IMPORTANT! – PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

FEED A NATURAL LAMB & RICE ADULT FORMULA
ADD WARM WATER TO EACH FEEDING. MAY ADD 2-3 TABLESPOONS OF
CANNED LAMB & RICE TO THE EVENING MEAL

GIVE VITAMIN C (BUY 500 MG. HUMAN VIT. C) EACH DAY

USE “MISSING LINK FOR DOGS” AS A VITAMIN SUPPLEMENT – ADD TO EVENING MEAL

USE NUSAL-T SHAMPOO (ALLERGROOM) OR CHLORHEXIDERM SHAMPOO MAX 4% (DVM PHARM., INC)
OBTAIN FROM YOUR VET, OR FROM REVIVAL ANIMAL HEALTH (www.revivalanimal.com) or (800) 786-4751
NUSAL-T #27-152 (12 OZ); CHLORHEXIDERM #27-364 (12 OZ) or #27-366 (GALLON)
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cover Page</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table of Contents</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puppy Registration</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Shar-Pei Standard</td>
<td>5 - 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeding</td>
<td>7 - 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye Care</td>
<td>10 - 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ear Care</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nail Care</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mouth Care</td>
<td>14 - 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin Care</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccinations</td>
<td>18 - 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parasites (Worms)</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious Health Problems</td>
<td>22 - 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books About Shar-Pei</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTRODUCTION

CARING FOR YOUR CHINESE SHAR-PEI

This booklet has been written to help you care for your new Chinese Shar-Pei. The following material has been gathered from my experience as well as from the current literature available on Shar-Pei. It is not meant to be representative of every situation that might arise, but does reflect my opinions and those of other breeders of this unique dog.

In the back of this pamphlet, page 25, you will find a list of current books specific to the Shar-Pei which you may wish to read in order to improve your knowledge.
REGISTERING YOUR PUPPY

The Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America previously registered the Shar-Pei; however, since August, 1992 the American Kennel Club issues registrations. Registration verifies that the animal is purebred and that it is recognized by the registering authority as such. Each registering body has specific qualifications (and/or disqualifications) required for the breed of dog being registered.

The registration form that I provided you should be completed with the animal’s name, which you have chosen, and the form must be signed by you on each line marked with an ‘X’. This form, accompanied by a check or money order, should be sent to the indicated address. Within six weeks you should receive your official registration certificate. If such notification has not been received by that time, you should notify AKC to inform them that you have not yet received your registration acknowledgment. It is advisable to keep a copy of the completed registration form (both sides) in case of mail loss or loss of the actual AKC certificate.

At the time of registration, for an additional fee, you may request a four-generation pedigree for both the mother and the father of the puppy. This information is beneficial if you intend to breed your puppy at some point in time.
THE CHINESE SHAR-PEI STANDARD

Each breed of dogs has a standard that is used to describe those attributes considered to be optimal for that specific breed. On the following page is the current standard that you can use as a tool to evaluate your puppy as it approaches adulthood. Puppies who do not reflect this standard by the age of one year should not be used for breeding if one is to maintain the quality of the breed.

If you wish to know more about the Shar-Pei breed, I suggest you join the Shar-Pei Club of America. This membership is renewable on a yearly basis and provides you with a free subscription to “The Barker.” The Barker is the official publication of the Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America and is published every three months. It is a magazine containing articles and pictures about today’s Shar-Pei. It provides a valuable resource for becoming more knowledgeable about the breed. When you receive your official AKC registration, a form will be enclosed to enable you to join the club. You can view the Chinese Shar-Pei Club’s website at www.cspca.com for valuable information concerning the breed.
An alert, compact dog of medium size and substance; square in profile, close-coupled; the well proportioned head slightly, but not overly large for the body. The short, harsh coat, the loose skin covering the head and body, the small ears, the “hippopotamus” muzzle shape and the high set tail impart to the Shar-Pei a unique look peculiar to him alone. The loose skin and wrinkles covering the head, neck and body are superabundant in puppies but these features may be limited to the head, neck and withers in the adult.

