



## Thinking Doggie-Style

Has our long shared history with dogs shaped their brains - and ours?

By David Hambling

December 2010



"Rootie Tootie

Photo by Alice Fix

[Type text]

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### Index of Articles

Dogs for Everyone by Freakonomics	Page 7-8
Dogs Have Bigger Brains than Cats By Science Daily	Page 17-19
Fallen Angels	Page 7
Familial Shar-Pei Fever and Amyloidosis by Dr. Linda Tintle	Page 9-16
Iams Biscuit Ad	Page 6
Inside the Look of Love	Page 21-22
Los Angeles Life Coach Gone to the Dogs	Page 19-20
Officers and Directors	Page 23
Picnic Notice	Page 5
Thinking Doggie-Style by David Hambling	Page 1-5
Top Dog Toy- 2010 Tuffy Mighty Ball	Page 8-9
Websites- Helpful	Page 20

### DISCLAIMER

This newsletter is for informational purposes only, and the intent is to provide sources of possible information and help for owners of dogs. The editor/publisher does not in any way endorse or make claims as to the accuracy for any of the medical, treatments, therapies, medicines, or information, described or quoted herein. Readers are directed to consult with licensed veterinarians for all medical advice. Although every effort is made to avoid factual errors, we cannot guarantee the accuracy of any of the content of the publication.

A common – if unlikely – claim made by dog owners is: “He understands every word you say.” But scientists are increasingly finding that it might be truer than you think. The evidence suggests that the two species have moulded each other over a long period of co-evolution, and have developed sophisticated Communications in the process.

Archæological findings show that dogs were first domesticated at least 10,000 years ago, with one find at the Goyet Cave in Belgium recorded in 2008 possibly pushing that back to 30,000

years. Genetic studies indicate that the process of domestication that split dogs from wolves may date as far back as 100,000 years. And the relationship may have started long before that, as some archaeological finds put humans and wolves in the same Place 400,000 years ago.

The aptly named biologist Wolfgang Schleidt suggests that the two came together in Northern Europe at a time when humans – either *Homo sapiens* or the earlier *H. erectus* or *H. heidelbergensis* – existed in small nomadic groups. Humans joined wolves in their following of migratory reindeer, and the two races of hunter-Scavengers started working together.

The success of the wolf pack hinges on the members' ability to work together without conflict and share the kill. Recent work with dogs shows that they have a sense of 'fair play', previously thought to be limited to primates. The experiment at the University of Vienna involved training dogs to extend a paw. The dogs were happy to perform this trick with or without a reward when on their own. But if they were with another dog which received a reward when they did not, the dogs quickly refused to play.

We don't know yet whether wolves share this attitude. Some have suggested that dogs became attuned to fairness as an adaptation for living with humans. This seems questionable: the phrase "a dog's life" dates back to the 17th century, meaning "a life of Misery or of miserable subservience".

Perhaps humans gained their own notions of fairness from their companions during the period when the two worked together. Wolfgang Schleidt suggests that "wolves and dogs, with their remarkable capacity for co-operation and loyalty, were both role models and companions on this long trek toward humanity." [1]

Sherlock Holmes once noted the curious silence of a dog, which failed to bark in the night (clear evidence to the great detective that an intruder was known to the dog). However, what is really curious is that dogs bark at all. Barking is rare among wolves, whose vocal communications are generally howls or growls.

Barking appears to have been evolved to talk to people.

Barking is more effective at getting human attention than growling. Peter Pongracz, a behavioural biologist at Eotvos University in Budapest, has shown that the pattern of barking is different for aggression, loneliness and happiness. Pongracz's team recorded hundreds of different barks from different situations. Not only were the barks consistently different depending on the dog's emotional state, but even people who had never owned a dog were able to correctly interpret them. Our long association with them means that understanding dogs is hardwired into the human psyche.

Humans and dogs also share the ability to follow a gaze or gesture to see what someone else is looking at or indicating. This is very unusual in nature – even chimpanzees have trouble with pointing tasks. However, the same team at Eotvos University also showed that dogs are capable of following both gaze and pointing. This should not come as any great surprise when you consider what Pointers are bred to do. Wolves are also capable of learning the same tricks, but it is much harder for them: unlike dogs they are not used to looking at humans.

