



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

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A 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to the rehabilitation and adoption of purebred Chinese Shar Pei

Quarterly Newsletter

July 2014

Volume XLVIII

~ Meet the Adoptable Class of July 2014 ~

Rex is our big boy coming in from Brooklyn, NY. He may be big but he's full of love.



Paris is a lovely gal from Brooklyn, NYC. She is tiny and full of playful energy! Ready to play?!?!



**Donation Alert!!!
Please Help Jenny!**



Jenny

Jenny was hit by a car and left on the street. A good Samaritan picked her up unconscious and took her to a vet. She just had surgery and will have a long road to recovery. But Jenny is a trooper and we will take this day by day.

Please consider a donation to help with her medical expenses!!!



Stella

Stella is an OriPei from NYC! She had to have surgery, but is now on the mends and doing very well! Would you consider cuddling this sweet girl back into tip-top condition?



Bear

Bear is a cute boy from Kentucky! Isn't he just the sweetest little guy? He is awaiting transport and will be with us very shortly!



Sunshine

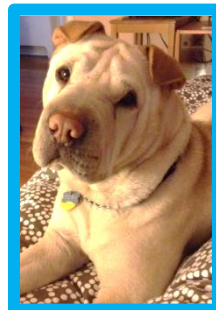
Sunshine came in from Danville, WV as a growing pup. She is currently being fostered, but still awaiting her furever home.

Can't decide to adopt right now?

Please consider fostering one of our Shar Pei or send us a donation to help us continue to save these darling dogs!



Please think of us
for your next charitable donation



Donations made to MACSPRO are tax deductible and can be conveniently made via check or credit/debit card. Every dollar we receive will directly feed, house, or benefit one of our lucky pei.

The generous support of you, our community, keeps us running and we sincerely thank you. Please print off the following form and mail in a gift or click the link to donate online.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Contribution enclosed: _____

Web site: (www.macspro.org)

Mailing address:

MACSPRO

P.O. BOX 34034

BETHESDA, MD 20827



National Capital Area CFC
Potomac CFC
Chesapeake Bay Area CFC

We are Combined Federal Campaign charity #38983. Please consider designating MACSPRO for your charitable donations.

Other easy ways to donate to MACSPRO



iGive.com®

DO YOU SHOP ONLINE?

Join iGive.com to support MACSPRO.

iGive is a free service to causes and members. iGive really is as simple as it sounds. iGive members can generate donations by shopping at any of their 1,000+ stores. There are no costs, obligations, nor any hidden fees.

SHOPPING: It's all automatic! You don't need to enter any codes, notify the store, or iGive. When iGive members shop via our special links (starting at the **iGive.com** web site), tracking enables iGive to identify the purchases of each individual iGive member with a member ID number. Causes always receive 100% of the donation amount which is advertised on our web site (iGive.com receives fees separately from the amounts that go to the cause).



Search the web with GoodSearch.com and each time you do a search, goodsearch will donate about a penny to our cause!

Shop online at GoodShop.com and a percentage of each purchase will be donated to our cause!



The Animal Rescue Site provides food and care for a rescued animal living in a shelter or sanctuary.

****Upcoming Events****

July 19, 11 am – 2:00 pm

Unleashed by Petco

Location: 3134 Olney Sandy Spring Rd,
Olney, MD 20832. Call Jeanne if you can
help 301-774-0878

August 9, 11 am – 2 pm

***Clippers Canine Cafe in Historic
Savage Mill***

Location: 8600 Foundry St Ste 2029,
Savage, MD. Call David or Arlene if you
can help 240-538-0252



September 27, 10 am – 3 pm

***Animal Advocates Walk for Paws
and Pet Festival***

Location: Lake Elkhorn in Columbia, MD.
Call Jeanne if you can help us
301-774-0878



October 12, 11 am – 3 pm

Paws in the Vineyard

Location: Spyglass Ridge Winery 105
Carroll Road Sunbury, PA 17801.

