The American Kennel Club is proposing group realignment and expanding the number of conformation groups from the current 7 to 11. If you would like to read the list of groups and the dogs proposed to go into those groups you can find it at this link: [http://www.cspca.com/Realignment/Suggested%20Breed%20List.pdf](http://www.cspca.com/Realignment/Suggested%20Breed%20List.pdf)

The Realignment Committee has placed the Chinese Shar-Pei in the Working Spitz group; however we can let AKC know if we had rather be in some other group. Dogs are placed in groups according to common features, traits, skills, natural instincts, ancestry etc. If the Group Realignment passes, then whichever group we end up in will be the group that we will stay in for a long time to come. It is very important that we choose wisely as to what is in the best interest of our breed. It would also be wise to consider what is to be gained by moving from our current group. What do we stand to lose by moving to a new group? We should only move to a new group in order to improve our breed and not for anyone’s personal gain.

I have made a photo chart of the different groups that have been proposed by people for our breed. Please study the groups carefully before you vote on the group that you feel would best represent our breed.

**New Proposed AKC Group from Realignment Committee- Group 10: Non-Sporting**

The breeds in the Non-Sporting Group are a varied collection in terms of size, coat, personality and overall appearance. They have varied natural instincts but all make great family companions. This is the current group that the Shar-Pei is in.

(14 breeds/varieties)

- **Bichon Frise 9 ½- 11 ½ "**
  - Companion dog

- **Boston Terrier 15-25 lbs.**
  - Companion dogs

- **Bolognese 9- 12"**
  - companion dog

- **Bulldog 40-50 lbs.**
  - companion dog but used to be used for bull baiting

- **Coton de Tulear 10- 12 "**
  - rat hunters

- **French Bulldog 25lbs or less**
  - Companions

- **Lhasa Apso 10-11"**
  - Home guardians, companions

- **Lowchen 12- 14”**
  - Companions

- **Poodle (Miniature) 10- 15”**
  - Poodle (Standard) over 15”
  - Originally water retrievers

- **Peruvian Inca Orchid 9 ¾" to 19 ¾ "**
  - These are sight hounds.

- **Tibetan Spaniel 10”**
  - watch dogs and companions

- **Tibetan Terrier 14- 17”**
  - Used for herding, and retrieving as well as watch dogs and companions.

- **Xoloitzcuintli 10- 23”**
  - Guard and companion dog
New Proposed AKC Group from Realignment Committee- 12-2011  
Group 7: Working-Spitz

The Realignment Committee has placed the Shar-Pei in this group. Spritz dogs are from the Northern Regions and Shar-Pei is a southern region dog. They are used for a variety of tasks in their places of origin — Hunting, Guarding, Hauling.

Spitz Breeds Are Characterized By An Wolf Like Appearance  
Tail Carried Tightly Erect And Curled Over The Back  
Erect Pricked ears  
Coat 3” to 6” in length

(24 breeds)

Akita 24-28”  Bear hunter, guard dog

Alaskan Malamute 23-25”  
Sled dog

American Eskimo Dog 9-19”  companion, used to To be circus trick dog

Chow Chow 17-20”  
Hunter, guardian

Eurasier 19-23½”  Companion dogs

Finnish Lapphund 16-21”  Reindeer herder, campanion

Finnish Spitz 15½-20”  
Bird hunter

German Spitz 12-16”

Icelandic Sheepdog 16½-18”  
livestock herder

Jindo 19½ - 20”  Korean dogs hunters

Kai Ken 18-22”  
Boar and deer hunters

Karelean Bear Dog 19-24”  
Bear hunters

Keeshond – 17-18”  
Barge dog, campanion

Kishu Ken 17-22”  
Boar and deer hunting

Norrbottenspets 16½” - 18”  
hunters

Norwegian Buhund 16-18½”  Sheep herder, livestock guardian, farm dog

Norwegian Elkhound 19½ - 20½”  
Elk hunter

Norwegian Lundehund 12-15”  
Puffin retriever
Samoyed 19-23 ½"  
Reindeer herder sled dog

Schipperke 10-13"  
watchdog companion

Siberian Husky 20-23 ½"  
sled dogs

Shiba Inu 17-23"  
Bird and small game hunter

Swedish Vallhund 11 ½-13 ½"  
cattle & sheep herder

New Proposed AKC Group from Realignement Committee- Group 6: Working-Molosser

It has been proposed that the Chinese Shar-Pei might fit in this group. The Molosser group are descendents from the Mastiff breed. “Their considerable dimensions and strength alone, however, make many working dogs unsuitable as pets for average families. And again, by virtue of their size alone, these dogs must be properly trained,” according to AKC.*

Molossers typically are very large, massive, muscular dogs that are very territorial. Many were bred for use as house and flock guard dogs for their deep voices and natural guarding instincts.

