

Memorandum for AKC BOD and AKC Delegates

Subject: Group Realignment - The time has come

In October, 2007, the AKC Board of Directors appointed a committee to evaluate the existing alignment of breeds within the seven variety groups and determine if a different alignment would better serve the Sport.

In 2008, the committee reported its recommendations to expand the number of groups from seven to ten and to move breeds from the current groups to the new groups. The proposal was scheduled to be voted on at the March 2009 Delegate meeting.

At the March, 2009 Delegate meeting, the Committee recommended that the proposal be referred back to the BOD, as additional information had rendered a vote premature. The BOD subsequently referred the action back to a re-formed Realignment committee, which began its work in 2010.

In accomplishing its task the Realignment Committee met in person, via conference call and through email coordination. In its study, the committee considered the current groupings, the previous comments from all stakeholders, the development of AKC record keeping and event management software, the numbers of breeds in the recognition pipeline and AKC plans for streamlining the breed recognition process, and the parallel work of the AKC Judging Approval Process committee. A composite of Frequently Asked Questions (and Answers) which provide detail is included in this summary

Significant changes in the Groups include splitting the Working Group into three groups, the Hound Group into two groups and the Sporting Group into two groups. A listing of proposed Groups and their composition is included in this summary.

The committee recommends the addition of four groups to the listing currently in place (7 groups). This change which requires Delegate approval to amend Chapter 3, Sections 1, 15, 17, 18, 19 and 20, and Chapter 6, Section 3 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows. Concurrently, the committee notes that it may be useful to remove the reference to the number of groups from all of the above sections, except Chapter 3, Section 1.

In addition, Chapter 2 of the Rules Applying to Registration and Discipline refers to the number of groups, and would require Delegate approval to amend.

The committee, by submission of this report, requests the Board of Directors of the American Kennel Club, in accordance with Article XX of the Bylaws of the American Kennel Club, propose and submit the necessary amendments to the Delegate body, to be read at the December, 2011 meeting of the Delegate Body, published in two issues of AKC Gazette, and voted upon at the March, 2012 meeting of the Delegate Body.

Respectfully submitted,

S/ Tom Davies, Chair

REALIGNMENT FAQ

Why realign the groups?

The proposed Group Realignment will

- Align breeds that are similar in conformation, structure or function
- Improve judges' education by building on similarities
- Accommodate new breeds within the groups
- Increase entries/enhance exhibitor experience by providing additional opportunities for group placement
- Improve spectator understanding of dog shows

Why now, when the proposal two years ago was set aside?

A number of factors influenced the decision to postpone the Realignment Initiative. Most of those issues are now resolved, or are on parallel timelines to implement solutions. Revision is inevitable, or the current scheme becomes unmanageable.

With entries declining, how can AKC justify enlarging the number of Groups?

AKC recently revised the process for accepting new breeds. As these breeds gain full recognition, and begin appearing in our events, the current groups will become unmanageable. Additional groups bring additional positive competitive opportunities for our exhibitors.

If we do nothing what happens to sizes of the Groups?

As of 7/1/2011	Current	2014 Projected (adding Miscellaneous)
Sporting	29	39
Hound	28	41
Working	28	42
Terrier	29	31
Toy	23	25
Non-Sporting	20	23
Herding	26	38

Can't we just divide fix the large groups and avoid moving other breeds around?

Incremental solutions only solve half of the problem, but not at half of the cost. After reviewing the comments from the previous proposal, and understanding the impact that new breeds will have, the committee felt that a comprehensive revision now would mean we should not have to revisit the groups in 3, 5 or 10 years.

What's different about this proposal?

A major concern with the 2008 proposal was that the projected size of the working group was not addressed. This proposal answers that concern.

How long will this take to implement?

Current estimate is 3 years from approval to implementation. Assuming approval would occur in March 2012, implementation would be mid-2015.

How do these groups align with other organizations?

There was no attempt to mirror any other organization's structure. There are similarities - and differences - to FCI and others.

What input do Parent Clubs have in this process? Will they have opportunity to determine what which group their breed is assigned?

The committee took into consideration the previous comments of all stakeholders. Cogent, well-supported Parent Club inputs will be given due weight. In the long term, however, the groups will be based an overall plan to enhance the Sport.

Eleven groups?