Call Denise if you can help
570-916-3020

See their website at

<http://www.pawsinthevineyard.com>



October 18, 12 – 5 pm

5th Annual Howl-o-Wine Fundraiser

Location: Sugarloaf Mountain
Vineyard, Dickerson, MD. Call Betty if
you want to come or help
301-537-6179



October 25, 11am – 4pm

(Rain date is October 26th)

BARCStoberfest: 10th Anniversary

Location: Baltimore's Patterson Park
Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care
Shelter (BARCS) hosts its 10th annual
pet festival – BARCStoberfest! Over
4,000 people and their pets will be
on-site to enjoy food, entertainment
and animal activities ranging from pet
costume contests to micro-chipping.

Call Andrea if you can help

248-505-5529

Past Events

May 3—Yard Sale

with Sara, Joyce, Jeanne, Brian, Deborah and Allan

May 10—Bark in the Park

with Gandhi and his Pei Mom Savannah, Betty, Deborah, and Allan



May 17—Unleashed presentation to MACSPRO

with Carolyn, Betty, Jeanne, Lynn, and Keith



May 18—Frederick Co Div of Animal Control & Pet Adoption Center 14th Annual Open House with Betty

June 7—Grand opening of PetValue in Gaithersburg with Mayor Sidney A. Katz (Mayor of Gaithersburg) with Jeanne, Deborah and Allan



June 14—Clippers Canine Café Savage Mill with David, Arlene and Jeanne (Rex & Paris)



Rex enjoying a tummy rub!!!

Looking for a Shar-Pei Friendly Veterinarian?

We recommend these wonderful Veterinarians:

Dumfries Animal Hospital

Roger Nichols, DVM 17552 Main Street
Dumfries, VA 22026 Phone: (703) 221 1880

Web: <http://www.dumfriesanimalhospital.com>

Laytonsville Veterinary Practice & Sundown Kennels

Claire Godwin, DVM 5910 Sundown Road Laytonsville,
MD 20882 Phone: (301) 948-0158

Web: <http://www.laytonsvillevetpractice.com>

Nebel Street Animal Hospital

Douglass Hambricht, VMD 12100 Nebel Street
Rockville, MD 20852 Phone: (301) 230-6595

Old Mill Veterinary Hospital

Jessica E. Plant, DVM 91 Lawson Rd. SE
Leesburg, VA 20175 Phone: (703) 779-2903

Web: <http://www.oldmillpets.com>

Route 140 Veterinary Hospital

Earle W. Flick, DVM 2866 Baltimore Boulevard
Finksburg, MD 21048 Phone: (410) 833-8646

Web: <http://www.route140vet.com>

Special thanks for your continued assistance with our special doggies!

Not able to adopt right now?

Consider helping with events and socializing with our Pei!

Hyaluronosis, Familial Shar-Pei Fever and Amyloidosis

Author: Linda J.M. Tintle DVM

This is a great article recently published in *The Barker Newsletter* from the Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America, reprinted here with permission from the author. (Please see the full article at www.macspro.org/drtintle.html)

Familial Shar-Pei Fever is a very serious condition and all Pei owners and advocates should be educated on the basics facts and how we can treat and prevent its onset.

Hereditary Cutaneous Hyaluronosis (HCH):

Shar-Pei over-express Hyaluronic Acid Synthase 2 (HAS2). Excess hyaluronan (HA) leads to their unique skin thickening and wrinkles because of a regulatory mutation. The mutation is a duplication that occurs in multiple copies. Individual Shar-Pei dogs vary in the number of copies of this mutation from dog to dog. The mutation is a copy number variant or “CNV”.

Excess hyaluronan (the main component of “mucin”) may form vesicles or bubbles in the fragile skin. Hyaluronan health is integral to Shar-Pei health. Damaged or degraded low molecular weight hyaluronan is a “damage associated molecular pattern” (DAMP), a danger signal that can activate the innate immune system. Native high molecular weight HA is health promoting and healing. You may improve Shar-Pei health by preventing or offsetting damage to their abundant HA.

Familial Shar-Pei Fever (FSF) is a periodic fever syndrome that is characterized by random inflammatory events with high fever, sometimes with swelling about joint/s or muzzle, that usually last 12-36 hrs. FSF is an autoinflammatory syndrome (not autoimmune).

Their underlying genetic defect is an unstable duplication in a regulatory gene upstream of Hyaluronan Synthase 2 (HAS2) that is described as the “meatmouth” mutation in our March 2011 article published in *PLoS genetics*.

