

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 May 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.

335-07* Babe has been with us for a year now. She is one of the most affectionate dogs we have ever had. She is still the favorite kennel dog at Debendale. But she really wants a yard to run in and her very own person. Her only caveat is that she has to be an only dog. Please consider her.

350-08 Bruno is a young black male we got from West Virginia. He is now a happy happy boy having gone to his forever home with Marcia Jackson.

351-08 Albert is a young fawn male who is sharing his new forever home in Springfield, VA with Midnight.

352-08 Cady (now Gizmo) is now 11 months old, cured of her mange and has gone from bald and red to a beautiful thick chocolate brown coat. She also had her hernia taken care of, was spayed, her lower lids fixed, her soft palate lasered and extra wrinkles in her nostrils lasered. She is doing great and is happily living with Deb Pope and three Pei companions who she plays with constantly.

353-08 *Simba is a beautiful chocolate brush coat meat mouth male whose family had to move to take care of elder parents and couldn't take him. He's a mature fella but just gorgeous and a real sweetheart.

354-08 Jaxson is a fawn bone mouth boy with lots of energy who stole the hearts of the Holly family from the moment they laid eyes on him at the Howard County Animal Advocates Walk for Paws.

355-08 *Houdini, okay, so Houdini is a Shar-Pei wanna

be. He has such a wonderful personality and such a sweet face, we couldn't say no. And he's just a puppy. We had him transported from Georgia and currently being fostered by Pam and Curtis Robbins. They are evaluating him for suitability as a service dog. n

October is Adopt-a-Shelter-Dog Month

Despite these tough economic times MACSPRO continues to do everything we can to help Shar-Pei in need. Although we have not compiled a financial statement for the newsletter we are down about \$20,000 in donations from last year and this has severely affected the number of dogs we have been able to save. Below are some ways you can help us out, but we also continue to need your monetary donations.

One very simple way to help is to defray the costs of these newsletters. Please, if you are receiving this newsletter in hard copy, please provide us with your email address.

MACSPRO Benefit Yard Sale

The Robbins offered their yard to house the first annual MACSPRO Benefit Yard Sale. It was one of the hottest days of the year but we had many tables plus a full yard of donations from MACSPRO members. We had several volunteers (we thank you profusely!) and we are proud to announce that we raised \$1500! The proceeds were earmarked for Cady's medical expenses but since Deb Pope picked up her tab, we were able to put all proceeds into the account for others. n

Animal Advocates Walk for Paws and the Animal Welfare Fall Foliage Walk

Jeanne and Brian Johnson took the lead for MACSPRO to have a table at the Howard County Animal Advocates Walk For Paws. The event took place on Saturday, October 11th at beautiful Lake Elkhorn in Columbia, MD. We had a table with items to sell, MACSPRO information to distribute and Jaxson and Simba to show off. Gizmo came to lend support as well. It was a huge success in that we had many people interested in learning about Shar-Pei and Jaxson found his new forever family.



There will be another event on October 25th at Lake Artemesia in College Park, MD. This event is the **College Park Animal Welfare Committee's Fall Foliage Walk**. You can meet our MACSPRO dogs and join in the fun. There will be lots of activities, including a costume contest. We will need volunteers to help man the table. Please consider joining us.

You can contact Jeanne Johnson at jj@denhigh.com for more information. n

Opportunities to help MACSPRO

There are a few quick and easy ways for you to help MACSPRO from the comfort of your home at your computer.

PetFinder is sponsoring a **\$100,000 Shelter Challenge** and we could win a \$25,000 grant. The best part is that you can vote each day for the duration of this challenge. So, it is more potential money and more potential votes and easier to do. Please take a moment each day to go

to http://www.theanimalrescuesite.com/clickToGive/shelterchallenge.faces?siteId=3&link=ctg_ars_shelter_challenge_from_home_sidetabs and vote for MACSPRO.

Caution: You MUST type in our name exactly as: The Mid-Atlantic Chinese Shar-Pei Rescue Operation so please copy and paste it. Otherwise it will come up with zero shelters found. You must also select the state of MD. You can vote once each day so get voiting!

Which search engine do you use when conducting internet searches? Well, if you use goodsearch.com and specify MACSPRO as the charity of your choice, we receive donations. n

Health Articles

Halloween Safety

Halloween is nearly here and this is a time to be extra diligent and aware with your dogs. The ASPCA has published ten Halloween Safety Tips.