The preferred height is 18 to 20 inches at the withers. The weight is 40 to 60 pounds. The dog is usually larger and more square bodied than the bitch but both appear well proportioned. Proportion: The height of the Shar-Pei from the ground to the withers is approximately equal to the length from the point of breastbone to the point of rump.

HEAD and SKULL- The head is large, slightly, but not overly, proudly carried and covered with profuse wrinkles on the forehead continuing into side wrinkles framing the face. Eyes - dark, small, almond-shaped and sunken, displaying a scowling expression. In the dilute colored dogs the eye color may be lighter. Ears - extremely small, rather thick, equilateral triangles in shape, slightly rounded at the tips; edges of the ear may curl. Ears lie flat against the head, are set high, wide apart and forward on the skull, pointing toward the eyes. The ears have the ability to move. A pricked ear is a disqualification. Skull - flat and broad, the stop moderately defined. Muzzle - one of the distinctive features of the breed. It is broad and full with no suggestion of snipiness. (The length from nose to stop is approximately the same as from stop to occiput). Nose - large and wide and darkly pigmented, preferably black but any color nose conforming to the general coat color of the dog is acceptable. In dilute colors, the preferred nose is self-colored. Darkly pigmented cream Shar-Pei may have some light pigment either in the center of the nose or on their entire nose. The lips and top of muzzle are well padded and may cause a slight bulge above the nose.

Tongue, Roof of Mouth, Gums and Flews - Solid bluish-black is preferred in all coat colors except in dilute colors, which have a solid lavender pigmentation. A spotted pink tongue is a major fault. A solid pink tongue is a disqualification. (Tongue colors may lighten due to heat stress; care must be taken not to confuse dilute pigmentation with a pink tongue.) Teeth - strong, meeting in a scissors bite. Deviation from a scissors bite is a major fault.

NECK, TOPLINE, BODY - Neck - medium length, full and set well into the shoulders. There are moderate to heavy folds of loose skin and abundant dewlap about the neck and throat. The topline dips slightly behind the withers, slightly rising over the short, broad loin. Chest - broad and deep with the brisket extending to the elbow and rising slightly under the loin. Back - short and close-coupled. Croup - flat, with the base of the tail set extremely high, clearly exposing an up-titled anus. Tail - the high set tail is a characteristic feature of the Shar-Pei. A low set tail shall be faulted. The tail is thick and round at the base, tapering to a fine point and curling over or to either side of the back. The absence of a complete tail is a disqualification.

FOREQUARTERS - Shoulders - muscular, well laid back and sloping. Forelegs - when viewed from the front, straight, moderately spaced, with elbows close to the body. When viewed from the side, the forelegs are straight, the pasterns are strong and flexible. The bone is substantial but never heavy and is of moderate length. Removal of front dewclaws is optional. Feet - moderate in size, compact and firmly set, not splayed.

HINDQUARTERS - Muscular, strong, and moderately angulated. The metatarsi (hocks) are short, perpendicular to the ground and parallel to each other when viewed from the rear. Hind dewclaws must be removed. Feet - as in the front.

COAT - The extremely harsh coat is one of the distinguishing features of the breed. The coat is absolutely straight and offstanding on the main trunk of the body but generally lies somewhat flatter on the limbs. The coat appears healthy without being shiny or lustrous. Acceptable coat lengths may range from extremely short “horse coat” up to the “brush coat”, not to exceed one inch in length at the withers. A soft coat, a wavy coat, a coat in excess of 1” in length at the withers or a coat that has been trimmed is a major fault. The Shar-Pei is shown in its natural state.

COLOR - Only solid colors and sable are acceptable and are to be judged on an equal basis. A solid color dog may have shading, primarily darker, down the back and on the ears. The shading must be variations of the same body color and may include darker hairs throughout the coat. The following colors are disqualifications: Albino; Not a solid color, i.e.: Brindle; Parti-colored; Spotted; Patterned in any combination of colors.

GAIT - The movement of the Shar-Pei is to be judged at a trot. The gait is free and balanced with the feet tending to converge on a center line of gravity when the dog moves at a vigorous trot. The gait combines good forward reach and a strong drive in the hind-quarters. Proper movement is essential.

