't touch them) and were instructed to give no food or water for 2 hours before or after. We waited. At this time Simon was chewing every body part he had. I could not give him Benadryl like I had been. The only thing I could give him was flower essences. I chose four and mixed the remedy. I gave him 4 drops on the tongue and waited. He stopped scratching and digging within fifteen minutes. Unfortunately, it only lasted for about 1.5 hours and he started digging and scratching again. More remedy. The great thing about flower essences is that you can't overdose on them and they have no side effects. Simon's first seven days on the treatment were hell. Basically his body had

to back out of the sickness. He suffered but we were seeking a total cure not a quick fix. We waited and I continued to give him my flower remedy. The lesions started drying up and going away. He stopped digging as much. It has now been two weeks since we administered the Sulphur 200c. He is not cured but he is much better.

Dr. Grasso (holistic vet) had us do blood tests to determine what Simon was allergic to. She felt that was Simon's basis for the skin disease. Simon is allergic to corn, all poultry, wheat, alfalfa, brewer's yeast, green peas and oats. ALL of those foods were commonly given to him nearly every day except for the wheat. His dry dog food had a lot of the products in it and I was making his homemade dog food with all of the ingredients. So we have removed them from his diet and we wait. We wait to see if removing the offending food will resolve the problem as well as the homeopathy. I know he is better, but Dr Grasso cautions me that it will take time. It takes months for food allergies to leave a dog's system. I will keep you informed as we go along. Lastly, if your dog has skin issues I encourage you to decide which type of medicine you are going to follow and get him/her checked out. Do something. Skin issues do not normally go away. Do not try to treat your animal without professional help.

Latest update (first of February):

Simon is still struggling with his skin issues. He is definitely better and the lesions are dry and scaly and not wet with pus and he is itching much less. We have tried two homeopathic treatments and are presently waiting to see how this last one is going to work. The process is frustrating to say the least but I am told that it can take a very long time to cure skin issues. We still use the Bach Flower essences to help with the itching but need them much less than previously. We are now incorporating some B.A.R.F. foods into his diet (Primal) to see if he improves. When it came time for his DHLPP shot, we did a test (titer) to determine if Simon still was immune. He was, so we skipped the vaccine. We will have to test again in a year to ensure he continues with the immunity.

If you decide to try homeopathy to cure your animal, do not try it without the help of a professional. It is tricky business. One remedy was too strong for Simon and he broke out in blisters all over his body. I called the vet and she immediately gave me a counter remedy and the blisters were totally gone within 36 hours. Also the strength of the homeopathy the vet uses is very strong. I use 30c remedies for common problems like colds, flu's, asthma etc but those remedies are not meant to cure the problem. The remedy level being used on Simon is the 200c level – a much stronger dosage.

Simon has just had his third treatment of homeopathy – Thuja this time. He is barely itching and the lesions are slowly going away, which is what we want. Maybe this

time we have found the correct treatment and he will be totally cured. I'll keep you informed. n

Skin Problems – A General Tutorial

The skin is the largest organ in the canine body (as well as the human body also). When toxins in the body cannot be discharged from the kidney or the liver, the body will push the toxins out through the skin. This is assuming that your dog doesn't have a contact allergy or a parasite like mange or a fungus infection like ringworm. Skin problems are always a symptom of something else. Some causes of skin problems are: poor diet, toxicity, vaccinations, suppressed disease, psychological factors and allergies. We will lightly address each one of these issues.

Poor diet can cause skin problems by not providing the necessary nutrients or sub-standard nutrients in your dog's food. We have addressed this subject in other newsletters, so I won't spend any more time on this topic. We could write a book on this one and many have been.

Toxicity occurs in your pet's body from environmental pollutants and applied pest control chemicals. These chemicals compromise the immune system. The best method of treatment for this problem is to remove the toxicity. Don't use pesticides on your dog if you can avoid it. Take a close look at your pet's food. We all know about the pet food recall and the "poisons" they are finding in the food. There are natural treatments to help toxicity in your pet. The best thing to do is to seek a holistic veterinarian to guide you in this process.

Veterinarians (even mainstream vets) are finding and agreeing that we are over vaccinating our pets. Have you ever given your dog his/her yearly shots only for them to get sick a week or two later? Many studies are in being done to determine if vaccines are causing some of the cancers that we are seeing an increase in. By law you must vaccinate your pet for Rabies. Most states allow every three years. There is a movement going on right now to extend that but is not in effect yet. Instead of automatically vaccinating your dog for the other shots (DHLPP for example), consider doing a titer test (I spoke about this in the other article). I now do titers yearly to determine if we need the vaccines. Most boarding kennels will accept titer results in order to board your pet.

