

# 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 February 2008 – 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.

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**335-07\* Babe** has been with us for seven months. She is one of the most affectionate dogs we have ever had. She has become the favorite kennel dog at Debendale. But she really wants a yard to run in and her very own person. The problem - she has to be an only dog. Please consider her.

342-08 Laycee met Dr. Sherrill and she went home to live with three dogs and two cats.

343-08 Achilles moved to Albany, New York to keep Ms. Runion company and learn to be a service dog to visit senior living facilities.

344-08 Roscoe moved to Palm Coast, Florida to live with the Small family. Hey, these guys get to travel more than we do!

345-08 Honey has just completed her heartworm treatment during which time she underwent emergency pyometra surgery. Ms. Pollard, her foster mom, took extraordinary care of her – so they adopted each other.

346-08 Nina Lou was named after the two people who literally saved her one hour before she was to be killed. She was so young and had cherry eyes so bad that she could not see. But she could give kisses to everyone that helped her. She was fostered by The Kline family and went to her “forever” home with the Johnsons.

347-08 Gucci is an energetic young female who met Hallie, who loves her daily runs. The Benson’s little dogs could not keep up so Gucci met their needs and they met her’s.

348-08 April was a sweet you female from the Baltimore shelter. Everyone who met her got a kiss and a tail wag. Shortly after arriving, she became ill. Taken in to the doctor, it was determined that she had a serious problem. She ended up in emergency surgery and her intestines had “telescoped” into her colon. This can be caused by intestinal parasites that are not treated. Her intestines above the immediate area had started to die so we had no choice but to put her to sleep while she was on the operating table. There were a lot of tears shed when we lost April.

349-08 Suzie is a pudgy little gal who is the original “couch potato”. When she was introduced to another dog to test her ability to get along with other dogs, she laid down on her side and went to sleep. Now the Palmer family laughs at her snoring.

**350-08 \*Bruno** is a young black male who barks with a West Virginia accent. He gets along with most other dogs, is healthy, loves to run and play. Is willing to learn to “fetch” and will even bring his own tennis ball.

**351-08\*Albert** is a young fawn male who is desperately in need of love. If you don’t believe this, just come and visit him. “Cookies” required in exchange for kisses.

**352-08\*Cady** is a very young female puppy, possibly only 4 months old now. She was placed in a shelter too early and her immune system was not fully developed. She has contracted mange, worms and has a hernia. All of which we are treating now and she should be a healthy gal. She is already a happy gal almost as if she knows she has been saved. She is so small her foster

mom, Jeannie Johnson, says that each step on the stairway looks like a mountain to her. She will be looking for a "forever" home in about a month. n

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## MACSPRO Benefit Yard Sale - June 7th

The Robbins are offering their yard to house the first annual MACSPRO Benefit Yard Sale. We need volunteers to work it and haul away anything left over. All items will be prepriced before delivery so that you may estimate your donation amount and to save time for us not to have to mark the items. No appliances please. Minimize clothing except for baby clothes. Please respond to [curtisrobbins@cox.net](mailto:curtisrobbins@cox.net) as to whether you are interested and what you think you can donate. We would like to raise at least \$1000. That is a lot for a yard sale but the Robbins live on a busy street and think we would get good participation and this will coincide with their neighborhood yard sale. If anyone has a "hot dog cart" and a license to sell, that would be fantastic. And we really are in need of your yard sale donations. **The sale is on June 7th (rain date 8th) at 4121 Majestic Lane, Fairfax, VA 22033.** 100% of the proceeds will go to helping Cady. n

## Health Articles

### Allergies and What You Can Do to Help Your Dog *By Pam Robbins*

Oh the springtime. It brings beautiful flowers and warm weather and at the same time pollen! Many people suffer from allergies (allergies is one of the most quickly rising maladies in people today) as well as your pet. He might be biting his feet, scratching, licking, pulling out his hair or losing his hair or experiencing a myriad of other symptoms. There are certainly a lot of products and medicines on the market that you can give your pet to help with his allergy symptoms. You also need to look at what you can do to support the body overall.

Allergies occur when an allergen (thing your dog is allergic to) enters the body triggering a response from the immune system causing a release of histamine. Symptoms of allergies are wide and varied and can be: itching, eyes and nose runny, skin eruptions or rash, hair loss, ear infections, digestive upset, inflammatory bowel disease (food caused), hot spots or even arthritis. This of course does not cover the entire list of possible symptoms.

