

Mid-Atlantic Chinese Shar-pei Rescue Operation

Non-Profit, Tax Exempt

Dedicated to the
rehabilitation
and adoption
of purebred
Chinese
Shar Pei

Quarterly Newsletter

December, 2009

Volume XXXVII

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 September 2009 – below is an updated list of our rescues and adoptions since our last newsletter in March. 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.

Please - **if you have an email address please let us know**. We need to go electronic on our newsletters due to the prohibitive cost of printing. We are happy to mail the newsletter to those who don't have an email address, but would appreciate people calling us or dropping us a line to let us know they still need the newsletter mailed.

383-09 *China was adopted and 5 hours later was attached by a Bull Terrier. It took over 400 stitches to put her back together and she was returned to Debendale. She was adopted again to a Shar Pei knowledgeable lady who, a week later, was called out of the area to care for a sister who was terminally ill. So China is back at Debendale. She is extremely shy after these traumatic experiences.

388-09 Lola, who came from Puerto Rico, was adopted by a local family and is getting adjusted to the winter climate.

390-09 *Sedona - Now that we have gotten the rug out of him, had all his health work completed and have him on a good diet, he is up to 52 pounds. He sleeps on a cuddle bed, has rugs in his kennel and shows no sign of wanting to eat anything except his meals. He will require vitamin B shots once a month but other than that – he is ready for his “forever” home.

392-09 *Chip, a fawn male, has “pricked” ears – all the better to hear you with. He was flown all the way from Chatsworth, GA by Alice Kottmyer in her Cessna 172. They hit rough weather around North Carolina and Chip messed up his crate while declaring that he would never fly again. He is our “bouncing” dog.

393-09 *Deja, a fawn female, came to us from the Baltimore area when a family split up. She is reserved at

first but loves attention. She would do best as an only dog in an adult family.

394-09 *Zoey, a fawn female, came into the Fairfax shelter almost blind. Dr. Nichols at Dumfries did entropion surgery and she is now so happy that she can see that all she wants to do is run and play. She needs someone with lots of energy to run and play with her.

395-09 Pops is a beautiful black male who came to us from a Baltimore shelter. He didn't stay with us long as the Czup family took one look at his picture and came from Pennsylvania to take him home.

396-09 *Brad, a chocolate male needed entropion surgery and his family could not afford it. So again, Dr. Nichols came to our rescue and Brad's vision is now great. He lived with children and gets along with most dogs.

397-09 *Lilly, a “flowered” female came to us from Fairfax, VA. She is shy but a cute little gal who would make anyone proud to own a rare Shar-Pei. n

Got Any Old Sweaters?

Remember the one that Aunt Fanny gave you that you never wear or the one with holes in the elbows?

Did you know that there are shelters that are so overcrowded that the dogs stay outside 24 hours a day? There are some ladies in Mississippi that are remaking old sweaters into dog sweaters and giving them to the shelters. Like to help? Mail your old sweaters to: P O Box 19071, Hattiesburg, MD 39404. And the dogs thank you.

Help Support the “Happy” Bill

Representative Thaddeus McCotter of Michigan has introduced a bill that would allow pet owners to deduct up to \$3,500.00 in pet care expenses. So many people are having to give up their pets for lack of funds to give them proper medical care and even feed them. It would also relieve the overburdening of the shelters some of which are state and locally funded. The act is called “The Humanity And Pets Partnered through the Years”. Please lend your support by contacting Rep. McCotter at: <http://McCotter/house/gov/contact>. This is going to be a hard one to pass and he needs all the support he can get.

MACSPRO Needs Volunteers

MACSPRO really appreciates the support that we get from our members but we need help. We have many tasks that we perform to save the dogs we save and need some help with them. Transporting dogs to and from the shelters to designated kennels/hospitals is one of our greatest challenges. Most of the time we are on the phone trying to make arrangements to get the dog picked up, calling to ensure that the kennel/hospital will take the dog and getting the dog the required medical care. In the past, these efforts have been taken care of by the same people weekend after weekend, driving long hours and giving up a lot of personal time. Without these volunteers, the dogs would not be saved but we continue to ask the same people for help over and over. We need more and new volunteers to help us with these efforts. Here is a list of the kind of tasks we need help with:



- 1 Picking up a dog from the shelter and transporting it to a kennel/hospital
- 2 Calling the shelter to get the pertinent information about the dog – temperament, health, shot history, etc. and getting that information to Joyce or myself.
- 3 Calling the vet/kennel to see if they can accept the dog and giving them the status of the dog. This might seem like an easy thing to do but it can take days to arrange a pickup and transport. The problem is that we don't have days. We might have a day to arrange to get a dog picked up. Shelters don't hold them for very long

before they euthanize.