Attention, companion animal caretakers! The ASPCA would like to call your attention to these common-sense cautions that'll help keep your pets safe and stress-free this time of year.

1. No tricks, no treats: That bowlful of candy is for trick-or-treaters, not for Scruffy and Fluffy. Chocolate in all forms can be very dangerous for dogs and cats, and tin foil and cellophane candy wrappers can be hazardous if swallowed. If you suspect your pet has ingested a potentially dangerous substance, please call your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435.
2. Popular Halloween plants such as pumpkins and decorative corn are considered to be relatively nontoxic, yet they can produce gastrointestinal upset should pets ingest them. Intestinal blockage could even occur if large pieces are ingested.
3. Keep wires and cords from electric lights and other decorations out of reach of your pets. If chewed, your pet could experience damage to his mouth from shards of glass or plastic, or receive a possibly life-threatening electrical shock.
4. A carved pumpkin certainly is festive, but do exercise extreme caution if you choose to add a candle. Pets can easily knock a lit pumpkin over and cause a fire. Curious kittens especially run the risk of getting burned or singed by candle flames.
5. Dress-up can be a big mess-up for some pets. Please don't put your dog or cat in a costume UNLESS

you know he or she loves it (yup, a few pets are real hams!). For pets who prefer their “birthday suits,” however, wearing a costume can cause undue stress.

6. If you do dress up your pet, make sure the costume isn't annoying or unsafe. It should not constrict the animal's movement or hearing, or impede his ability to breathe or bark. Keep a look out for small, dangling, or easily chewed-off pieces on the costume that your pet could choke on.



7. Take a closer look at your pet's costume and make sure it does not obstruct her vision in any way. Even the sweetest animals can get snappy when they can't see.

8. All but the most social dogs and cats should be kept in a separate room during peak trick-or-treat visiting hours. Too many strangers can be scary and stressful for pets.

9. When opening the door for trick-or-treaters, take care that your cat or dog doesn't dart outside.

10. IDs, please! Always make sure your dog or cat has proper identification. If for any reason your pet escapes and become lost, a collar and tags and/or a microchip increase the chances that he or she will be returned to you. n

Mucinosis

I recently received an email asking about the strange gooeey liquid they were finding on their Pei so it seemed appropriate to reprint an article on Mucinosis.

What is cutaneous mucinosis?

In this condition there is a build-up of abnormal mounts of mucin (thick, clear, sticky fluid) under the skin. It occurs primarily in the Chinese Shar Pei, which has more skin mucin than other breeds to begin with.

How is cutaneous mucinosis inherited?

Unknown. There is probably a relationship between the increased mucin under the skin of the Shar Pei, and the pronounced skin folds of the breed.

What breeds are affected by cutaneous mucinosis?

Chinese Shar Pei.

For many breeds and many disorders, the studies to determine the mode of inheritance or the frequency in the breed have not been carried out, or are inconclusive. We have listed breeds for which there is a consensus among those investigating in this field and among veterinary practitioners, that the condition is significant in this breed.

What does cutaneous mucinosis mean to your dog & you?

Most often this condition is only cosmetic ' that is, it will affect your dog—s appearance but not his or her health. Shar-Peis with mucinosis have excessive skin folding and/or lumps and bumps (vesicles or pockets of mucin). Many dogs seem to outgrow the condition by ~ 5 or so years of age. Excessive mucinosis can interfere with breathing if the vesicles are in the back of the mouth. This may cause your dog to snort and snore, and can increase the risks associated with general anesthesia.

How is cutaneous mucinosis diagnosed?

Your veterinarian will take a skin biopsy (a simple procedure, done with local anesthetic) for examination by a veterinary pathologist. With this condition, the biopsy will show excessive mucin in the layers of the skin. Excessive mucinosis can also occur with hypothyroidism, a condition to which the Chinese Shar Pei is prone.

For the veterinarian: The vesicles look similar to those seen in the various autoimmune disorders; however the content (mucin) is thick and sticky rather than serous. Concurrent hypothyroidism may lead to severe mucinosis.

How is cutaneous mucinosis treated?

