



# Operation Scarlet, Inc

Chinese Shar-Pei Rescue of Lancaster, PA

Scarlet's News

February 2015

1991

24th Anniversary Edition  
February 2015

2015

On February 21, 1991, Operation Scarlet was founded by Dawn Hertzog and six other Shar-Pei owners in the Lancaster, PA area. Operation Scarlet was named in memory of Scarlet, a beautiful mahogany red Shar-Pei that was rescued by Dawn Hertzog.

Since 1991, Operation Scarlet has rescued 1182 Shar-Pei. These Shar-Pei arrive at the Rescue from shelters across the country. Although their backgrounds and stories are all different, they share one thing in common. Through no fault of their own they have become homeless, and are now desperate to find a loving forever home.

Some became homeless when their owners tossed them away, no longer wishing to keep the commitment that they had made to cherish their Pei. Other Pei had owners that found themselves unable to care for them. The good loving owners made sure that their Pei were taken to a safe place. Others just abandoned their Pei at empty houses or turned them loose to fend for themselves. Yet others, brought in as strays from shelters, came shrouded in the mystery of how or why they became homeless. Some arrived sick or injured, hoping to find a chance at renewal and a chance for happiness. Several Pei lost their homes when their beloved people passed away.

Although they all arrived under different circumstances, once at Operation Scarlet, they all share the same dream; to have a loving forever home.

Operation Scarlet has been supported by a network of volunteers, donors and adopters, all determined to give these dogs the second chance in life that they deserve. First, by getting them any medical attention that they need, followed by renewing their spirit and trust, and then ultimately finding them the loving, secure home that they are dreaming about.

Since its inception, Operation Scarlet and this loving caring network of people have rescued 1182 Shar-Pei. On February 21, 2015 Operation Scarlet celebrates this milestone and their twenty-fourth anniversary. If you are already a part of Operation Scarlet, please know that for these dogs, you have truly made a difference in their lives. For no matter how tragic their story upon their arrival at Operation Scarlet, happy endings are given out on a regular basis.



One might wonder how or why so many people have worked so hard since 1991 so that these 1182 Shar-Pei would know a loving home. The best answer would be because of Scarlet, for whom Operation Scarlet was originally founded. Her story explains her personal strife to find a loving home. Although she knew this joy for only a short period of time, her strength through adversity and ability to forgive, trust and love again has been a guiding light for Operation Scarlet for the past twenty-four years. Please take the time to read Scarlet's Story which follows Dawn Hertzog's "From the Heart" letter.

February 21, 2015 7:00pm



As has been the tradition in the past years, Operation Scarlet has a tradition of holding a candle lighting ceremony at 7:00pm on the evening of their anniversary, February 21, 2015. It is in this way we try to create a symbolic union between everyone who is a part of Operation Scarlet and the many rescued Shar-Pei that have enhanced our lives with their love and true devotion. Although many have passed over time, each one of them retains a very special place in our hearts. Please join in this Candle Lighting Ceremony from your home, and take a moment to reflect on our special bond with our Pei. Surely the light created by so many will be seen and felt by all.



## From the Heart

*Dawn Hertzog  
Founder of Operation  
Scarlet, Inc.*

I cannot believe that Operation Scarlet is celebrating its 24th Anniversary. The years have just flown by, but all the beautiful memories will live on forever. Scarlet was the very special Pei who started it all.

Her dream became reality when Spiro was rescued on February 21, 1991. And her dream continues with the most recent rescues - Harry and Lily. All told – 1,186 sweet Shar-Pei have come through Operation Scarlet's doors. Some lost, some sick, some injured, some just thrown away, but all have had one thing in common – they were homeless and in need of love. I send out a very sincere "thank you" to all you adopters over the years who opened your hearts and homes to this wonderful breed. I also send a huge thank you to all the volunteers who have worked so hard to keep the doors open. We have experienced some bumps in the road at times, but due to the strength, determination and belief in this organization, we have always been able to rise above whatever we have been up against. We have celebrated a 10 year anniversary and a 20 year anniversary. Next year will be the silver anniversary. And I am sure quite a few more Pei will be rescued in the meantime. In closing, I ask that you all remember to light a candle on February 21 at 7 PM. If we all participate, I am sure the bright glow will reach up to the heavens. I am also sure that Scarlet along with many of her Pei friends that have since joined her will bathe in the glow and wag their tails in approval. As you light your own candle, may it be in honor of a special Pei you presently share your life with; or in memory of one or more that you have had the pleasure of knowing and loving. And may we all remember that there are still wrinkled kids patiently waiting to find the love they are so deserving of. May those kids know that Operation Scarlet is ready and waiting to help them too. We will continue our mission.