Again, it would be interesting to know if pointing or gaze-following is a natural skill in wolves that humans – being mere primates and a bit slow – gradually acquired over time.

Dogs also read human facial expressions. A team at the University of Lincoln has found that dogs show what is termed 'left gaze bias'. This is the tendency, when looking at a human face, to look left (i.e. at the right-hand side of the face) first, and to spend more time looking at this side. Left gaze bias has already been established as a human trait and only occurs when looking at faces. The reason for it is that emotions register more clearly and more intensely on the right side of the face. And dogs have been around humans long enough to have face-reading in their genes.

However, while it might seem that dogs and humans have evolved to understand each other very well, there is one huge gap. Children under the age of five have very little understanding of



dog body language or barks and can't tell a happy dog from an angry one. An excited child may try to hug this big fluffy toy, with disastrous results. Dogs and small children should always be supervised; possibly ancient humans didn't leave children alone with dogs the way their modern descendents are prone to. Or perhaps evolution still has some work to do.

So far, research into dog-human communication has only scratched the surface; but the indications are that, even if they don't catch every word, dogs understand us very well indeed because they shaped our brains as we shaped theirs.

[http://www.forteantimes.com/strangedays/science/4783/thinking\\_doggie\\_style.html](http://www.forteantimes.com/strangedays/science/4783/thinking_doggie_style.html)

### Summer Picnic



Don't forget to make plans to attend our summer picnic in July. The date will be announced when it gets closer to July. The July newsletter is our once a year, all color edition of the Rocky Mountain Wrinkle. If you would like to purchase ad space in the newsletter, the prices will be published on our yahoo club members group.



This is Maya and she lives in Fremont, California. Have you seen her on the box of IAMS dog biscuits? Maya was in the store getting dog food and saw the biscuits with her photo on it so the owner took her photo with the biscuit box. Her photo will also soon be on a bag of dog food as well. Look for her at your local pet store.

### Fallen Angels



#### Ch. Sa-Lin's Shine A Lite On Me "Meme"

Meme lit up the Fix household from the minute she walked in the door. She will be greatly missed.

#### China Puff's Snow Crystal, RN "Chrissy"

Chrissy is gone way too soon and will be greatly missed as well.

### Dogs for Everyone?

By Freakonomics



New research shows that, in addition to being man's best friend, dogs improve productivity in the office. Christopher Honts and coauthors gave 12 groups of four people a task to complete; some

groups had a dog hanging around while they worked, while others didn't: "After the task, all the volunteers had to answer a questionnaire on how they felt about working with the other—human—members of the team. Mr. Honts found that those who had had a dog to slobber and pounce on them ranked their teammates more highly on measures of trust, team cohesion and intimacy than those who had not." Honts also asked 13 groups of people to play a version of the prisoner's dilemma game and found that "having a dog around made volunteers 30% less likely to snitch than those who played without one." Perhaps Congress should invest in some canine companions?

### Toys Don't Get Any TOUGHER Than This!



**This was voted as the #1 new dog toy for 2010.**

Some dogs can be tough on toys. If your dog is one of them, the Tuffy Mighty Ball is the answer.

This toy has earned Tuffy's BEST durability rating so it will really stand up to your dog's active play. In fact, it's so strong, it's guaranteed!



The Tuffy Mighty Ball has no poly-fill stuffing inside. Instead, the core of this ball is another tough ball – so if your dog does manage to penetrate the outer toy, he'll have a brand new toy inside.

The Mighty Ball is MIGHTY good fun for your dog! Get one for your dog today. Choose from 2 fun sizes.



Dogs have twice as many muscles for moving their ears as people.



### Familial Shar-Pei Fever and Amyloidosis

by Dr. Linda Tintle

**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 face, that usually last 12-36 hrs. FSF is an **autoinflammatory** syndrome (not autoimmune). The underlying genetic defect appears to cause inappropriate inflammatory responses to danger signals recognized by the innate immune system and chronic elevations of inflammatory chemical messengers in the bloodstream. This complex disorder may involve multiple interactive genetic mutations. Shar-Pei may have abnormal initiation and also amplification of inflammation.