TEMPERAMENT - Regal, alert, intelligent, dignified, lordly, scowling, sober and snobbish, essentially independent and somewhat standoffish with strangers, but extreme in his devotion to his family. The Shar-Pei stands firmly on the ground with a calm, confident stature.

MAJOR FAULTS
1. Deviation from a scissors bite.
2. Spotted tongue.
3. A soft coat, a wavy coat, a coat in excess of 1” in length at the withers or a coat that has been trimmed.

DISQUALIFICATIONS
1. Pricked Ears.
2. Solid Pink Tongue
3. Absence of a complete tail.
4. Albino; not a solid color, i.e.: Brindle; Parti-colored; Spotted; Patterned in any combination of colors.

-6-
FEEDING

There is disagreement among breeders as to the best food and feeding schedules for Shar-Pei puppies due to the fact that these pups have very rapid growth. Many pups reach maturity by seven to ten months old (this does not mean that they should be used for breeding at this age).

Because there is not enough valid information in this area, I recommend that you feed your puppy on a schedule with a commercially prepared dry food. Current brands available that are nutritionally complete are: Solid Gold®, Canidae®, and Natural Choice®, all Lamb/Rice products. Feed according to the package instructions for medium-sized dogs. Small amounts of water may be added to the dry food, but no table scraps. 1 – 2 tablespoons of canned dog food on the evening meal is acceptable to give a new taste. The Shar-Pei, because of their wrinkled skin, tend to have skin and coat problems that may be food allergy related so don’t switch brands unless a coat problem does occur. If you constantly change brands and your pup develops a problem, you may not know which product could be the cause.

I do not recommend free feeding; i.e., filling the bowl and allowing the pup to eat as much as he/she desires. Some pups will overeat and fat pups can develop hip problems later in life. You are not doing your pup a favor by overfeeding. Lean pups are healthier and have less evidence of hip problems. Placing the food in an elevated bowl so the puppy has to stretch to eat helps to maintain good muscle tone in the front legs.
FEEDING (continued)

Your puppy needs to chew for development of healthy teeth. Provide him/her with a Nyla Chew bone. The bone is made of nylon and can’t be splintered and swallowed. If the puppy has the Nyla bone to chew on he/she may not select your furniture or woodwork, especially when teething. Do not give your pup Rawhide Chews as they become mushy with chewing and may be swallowed, resulting in choking and/or intestinal blockage. Soft rubber toys can be chewed by the pups and potentially may cause similar problems.

Supplemental vitamins and minerals, except Vitamin C, are not needed if you feed the recommended commercially prepared dog food. Even though Shar-Pei’s have a rapid growth rate, supplements should not be given unless recommended by your veterinarian. I give all my puppies Vitamin C (500 mg tablet) once a day until 12 weeks of age, then 2 tablets daily until two years old. I believe the extra Vitamin C helps protect against the development of hip problems. Missing Link® for dogs is an excellent supplement which can benefit dogs of any age but which is not always necessary.

Provide your pup daily with dog bones (such as “Milk Bone” for small dogs). These dog bone treats will help keep your dog’s teeth clean and also help with the teething process. Do not give chicken bones, fish bones or any other small bones. Large knuckle bones that can’t be splintered by chewing are acceptable.
HEALTH CARE

Picking the right veterinarian is one of the most important decisions in insuring your pup’s health. The Shar-Pei has the same health problems as other breeds; however, in addition there are specific areas that need particular attention – and finding a vet who is knowledgeable about these alleged “health issues” is beneficial.

When calling to make your first appointment, ask if the vet has any Shar-Pei in his practice. If the answer is no, you may want to check with other vets in your area until you find one who is experienced. I will be happy to recommend a veterinarian in your area or will help you locate one if I don’t know any where you live.

The following pages discuss topics specific to areas of health care about which you should be aware in caring for your pup.
EYE CARE

Shar-Pei puppies may experience an eye condition known as entropion. This condition is a problem in other breeds, as well, but warrants particular attention. Entropion is an eye condition wherein the upper and/or lower lids turn in and rub the eyeball causing tearing and irritation. Many pups have their eyes tacked (sutured) at three weeks of age by the vet to prevent the lids from turning in. When you received your pup, the eye tacking (small sutures placed in the lid to hold it open), if required, have usually been removed. However, as the pup grows the eye lids may turn in due to the shape and wrinkling of the dog’s head. Eye tacking again may be necessary to protect the dog’s cornea(s). Should the problem continue without treatment the dog could become blind due to damage to the cornea.