4 Helping us keep up with email addresses – we need to make phone calls to get addresses updated and other pertinent info.

5 Fosters – this is a tough one I admit. Most of us work – we are gone from our houses for hours and we already have our own dogs. How do you foster ? Well we understand the difficulties and we'll be honest that we choose to keep a dog in the kennel as opposed to a dog being cooped up in a crate for many hours a day. So if you are lucky that you have a light work schedule or are home and can help us out that would be fantastic.

6 Writing articles for the newsletter. This can be a cute story about your Pei , talk about a service you like, a health experience, etc.

7 If you have training experience, going to the kennel and working with our dogs to train. Please keep in mind that we use positive reinforcement training.

8 Calling and screening potential applicants. We get email inquiries about dogs and find that if we just respond with an email we seldom hear from the person again. We are trying to make phone calls to get people to put in an application.

I hope that we can count on your help. We need it badly. We will train on all the tasks above and give you checklist or question lists etc so you won't be left trying to figure this stuff out on your own. Thanks in advance for those who volunteer.

Health Articles

Holiday Stress on our Peibies



That time of year again. We always seem to see a significant spike in fever episodes for the FSF Pei this time of year here.

I thought we could share some ideas on how to manage these Peibies thru the holiday season and hopefully minimize fever episodes.

I notice alot of reports of fevers occuring on decoration day....the day the tree & decorations go up.

Here are some ideas that come to mind:

Decorate in stages. Bring in the tree and maybe allow dog to get used to just the tree for a day or so before decking it out with sparklies and lights. Keep some rescue remedy or such on hand and use this.

SamE can be given (as well as other herbs/supplements and vitamins) that decrease stress.

Monitor temps....a mild episode or one noted and treated early with fever reducers may prevent it from escalating into a severe episode.

Monitoring OUR energy and controlling our stress levels can have a huge impact on the stress levels of our pets. If we are not calm THEY will not be calm. Don't let the holiday stress get to your Pei thru you.

Make sure the treatment protocol you are using to manage FSF is given CONSISTENTLY. It is easy during the holidays to miss a dose or 2 but this can have some significant consequences especially during stress times. MAKE sure to give the meds as directed. n

Benefits of Salmon Oil

By Pam Robbins

Salmon oil contains Omega -3 fatty acids. These fatty acids have the power to stop the inflammatory reactions in the body. For those of us with Pei who have Shar Pei fever (which is an auto-inflammatory response) stopping the inflammatory reaction is absolutely necessary. Salmon is an excellent source of high quality protein, containing all essential amino acids. It is rich in minerals and contains vitamins A, D, B6, B12 and Vitamin E. It is also a powerful antioxidant and will lower the risk of heart disease and cancer. Dog foods today have added Omega 3's and 6's. The ratio should be twice the amount of Omega 6 to Omega 3's. However, I do not believe that the amount of Omega 3 present in most dog food is enough. I give my dogs additional salmon oil daily. I buy the type that must be kept in the refrigerator. If it smells rancid don't use it. If you are giving capsules, open one of the capsules and smell the oil. Does it smell like the ocean and fresh and not stinky? If it smells bad it is probably rancid. n



Fearful or Aggressive?

By Pam Robbins

Most of us have had the experience of meeting a dog who isn't quite friendly. He shows body language that tells you that he is wary of you and not trusting. Some dogs go so far as to bark and growl. Is this aggression or is it

fear? Well the first thing to point out here is that it doesn't matter whether it is fear or aggression since both can cause a dog to bite. When meeting a new dog for the first time, it is very important that you do not threaten the dog. Threaten in dog world is taken differently than in the people world. Here are some guidelines when first meeting a strange dog:

- Don't stare them straight in the eyes. This is a direct challenge to a dog.
- Don't try to pet them especially over the head. Dogs are very defensive about their heads and some can take this as a major threat.
- Turn your body to the side and let the dog come to you. Give him a few minutes to smell and accept you.
- Offer treats if you have them- well come prepared if you know you are meeting a new dog.
- Stay calm and assertive and don't be fearful. It really is true that dogs can smell fear.
- If you are not confident meeting the dog – don't. You risk getting bit if you force the encounter.