**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. 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 and environmental influences may lead to early death from kidney or, more rarely, liver failure due to amyloidosis in some individuals.

Your veterinarian will usually **make the diagnosis of Shar-Pei Fever after ruling out other causes of fever** with diagnostic tests indicated by your 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** that is currently in development and undergoing validation studies at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard and Uppsala University in Sweden. I am also very grateful for the many years of support and assistance of Drs. Dan Kastner, Elaine Remmers, Francesca Puppo and the team at the NIH-NIAMS in discovering why Shar-Pei suffer from this fever disorder. The current research is very much an international team effort.

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.

I have never seen evidence of any damage from colchicine except for a transient, treatable diarrhea that goes away when the drug is withdrawn in sensitive patients. 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) and blocking the formation of amyloid protein (a waste by-product of inflammation). In humans, it has proven to be safe in infants, pregnant women and when given lifelong. 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 (Atopica®) should not be given together because of increased risk of bone marrow suppression.

Currently, sale of colchicine has been restricted by the U.S. FDA to one manufacturer under the brand name Colcrys® with an exorbitant price increase. The generic drug is still available in other countries including Canada and may be purchased by U.S. Shar-Pei owners legally through compounding pharmacists like Fallon, Wedgewood and Prescription Specialties, etc. at a more reasonable price.

I treat the fever events with 50% **dipyrone** (500mg/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)**. You will need to discuss

treatment with your 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 alert your veterinarian if your dog is vomiting because gastric ulcers can be a common complication.

Use caution with ice packs or baths: external cooling efforts should be reserved only for those dogs with fevers approaching 106 degrees while en route to a veterinarian. Unless the dog's internal thermostat is reset with medication, the dog's body will simply work harder to keep the fever up and may prolong the fever event. An ice pack wrapped in a damp towel that is placed in the groin area will help cool the patient en route to emergency care.

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 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 skin sloughing can occur. The latter is often associated with bacterial hyaluronidases that break down the abundant mucin in Shar-Pei skin.

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.

**Hyaluronosis: Shar-Pei overexpress Hyaluronan Synthase 2 (HAS2)** and excess hyaluronan (HA) leads to their unique skin thickening and wrinkles. Excess cutaneous 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 danger associated molecular pattern that can activate the innate immune system. Native high molecular weight HA is health promoting and healing and you can improve Shar-Pei health by preventing or offsetting damage to their abundant HA.

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 mucinosis (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** low in simple carbohydrates: grain-free or containing small amounts of whole healthy fresh grains if possible. Pasture-fed meat source is preferable if money is no object (grain-fed meat has a high ratio of omega 6 to omega 3 fats and is lower in antioxidants and conjugated linoleic acid). The goal is to shift the arachidonic acid pathway away from pro-inflammatory end-products. A high dietary omega 3 to omega 6 fatty acid ratio may help reduce inflammation and result in improved overall health (including decreased anxiety!).

**2. High dose omega 3 fatty acids** from fish oil daily. Again, shift to anti-inflammatory end-products but also for its resolvins and other inflammation-resolving mechanisms at high doses. A high dietary omega 3 to omega 6 fatty acid ratio may help reduce inflammation and result in improved overall health including decreased anxiety. (900-1800mg EPA, 450-900mg DHA/day – source is important to ensure no rancidity or contaminants).

**3. Lecithin:** 1-2 Tbl of granules (7.5 – 15 gms) per day in food. To alter the choline composition of the “hyaluronosome” in plasma membrane lipid rafts; may impact how HA fragments are internalized for further degradation.

**4. HyVitality™:** a formulation of my recommended vitamins, minerals, antioxidants and phytochemicals that were chosen for their HA health promoting effects. Magnesium is integral to stabilizing HA in its high molecular form and magnesium deficiency is a very common finding in the breed. Severe cobalamin (Vitamin B12) deficiency is also common in Shar-Pei. This supplement was developed because it was difficult for clients to purchase the correct canine dosages using over-the-counter products designed for humans. Working with a trusted manufacturer has allowed me to be assured of purity and quality: Made in U.S.A. in a cGMP facility. (Average Shar-Pei dose contains 50-80mg Alpha Lipoic Acid, 60mg Coenzyme Q10, 100-200mg Magnesium citrate, 1000 mcg Methylcobalamin, 25mcg Vitamin K2 and a proprietary blend of Boswellia Serrata, Curcumin, Diosmin & trans-Resveratrol). HyVitality is dosed by weight.