Original, traditional-type Shar-Pei with less padded muzzles, less skin thickening and wrinkling have a slightly different mutation (“traditional”) in this same location. The “meatmouth” mutation appears to predispose Shar-Pei (and some Shar-Pei mixed breeds) to inappropriate inflammatory responses. All Shar-Pei carry at least two copies of the mutated regulatory element. Shar-Pei may have abnormal initiation and also amplification of inflammation as a result of this genetic copy number variant (CNV) mutation. This may result in chronic elevations of inflammatory chemical messengers in the bloodstream. They may over-react to infection and damage. The greater the number of copies of the mutation present in the dog, the more reactive inflammation may result when HAS2 is up-regulated. Increased number of mutated copies (higher CNV) has been shown to be associated with increased risk for FSF and amyloidosis. Hyaluronan is endogenously degraded and turned over rapidly: in hours, days, or weeks depending on its location in the body. The breakdown of their excessive HA into fragments for routine elimination may also contribute to autoinflammation.

A copy number variation (CNV) occurs when the number of copies of a particular gene varies from one individual to the next. A gene is the functional unit of inheritance on a DNA sequence.

Low molecular weight fragments of hyaluronan both activate and prime the inflammasome leading to the release of IL-1beta and then IL-6, two major drivers of fever and inflammation. Mutations leading to aberrant inflammasome function have been associated with the human autoinflammatory syndromes Familial Mediterranean Fever (FMF), TRAPS, CAPS and gout.



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Health News

Hyaluronosis, Familial Shar-Pei Fever and Amyloidosis

Author: Linda J.M. Tintle DVM
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Shar-Pei with Familial Shar-Pei Fever (FSF) may:

- Have one or more bouts of unexplained fever, usually 103-107 degrees F (39.4-41.7°C) but rare cases may go higher. Fever greater than 106 degrees is a medical emergency and owners should seek veterinary treatment for the hyperthermia.

Without fever, it is NOT "classic" FSF.

(Assuming not on colchicine & supplements).

- Fevers usually start before they are 18 months old but adult-onset attacks are not uncommon. Fever episodes usually become less frequent with age.
- Fever episodes last 24-36 hours in most cases without treatment. It is possible for the fever events to be brief, lasting only a few hours.

One or more of the following signs may accompany fever episodes:

- Swelling around a joint with or without inflammation of the joint itself. One or more joints may be affected but most cases involve the tibiotarsal or hock joint (swollen hock syndrome). Of the dogs that had experienced periodic fever episodes, approximately 53% had experienced swollen hock/s at some time along with the fever when owners at the CSPCA National Specialty were surveyed in 1994. Be careful not to mistake the normal "socks" (excess wrinkling around the hocks) on some individual Shar-Pei for the acute swelling that occurs surrounding the hock during or around the time of a fever episode. Sometimes a swollen painful muzzle.
- Abdominal pain, reluctance to move, "roached" back, mild vomiting or diarrhea, shallow rapid breathing. The proinflammatory cascade give the dogs flu-like symptoms and similar discomfort.

- CBC blood test will usually show neutrophilia (although neutropenia may occur early in the course), and often monocytosis due to activation of neutrophil and monocyte chemotaxis. Shar-Pei with FSF may have elevated alkaline phosphatase, hypercholesterolemia, hypomagnesemia, hyperglobulinemia and slight elevations in total bilirubin on blood chemistry panel. Thrombocytosis is common on routine blood work and platelet activation may be significantly involved in the inflammatory cascade.

Amyloidosis is a disease caused by abnormal deposition of the breakdown products of chronic inflammation in the extracellular matrix (between cells). The severity of disease and risk for amyloidosis will vary with the amount of inflammation initiated and the autoinflammatory over-reaction. The chronic background inflammation puts affected dogs at risk for developing reactive systemic amyloidosis which can lead to early death from kidney failure.

Not every dog with FSF will develop amyloidosis but the fevers are a warning sign that they have aberrant autoinflammation and are at high risk for kidney disease. Shar-Pei with FSF can live to over 10 yrs of age. Two of my mother's Shar-Pei lived to 12 ½ and 15 ½ years respectively with lifelong FSF and this is not uncommon in my patients. By doing everything you can to reduce their chronic inflammation and monitor their disease, you can help them live their best possible lives - however long that may be. Unfortunately, a combination of genetic predisposition (increased CNV) and environmental influences may lead to early death from kidney or, more rarely, liver failure due to amyloidosis in some individuals.