A fearful dog quickly learns aggressive behavior to ward off danger. A fearful dog lacks confidence. Since our dogs come from a varied background and most not in a good way, we need to work extra hard to get rid of the fear. To build confidence in a dog, you need to train and socialize. Yes I know we own Shar Pei but training can be done. I have two who love to train and come running when I bring out the clicker and the treats. If your Pei is not food motivated, train and treat instead of a meal or train and reward with a toy that they love. Just the positive experience and the fun of it will bring your Pei back for more. There are a myriad ways of training your dog to build confidence; agility, targeting, clicker training etc. MACSPRO has asked a professional training to write an article about clicker training and you will see it in the next issue. If you are interested in changing your dog's fearfulness into a happy confident dog before this article comes out in the next newsletter, Karen Pryor's Clicker Training book is a wonderful start. Clicker training is done in 5 minute sessions and is done with a positive attitude and fun. Haven't you found that learning something in a fun environment is much better than in a negative one? If you need help getting started, give Pam Robbins a call and she'll be happy to give you some starting techniques. n

Shar-Pei and Hyaluronan

by Dr. Laura Tintle, DVM

Wrinkles = Shar-Pei, Wrinkles are the one characteristic that is universally associated with the breed. But why are Shar-Pei wrinkled?

Wrinkles = Hyaluronosis. Shar-Pei look wrinkled because they have abnormally large amounts of hyaluronan (HA),

chiefly in their skin and bloodstream. Mucin, a clear sticky gel, is primarily hyaluronan. For fellow biochemistry enthusiasts, HA is a repeating disaccharide composed of D-glucuronic acid and D-N-acetylglucosamine linked together by -1,4 and -1,3 glycosidic bonds.

Shar-Pei have significantly increased amounts of HA in the extracellular matrix, as well as increased HA in their blood serum (as much as 20 times normal). Shar-Pei are presumed to have a defect in the metabolism of HA which leads to increased production of HA.

The extracellular matrix (ECM) is the material in between cells that provides support, separation and anchorage to cells, protects against compression, and regulates inter-cellular communication as well as many other important functions including growth and wound healing. HA is a key component of the ECM.

Fibroblasts are the body's "sculptor" cells. They are not fixed and can migrate through the ECM. They produce HA, collagen and the other components of the ECM. Inflammation stimulates them to reproduce and aids wound healing.

Fibroblasts use hyaluronan synthase to make HA. Hyaluronan synthases are membrane-bound enzymes which produce the non-sulfated glycosaminoglycan HA on the fibroblast cell surface and extrude it through the membrane into the extracellular space.

Hyaluronan can be an amorphous goo or it may form into cables. It can be in a "normal" high molecular weight, very large molecule (HMW-HA) or it can be formed or degraded to low molecular weight fragments (LMW-HA). The higher the molecular weight, the more viscous it is. HA is the clay used by the sculpting fibroblasts.

Hyaluronan is important in the healthy kidney. HA is abundant in the renal medulla, but practically absent in the renal cortex.

In the medulla, HA is expressed in the extracellular interstitium, not in the renal tubules. HA is vital to concentrating urine and retaining water prior to elimination from the body. The long HA chains form sticky compressible sponges that rhythmically expand and contract and occupy large volumes of water. These networks of HA bind cations like calcium and retain these important minerals within the body.

HA also helps protect against dehydration by holding water inside the blood stream.

Shar-Pei are uniquely predisposed to medullary amyloidosis: in Shar-Pei with amyloidosis, amyloid is usually deposited first in this inner area of the kidney that is naturally rich in HA.

Other dogs that develop reactive systemic amyloidosis due to massive infection, cancer or other severe chronic inflammation initially deposit amyloid in the outer renal cortex.

Hyaluronan is active in innate immunity and plays important roles including signaling "Danger" and assists in moving cells into damaged or infected tissues.

HMW-HA is sensed by receptors on epithelial cells, maintaining the integrity of the epithelium by preventing apoptosis or programmed cell death. Its healthy big HMW state is an "all is well" signal.

If LMW-HA fragments are generated, the balance shifts away from HMW-HA. LMW-HA is a "Danger" signal for receptors, resulting in inflammation.

HMW-HA protects tissues and allows for repair whereas LMW-HA provokes inflammation and causes injury. HA also facilitates the recruitment and movement of lymphocytes to the sites of inflammation.

In cutaneous mucinosis, HA is deposited in abnormally large amounts in the ECM. In some Shar-Pei, the quantities are so extreme that the HA forms lakes & vesicles in the skin with the appearance of "bubble" or packing wrap.

Skin is thin and fragile. A scientific paper published in February, 2008 describes the serum HA levels in the "normal" dog vs. Shar-Pei with and without clinical cutaneous mucinosis. Control dogs had serum HA levels of 155 -302 (similar to the ~ 120 I/g L-1 that is normal in people).

Shar-Pei without mucinosis: 107-1252. Shar-Pei with clinical mucinosis: 844 - 2330. LMW-HA (damaged HA fragments) induces the cytokine interleukin-6 (IL-6) while HMW-HA does not. IL-6 is one of the most important mediators of fever and the acute phase response by the liver.