What can you do to give the body the ability to naturally fight an allergy? There are several things: support the immune system, improve the diet, give digestive enzymes, bee pollen and probiotics, give essential fatty acids, and minimize vaccinating your pet. We'll quickly address each

of these topics below.

The immune system is the foundation for health for yourself and your pet. Our immune systems are being bombarded daily with pesticides and chemicals which stress the liver, kidneys and intestines to keep up with the "detox" process. By supporting the immune system with supplements, herbs and a holistic diet you will be building the foundation for your pet to fight allergies. Look at your pet food and see if the list of ingredients has the words "meat byproducts, soy protein, wheat or corn." These ingredients are potential allergens for your pet. Preservatives such as ethoxyquin, BHT, BHA also cause problems. Look for foods that are preserved with mixed tocopherols (vitamin E) and say preservative free. Better yet start feeding a fresh diet as an addition to your pet's commercial diet or feed raw.

Supplements are another way to support your pet's underlying health. Digestive enzymes, bee pollen and probiotics (acidophilus, lactobacillus etc) aid and ease the body's overstressed digestive system freeing up the body to be more capable of handling the allergen. If you are considering bee pollen – start very slow – your dog can be allergic to it.

Essential fatty acids such as Salmon oil, flax seed oil, evening primrose oil etc. aid the body in controlling the inflammatory process. You will need to do more Omega 3 oils (fish oils) than Omega 6 oils (primrose, borage) but don't eliminate one or the other.

More and more information is coming out on over vaccinating your pet. States are now allowing 3 year vaccinations such as rabies, DHLPP etc. Minimize the amount of vaccinations. If you live in the city, does your pet really need a Lyme's vaccination? If your pet is never out and around a lake or outside water source do you need a vaccination for Giardia? Do some research and challenge your vet on the amount of vaccinations he is giving.

Lastly, there are herbal medicines that offer great support for allergy problems that offer fewer side effects than steroids, which is inevitably what your doctor will put your pet on for a while. While steroids act as a "miracle", they have a myriad of side effects and long term problems. If you are interested in investigating other herbal alternatives, consult a holistic vet for advice and treatment.

### Yep, Another Article on Skin-Biotin Deficiency *By Pam Robbins*

Biotin is a vitamin in the B family. It is manufactured in the intestines from the healthy bacteria (Lactobacillus). Biotin deficiency symptoms range from dry, flaky skin, dull and thin coat, scratching, shedding, and biting and

pulling of the hair, causing bald spots. Biotin deficiency can also contribute to hip dysplasia due to weakened tissue. Foods that contain biotin are egg yolk (not raw please), liver, brewer's yeast, peanuts, almonds, carrots, tomatoes, chard, cabbage and milk. As you can see from the list that many of these foods are not foods we feed our pets. Supplementation is an alternative to trying to find foods that have enough biotin to benefit your dog. There are many good products on the market. Try one and see if your pet's skin and coat improve! n

## Tick and Fleas – Tis the Season

Well, we are in the season again where fleas and ticks become a nuisance and a worry. Have you had a problem with them in the past? Do you treat your dogs for them using a commercial product or do you do some alternative treatment?

Some homeopathic vets say that if your dog is healthy and fed a healthy whole diet you won't have a problem with ticks and fleas. I agree (somewhat) with them as I have never had a problem with fleas or ticks on my own dogs but have on myself (I just took a deer tick off two days ago after coming back from visiting my daughter in South Carolina). For those people who live in the country with a lot of pine trees, I think all bets are off.

Commercial medicines are available to repel fleas and ticks (I have never used them). Some of the brand names are: K9 Advantix, Advantage, Frontline and bioSpot SPOT ON®. Each product does different things. It is best for you to ask your vet about the safety and efficacy of each of the products. There is a new product out called Promeris that MACSPRO recently sent out a warning about. If you did not get that email, please contact us so that we can send you the warning and also add you to our email list.