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Health News

Hyaluronosis, Familial Shar-Pei Fever and Amyloidosis

Author: Linda J.M. Tintle DVM
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The diagnosis of Shar-Pei Fever is made after ruling out other causes of fever with diagnostic tests indicated by the dog's condition but a minimum baseline of first morning urinalysis, CBC, chemistry profile, T4, +/- panel for tick-borne diseases is common. Other tests, including those for autoimmune disorders, may be needed. It is a diagnosis by exclusion at this time. I am collaborating with Dr. Kerstin Lindblad-Toh and Mia Olsson on a genetic test using the CNV mutation and other potentially modifying genes that is currently in development and undergoing validation studies at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard and Uppsala University in Sweden. A commercial test that is accurate, meaningful and useful to veterinarians, Shar-Pei owners, and breeders is the goal of the on-going study.

Because fever events are a marker for the presence of autoinflammatory disease, therapy should be started early to prevent complications. Some dogs have only one observed fever event yet die prematurely from amyloidosis – the number and frequency of fever events does not correlate with the severity of underlying chronic inflammation. In rare instances, dogs may die of amyloidosis without any observed fever events or may have their first fever after going into kidney failure.

My current treatment recommendations for Shar-Pei Fever include 0.025-0.03 mg/kg of **colchicine** twice daily or less to bowel tolerance. I recommend that the dog be started on a low dose once daily and then gradually increased to the maximum recommended amount (up to the calculated dose above) as tolerated without diarrhea once or twice daily. For most average weight Shar-Pei, this is one 0.6 mg tablet given twice daily. Colchicine is a potent drug but it accumulates in white blood cells (the desired target for treatment) and GI signs occur long before other serious side-effects.

Colchicine treats the underlying pathology by blocking the movement of neutrophils (one of the white blood cells), decreasing levels of cytokines (the messengers of inflammation), interfering with mast cell degranulation and blocking the formation of amyloid protein (a waste by-product of inflammation). Treatment is for life. I have been using the drug since 1993 and have had individual patients on the drug safely for over 10 yrs. Some dogs cannot tolerate colchicine without chronic diarrhea and they are given smaller amounts or none if it is severe. Colchicine and cyclosporine should not be given together because of increased risk of bone marrow suppression. (For more information about colchicine see Dr. Tintle's full article and webpage)

I treat the fever events with 50% dipyrone (500 mg/ml) injectable (usually 0.5-1.0 ml/dog under the skin), or meloxicam (Metacam®), a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug or NSAID (by weight per package insert instructions). Dipyrone is an IL-1 beta inhibitor that is available from compounding pharmacists as injectable or in oral suspension or may be purchased over-the-counter in many non-U.S. countries. Aspirin has also been reported to be effective. Some fevers are very serious and can require emergency veterinary treatment if they approach or exceed 106 degrees F (41° C). Shar-Pei owners should discuss treatment of acute fever events with their veterinarian because treating the fever as early as possible in the inflammatory cascade can often stop it from becoming life-threatening and it is best to have medication available on-hand at home. Avoid giving NSAIDs with corticosteroids like prednisone and your veterinarian should be alerted your dog is vomiting because gastric ulcers can be a common complication.

Some fever events may be initiated by **infection**. If the fever is severe, persistent and/or poorly responsive to anti-fever drugs like dipyrone, aspirin or NSAIDs, there may be an underlying infection that needs treatment. Veterinary care

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Health News

Hyaluronosis, Familial Shar-Pei Fever and Amyloidosis

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should be sought whenever the fever is severe, worse than usual for that dog, lasts longer than 48 hrs or is not responding to anti-inflammatory medication. In rare instances, a neutrophilic vasculitis and/or septic shock-like syndrome (STSS) with necrotic skin sloughing can occur. The latter is often associated with bacterial hyaluronidases that break down the abundant mucin in Shar-Pei skin. This can be life-threatening and even fatal.