To stay on top of this condition, you should check your pup’s eyes each day for tearing, discharge or constant blinking. Some tearing is normal, but pus-like discharge is a sign of constant irritation. Take a flashlight and look into your dog’s eyes. Look for cloudy or opaque areas on the eye-ball (cornea) and check to see if the lids are rolled under. Clean the eyes daily of all discharge with warm water and a soft cloth. Take your dog to the vet if any of the above conditions persist longer than three days. Also, if your puppy runs into things or acts as if he/she can’t see – seek vet help immediately!
EYE CARE (continued)

Treatment is dependent on the severity of the condition. Sometimes daily application of an eye antibiotic is sufficient to clear up the problem. Repeat eye tacking may be recommended. If the condition is severe enough the eyelids may have to be operated upon. **Eye surgery should not be done before 6 to 9 months of age.** We know that entropion is a hereditary condition that is considered an unfavorable trait in a breeding program. Check with me if you have any questions about this problem.
EAR CARE

Routine ear care is a must for the Shar-Pei. They have tiny ears and are prone to ear infections and sometimes mite infestations. To prevent these conditions from occurring, clean the ear daily with a damp paper towel dipped in white vinegar. There are specific ear cleaners available, but white vinegar works well. Clean only the inside of the ear and do not allow the puppy to move around while cleaning. Hold the head firmly and gently cleanse the ear. Tell the pup in a quiet voice to “stay” as you cleanse the ear.

Black or dark brown discharge is normal in the Shar-Pei. Constant shaking of the head, scratching of the ear repeatedly, or a bad odor may indicate an infection which needs veterinary intervention.
NAIL CARE

Start trimming your puppy’s toe nails every week. You can use a grinder or a scissors-type tool made especially for cutting dog’s nails. Get the dog accustomed to having this done routinely as a puppy so you will have less trouble keeping the nails short as an adult.

If a nail should bleed from cutting it too short apply flour to the cut end.
MOUTH CARE

The standard states that the Shar-Pei should have a scissors bite. The following page demonstrates the different bites that occur in dogs. The correct bite is important for eating and chewing, so check your dog’s mouth regularly as he/she grows.

Puppy teeth will start to fall out around three to four months of age to make room for the permanent teeth. Do not be alarmed if you see some of these teeth on the floor, etc. The major concern is if the puppy’s teeth are not shed prior to the eruption of the permanent teeth. Provide a Nyla bone for your dog to chew to help the puppy shed the baby teeth.

You should be aware that the dog’s lower jaw grows more slowly than the upper jaw so if a pup appears to not have a scissors bite at five months, give it more time. The permanent teeth and jaw bone growth are usually complete by eight months of age. Bites are hereditary and proper dentition should be considered when breeding.

Another area that should be checked when examining the teeth is the lower lip of the pup. Some puppies have very large heads and the lower lip starts to curl tightly over the bottom teeth during the growth cycle (12 – 30 weeks). If the lip becomes too tight, the pup will not be able to chew satisfactorily causing eating problems. Your vet needs to evaluate the dog for possible corrective lip surgery to relieve the tightness. Lip surgery involves the surgical removal of a portion of the lip fat which then allows the teeth to function properly.
MOUTH CARE (continued)

THE BITE

Much has been said in regards to the “bite” a dog possesses. The “bite” refers to the position the upper and lower teeth form when the mouth is closed. This applies to the front teeth (incisors and canines). The placement of the upper and lower jaw is very important for proper placement or alignment of the teeth. (In the Shar-Pei it is becoming apparent that the length of the lower lip is also important for proper alignment of the teeth.) The required bite for all ‘AKC’ recognized dog breeds is talked about in their individual breed standard. The bite is viewed as a very important part of the dog for the very existence of the animal. In the wild, an improper jaw or bad bite would impede the dog’s ability to survive by obstructing its ability to kill for food, chew it properly, and defend itself. For these reasons, many breeds penalize an incorrect bite severely and even make it a disqualification. The required bite for the Chinese Shar-Pei, as referred to in the Breed Standard, is a scissors bite. The Shar-Pei has a slightly different make-up to their dentitions with a little longer and slightly curved upper incisor (the tooth next to the canine). The canines also appear to have a little more curve to them.