There are natural ways of repelling fleas and ticks using natural sprays that contain essential oils. I do mix up sprays for dogs when we are out in the woods or in an area that might have a high tick population. There are many oils recommended: basil oil, cedar oil, cinnamon oil, clove oil, lavender oil, rose geranium, palmarosa or opopanax oil. If you are not used to handling essential oils and mixing them, I would not recommend that you necessarily start. You can go to a holistic pet store and buy a flea and tick spray. I do caution one thing. **DO NOT BUY A MIXTURE THAT CONTAINS PENNYROYAL OIL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!** It amazes me that pennyroyal oil is sold over the counter with no controls or cautions on it whatsoever. Pennyroyal if used improperly can kill your dog or a person! I do not EVER have pennyroyal oil in my house. Essential oil mixtures are best kept in the refrigerator since they probably have some water in them, and should be shaken well before spraying on. I recommend

that you wipe spray your dog's legs with the spray and also along the back. Do not spray around their face. Once you have completed your walk, use a damp towel with some soap on it to wipe off any excess residue. Essential oils are safe for ingestion in tiny amounts. However, some sources don't use the best quality of oils which can be contaminated. Lastly, **DO NOT USE ESSENTIAL OIL SPRAYS IF YOU HAVE A CAT!** Cats do not assimilate essential oils and will get liver damage.

If you are looking for a safe alternative and don't trust either the commercial or essential oil mixtures, use apple cider vinegar. Your dog might not like the smell but neither do the ticks and fleas. n

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## Is Your Dog "Bored Out of His Mind"?

*Reprinted with permission from PetPlace*

Sounds crazy? Well frequently both parents work away from home and the kids are at school. So, although dogs no longer have to battle the elements outside, they do have to contend with being home alone during the day, sometimes all day, with little to occupy their time.

What is a good pet parent to do?

Well, many people already leave a radio or television on for their dog when they leave. The "white noise effect" it does seem to have a soothing effect and thus may have some redeeming features. Think of it this way; any lilting/melodic sound (not "heavy metal") or even just background gibberish is probably better than the sound of silence or a clock ticking on the mantelpiece. Most animals seem to prefer seeing images of other animals or nature programs.

Another good tip is to exercise your dog before you leave. Exercise generates serotonin in the brain and thus has a calming and mood-stabilizing effect on man and beast. A dog that has had a good run for 20 to 30 minutes before the owner departs will be less anxious, more composed, and prepared for a little R & R in the form of a good nap.

In attempting to distinguish between a dog with separation anxiety and one that is just bored you should ask yourself the following questions:

- Did you acquire your dog from a shelter or pound?
- Has he had multiple owners?
- Did you get him when he was over three months of age?
- Is he a "Velcro dog"? (Does he follow you around constantly?)
- Does he appear anxious as you prepare to depart?
- Does he whine or bark after you have left?

- Does he urinate or defecate ONLY in your absence?
- Does he destroy things ONLY in your absence?
- Does he refuse to eat when you are away?
- Does he greet you over-exuberantly when you return?

A score of five or more "yes" answers is highly suggestive of separation anxiety. If any doubt exists as to the precise cause of the dog's unrest or agitation when you are away, a video recording will serve as the tiebreaker. Dogs with separation anxiety are visibly anxious, pacing, panting, and whining or barking, whereas dogs that are bored simply wander around searching for something to do. Also, they may get up and down frequently and act in an unsettled, restless way as if experiencing a dilemma (which they probably are).

The key to managing an otherwise bored dog is "Environmental Enrichment" (the big E's). Below is a list of measures that owners can employ to reduce their dog's tedium during long stints home alone.

1. Get a dog for your dog. Although getting a dog for your dog rarely works to improve separation anxiety, this can help your bored dog – as long as the two dogs get along. However, introducing an overly dominant, oppressive dog may have exactly the opposite effect. If in doubt, ask an expert to help you select the right dog for your dog and lean toward a younger individual and one of even temperament.

2. Hire a dog walker. Most dogs really appreciate the lunch-time visits of a dog walker who provides a much welcome respite in the middle of an otherwise long day of nothing to do.

3. Doggy day care. One better than a dog walker is doggy day care. The problem here is that it is expensive and thus probably only available to yuppie puppies. Check out the day care center thoroughly as you would kiddy day care for young children.

4. Crates. Providing a dog with a crate gives him a room of his own, a place in which to hang out and to get away from it all. If you don't provide a crate, most dogs will improvise, finding solitude under a table or bed or behind a couch. Crates should never be used for punishment or as a substitute for appropriate management. I think it is rarely, if ever, appropriate to shut a dog in his crate all day while you are away but an open crate is another matter.

5. Food puzzles/sustained release food. Most people have developed the habit of feeding their dog before they leave in the morning. The dog wolfs down his food and then has nothing to do all day. It may be more appropriate to feed the dog as you leave and/or to arrange for the food to be discovered by the dog after you have left.

6. Radio/TV. Many people already leave a radio or television on for their dog when they leave. The "white noise effect" does seem to have a soothing effect and thus may have some redeeming features. Think of it this way; any lilting/melodic sound (not "heavy metal") or even just background gibberish is probably better than the sound of silence or a clock ticking on the mantelpiece. Most animals seem to prefer seeing images of other animals or nature programs.