Your Shar-Pei should get regular and routine monitoring of first morning urine with urinalysis (UA) as well as a CBC, blood chemistry profile and T4. Urine Specific Gravity at or below 1.020 is often the first sign of Shar-Pei kidney trouble and, if present, the UA should be repeated to see if the dog has a consistently low specific gravity. Medullary amyloidosis is the most common kidney disorder in Shar-Pei and proteinuria is usually a late-stage event. Urine protein levels should also be monitored and a urine protein to creatinine ratio performed if proteinuria is found on routine UA. FSF patients should be examined and tests performed whenever they are not eating normally, if they are vomiting, having diarrhea for more than a few days, acting sick in any way or if they are just "not right". The bare minimum is annually in the healthy active young dog and many dogs should be checked more often.

In addition, Shar-Pei are prone to mast cell disease including mast cell tumors. The binding of HA to its receptor CD44 has been shown to play a critical role in regulation of murine cutaneous and connective tissue mast cell proliferation. It appears that CD44-HA regulates resident cutaneous mast cell populations. As the CD44-HA interaction may modulate local immune responses through regulation of mast cell functions, excessive HA and its subsequent damage and degradation may also play a role in the breed's predilection for allergic skin disease and other mast cell driven inflammation.

Corticosteroids (for example medications like prednisone or dexamethasone) or cortisol produced by the dog's body during stress (this may happen during a high fever or when ill) can shut down the production of hyaluronan by HAS2. These steroids may shrink the Shar-Pei's muzzle and they may lose wrinkles. Very low dose prednisone is sometimes used for this reason to treat severe vesicular cutaneous hyaluronosis (bubbles of mucin in skin) or lymphedema of the hocks (chronic swelling due to fluid buildup). A Shar-Pei that has a suddenly shrunken muzzle for no apparent reason should get a full physical exam and lab tests.

Addressing Hyaluronosis (the downside to Shar-Pei Wrinkles):

- 1. Feed a High Quality diet**
- 2. High dose omega 3 fatty acids** from fish oil daily.
- 3. Lecithin:** 1-2 Tbsp of granules (7.5 – 15 grams) per day in food
- 4. HyVitality®:** a formulation of my recommended vitamins, minerals, antioxidants and phytochemicals that were chosen for their HA health promoting effects
- 5. Vitamin C,** 250mg. Shar-Pei with excess HA may need more antioxidants like Vitamin C
- 6. Ensure Adequate Vitamin D3**
- 7. Glucosamine and Chondroitin Sulfate**
- 8. Monitor Thyroid Function**
- 9. Probiotics and attention to bowel health.**
- 10. Fanatical attention to skin and ear issues.**
- 11. Low dose 81 mg aspirin:** ¼ - ½ tablet per day in dogs with no signs of gastric upset
- 12. Detect problems early:** Your veterinarian should see your Shar-Pei regularly for a complete physical examination

Eliminating inflammatory triggers, supporting healthy hyaluronan, reducing silent chronic inflammation wherever possible, providing good nourishment and playful daily exercise are key to Shar-Pei health.

Note: This article was reproduced with permission from the author and was intentionally edited to be shorter, but the content and message were not changed.

Please see the full article at www.macspro.org/drtintle.html

RESCUES & ADOPTIONS since November, 2013:

(those marked with an * are still available)

All of our dogs are spayed or neutered prior to adoption (health/age permitting); have been heartworm tested, parasite tested, and had all necessary shots. Injuries or other health conditions have been treated and any known health issues will be fully disclosed prior to adoption/fostering

China is our kennel dog at Debendale. She is quite special, loves her treats and special care from Marge and Kim.

Fulton 467-13 decided he loved his foster Sis Sweet Pea and his Foster Mom Charlene so much that he didn't want to look for a new home. He was in it all the time.

Bella 474-13 our a beautiful loveable crème Pei found her forever home in Pittsburgh.

Cora 479-13 aka Bear our cute HW positive girl was fostered and treated in Atlanta, brought up to us and found her home even farther north in Delaware.

Wilbur 486-13 will always be a special needs Pei, but he tries very hard and loves his people!!! He is in his forever home in Baltimore.

Alfie 487-13, decided to make foster brother Riley a life-time playmate.