Now let’s look at the dentition of a dog:

**Front View of Dog’s Teeth**

- **Upper Incisors**
- **Upper & Lower Canines**
- **Lower Incisors**

**Level Bite**

The ‘Level Bite’ is where the upper and lower incisors come together or rest on top of each other (without overlapping). Such as:

This is sometimes referred to as a ‘pincer bite’. The jaw line - upper and lower - should be the same length.

**Overshot Bite**

This is where the lower jaw is shorter than the upper jaw; hence, the upper incisors are a distance in front or ahead of the lower incisors. In other words, there is a gap between the upper and lower incisors with the upper incisors coming in front of the lower ones.
MOUTH CARE (continued)

THE BITE (continued)

Scissors Bite

This is the required bite in our breed as well as a majority of the others. In a scissors bite, the lower incisors fit directly back of the upper incisors.

Reverse Scissors Bite

In the 'Reverse Scissors Bite', the lower incisors appear directly in front of the upper incisors or the exact reverse of the scissors bite.

Undershot Bite

This is where the lower jaw is longer than the upper jaw causing the exact reverse of Overshot. The lower incisors extend well in front of the upper incisors forming a gap.

In some cases, in a puppy's normal growth, the upper and lower jaw will grow at different rates. This could cause the bite to be 'off' or irregular (not a scissors bite) at some point. Since the Shar-Pei is a rapid growing dog, the jaw will have reached its adult size by about 7 months. Also, if the baby teeth do not fall out before the adult teeth come in, this can cause poor or irregular alignment of the bite. It is always important to examine your puppy's teeth during this time. If it is observed that a baby or milk tooth has not fallen out and the adult tooth is there causing crowding, it is advised to have a vet look at it because it may need to be surgically extracted.
SKIN CARE

Some Shar-Pei experience skin problems during their life cycle. Puppies are sometimes affected with a skin condition known as demodectic mange. All dogs carry microscopic mites that remain dormant on the skin unless disturbed by stress, environmental changes or diet at which time they become active and cause areas of the dog’s coat to lose hair. Signs of active mites are bald areas around the face, legs, or back which may or may not be accompanied by excessive scratching. You may see loose hair on the dog’s blanket or bed area as the first clue. Have your vet do a skin scraping to diagnose the presence of the mites. Early treatment will cure the problem. Do not wait for more balking areas to appear before seeking treatment. These mites do not usually infect humans nor are they transmitted to other animals. If there is a problem it is common for this to present itself from four months to one year of age. No home remedies will be effective, so seek help from your vet.

There is no special care needed for the Shar-Pei skin. Daily brushing with a soft brush is sufficient and periodic bathing once a month with a mild shampoo to keep the dog clean is recommended. Excessive dandruff or dry skin can be controlled with BioGroom Conditioner after a bath or by spraying the coat with 1/2 water and 1/2 AlphaKeri Oil mixture daily. Expect the dog to shed his coat twice a year. Brush out the old coat and bathe the dog while he/she is shedding.

Flea shampoos with pyrithians as the active ingredient are very safe and effective. I would recommend Nusal-T Shampoo® (made by Allergroom) or ChlorhexiDerm Max Shampoo 4%® (made by DVM Pharmaceuticals, Inc.) as the overall best shampoo for Shar-Pei.
VACCINATIONS

When you purchased your puppy, his/her first shots will have been started. Refer to the record book I gave you for the exact dates and type. Please keep all vaccinations current as they are key to maintaining a healthy pup.

Some puppies may experience reactions to their inoculations such as fever, diarrhea, etc. (see Serious Health Problems in a later chapter). I recommend that only killed virus be used for immunizations as I have seen less side effects with these preparations; however, you should discuss this with your vet as their experience is much greater.

