

CHINESE SHAR-PEI CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

DR. JEFF VIDT - HEALTH THROUGH EDUCATION CHAIRMAN
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To Whom It May Concern,

The Chinese Shar-Pei dog breed has a genetic predisposition to an autoinflammatory disorder known as Familial Shar-Pei (FSF). It is an heredofamilial episodic fever disorder characterized by a high temperature (typically greater than 105° F) lasting 12-36 hours, often with a swollen, painful hock joint (Swollen Hock Syndrome, SHS which can occur in 40% of the FSF dogs) and systemic reactive amyloidosis leading to kidney failure in about 15% of these dogs. There currently are no diagnostic blood or DNA tests available to screen for or diagnose this disorder.

As part of the research into the genetics of FSF the Health Committee of the Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America, Inc. has asked owners whose dogs have died or were euthanized in kidney failure to have a necropsy done and to request **Congo Red staining (CRS)** of the tissues submitted. Congo Red staining is the "gold standard" for the presence of amyloid. Unfortunately, H & E staining of tissue specimens for the presence of amyloid is not as accurate or reliable as CRS. The Health Committee and the CSPCA, Inc. ask that any veterinarian and/or laboratory receiving a request from a Shar-Pei owner to have CRS done on submitted tissues to please comply with that request. If the laboratory is not equipped to do CRS please inform the owner so that other arrangements can be made.

We hope the CRS results can be used by breeders to evaluate and modify their breeding programs until definitive blood screening procedures for FSF can be developed and made available to the fancy.

Jeff Vidt, DVM
Chairman, Health Committee,
Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America, Inc.

Routinely it is recommended that you should submit kidney, liver, spleen and a mesenteric lymph node when possible. However, if you have a patient with a history of FSF who died in kidney failure, you might only submit a longitudinal section of a kidney because this will give "more bang for the buck". As a word of caution, some smaller laboratories don't own congo red stain, so you might want to use a larger laboratory service or check with the lab before sending the samples. There may also be an additional charge for the special staining.

From the CSPCA Public Education Committee

For the Owner of a Registered Chinese Shar-Pei:

When the end does come for your dog, consider allowing your veterinarian to do a necropsy on your dog. Especially important is the evaluation of the kidneys through histopathology. We must verify cases of renal amyloidosis or other causes of kidney failure if we are to make headway in correcting this condition through breeding.

A photocopy of the results can be sent to:

Dr. Linda Tintle
Wurtsboro Veterinary Clinic, PC
251 Sullivan Street
P.O. Box 906
Wurtsboro, New York, 12790

Include a photocopy of the registration papers on the dog, as well as your contact information. Collecting this information is to the benefit of the breed.