7. Room with a view. Some of the best visual enrichment that a "home alone dog" can enjoy is the "real TV" experience of observing the world outside through a window with a panoramic view.

8. Transitional object. Some people report that leaving out an article of their apparel comforts their dog. The dog can then snuggle up to the item in their absence and be reminded of better times.

9. Rotation of toys. Well-meaning owners leave toys out for their dog to play with in their absence. This is a valuable enrichment strategy but will not work well unless the toys are interesting and novel. Toys that move or are good to chew are apparently the most fun and the way to keep them riveting is to rotate them so that they don't lose their appeal.

10. "A tired dog is a good dog." You could also say, a happy dog. Exercise generates serotonin in the brain and thus has a calming and mood-stabilizing effect on man and beast. A dog that has had a good run for 20 to 30 minutes before the owner departs will be less anxious, more composed, and prepared for a little R & R in the form of a good nap.

11. Dog door/fenced in yard (except perhaps in the big city). Another idea, if you live in the suburbs and have a reasonable-sized fenced in yard, is to fit a dog door to allow your dog to come and go at will.

There are many ways that we can try and make our dogs' lives more interesting and engaging during our absence. Some dogs will fare quite well with the application of just a few of the measures listed above. Nevertheless, the wisdom of getting a highly social pet like a dog must be considered if you know in advance that you will be required to be apart from that pet for many hours each day. It is preferable to choose the right time in your life to acquire a dog – a time when you are in a position to spend sufficient quality time with your pet and not wind up a latchkey parent. For those of you for whom this advice is too late, take heart, adopt the some of the big E's, and look out for your old pal.

## And Just for Kicks and Giggles...

The following is a true story that I received from a friend of mine. Read it and weep with laughter.

About a month or so ago I had a private lesson with a preppie couple, mid to late 20's, about to be married. The problem was her boxer mix, un-neutered male, about 3, very sweet, big ol' jumpin' fool, slobbery, door-dasher, occasionally tried to hump the boyfriend (girl said that was a sign he liked him). Dog pulled like a bear on the owner's flat collar and flexi, but very trainable.

The couple made great improvement in manners in the one hour lesson, and said they would come back for classes after the wedding, and agreed to neuter the dog.

Message on my answering machine last Monday morning:

"Hi this is "Tiffany" (name changed to protect the ditzy), and my husband and I were in to see you in March, and well.... my husband was given a very expensive snake by his best man and friends as a wedding present." "George (the dog -- name changed to protect the only intelligent being in the home from embarrassment) and "Alice" have been getting along fine, but early Saturday morning they were both in bed with us, and George bit Alice really bad, and she almost died, but the vet thinks she may live and could come home in a few days."

"Can we bring them both up to you, and you could teach them to be friends?" "My husband really wants to be able to take them places in the car, and have them in our bed, but I think George is jealous. But I also think Alice started it; she is always looking at him real mean." (At this point I am laughing hard and praying my peri-menopausal bladder will hold a few more seconds.)

Now I have read about aversion training to keep dogs away

from snakes so that they are not bitten, but I have read nothing about teaching a dog to actually live in harmony with a snake. I had a pig in a puppy class once--- I guess Alice could come to be socialized and then her suspicion (revealed by the probable muscle tension/freezing, possible whale eye -- the "mean look" -- may be decreased. I've had a chicken in class, too, but not as a student, used more like a distraction.

Clicker training will work for the dog, but snakes are deaf. I have heard of someone "calling" snakes in a zoo with stomping followed by food reward. I can buy pinkie mice cheaper than good quality dog treats... hmmm

Should I call in a snake behaviorist? Sighhh, oh well, I think I'm going to try T-Touch -- you know the relaxation massage that is supposed to perform miracles. But how do I massage a snake's gums? Do snakes have gums?

I want them to come in just so I can see what a snake in a bandage and Elizabethan collar looks like. Ahhhh, it is days like this that I love my job. ;-) eye -- the "mean look" ;-)) -- may be decreased. I've had a chicken in class, too, but not as a student, used more like a distraction.

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Your MACSPRO membership is now due for 2008. It's the same low price of \$25.00

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Contribution enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

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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](http://www.macspro.org) Phone: (301)881-1221



Babe

*(which is my best angle?)*



Cady

**Adopt me now!**



Albert



Midnight



Bruno