Keep accurate records of immunizations as they are important to your pup's well being.
CANINE VACCINE SCHEDULES

Routine Immunization

8 weeks - Combination - No Lepto
12 weeks - Combination - No Lepto
17 weeks - Combination - No Lepto unless prevalent in your area

6 months & 3 years - Rabies

16 months - Combination – No Lepto

I recommend giving booster vaccines every three years after the 16 month vaccination. The new literature supports this concept rather than every year or even every two years which had been accepted previously.

Note that "Combination" refers to the standard inoculation which includes Parvo, Distemper and Hepatitis strains.

It is recommended that one review the article “Shots Fired... Veterinary medical associations are calling for fewer vaccinations. Are local veterinarians hearing the ring?” found in “The Whole Dog Journal, A monthly guide to natural dog care and training,” Volume 9, Number11, dated November, 2006. The following charts are taken from this article:

Jean Dodds' Minimal Vaccine Use Vaccination Protocol

Dr Dodds notes that this protocol is for use in those dogs for whom minimal vaccination is desirable or advisable. She stresses that it is her recommendation only, and does not imply that different protocols recommended by other veterinarians are less satisfactory.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE OF PUPPY</th>
<th>VACCINE TYPE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 - 10 weeks</td>
<td>Distemper and parvovirus, MLV (e.g., Intervet Progard Puppy DPV)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 weeks</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 - 18 weeks (optional)</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 weeks or older</td>
<td>Rabies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(if allowable by law)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year, 3 - 4 weeks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Distemper and parvovirus, MLV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rabies, killed 3-year protocol (give three to four weeks apart from distemper/parvovirus booster)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AAHA 2006 Vaccination Protocol

Core vaccines

The following are vaccinations that should be given to every dog. Recommendations are to vaccinate puppies, booster at one year, and revaccinate no more than every three years. Rabies is the notable exception, because revaccination is mandated by state law. Most states have adopted a three-year requirement, but a handful, such as Arkansas, require annual rabies revaccination.

- Canine hepatitis (adenovirus-2)
- Distemper
- Parvovirus
- Rabies

Noncore vaccines

Optional vaccines that should be given only if an individual dog's lifestyle or risk factors warrant it.

- Leptospirosis
- Lyme
- Bordetella (kennel cough)
- Parainfluenza

Not recommended

- Adenovirus-1
- Coronavirus
- Giardia
- Rattlesnake (Crotalus atrox Toxoid)
- Periodontal disease (Porphyromonas sp.)

Adapted from the American Animal Hospital Association's (AAHA) 2006 Canine Vaccine Guidelines. The 28-page report is available at aahanet.org/About_aaha/vaccine_guidelines06.pdf
PARASITES (WORMS)

All dogs will have worms of some type. Puppies can get worm infestation from their mother, from other dog's stools, or by being bitten by fleas.

There are different types of worms and the treatment is dependent upon the specific type of worm. Check your dog's stools from time to time for the presence of these pests. Obtain a stool sample if possible to show your vet. Tape worms (flat white segments) sometimes can be seen clinging to the hair around the dog's anus. Worms give your dog signs and symptoms such as listlessness, poor appetite, diarrhea, bloated stomach and poor coats. Have a stool sample checked for worms during your routine visits to the vet or whenever you suspect them. I do not recommend worming your pup with any over-the-counter medications available in grocery stores and pet stores. Let your vet prescribe the specific type of worm medication that is appropriate for your dog.

Heart Worm Prevention – Puppies and adult dogs need to have monthly preventative heart worm medication beginning in April and continued through December. A yearly blood test for this parasite is recommended, even if the preventative drug has been given regularly. This medication and blood testing is available from your vet.

Flea & Tick Prevention – Using a product such as Advantage Plus® once a month should keep your dog free of fleas and ticks. Obtain from your vet. Can be used safely after 12 months of age.
SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS

1. **FEVER:**
   A dog's normal RECTAL temperature is 101.8 degrees F. Any time you suspect your puppy is not well, check his/her temperature rectally (you can purchase a digital thermometer at any drug store). Lubricate the tip of the thermometer with Vaseline or lotion prior to inserting (digital thermometers are easier to use and to read). If the temperature is above 101.8 degrees, but not more than 102.8 degrees, recheck the temperature in an hour. If it continues to rise, or if other symptoms appear (such as listlessness, not eating or drinking, etc.) seek veterinary help. You can try giving Benadryl® liquid (1 tablespoon = 12 mg.), 1 mg. per pound, and 1 Baby Aspirin (81 mg.) to lower the temperature. These two medications should always be readily available.