**5. Vitamin C,** 500mg. Shar-Pei with excess HA may need more antioxidants like Vitamin C. Also, I suspect that Shar-Pei may not synthesize adequate Vitamin C because Vitamin C and HA compete for similar biochemical synthetic pathways.

**6. Ensure Adequate Vitamin D3.** Active Vitamin D modulates the over-active toll like receptors in inflammatory disease, returning them to a more normal functionality. Shar-Pei on home-cooked

diets or who are fed commercial diets and supplemented more than 10% of their calories with "extras" or who have active inflammation may have additional or increased need for Vitamin D3. Need for Vitamin D3 in dogs has been estimated to be 50-475 IU per 10 lbs of body weight per day. Most dogs on commercial diets get at least this in their diets but more may be needed if a dog is not on a balanced commercial dog food, has severe allergies, arthritis or chronic inflammation. Discuss baseline testing with your veterinarian if you are concerned that your dog may need supplementation.

**7. Thyroid Function:** Treat any signs of secondary hypothyroidism with thyroid supplementation. Common signs include very sparse or missing coat, particularly along the back and inside of the thighs, with a generally brittle, lighter coat on the torso. I think that HA fragments down-regulate TSH releasing hormone via TLR2 binding, leading to clinical hypothyroidism characterized by low or low normal TSH and very low to low normal T3/T4 and am studying this in Shar-Pei now. Response to therapy will be softer, thicker, and richer colored fur with hair re-growth, especially on hindquarters, and improved overall health and activity if the dog is functionally hypothyroid. Your veterinarian will monitor therapy to keep T4 below 4 µg/dL.

**8. Probiotics and attention to bowel health.** Skin and bowel are the immune system's biggest barriers and they are both HA rich areas. Inflammatory bowel diseases including colitis are common in the breed. Some cases of FSF flare-ups and increased frequency of fever events have responded to treatment directed to eliminating over-growth of pathogenic GI bacteria in IBD patients or stress colitis. *(If diarrhea is frequent or persistent, discuss diagnosis and possible treatment with prescription drugs with your veterinarian.)*

**9. Fanatical attention to skin and ear issues.** Bathing by shampoo or washcloth wipe-downs as needed (microfiber dust cloths work well) - up to daily when skin is inflamed and at least every 2 weeks in a "healthy" Shar-Pei. Remove superficial yeast,

bacteria (potential sources of hyaluronidases, enzymes that damage HA) and allergens like pollens, molds, dust. At least weekly ear cleaning/flush unless the Shar-Pei has a large open healthy ear canal.

**10. Low dose 81 mg aspirin:** ¼ - ½ tablet per day in dogs with no signs of gastric upset. Platelet derived growth factor might be an important mediator in their disease and aspirin also decreases risk of thromboembolic events. Be cautious as the breed has an increased risk for GI ulceration.

**11. Detect problems early:** Your veterinarian should see your Shar-Pei regularly for a complete physical examination and regular, routine monitoring of first morning urine with urinalysis (UA) as well as a CBC, blood chemistry profile and T4.

**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.**



Dec 2010

[www.wvc.vetsuite.com](http://www.wvc.vetsuite.com)

*Editors Note: Dr. Tintle will be updating this article with new information on the genetics and pathogenesis of the disease as soon as her paper is published. You can check her web site for the latest updates and information on Shar-Pei fever. If you are interested in learning more about HyVitality, you can find that information on Dr. Tintle's web site as well. She is also working on a separate web site for HyVitality. You can check her web site to see when [www.HyVitality.com](http://www.HyVitality.com) is up and running.*



## Dogs Have Bigger Brains Than Cats Because They Are More Sociable, Research Finds

*ScienceDaily (Nov. 28, 2010)* — Over millions of years dogs have developed bigger brains than cats because highly social species of mammals need more brain power than solitary animals, according to a study by Oxford University.



