

Banger was burned in a boarding accident when he was five months old, leaving him with second and third degree burns on his head and face. Considering he was a cream horse-coat with a face full of scars, he finished relatively quickly. He was shown as a special and started a career as a therapy dog. He was one of the best therapy dogs- of any breed and a great ambassador to represent the Chinese Shar-Pei. He was especially popular with burn victims.

One of his favorite places to visit was his annual visit to Camp Courage- a summer camp for burn survivors. Being a burn survivor himself, the campers could relate to Banger and to his scars. It was Banger's job to try to increase the self-esteem of the burn victim campers, and he was very good at it. He always put on a short program about dog shows, and explained what judges are looking for and how what he was inside was more important to most judges than a cosmetic scar.

He taught them to believe in themselves and always gave out cards with his photo on one side and the poem "The Victor" on the back.

One young camper told Banger- in a voice I could not hear well- all about 'when he was burned'. We were told later it was the first time he had spoken about it.

Banger is the only Shar-Pei to date to be honored in the ACE program with an honorable mention and a bronze medallion.