



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB<sup>SM</sup>

# Group Realignment Committee Report

The Board reviewed a copy of the report submitted by the Group Realignment Committee. It was VOTED (unanimously) to accept the report with the gratitude and appreciation of the Board; to direct staff to publish the report; and to encourage input.

General input should be sent to the Executive Secretary:

James Crowley, Executive Secretary  
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New York, NY 10016  
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Breed-specific comments should be submitted through the breed Parent Club.

A copy of the report, including the proposed realignment is attached (Attachment A). This will be considered by the AKC Board at its January 2009 meeting.

**Any input should be received before January.**

## ATTACHMENT A

### Report of the AKC Group Realignment Committee

October 13, 2009

On October 8, 2007, the Board of Directors of the American Kennel Club, appointed an exploratory committee, chaired by Dr. Thomas Davies, to evaluate the current alignment of breeds within the seven variety groups, to determine if a different alignment would better serve the Sport now and in the future, as new breeds become registrable.

The Committee included: Karen Burgess, Dr. Thomas Davies, Robert Fisher, Marieann Gladstone, Tim James, Dr. Alvin Krause, Dr. William Newman, John P. Nielsen, Dr. Robert Smith, Robin Stansell, and R. William Taylor.

The committee met together three times, and has discussed its recommendations via email, as well. The initial basis for the discussions centered on the increasing number of new breeds being brought into the AKC Stud Book, as well as the number of breeds awaiting acceptance currently in the Foundation Stock Service (FSS) listing.

In its deliberations, the committee considered several sources of information. The historical data suggested that the makeup of the groups for conformation judging was by no means a static listing. There were many changes in the distribution of breeds for show purposes (and for listing in AKC's Stud Book), and, in fact, no official, recorded group judging appears to have occurred prior to 1924. Group awards became official in

1925 with competition in five groups (Sporting, Working, Terrier, Toy and Non-Sporting). In 1930 the Sporting Group was split into the Sporting and Sporting (Hound) Groups. In 1983, the Working Group was split into the Working Group and the Herding Group.

The committee also considered two (non-official, non-scientific) polls, neither of which, in and of themselves, demanded a particular realignment. The general sense, however, was that it was time to do something about the burgeoning sizes of several of the groups, as well as the actual makeup of breeds within groups. The Delegate's Dog Show Rules Committee had conducted a short survey which indicated that about 75% of the respondents favored change. A much larger survey (1341 responders) appeared on the Infodog.com web site where only 17% of the respondents suggested that things were fine as they stood.

The first few months of the committee's existence was taken up by a thorough study of the Group system and a more detailed understanding of the history, form and function of the various breeds within the current group structure. Additionally, the makeup of groups around the world was reviewed.

After careful examination of the groups and the breeds that make them up, the committee decided that two of the current groups, which in a short time span could approach 40 breeds, can easily and logically be divided into two similar components. The Sporting Group can be divided into Sporting — Pointers and Setters, and Sporting — Retrievers and Spaniels. Functionally, this split made sense to the committee. Secondly, a logical division of the Hound Group would be Scent Hounds and Sight Hounds.

The third major change would be the creation of a new group, consisting of the Northern or Spitz type breeds. To populate this new group, we took the Norwegian Elkhound (from the Hound Group); the Akita, Alaskan Malamute, the Siberian Husky and the Samoyed (from the Working Group); the American Eskimo, Chinese Shar-Pei, Chow Chow, Finnish Spitz, Keeshond, Schipperke and Shiba Inu (from the Non-Sporting Group); and the Swedish Vallhund (from the Herding Group). The Parent clubs of these breeds were contacted and asked for their input.

We also chose to rename the Non-Sporting Group, since in fact it is (in addition to non-sporting) a non-hound, non-working, non-terrier, non-toy and non-herding group. After struggling with an appropriate name, we selected the Companion Group as the "new" name for this group.

In addition to moving the above mentioned Northern/Spitz breeds into a new group, we considered the group placement of several other breeds, which we considered as possible candidates for relocation. Each of these was based on careful study of the history, form and function of the particular breed. In each case, the Parent breed club was contacted and asked to weigh in on their thoughts. Each of those contacted chose to remain in their current group alignment except two. The Italian Greyhound wished to move to the Sight Hound Group and the Dalmatian requested a move to the Working Group.

The committee did discuss the issue of varieties; however, it was felt that this was somewhat beyond the scope of our charge at this time.

Our recommendation would necessitate the addition of three groups to the listing currently in place (7 groups). This would require Delegate approval to make changes to Chapter 3, Sections 1, 15, 17, 18, 19 and 20, and Chapter 6, Section 3 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows. 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 change.