(20 breeds)

Boerboel  
From South Africa  
23-27"  
Guard dogs

Boxer 21 ½ - 25"  
Large game hunter, guard and companion

Bullmastiff 24-27"  
Guard dog

Cane Corso 23 ½ - 27 ½"  
Property watch dog and large game hunter

Caucasian Ovcharka 25-27"  
Guard dog

Central Asian Shepherd Dog  
Livestock guardians, home protection and dog fighting  
24-32"

Chinook 22-26"  
Sled dog used in drafting and racing

Dogo Argentino 23 1/2 - 27"  
Big game hunter

Dogue De Bordeaux 23-27"  
Guardian, hunter

Estrela Mountain Dog  
Herd guarding dogs  
25 ½ - 28 ½"

Great Dane 28-30"  
Boar hunters & estate guard dogs

Leonberger 25-31 ½"  
Multipurpose working dog

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New Proposed AKC Group from Realignment Committee- Group 5: Working-Utility

These dogs are drovers, herders, livestock guardian dogs, and fisherman assistance dogs. Some people think that the Chinese Shar-Pei belongs in this group because of similar characteristics. “Their considerable dimensions and strength alone, however, make many working dogs unsuitable as pets for average families. And again, by virtue of their size alone, these dogs must be properly trained” according to AKC.*

Definitions:
- Draft dogs- Pull carts etc
- Drover- Moves a herd of livestock along for one place to another
- Herding- bringing individual animals together into a herd, maintaining the herd and moving the herd
- Livestock Guardian- stay with the livestock in the field and protect them from predators

(19 breeds) in this proposed group.

- **Anatolian Shepherd** - Large working Livestock guardian dog (28 – 30")
- **Appenzeller Sennenhunde** - Medium Swiss Alps dog. It is a herding and guard dog. (18½ - 23")
- **Bergamasco** - From Italian Alps Sheep Herding dog with felted coat similar to Komondors (23½")
- **Bernese Mountain Dog** - Large dog Draft, drover and watch dog (25-27")
- **Black Russian Terrier** - Large dog developed to serve as guard dog and police dog. (27-30")
- **Dalmatian** - is a natural follower and guardian of horse-drawn coach (19-23")
- **Doberman Pinscher** - medium size guard dog (24-28")
- **German Pinscher** - Medium size watch dog and vermin hunter. (17-20")
Giant Schnauzer - Large herding and drover dog. (23 ½ - 27 ½”)

Greater Swiss Mountain Dog - Large draft and drover breed. (25.5 – 28.5”)

Great Pyrenees - Large sheep shepherd (25- 32”)

Entlebucher Mountain Dog - Medium size herder and drover dog (16-21”)

Komondor - Large livestock guard dog. (25 ½ “)

Kuvasz - Large livestock guard dog (26- 30”)

Newfoundland - Large Helped fishermen pull their nets and pull carts (26-28”)

Portuguese Water Dog - Medium size used by fishermen (17-23”)

Saint Bernard - Large dog used for cart pulling and guarding Avalanche rescue (25 ½- 27 ½”)

Slovensky Cuvac - large Artic livestock guard dog & drover (22- 27 ½ “)

Standard Schnauzer - Medium livestock guardian (17 ½ - 19 ½”)

It is written in our By-Laws that as a member of the CSPCA all club members are responsible (Section 2 Paragraph (d): *to do all in our power to protect and advance the interest of the breed.* Please select wisely when you mark your ballot to vote on the group for the Chinese Shar-Pei. Your first concern should be to do what is best for our breed and “to do no harm”. When you study the choices of groups that have been brought up as choices for the Shar-Pei, think about how being in that group might affect your dog’s reputation. Our breeders have worked for over 30 years to improve the temperament of our breed, and it would be a shame to go backwards on our reputation. Dogs in some of these groups require you to have special homeowners insurance if you have them in your home.

Also keep in mind that the CSPCA never initialed any change in our groups. That was the sole work of the AKC Group Realignment Committee. Careful thought went into deciding which group we would go in when we were first recognized by AKC. Is there a good reason for moving to a new group that will make our breed better off? Whichever group we choose to go into now will be the group that we remain in for a long, long time to come. We cannot afford to get it wrong…….our dogs are depending on us to do the right thing for them.

* [http://www.akc.org/breeds/working_group.cfm](http://www.akc.org/breeds/working_group.cfm)