Dogs with breathing problems are treated with gradually tapering doses of corticosteroids over several weeks, to reduce the amount of mucin. Usually only 1 course of treatment is needed.

For the veterinarian: Treatment should be considered in dogs with oropharyngeal involvement, that may experience respiratory arrest under general anesthesia. If repeated treatment is required, hypothyroidism should be ruled out.

Breeding advice

It is preferable not to breed affected dogs or close relatives. n

Bloat Refresher – Don't skip this article – Keep it handy for reference also

By Pam Robbins

If you have ever owned a deep chested dog then you have probably been warned about the dangers of bloat. Most of us have heard of bloat, possibly even experienced it or lost a pet to it. Veterinarians state that it is the SECOND LEADING killer of dogs, after cancer!

First off let me state that if you believe or suspect that your dog is experiencing bloat you must go to the vet immediately! Bloat is a killer. One of MACSPRO's dogs recently passed away from bloat. Mackenzie came to us a very sick fellow in August. He was a sweetheart but who many medical problems. Dr. Godwin felt that we could certainly save Mackenzie. Mackenzie had 3 bad teeth, hip problems, a tumor on his eye and a prostate tumor when they did his neutering. Fortunately, the tumors were benign. The prostate tumor was probably from the fact that Mackenzie was an older dog who had never been neutered. Anyway, Mackenzie came to his foster home and did great for the first day. Well on the third morning, the foster parents found that Mackenzie had passed away during the night. They were devastated (as we all were). Since we had worked so hard (especially the foster mother) in getting Mackenzie well we did a necropsy and found that Mackenzie had died during the night from bloat. His stomach had twisted immediately. The foster mother felt that "only if she had been with him" she could have saved him. In some cases you do have time to save your dog, in others you don't. Even if Mackenzie had been taken to the vet immediately he would have required surgery to possibly save him and the surgery does not have a good prognosis (and about a \$6,000 price tag). His stomach had twisted immediately.

If the stomach is not twisted, a tube can be inserted into the stomach and the gas and air released. Most vets require that you hospitalize your dog for a day to ensure that it does not happen again. An emergency vet is needed since the dog needs around the clock care. My Freyja (passed away at 16) had bloat 8 times in the 14 years we had her. We were lucky that her stomach never twisted any of the times she had it. Each time we would discuss having the surgery done to tack her stomach (gastropexy) but would talk ourselves out of it (we would have just spent \$1500.00 for the emergency vet and would never seem to have the money to go ahead and do the surgery). Since Freyja was so prone to bloat she actually was given GasX twice a day for the last two years of her life. I am not a vet so I cannot recommend that you do this. I do know that I keep liquid GasX on hand if I suspect there is a problem.

When Lan Mai came to live with us, she was very upset and nervous and bloated. I thought to myself, oh no here we go again. Well, since Lan Mai had heartworm we could not have her spay immediately. This gave me time to think about it. So when we had her spay done, we had the gastropexy done at the same time. I will not tell you it was an easy surgery. She was in GREAT pain and it was at least 3 weeks of recovery. Having the stomach tacked is no guarantee that if she were to bloat again that she would be ok, it is just an extra safeguard to give us time to treat her.

So here is the technical information about Bloat that you need to understand. Bloating is often related to swallowed air (food and fluid can also be present). It can happen when your dog is panting a lot, in pain, stressed or have an abnormal amount of air, fluid, and/or foam in the stomach, exercising too soon after eating and a host of other causes too long to list here. As the stomach swells it can rotate 90° to 360°. The bloated stomach blocks critical veins in the abdomen, causing low blood pressure, shock and damage to internal organs. This combination is a quick killer so be aware and prepared!

There are many reports of owners taking their dogs to the vet, giving the symptoms of vomiting with nothing coming up, their stomachs are a little distended and the vet will say "Your dog just has a stomach ache" and sends the dog home. This happened to my son (he had an English Springer). Arthur had spent the day in the vet's office for testing and Jeremy noted to the vet that Arthur's stomach was hard and somewhat distended. The vet said that he had noted some gas in his xray but that it wasn't very much and he would be ok. Jeremy took him home. Arthur was insistent that he be let outside and did not return like he normally does. Since Jeremy has a huge fenced back yard (3/4 of an acre) and it was dark he spent 20 minutes trying to find Arthur since Arthur did not come to him. By the time he found him, his stomach was the size of a basketball. By the time they got him to the emergency vet, they told him that his stomach was twisted and that it was so severe they didn't think he could be saved. They lost him. So, if you are not sure and your vet is not sure – take an xray. The xray will show gas in the stomach cavity.