*Over millions of years dogs have developed bigger brains than cats because highly social species of mammals need more brain power than solitary animals, according to a study by Oxford University. (Credit: iStockphoto/Mitja Mladkovic)*

For the first time researchers have attempted to chart the evolutionary history of the brain across different groups of mammals over 60 million years. They have discovered that there are huge variations in how the brains of different groups of mammals have evolved over that time. They also suggest that there is a link between the sociality of mammals and the size of their brains relative to body size, according to a study published in the *PNAS* journal.

The research team analysed available data on the brain size and body size of more than 500 species of living and fossilised mammals. It found that the brains of monkeys grew the most over time, followed by horses, dolphins, camels and dogs. The study shows that groups of mammals with relatively bigger brains tend to live in stable social groups. The brains of more solitary mammals, such as cats, deer and rhino, grew much more slowly during the same period.

Previous research which has looked at why certain groups of living mammals have bigger brains has relied on studies of distantly-related living mammals. It was widely believed that the growth rate of the brain relative to body size followed a general trend across all groups of mammals. However, this study by Dr Susanne Shultz and Professor Robin Dunbar, from Oxford University's Institute of Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology (ICEA), overturns this view. They find that there is wide variation in patterns of brain growth across different groups of mammals and they have discovered that not all mammal groups have larger brains, suggesting that social animals needed to think more.

Lead author Dr Susanne Shultz, a Royal Society Dorothy Hodgkin Fellow at ICEA, said: 'This study overturns the long-held belief that brain size has increased across all mammals. Instead, groups of highly social species have undergone much more rapid increases than more solitary species. This suggests that the cooperation and coordination needed for group living can be challenging and over time some mammals have evolved larger brains to be able to cope with the demands of socialising.'

Co-author and Director of ICEA Professor Robin Dunbar said: 'For the first time, it has been possible to provide a genuine evolutionary time depth to the study of brain evolution. It is interesting to see that even animals that have contact with humans, like cats, have much smaller brains than dogs and horses because of their lack of sociality.'

The research team used available data of the measurements of brain size and body size of each group of living mammals and

compared them with similar data for the fossilised remains of mammals of the same lineage. They examined the growth rates of the brain size relative to body size to see if there were any changes in the proportions over time. The growth rates of each mammal group were compared with other mammal groups to see what patterns emerged.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/11/101127105348.htm>

## Los Angeles Life Coach Gone to the Dogs

Hollywood stars are famed for their love of gurus and spiritual guidance. But now, it seems, if you're a Los Angeles life Coach you need to be able to advise your client on everything from what to wear to what dog to choose.

Los Angeles is probably, along with New York, home to the highest collection of professional life coaching businesses anywhere in the world.

The stars who have 'made it' in Hollywood still, it would appear, need the reassuring hand of an experience professional who has been there and done it.

Edmund Adler, publisher and self improvement reporter:

"We've noticed that no matter how successful someone may be in their own right, they still lean toward the advice and opinion of others – often in the form of a life coach. The reality is, many people find it hard to understand why uber successful people turn to life coaches but given the huge number who do, it is perhaps worth the consideration that it is partly because of their willingness to seek to the counsel of others that highly successful people get that way and stay that way.

We've even seen cases where a celebrity has turned to their life coach for advice on what dog to choose or in one case, what [high chair](#) would be best for their 'stylish' baby.

It sounds silly, but the life coach wants to keep their client so their next natural step is to go out, do the research and they will invariably help their client to reach the right decision, be that about the dog they choose to spend the next 15 years with or the style

of baby high chair they should buy. This is a relationship that clearly works as so many successful people are doing it."

Life coaches aren't just there to give out compliments when they're not warranted.

The rich and famous are not renowned for taking criticism too well, but behind the scenes it is often those professionals who have the conviction to tell their client when something isn't working or if they could use a touch of cosmetic dentistry – that the client really respects and often retains at the highest price.