2. **VISION PROBLEMS:**
   If your puppy's eyes are closed when they should be open, or if he/she runs into furniture, fences, etc., seek veterinary help immediately. The dog's eyes are more than likely developing entropion and need medical attention before permanent damage is done.

3. **LAMENESS:**
   No puppy should limp, have trouble getting up from a down position, or be unable to run and jump. Watch your puppy
SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS (continued)
Lameness (continued)

play, especially after four months of age, for any symptoms of lameness, and if any are spotted or suspected see your vet. Hip dysplasia, a congenital defect of the hip socket, is not a disease that is pleasant for any dog, nor should a dog suffering from it ever be bred. Call me if your puppy has these problems after your vet has made a diagnosis by X-ray.

4. **BLOAT:**

Bloat (swelling of the stomach well beyond its normal size) is fairly rare in Shar-Pei; however, it is a very serious condition and must be treated immediately if the dog is to survive. It occurs as a result of the stomach twisting causing an obstruction at both ends; i.e., at the esophagus and at the duodenum. If the obstruction is complete the animal will die within just a few hours if the condition is not immediately surgically corrected. Two methods of prevention are: (a) do not allow the animal access to large quantities of water after eating dry dog food; and (b) not letting the dog be too active immediately after eating. In addition, I suggest you do not feed your animals leguminous foods such as peas, beans and/or cabbage.

Shar-Pei puppies tend to drink large amounts of water which will cause their stomach to balloon out. This is not bloat, but if your pup shows a tendency for excessive ballooning with water, please call me for further evaluation.
5. **ALLERGIC REACTIONS**

If your puppy is stung by a bee or bitten by an insect, his/her face may swell up severely, enough perhaps to cause the eyes to close. Try ice applied to the face and give Benadryl® (25 mg. capsule for a 25 lb. dog); if but a puppy give 1 mg. per pound (1 tbsp. liquid Benadryl® is equal to 12 mg.). Check with your vet if the severity of the symptoms do not abate within an hour.

6. **SHAR-PEI FEVER**

This breed is prone to develop a condition called Shar-Pei Fever. The problem manifests itself with high fever, sometimes accompanied by swollen hocks (hind legs) associated with listlessness and/or lameness. Its cause is unknown. Treatment consists of Aspirin and Benadryl® (as previously described). If the dog's temperature is very high (105º or higher) the animal should be bathed in cool water to reduce the fever. If the dog does not improve significantly within several hours with this regime, your vet should be contacted. Although not yet confirmed there seems to be a connection between recurrent bouts of Shar-Pei fever and the subsequent development of severe liver and/or kidney disease (amyloidosis) suggesting an autoimmune etiology for the problem.

In conclusion, if your puppy should display any of the previously described symptoms, don't panic! But do check with your vet. An ounce of prevention is truly worth a pound of cure.
SHAR-PEI BOOKS

1. The Guide to the Chinese Shar-Pei, Handbook for Owners

   Robin Wood
   830 W. New Bourg
   Stockton, CA 95210

2. Understanding the Chinese Shar-Pei - by JoAnn Redditt

   Orient Publishers, Inc.
   P.O. Box 6468
   Arlington, VA 22206

3. The World of the Chinese Shar-Pei

   Anna Katherine Nicholas
   15 Ledgemere Drive
   Danbury, CT 06811

4. An Illustrated Guide to the Chinese Shar-Pei

   Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America, Inc.
   P.O. Box 9900, 120A Town & Country Drive
   Dansville, CA 94526

   To order, send $2.00 to:
   Susan Lauer
   1249 Old Dairy Road
   Summerville, SC 29483
   Ph: 843 851 2730
   Email: shenanigans@worldnet.att.net

For a list of books about the Chinese Shar-Pei send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

   The Barker
   P.O. Box 6468
   Arlington, VA 22206
   Phone: (703) 671-0645