- Group 1: Sporting - Pointer & Setter
- Group 2: Sporting - Retriever & Spaniel
- Group 3: Scent Hounds
- Group 4: Sight Hounds
- Group 5: Working – Utility
- Group 6: Working – Molosser
- Group 7: Working – Spitz
- Group 8: Terriers
- Group 9: Toy
- Group 10: Non-Sporting
- Group 11: Herding

- Sporting group: Divided into Pointer/Setter and Retriever/Spaniel breeds by considering both physical form and function
- Hound group: Divided into Sight and Scent by function and the physical characteristics related to each
- Working group: Divided into Working-Utility (multi-purpose breeds which vary in ancestry and function) , Working-Molosser (generally dogs of the Mastiff type) and Working-Spitz (breeds which common physical characteristics and ancestry.)
- Terrier Group: Unchanged
- Toy Group: Essentially unchanged.
- Non-Sporting Group: Based on similarity of form and function, Spitz-type breeds were moved to Working-Spitz. Non-Sporting name is retained
- Herding Group: Several breeds moved to other groups. Remainder of composition unchanged

With this many groups won't shows take longer? The administrative time to move additional groups in and out of the ring(s) should not add more than five to ten minutes. Groups can also be judged concurrently. Of course, more entries resulting from realignment could mean shows would become longer---and that would be a good thing.

How much more will this cost for AB clubs?

The club determines actual costs based on what it decides to award. Should the club opt for rosettes, estimated pricing is \$35-\$50 per each additional group. Prizes are also at the discretion of the show-giving club. Note: Rosettes and/or prizes are not required by the Rules.

How will realignment affect the approval of judges?

AKC has developed a favorable package for judging approval which relaxed some requirements and enables judges to attain approvals on a compressed time frame.

What about existing group clubs?

When realignment is implemented, Group Shows may only offer competition for breeds in the new groups. A breed or variety may only be eligible to compete in one group and that would be the new group to which it is assigned. Existing Working, Hound, Sporting and Non-Sporting clubs eligible to hold AKC events at the time of implementation, may concurrently hold shows for the two new Sporting or Hound Groups, the three new Working Groups, and the Non-Sporting Group may hold shows for the Non-Sporting and Working-Spitz groups. There may be no inter-group competition, nor Best in Show at these events. When a club offers competition within the new groupings, they would be treated as two separate, but concurrently held, Group Shows. There are currently nine approved Sporting, eighteen approved Hound, ten approved Working and seven approved Non-Sporting Group Clubs.

The Groups – projections with breeds currently in the Groups, Miscellaneous Class and Foundation Stock Service
(with inclusion of FSS, numbers are higher than short term projections listed page 2)

Breed listings subject to refinement.

**Group 1: Sporting – Pointers & Setters
(18 breeds)**

Bracco Italiano
Brittany
Drentsche Patrijshond
Pointer
Pointer (German Shorthaired)
Pointer (German Wirehaired)
Portuguese Pointer
Setter (English)
Setter (Gordon)
Setter (Irish)
Setter (Irish Red & White)
Small Muensterlander Pointer
Spinone Italiano
Stabyhoun
Vizsla
Weimaraner
Wirehaired Pointing Griffon
Wirehaired Vizsla

**Group 2: Sporting - Retrievers & Spaniels
(21 breeds)**

Barbet
Koolkerhondje
Lagotto Romagnolo
Retriever (Chesapeake Bay)
Retriever (Curly-Coated)
Retriever (Flat-Coated)
Retriever (Golden)
Retriever (Labrador)
Retriever (Nova Scotia Duck Tolling)
Spaniel (American Water)
Spaniel (Boykin)
Spaniel (Clumber)
Spaniel (Cocker) ASCOB
Spaniel (Cocker) Black
Spaniel (Cocker) Parti-color
Spaniel (English Cocker)
Spaniel (English Springer)
Spaniel (Field)
Spaniel (Irish Water)
Spaniel (Sussex)
Spaniel (Welsh Springer)

**Group 3: Scent Hounds
(21 breeds/varieties)**

American Foxhound
American English Coonhound
Basset Hound
Beagle 13 & 15 in
Black & Tan Coonhound
Bloodhound
Bluetick Coonhound
Dachsunds (3 varieties)
English Foxhound
Grand Basset Griffon Vendeen
Harrier
Otterhound
Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen
Plott
Portugese Podengo Pequeno
Redbone Coonhound
Treeing Tennessee Brindle
Treeing Walker Coonhound

**Group 4: Sight Hounds
(15 breeds)**

Afghan Hound
Azawakh
Basenji
Borzoi
Cirneco dell'Etna
Greyhound
Ibizan Hound
Irish Wolfhound
Italian Greyhound
Pharoah Hound
Rhodesian Ridgeback
Saluki
Scottish Deerhound
Sloughi
Whippet