Ming 492-13 was found to have Mass Cell Cancer. Operation only spread it faster, so her foster family kept her safe and happy until the end.

Magic 493-13 came to us from Griffin, Georgia, went into foster with the Sterenbergers and shortly thereafter fell in love with their young daughter.

Opie 494 -14 came to us from Fairfax and after a little refresher training from trainer Mike Kitchen of Executive K-9 found his home in Washington, D.C. with Tom and Kate.

Payton 495-14 aka Baloo from Montgomery County, MD found his home with a great family in Taneytown, MD.

Shivers 496-14 aka Bonnie aka Coco and **Wrinklez 497-14** aka Maggie came to us as young puppies from Butts County, Georgia. Shivers soon found a home in Baltimore, and Maggie found her home with Pei brother and sister Michael and Sophie.



*Squeaky
clean after
bath time!
Looking
good
Kenny!
(MACSPRO
alumni 2013)*



*"Won't you be my
forever family?"
~Bear*

(Available for adoption!)

Scrappy 498-14 aka Peiton was found to have Demodectic mange (non-contagious) so he was treated in West Virginia before we brought him up and soon found a great home in Washington, D.C.

Tonka 499-14, our very special blind boy from Pennsylvania, was adopted by a very caring gentleman from Alexandria.

Skittles 500-14 came in to us from Upper Marlboro, MD and soon found her forever home.

Paris* 501-14 is a petite girl from New York. She is friendly, playful and would love a home of her own.

Sunshine* 502-14 is a young girl from West Virginia and is in foster in the Laurel area.

Nikko 503-14 From Fayetteville, NC was quickly taken to New York State to life with MACSPRO sister Chloe.

Leon 504-14 came to us from New York City. He was already in chronic Renal failure.

Rex* 505-14 from the Bronx, is a gentle playful boy that would love to have kids to rub his tummy and play with.

Lady 506-14 and **Chunk 507-14** from Baltimore, living in a crated environment are now loving the freedom of Pei friends and long walks. Lady went back to the Baltimore area to live and Chunk is now living in Buffalo, NY.

Stella* is an OriPei from NYC! She had to have surgery, but is now on the mends and doing very well! Would you consider cuddling this sweet girl back into tip-top condition?

Jenny* was hit by a car and left on the street. A good Samaritan picked her up unconscious and rushed her to a vet. She has a fractured pelvis which required surgery. But Jenny is a trooper, she is trying to walk on it and we will take this day by day.

Bear* is from western Kentucky and is currently getting up to date on all his shots. He will be ready for transport to Maryland soon! Such an adorable and sweet face on this guy!

GUARDIAN ANGELS

Donors to MACSPRO
from January-June 2014

Lydia Blank
Debra Bowman
Deborah Charsha-May and Allan May
Bethany Doupe
Lauren Dworkin
David Gadbow
Joyce Hanes
Brandi Harris-Molin
Jeanne and Brian Johnson
Joseph Lorenz
Jessica Logan
Amanda Mathews
Rita Padden
Susan Pratt
Beverly Sparks
Michael Stambaugh
Tanya Thomas
Eric Turner
David Yost and Arlen Chen

***Thank you for your generous support!
We couldn't do it without you!***

*A special thank you to Savannah and her students
at Frederick Elementary for helping us with our
thank you notes to our Guardian Angels!*



*"My sunshine doesn't come
from the skies, it comes from
the love in my dog's eyes."
~Anonymous*

MACSPRO



The Mid-Atlantic Chinese Shar-Pei Rescue Operation (MACSPRO) is a privately funded 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the rehabilitation and adoption of purebred Chinese Shar-Pei. MACSPRO relies *solely* on donations and fund raising activities in order to raise income to be able to help save these wonderful Shar-Pei who, through no fault of their own, need new forever homes. Your entire donation is used for the benefit of the dogs and may be tax deductible. In addition to donations, we are continuously in need of committed volunteers who can help foster, transport and socialize with our dogs until they are able to be matched with their forever home.

Officers and Board of Directors

President: Jeanne Johnson

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Secretary and Events Coordinator:
Betty Trojan

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Webster, & Maurice Willis

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Allan May

Website Administrators:
David Yost & Arlene Chen

Newsletter Editors:
Andrea Benedict &
Ben Greenstein

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