**Happy 24th Anniversary Operation Scarlet!**

Dawn, Scarlet and all her Kids

## SCARLET'S STORY

What is a Pipher's Wildwood Scarlet, you say?

Well, the name definitely does not mean much, unless you would have had the pleasure of meeting her. Yes, I said her.

Pipher's Wildwood Scarlet was a beautiful, female, red brushcoat, Chinese Shar-Pei. Scarlet was born in New York in May 1986. Her mother was red and her father was cream colored. Yes, they do come in a variety of colors.

Scarlet had one of the prettiest, dark red coats I had ever seen. It was a rich mahogany color, which is not at all that common in Shar-Pei, but a very desired color among breeders. She was a beauty and her personality was sweet and gentle, which blended nicely with her good looks.

Scarlet lived with a breeder in New York for the first two years of her life. While living in New York, she produced one litter of puppies. I was told she was a very good mother, which does not surprise me at all. Her gentleness and soft, kind eyes were two attributes I noticed when I met her.

Scarlet was adopted by a man who brought her to his home in Lancaster County in 1988. No more big city living for this little lady, she was now going to become a "country gal". That was fine with Scarlet, and she started to adjust quickly to her new surroundings. It looked like things would be fine. Fine that is, if her master would have been able to share time with her, enjoying the country air and great outdoors.

It did not take Scarlet long to realize that life in a small town could be quite lonely, since her master was away on business trips most of the time. Scarlet's long days and lonely nights in a basement were brightened only by a short visit from a kind person who gave her a daily meal. Her brief trips outdoors were not what she imagined her country life would be.

Unfortunately, as often happens, puppies are sometimes adopted by people who give no consideration to the responsibilities involved in raising a puppy. They look at an adorable, wrinkled puppy, fall in love with it, and make an impulsive, yet misguided decision to adopt. In this case, the beauty and charm of lovely Scarlet plucked at the man's heart strings, but failed to touch upon his usual wealth of common sense and good judgement.

In time, her new owner finally came to his senses and knew this was not fair to the sweet little lady who waited patiently for his return, always greeting him with her wagging tail and the slurps of her black tongue. Yes, black tongue (another characteristic of the Shar-Pei). Scarlet's new owner finally realized that she needed a loving family who could spend time with her and give her care and attention she so rightfully deserved.

Her owner called a local organization called ORCA (Organization for the Responsible Care of Animals) to see if they might have the kind of home she would most enjoy. Unfortunately, he not only wanted to find a good home for her, he also wanted to retrieve some of the money on the initial purchase. Goodbye heart strings, hello purse strings. Since ORCA works on a contribution basis, they could not help him out.

Fortunately, luck was with the little lady. One of the volunteers at ORCA heard of his dilemma, and called her mother who is a lover of Shar-Pei and has great respect for the breed. Her mother already had a male Shar-Pei, but after hearing about Scarlet, she became concerned about her and decided to pay her a visit. Just a visit, of course, to see what could be done for Scarlet.

The woman and her husband followed the carefully drawn map to the new owner's home. To their dismay, they found the elegant Shar-Pei tied in a very undignified manner to a barn door. The only attention she was getting was from a swarm of horse flies and occasional glares from a few of the farm cats.

Scarlet started plucking at those heart strings again, but this time to the woman and her husband. Remember, they just wanted to look at her. Scarlet, however, had other ideas.

Well, as you may have guessed by now, the woman who went to Scarlet's rescue was me.

I was broken-hearted to see this beautiful little lady with the soft, kind eyes tied this way. Since she was tied, she was defenseless from the attacks of the farm cats and displayed several nasty looking gashes on her head. I offered my hand and she licked it gently, while she looked up at me with soft watery eyes. Yes, I said watery. Unfortunately, she was also suffering from entropion.

Although suffering from these maladies, she still was able to wag her tail to let us know she was pleased with our visit and very happy to meet us.