LMW-HA activates inflammatory cytokine production and IL-6 is secreted. IL-6 signals the liver to secrete the acute phase reactant proteins including Serum Amyloid P component and Serum Amyloid A (the ingredients for amyloidosis) that amplify the inflammatory response.

Acute phase proteins lead to the production of enzymes that degrade the ECM, creating more LMW-HA and more IL-6 that further amplifies inflammation and contributes to chronicity. LMW-HA amplifies the damage from an inflammatory insult.

Hyaluronosis has been reported as a rare mutation in humans and elevated serum HA levels have been identified in other breeds of dogs as well as some sheep breeds. By selecting for dogs with more wrinkling, Shar-Pei breeders selected for increased hyaluronan.

Unfortunately, HA has both good and bad effects. There are multiple reasons for Shar-Pei health disorders and damaged LMW- HA may act as one amplifier of inflammation. My next article will delve deeper into this and other causes of autoinflammation in Shar-Pei and how autoinflammation affects Shar-Pei health HA turns over rapidly in the body. HA is circulated through and longevity. the lymphatic system to the lymph nodes and then to the liver. Receptors that bind HA line the lymphatics (LYVE-1 receptors). Damaged LMW-HA is pro-inflammatory.

LMW-HA may be responsible for the lymphangitis syndrome that leads to lymphedema in some Shar-Pei causing extremely severe chronically swollen fluid-filled hocks.

Corticosteroids shut down the production of HA by hyaluronan synthase.

Fibroblasts stop producing HA when steroids are present. Stress triggers the release of steroids like cortisol into the bloodstream. Stress from illness including high fever can cause Shar-Pei to experience loss of wrinkling and shrunken muzzle. Steroidal medications can also stop HA production and shrink the face and wrinkles (prednisone, dexamethasone, hydrocortisone, etc.).

Large molecules of HA (HMW- HA) support health and are protective and healing. They hold water in the vascular space and protect against dehydration. HMW-HA blocks UVB damage and lubricates and cushions joints and other structures.

It promotes cell growth and migration and is important in every organ and system of the body. HA is essential to normal function and reproduction.

Hyaluronan synthases have also been associated with the increased production of HA that enhances the spread of malignant cancer cells.

Linda jM. Tintle DVM, is based in Wurtsboro, New York. She can be reached at wvc@warwick.net

Our Newsletter and a Plea...

We have a lot of email addresses so that we can send newsletters and other important information out to our MACSPRO family and friends but we still have a list of nearly 80 names with no email addresses. The cost of printing hardcopies and mailing via the U.S. Post Office has just become a cost we can't continue to bear. So, please, if you have received this in hard copy, we need your help. We know that most of you have a computer with an email address. If you do, won't you please provide us that address so we can add you to our contact list and eliminate the need to print? Just send an email to saveapei@gmail.com and say you are part of the MACSPRO family and friends and you will be added. n

Are you a Fan?

More and more people are becoming addicted to FaceBook so MACSPRO decided to jump on that bandwagon to get a little more "face" time with the masses to advertise our dogs and our mission. Go to www.facebook.com and search for Mid-Atlantic Chinese Shar-Pei Rescue Operation. Join our cause on FaceBook. n

MACSPRO 2010 Calendars are Available

Per our tradition, we have created a calendar to show case a number of our rescues. The calendar is created from pictures you send us. For the past few years, we have used CafePress. This year we are using Shutterfly because we prefer the look and quality and we hope you will agree. Go to:

<http://www.macspro.org/2010%20calendar.pdf> to get a peek at what the calendar will look like. Keep in mind that the quality is much better when printed. The cost is \$19.99 + \$5.99 for shipping for a total of \$25.98. This is an opportunity for you to enjoy our parade of rescues throughout 2010 and to help MACSPRO at the same time. For ordering, please send an email to saveapei@gmail.com with the address you want the calendar sent to and how many you want. You can either send a check to .P.O. Box 34034, Bethesda, MD 20827 made out to MACSPRO or you can pay using PayPal. For using PayPal, go to www.macspro.org and from the **Donations** page select **Using PayPay**. Be sure to click on the link to Add special instructions to the seller and include your address for mailing and how many you want to order. Once we receive your payment, the order will be placed and the calendar sent. Shipping for two calendars is \$8.99, for three calendars it is \$10.99 and then add \$2 for each additional calendar ordered. 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: _____

Last chance to pay your MACSPRO membership for 2009. 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



Brad



Deja



Chip



Lily



Zoey



China

Adopt me now!



Sedona