What you need to know about the symptoms of bloat: (Some of these symptoms can be present – or all every dog is different)

- Your dog attempts to vomit – may occur every 5-30 minutes
- Foam can be thrown up only. This is a big warning sign.
- Your dog is very quiet – doesn't act like himself. He asks to go outside in the middle of the night

when it is unusual for him to go out. This combined with the attempted vomiting is an almost guarantee your dog has bloat.

- Your dog is in pain, unable to move or sit and the stomach is hard and distended. This is not always the case. When I suspect that one of my dogs is bloating, I feel their stomachs to see if it is soft and palpable or whether it is distended and hard. The lack of this symptom should not put you at ease, however.
- Your dog could be pacing, whining, licking the air, seeking a hiding place, may refuse to lie down, cough, unproductive gagging, heaving or rapid panting.
- Your dog may attempt to drink excessive water.
- Your dog may have accelerated heartbeat.
- Gum color – Initially it is dark red, then white or blue in later stages.

Causes of Bloat: (excerpt from www.globalspan.net/bloat.htm)

Stress: A dog show, a new family member, boarding, change in routine etc.

Eating habits:

- √ elevated food bowls (this one I was surprised about since I had always been told that an elevated food bowl was good)
- √ rapid eating – I used to put sterilized rocks (big ones) in my dogs bowl to slow her eating down, now there are special bowls for this problem.
- √ eating dry foods that contain citric acid as a preservative (risk is even worse if the food is moistened)
- √ eating dry food that contains fat among the first four ingredients
- √ Insufficient Trypsin (a pancreatic enzyme present in meat)
- √ Dilution of gastric juices necessary for complete digestion by drinking too much water before or after eating
- √ Eating gas-producing foods (especially soybean products, brewer's yeast (present in many vitamins) and alfalfa
- √ Drinking too much water too quickly.

Exercising before and especially after eating

Heredity

Build and Physical Characteristics

- √ Having a deep and narrow chest
- √ Older dog

- √ Big dogs
- √ Males
- √ Being underweight

Disposition

- √ Fearful or anxious temperament
- √ Prone to stress

Suggestions for preventing bloat:

- Avoid highly stressful situations. Use Bach Flower Rescue Remedy (3 drops on tongue) – this doesn't work for all dogs.
- Do not use an elevated food bowl.
- If your dog has had surgery, ensure that he/she has sufficient pain meds
- If your dog is panting, give a dose of GasX to help relieve gas
- Give your dog digestive enzymes to help break down the food (you can have food bloat also)
- Use probiotics (acidophilus, lactobacillus etc) to ensure that the gut has sufficient healthy bacteria (ESPECIALLY IF YOUR DOG HAS BEEN ON ANTIBIOTICS!!!!)
- Avoid overuse of antibiotics to keep the gut healthy with good bacteria
- Consider giving a mineral supplement – this is a whole other article. If you have questions, contact Pam Robbins.
- Consider giving MSM for maintaining the body's electrical system and correcting malabsorption of nutrients in growth problems

What you can do to help if you suspect you have a case of Bloat:

(I caveat this with a BIG caution- don't think these items will stop the bloat – it just might give you the time to get to the vet)

- **Keep Phazyme or Semthacone liquid (GasX is a brand name) on hand**
- **Pro-biotic powder (it helps to cut the foam). Use 1 tsp – tbsps (depending on size of your dog in water (dilute in – use tepid not hot water) and put into a needles syringe.**
- **3 drops of Bach Flower Rescue Remedy on tongue**

I use this method when I **suspect** (in other words we have not had any vomiting, that one of my dogs is having a problem. I wait 15 minutes (this is not a recommendation – this is what I do personally – PLEASE watch your dog and take NO CHANCES) and if there is no improvement then off we go to the vet. 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 not too late to pay your MACSPRO membership 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

Adopt me now!



Babe

(which is my best angle?)



Simba

(Longing for a new home)



Houdini

Adopt me now!



Lady