Needless to say, our return home was a very somber one. My husband sat quietly behind the wheel, weaving in and out of traffic, and I sat in the back seat staring out the window, thinking about what I had just witnessed. I was drawn back to reality by a cold wet nose that was nuzzling my arm. You guessed it. Scarlet was occupying the back seat with me, a little nervous, yet behaving like the fine lady she was.

Now I'll give you a brief summary of what happened over the next two months. She was introduced to our male Shar-Pei, who was quite hesitant at first about accepting a possible rival. Within a few days he started to enjoy her company and began to accept her as part of the family.

After a few days in her new home, Scarlet was whisked off to our vet for her first visit. She was given the standard health exam and then surgery for the entropion. The operation was a success and she was able to see and appreciate all the beautiful things that were in her new world.

We began taking our special little walks in the evening. Just the two of us, in order to get to know one another and create that bond that is so special between two friends. She would happily bounce along beside me, holding her head up in the air, proudly sporting her new facelift. Everything was fine with her and her new life.

As you recall, I had mentioned earlier that she already had one litter of puppies, but I decided to have her hips x-rayed anyway. Why x-ray the hips, you say?

Well, a hip x-ray is taken to look for hip dysplasia which is a very painful disease that can be crippling and is also hereditary. Any breed, not just Shar-Pei, showing signs of dysplasia in an x-ray should never be bred. Unfortunately, Scarlet had a "very bad case" of dysplasia. Oh, well, no problem. We wanted to make her life as enjoyable as possible, and we would not do anything to jeopardize her health or future puppies, so we scheduled an appointment to spay her.

Within several weeks, Scarlet was off to the vet again once again. She trotted ahead of me, wagging her tail to the assistants and acting her usual friendly self. I watched her go through the door with the assistant, tail wagging, totally enjoying the attention she was getting. I drove to work hopeful that all would go well and I could bring her home the next day. I was informed later in the day that the patient was doing fine, resting comfortably and would be able to return home the next day.

My husband and I looked forward to the following day with great anticipation. In fact, we were so anxious to get her back home again that my husband picked her up on his lunch break instead of waiting until evening. The afternoon hours crept slowly by. While I worked at the office, my thoughts kept drifting to Scarlet and how I was going to give her the royal treatment during her recuperative period. After all, a beautiful, sweet lady such as Scarlet deserved the best and was going to receive the best from now on.

The work day was finally over and I excitedly made the drive home. As I entered the house, I quietly began calling her name, but there was no little snorting sounds of happiness to be heard. The house was too quiet. All I heard was Beijing, our male Shar-Pei, softly whining.

I will never forget that sight as long as I live. My feelings of happiness and joy were suddenly shattered as I stood staring at my beautiful, little Scarlet, who lay motionless on her bed. One of the most dreaded of all maladies had attacked her - bloat. Bloat is a build-up of gases in the stomach. This life-threatening condition requires immediate veterinary help. But it was too late. Scarlet was gone and I was totally devastated.

My only consolation in this very sad experience is that I know, even though her first two years of life were not the best, she had in the two short months with us experienced the love and attention she so rightfully deserved. I wanted to give her the best and do what I thought was right for her. Unfortunately, I lost her anyway.

My dear Scarlet. No more tail wagging. No more licks of her soft, black tongue. No more special little walks. It was a very painful experience, and one I will never forget. I can't turn back time and change what happened. I can only look ahead and offer my help again to those Shar-Pei who could be just like Scarlet, looking for a loving home. Therefore, I have written this in her memory, in hopes I can inspire other fellow Shar-Pei lovers to always be on the lookout for those unfortunate ones who need a caring home.

Scarlet deserved the best and we gave her the best. We buried her in the local pet cemetery and the inscription on her bronze memorial reads -

**SCARLET 1986-1989 We had but a brief time together Dawn and George Hertzog**

My hope is this story has touched your heart, for that is what it was intended to do. If the opportunity arises, I encourage those of you who have the pleasurable experience of befriending a Shar-Pei to consider doing what I have done. Believe me, it is a very rewarding experience. The rewards far outweigh any temporary inconvenience that might occur.

# MEET SCARLET'S KIDS

KIDS THAT ARE READY AND WAITING FOR THEIR HOMES, NEWLY ARRIVED AT OPERATION SCARLET OR RECENTLY CHOSEN OR ADOPTED



LUCKY ME...  
I'VE BEEN  
CHOSEN!