<http://www.dognews.co.uk/los-angeles-life-coach-gone-to-the-dogs/#more-13609>

## Helpful and Informative websites:

Centennial Chinese Shar-Pei Club-

[www.centennialsharpeiclub.org](http://www.centennialsharpeiclub.org)

Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America, Inc.- [www.cspca.com](http://www.cspca.com)

Dr. Jeff Vidt- Shar-Pei Health issues- [www.drjvw.com](http://www.drjvw.com)

Dr. Linda Tintle- Shar-Pei Health Issues

[www.wvc.vetsuite.com](http://www.wvc.vetsuite.com)

Dr. Todd Hammond & Dr. Brad Graham – The Eye Clinic:

<http://www.eyevets.info>

Chinese Shar-Pei Charitable Trust: The Chinese Shar-Pei Charitable Trust was founded and established to seek funding to address all the genetic health issues of the Chinese Shar-Pei.

<http://www.cspcharitabletrust.org>

Link to the webpage for our rescue dogs:

<http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/CO151.html>

Colorado Health Testing Breeders:

<http://www.legendary.ws/Colorado%20Health%20Testing%20Breeders.htm>

## Latest Research: Inside the Look of Love

Don't tell the kids, but your dog is moving in on their territory. A recent study from Japan's Azuba University shows what dog people everywhere have suspected for eons: We experience the same surge of emotions when gazing at our pup as moms do with their babies. It's all thanks to a burst of the delectable "cuddle chemical," the hormone oxytocin. All we need to do is play with our pets, look into their eyes, and the love drug surges, banishing stress, breeding trust and lifting our spirits as it flows.



Azuba University biologists (and self-described dog lovers) Miho Nagasawa and Takefumi Kikusui had a hunch about this. "Something changed in our bodies when gazed (upon) by our dogs," Kikusui told *New Scientist*. So to explore this human response and whether social contact between two different species could boost oxytocin levels as well, they recruited 55 pups and their people for a study. Here's how it worked. Each person provided a urine sample before and after playing with their dog in a half-hour laboratory play session. The control group of people was instructed to completely avoid the gaze of their dog.

The results were in. The dog people who spent an average of two and a half minutes making eye contact during the play session, experienced a 20% rise in their oxytocin levels. The control group, that didn't look into their pup's eyes, experienced a slight drop in the hormone level. No wonder dogs evolved into man's best friend. Kikusui offers, "Maybe during the evolutionary process, humans and dogs came to share the same social cues, such as eye contact and hand gestures. This is why dogs can adapt to human society."



Interesting as this is, the study offers something even more compelling to a world of dog people. Finally, there's a scientific explanation for how a human can love a dog like a child. Your mother-in-law will be so pleased.

<http://www.woofreport.com/more-bones-to-chew-on/1177-latest-research-inside-the-look-of-love.html>

*The Scoop:*

Read the full story – "Pet dogs rival humans for emotional satisfaction" [www.newscientist.com/dognews](http://www.newscientist.com/dognews)



**Officers of the Centennial Chinese Shar-Pei Club**

**President-** Alice Fix                    **Vice President-** Jeanne Hill- Jurik  
**Secretary-** Bob Rosenberger    **Treasurer-** Louise Watson  
**Board of Directors-** Kristin Reynolds '11    Marchelle Heslep '12

**Committees:**

Breeder Referral: Louise Watson  
Fund Raising: Kristin Reynolds  
Legislative Liaison: Alice Fix & Laura Brown  
Public Education: Jeanne Hill-Jurik  
Rescue: Louise Watson  
Show Chairman: Alice Fix & Jeanne Hill-Jurik  
Webmaster- Laura Brown

A note from the Editor:

We would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to contribute an article to this newsletter. The Rocky Mountain Wrinkle is a club publication, and as such requires the participation of club members throughout the year. Your participation will help to make this publication meaningful and worthwhile for the membership of the club. All contributions and ideas are greatly appreciated.

Please forward your input for inclusion to the Publisher at the address listed below.

***The Rocky Mountain Wrinkle***

**Awarded Best CSPCA Newsletter-2005, 2008, 2009**  
**Awarded 1<sup>st</sup> Runner- Up CSPCA Newsletter- 2006, 2007**  
**Awarded Best CSPCA Club Website-2006, 2007, 2008, 2009**

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