

AKC Group Realignment
December, 2011

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>

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



Lowchen 12- 14"
Companions



Boston Terrier 15-25 lbs.
Companion dogs



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



Bolognese 9- 12"
companion dog



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



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



Tibetan Spaniel 10" watch dogs
and companions



Coton de Tulear 10- 12 "
rat hunters



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



French Bulldog
25lbs or less
Companions



Xoloitzcuintli 10- 23"
Guard and companion dog



Lhasa Apso 10-11"
Home guardians, companions

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

Heavy double coat and bushy
Wedge shaped head
Feet have heavy padding of fur for working in ice & snow.

(24 breeds)



Akita 24-28" Bear hunter, guard dog



Jindo 19 ½ - 20" Korean dogs hunters



Alaskan Malamute 23- 25" Sled dog



Kai Ken 18- 22 " Boar and deer hunters



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



Karelean Bear Dog 19- 24" Bear hunters



Chow Chow 17- 20" Hunter, guardian



Keeshond – 17- 18 " Barge dog, companion



Eurasier 19- 23 ½" Companion dogs



Kishu Ken 17- 22" Boar and deer hunting



Finnish Lapphund 16- 21" Reindeer herder, companion



Norrbottenspets 16 ½" – 18" hunters



Finnish Spitz 15 ½- 20" Bird hunter



Norwegian Buhund 16- 18 ½ " Sheep herder, livestock guardian, farm dog



German Spitz 12-16"



Norwegian Elkhound 19 ½ - 20 ½ " Elk hunter



Icelandic Sheepdog 16 ½ - 18" livestock herder



Norwegian Lundehund 12- 15" Puffin retriever



Samoyed 19- 23 ½"
Reindeer herder sled dog



Shiba Inu 17- 23" Bird and small game hunter



Schipperke 10- 13" watchdog companion



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



Siberian Husky 20-23 ½ "
sled dogs

New Proposed AKC Group from Realignment Committee- Group 6: Working-Molossers

It has been proposed that the Chinese Shar-Pei might fit in this group. The Molossers group are descendants 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



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



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



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



Bullmastiff 24- 27" Guard dog



Dogue De Bordeaux
23- 27" Guardian, hunter



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



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



Caucasian Ovcharka
25-27" Guard dog



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



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



Leonberger 25- 31 ½ "
Multipurpose working dog



Mastiff 27 1/2 – 30 "
Guard dogs



Rottweiler 22-27" Guard dog and
cattle drover



Neapolitan Mastiff 24-31"
Guard and protection dog



Spanish Mastiff Livestock guardian
28- 30"



Perro de Presa Canario- Cattle dogs,
guard dog and extermination of stray
animals 22- 26 "



Tibetan Mastiff 24-26" Family and
property guardian



Rafeiro Do Alentejo Averages 28 1/2 "
Referred as the Portugese Mastiff.



Tosa 24- 32" Known as a fighting
dog

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

These dogs are drovers, herders, live stock 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

Drovers- 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

Live Stock 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")



Black Russian Terrier - Large dog
developed to serve as guard dog and
police dog. (27-30")



Appenzeller Sennenhunde -
Medium Swiss Alps dog. It is a
herding and guard dog.
(18 1/2 - 23")



Dalmatian is a natural follower
and guardian of horse-drawn coach
(19-23")



Bergamasco- From Italian Alps
Sheep Herding dog with felted coat
similar to Komondors (23 1/2")



Doberman Pinscher- medium size
guard dog (24-28")



Bernese Mountain Dog- Large dog
Draft, drover and watch dog (25- 27")



German Pinscher - Medium size
watch dog and vermin hunter.
(17- 20")



Giant Schnauzer- Large herding and drover dog. (23 ½ - 27 ½")



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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

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