I RECENTLY ARRIVED AT OS  
AND I AM ANXIOUSLY WAITING  
TO GO TO MY FOREVER HOME

NEAR LEE



PEACHES



OUCH, I GOT HIT BY A CAR! BUT  
OPERATION SCARLET TOOK CARE OF  
ME AND I AM ON THE MEND.

TURKEY





*WE WERE FOUND TOGETHER ABANDONED AT OUR HOME. WE WOULD LOVE TO FIND A HOME WHERE WE COULD STAY TOGETHER. CURRENTLY WE ARE IN BOARDING BECAUSE THERE IS NO ROOM FOR US AT THE RESCUE. WHEN SOME LUCKY KIDS LEAVE US FOR THEIR NEW HOMES, WE WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE RESCUE.*

**LION & FRANKIE**

## Sponsor a Pei Program

What happens when there is a homeless Shar-Pei but no room at Operation Scarlet? Thanks to a special program funded by donors, these Pei are placed in boarding until a space opens up for them at the rescue. This keeps these kids off the streets and out of kill shelters. Would you like to be a part of this program? Donations can be of any amount the sponsor wishes to donate. All donations are welcome to help cover the cost of boarding. Visit [OperationScarlet.com](http://OperationScarlet.com) for more information.



*WE WERE PLACED IN BOARDING BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR US AT OPERATION SCARLET. BUT WE WERE SO SCARED FROM HAVING LOST OUR HOMES, OS FOUND A WAY TO MAKE ENOUGH SPACE TO SQUEEZE US IN. WE ARE FEELING BETTER NOW THAT WE HAVE MORE COMPANY. WE ARRIVED TOGETHER AT OS. WE HAD BEEN LIVING IN A CAR WITH OUR OWNER WHEN WE LOST OUR HOME.*

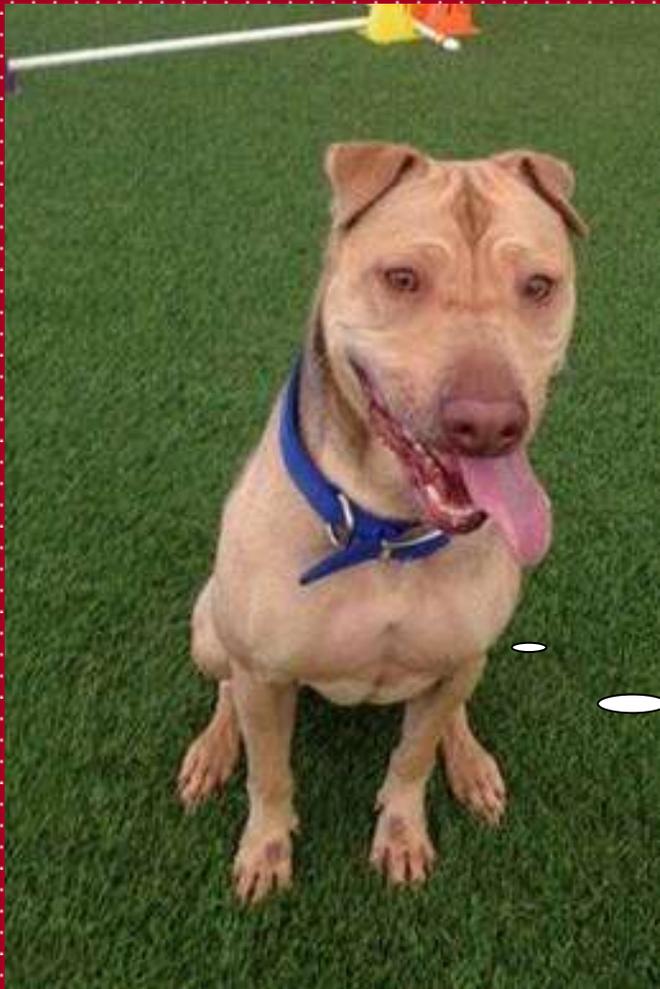
**HARRY & LILY**



**GRACIE**

I LOST MY HOME WHEN MY OWNER DIED, BUT I JUST GOT GREAT NEWS! I'VE BEEN ADOPTED.

DID YOU KNOW? THE CHINESE SHAR-PEI DATE BACK TO THE HAN DYNASTY (CHINA 200 BC)



**BRISKY**



**PARIS**

Wow! I have been chosen!