Skin problems also occur from remains of an inadequately treated disease that was never cured. This is one of the most difficult causes to snoop out when trying to determine skin causes. Cancer is in this group. If your dog has cancer, one of the first signs can be skin problems. Please do not panic when you read this and think that your dog has cancer if he/she has a skin problem. Lastly is the cause from food allergies. Food allergies were definitely playing a role in our Simon's skin condition. He was tested (blood test) and found to be allergic to seven things – all of which I was putting in his food. So

just because you are feeding healthy food doesn't mean it is right for your dog. Simon also suffered gastrointestinal problems stemming from the food allergies. n

MRSA -- Deadly for Dogs and Humans

Antibiotic resistant staph can be spread between dogs and humans and can be deadly

Both people and dogs have been dying from this infection and it can be spread from one to the other. Overuse of prescription antibiotics and antibacterial soap and hand wipes have lead to the growth of drug resistant bacteria that can not be control with normal antibiotics. One such strain is MRSA (pronounced MER-sa) and it can not be controlled with the drugs normally used. The Journal of the American Medical Association estimates that over 95,000 Americans have contracted this infection since 2005 and now the deaths from this have surpassed the AID death rate.

The infection starts by looking like a rash or red pimple, boil or insect bite. It progresses into swelling and develops into an abscess causing fever, pus and pain. Staph bacteria lives on the skin or in the nose of many people but does not become dangerous unless the host immune system is compromised and the use of too many antibiotics have caused them to no longer be effective.

Preventative measures for people include washing hands often with plain hot water and soap. If you are in a public bathroom, use a hand towel to close faucets and open doors. Clean and disinfect all cuts, bites, stings, etc, and keep the wound covered until well. Sanitize all bed linens, covers, towels etc that you may have used while you have a sore. Also do the same for your dog's linens, if your dog has a sore or what looks like a persistent skin problem. There are many holistic probiotic supplements that aid in the prevention of contracting an infection and building your immune system. Coconut oil being suggested taken daily by both people and dogs (be sure to refrigerate the oil).

In dogs the same symptoms appear and if normal treatments fail to help, the infection should be tested for MRSA. This is a significantly under diagnosed and rapidly expanding problem that has caused numerous deaths in both people and dogs.

For more information go to: Pets-MRSA.com; whole-dog-journal.com; or thebellamossfoundaation.com. For holistic supplements go to: naturesgift.com; manukahoneyuse.com; or magicmicrocloth.com.

Information for this article appears in greater length at www.whole-dog-journal.com. n

Why we have rescue...

If you ever find yourself wondering why we do what we do, why we continue to save the peis, remember the story of Lucky Joe? Lucky was rescued in Maryland. When we got him he had been tied to a tree and used as a chew toy for a Pit Bull. It took over 100 stiches to sew up the lacerations he had when rescued. The picture below is after we got him rescued and stitched.



Now he just goes by Lucky and he is happy and living in Japan with Ryan and Mandy Cumpston and Mandy just loves to catch him while he's sleeping! What a difference some love makes!



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.

In Memory

It's always sad when we have to say goodbye to a dear friend - a member of the family; one of our children. We want to take a moment to fondly remember **CueBear, Niko, Nugget, Kookie, Parker, Sammy, Blackjack, Kyu-Jin, Girlie, Della** and all the Peibies we've recently lost. They are gone but not forgotten!



You Can't Earn Your Wings Without Collecting A Few Wrinkles Along The Way

For those Shar-Pei Babies in the sky
 Who have left your loving arms
 Don't stop to ask or wonder why
 Just know they're free from harm.
 No pain or fright confronts them now
 They've left that all behind
 They're embracing joy and freedom
 And still live in your minds.
 Eyes are bright and seeing clear
 Velvet skin in healed
 Legs aren't stiff, and ears can hear
 Your love they still can feel.
 Embrace their memory, hold it tight
 Wipe away your tears
 The Shar-Pei joy that fills your life
 Will last throughout the years.
 Think of them with happy thoughts

Say a thankful prayer
 These happy Shar-Pei angels
 Still know that you care!

DEBENDALE KENNEL
 BOARDING*GROOMING*DAY CARE

MARGE PALAD

PHONE: 410-833-4762

2332 EMORY ROAD, RT. 91
 REISTERSTOWN, MARYLAND 21136




Marge is the Guardian Angel who has been helping us out in more ways than we can list! We highly recommend her and the Debendale Kennel. All runs are indoor/outdoor; there is someone on the premises 24/7 and in the event of an emergency, there is a Vet on call. There is a well equipped grooming facility run by Kim Blizzard. Marge Palad has been raising and showing Shar-Pei for many years and is totally knowledgeable about any Shar-Pei problems. Marge also does training. We have taken a number of Pei to her recently for kenneling and each one has improved dramatically under her care.

MACSPRO Online Store

We have continued to add items to our online store. The link is www.cafepress.com/macspro. We make Shar Pei products for sale. Rescue gets a percentage of each item sold. Your dog may even be on the 2008 calendar.

Please check out the store for great gifts for everyone or just a purchase for yourself. 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. **n**

A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself.

There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face.

Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful.



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: _____

Your MACSPRO membership is now due for 2008. 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



Babe

(which is my best angle?)



Achilles

Adopt me now!



Roscoe



Laycee