**Group 5: Working-Utility
(18 breeds)**

Anatolian Shepherd
Appenzeller Sennenhunde
Bernese Mtn. Dog
Black Russian Terrier
Dalmation
Doberman Pinscher
German Pinscher
Giant Schnauzer
Greater Swiss Mountain Dog
Great Pyrenees
Entlebucher Mountain Dog
Komondor
Kuvasz
Newfoundland
Portuguese Water Dog
Saint Bernard
Slovensky Cuvac
Standard Schnauzer

**Group 6: Working-Molosser
(20 breeds)**

Boerboel
Boxer
Bullmastiff
Cane Corso
Caucasian Ovcharka
Central Asian Shepherd Dog
Chinook
Dogo Argentino
Dogue De Bordeaux
Estrela Mountain Dog
Great Dane
Leonberger
Mastiff
Neapolitan Mastiff
Perro de Presa Canario
Rafeiro Do Alentejo
Rottweiler
Spanish Mastiff
Tibetan Mastiff
Tosa

**Group 7: Working-Spitz
(24 breeds)**

Akita
Alaskan Malamute
American Eskimo Dog
Chinese Shar-Pei
Chow Chow
Eurasier
Finnish Lapphund
Finnish Spitz
German Spitz
Island Sheepdog
Jindo
Kai Ken
Karelean Bear Dog
Keeshond
Kishu Ken
Norrbottenspets
Norwegian Buhund
Norwegian Elkhound
Norwegian Lundehund
Samoyed
Schipperke
Siberian Husky
Shiba Inu
Swedish Vallhund

**Group 8: Terriers
(41 Breeds)**

Airedale Terrier	Fox Terrier (Wire)
American Staffordshire Terrier	Glen of Imaal Terrier
Australian Terrier	Irish Terrier
Bedlington Terrier	Kerry Blue Terrier
Border Terrier	Lakeland Terrier
Bull Terrier (Colored)	Manchester Terrier (Standard)
Bull Terrier (White)	Miniature Bull Terrier
Cairn Terrier	Miniature Schnauzer
Cesky Terrier	Norfolk Terrier
Dandie Dinmont Terrier	Norwich Terrier
Fox Terrier (Smooth)	Parson Russell Terrier
Fox Terrier (Wire)	Rat Terrier
Glen of Imaal Terrier	Russell Terrier
Irish Terrier	Scottish Terrier
Kerry Blue Terrier	Sealyham Terrier
Lakeland Terrier	Skye Terrier
Manchester Terrier (Standard)	Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier
Miniature Bull Terrier	Staffordshire Bull Terrier
Miniature Schnauzer	Welsh Terrier
Norfolk Terrier	West Highland White Terrier
Norwich Terrier	

**Group 9: Toy
(22 breeds)**

Affenpinscher	Manchester Terrier (Toy)
Brussels Griffon	Miniature Pinscher
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel	Papillon
Chihuahua (Long Coat)	Pekingese
Chihuahua (Smooth Coat)	Pomeranian
Chinese Crested	Poodle (Toy)
English Toy Spaniel (B& PC)	Pug
English Toy Spaniel (KC & R)	Shih Tzu
Havanese	Silky Terrier
Japanese Chin	Toy Fox Terrier

Maltese

Yorkshire Terrier

**Group 10: Non-Sporting
(14 breeds)**

Bichon Frise

Boston Terrier

Bolognese

Bulldog

Coton de Tulear

French Bulldog

Lhasa Apso

Lowchen

Poodle (Miniature)

Poodle (Standard)

Peruvian Inca Orchid

Tibetan Spaniel

Tibetan Terrier

Xoloitzcuintli

**Group 11: Herding
(28 Breeds)**

Australian Cattle Dog

Australian Shepherd

Bearded Collie

Beauceron

Belgian Lakenois

Belgian Malinois

Belgian Sheepdog

Belgian Tervuren

Bergomasco

Berger Picard

Border Collie

Bouvier des Flandres

Briard

Canaan Dog

Cardigan Welsh Corgi

Catahoula Leopard Dog

Collie (Rough)

Collie (Smooth)

Czechoslovakian Vicak

German Shepherd Dog

Lancashire Heeler

Mudi

Old English Sheepdog

Pembroke Welsh Corgi

Polish Lowland Sheepdog

Puli

Pumi

Pyrenean Shepherd

Schapendoes

Shetland Sheepdog