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR A HOME FOR FOUR YEARS..... PLEASE ADOPT ME!



**DID YOU KNOW? SHAR-PEI MEANS "SAND SKIN"**



**DAVEY JONES**

*WOW, I HAVE BEEN CHOSEN!  
THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR  
HELPING ME FIND A HOME!*



**TOM**

*I AM A NEW ARRIVAL AT OS AND I  
AM HOPING THAT A FOREVER HOME  
IS IN MY NEAR FUTURE.*



**GOLIATH**



*GIDGET*

*WE WERE JUST ADOPTED! WE ARRIVED TOGETHER AT OS AND WERE LUCKY ENOUGH TO FIND A HOME THAT WOULD TAKE BOTH OF US!*



*GUS*



*ELI*

*WOW, I HAVE BEEN CHOSEN! THANK YOU TO ALL WHO VOLUNTEER AND DONATE TO OS. WITHOUT YOUR HELP I WOULD STILL BE HOMELESS.*



*BETTY BOOP*

*I WAS FOUND AS A STRAY IN TERRIBLE CONDITION, BUT OPERATION SCARLET HAS HELPED ME TO FEEL SO MUCH BETTER.*



*BE MINE*



**MAGGIE**

I've been adopted! Thank you to everyone at Operation Scarlet for helping me find my home.



**LOUIE**

I RECENTLY ARRIVED AT OS

ME TOO!



**ACE**

## Want to adopt?

PROSPECTIVE ADOPTERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AN APPLICATION AND SUBMIT IT TO OPERATION SCARLET. A REPRESENTATIVE WILL THEN CONTACT THE PROSPECTIVE ADOPTER TO DISCUSS THE REST OF THE ADOPTION PROCESS. THE ADOPTION FEE IS \$350 AND HELPS TO COVER THE COST OF FOOD AND MEDICAL BILLS WHILE THE DOG IS UNDER THE CARE OF OS. THE HEALTH EXAM INCLUDES SPAYING/NEUTERING, YEARLY INOCULATIONS, HEARTWORM TESTING AND TREATMENT OF ANY OTHER HEALTH CONCERNS THAT MAY BE DETECTED DURING THE EXAM. PLEASE VISIT [OPERATIONSCARLET.COM](http://OPERATIONSCARLET.COM) TO COMPLETE AN ADOPTION APPLICATION.

*I LOST MY HOME ( FOR THE SECOND TIME) WHEN MY OWNER DIED. MY HEART IS BROKEN, PLEASE HELP ME HEAL.*



**RUBY**



*I RECENTLY FOUND MY FOREVER HOME...THANK YOU!*

**NETTIE**

*I WAS FOUND TIED TO A FENCE WITH HORRIFIC INJURIES. I AM ALL BETTER NOW AND I AM AVAILABLE TO GO TO A NEW HOME.*



**MCLOVIN**



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**Visit Us on the Web at [OperationScarlet.com](http://OperationScarlet.com) Like Us on FaceBook**

**Operation Scarlet, Inc. is a 501 (C) (3) organization. All donations are tax deductible.**



## The Rescue Dog

I would've died that day if not for you.  
I would've given up on life if not for your kind eyes.  
I would've used my teeth in fear if not for your gentle hands.  
I would have left this life believing that all humans don't care  
Believing there is no such thing as fur that isn't matted,  
Skin that isn't flea bitten, good food and enough of it  
Beds to sleep on, someone to love me  
To show me I deserve love just because I exist.  
Your kind eyes, your loving smile, your gentle hands  
Your big heart saved me...  
You saved me from the terror of the pound,  
Soothing away the memories of my old life.  
You have taught me what it means to be loved.  
I have seen you do the same for other dogs like me.  
I have heard you ask yourself in times of despair  
Why you do it



When there is no more money, no more room, no more homes  
You open your heart a little bigger, stretch the money a little tighter  
Make just a little more room...to save one more like me.  
I tell you with the gratitude and love that shines in my eyes  
In the best way I know how  
Reminding you why you go on trying.

I am the reason  
The dogs before me are the reason  
As are the ones who come after.  
Our lives would've been wasted, our love never given  
We would die if not for you.

**Want to Help a Homeless Shar-Pei?**

**Adopt      Donate      Volunteer**

**OpScarlet@verizon.net**