The committee, by submission of this report, would request that 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 meeting of the Delegate Body, published in two issues of AKC Gazette, and voted upon at the March, 2009 meeting of the Delegate Body.

Attached is a listing of breeds and groups as proposed by the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

***The AKC Group Realignment Committee***

Karen Burgess  
Dr. Thomas M. Davies, Chair  
Robert Fisher  
Marieann Gladstone  
Tim James  
Dr. Alvin W. Krause  
Dr. William R. Newman  
John P. Nielsen  
Dr. Robert D. Smith  
Robin L. Stansell  
R. William Taylor

**AKC Group Realignment Committee — Proposed Breeds & Groups**  
(7/31/08)

From a presentation to the Delegates on September 8, 2008 by the AKC Group Realignment Committee

**Group 1: Sporting — Pointers and Setters (11) (12)**

Brittany  
Pointer  
Pointer (German Shorthaired)  
Pointer (German Wirehaired)  
Setter (English)  
Setter (Gordon)  
Setter (Irish)  
*Setter (Irish Red & White) Miscellaneous 6/27/07; Full Recognition 1/1/09*  
Spinone Italiano  
Vizsla  
Weimaraner  
Wirehaired Pointing Griffon

**Group 2: Sporting - Retrievers and Spaniels (17) (18)**

Retriever (Chesapeake Bay)  
Retriever (Curly-Coated)  
Retriever (Flat-Coated)  
Retriever (Golden)  
Retriever (Labrador)  
Retriever (Nova Scotia Duck Tolling)  
Spaniel (American Water)  
*Spaniel (Boykin) — Miscellaneous 1/1/08*  
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 (14) (17)**

Basset Hound  
Beagle (13")  
Beagle (15")  
Black and Tan Coonhound  
Bloodhound  
*Bluetick Coonhound - Miscellaneous 7/1/08*  
Dachshund (Longhaired)  
Dachshund (Smooth)  
Dachshund (Wirehaired)  
English Foxhound  
Foxhound (American)  
Harrier  
Otterhound  
Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen  
Plott  
*Redbone Coonhound — Miscellaneous 9/1/08*  
*Treeing Walker Coonhound — Miscellaneous 1/1/09*

**Group 4: Sight Hounds (11)**

Afghan Hound  
Basenji  
Borzoi  
Greyhound  
Ibizan Hound  
Irish Wolfhound  
Italian Greyhound  
Pharaoh Hound  
Rhodesian Ridgeback  
Saluki  
Scottish Deerhound  
Whippet

**Group 5: Working (23) (25)**

Anatolian Shepherd  
Bernese Mountain Dog  
Black Russian Terrier  
Boxer  
Bullmastiff  
*Cane Corso — Miscellaneous 7/1/08*  
Dalmatian  
Doberman Pinscher  
Dogue de Bordeaux  
German Pinscher  
Giant Schnauzer  
Great Dane  
Great Pyrenees  
Greater Swiss Mountain Dog  
Komondor  
Kuvasz  
*Leonberger — Miscellaneous 7/1/08*

Mastiff  
Neapolitan Mastiff  
Newfoundland  
Portuguese Water Dog  
Rottweiler  
Saint Bernard  
Standard Schnauzer  
Tibetan Mastiff

**Group 6: Terriers (28) (29)**

Airedale Terrier  
Australian Terrier  
American Staffordshire Terrier  
Bedlington Terrier  
Border Terrier  
Bull Terrier (Colored)  
Bull Terrier (White)  
Cairn Terrier  
*Cesky Terrier — Miscellaneous 7/1/08*  
Dandie Dinmont Terrier  
Fox Terrier (Smooth)  
Fox Terrier (Wire)  
Glen of Imaal Terrier  
Irish Terrier  
Kerry Blue Terrier  
Lakeland Terrier  
Manchester Terrier (Standard)  
Miniature Bull Terrier  
Miniature Schnauzer  
Norfolk Terrier  
Norwich Terrier  
Parson Russell Terrier  
Scottish Terrier  
Sealyham Terrier  
Skye Terrier  
Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier  
Staffordshire Bull Terrier  
Welsh Terrier  
West Highland White Terrier

**Group 7: Toys (21)**

Affenpinscher  
Brussels Griffon  
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel  
Chihuahua (Long Coat)  
Chihuahua (Smooth Coat)  
English Toy Spaniel (Blenheim & Prince Charles)  
English Toy Spaniel (King Charles & Ruby)  
Havanese  
Japanese Chin  
Maltese  
Manchester Terrier (Toy)  
Miniature Pinscher  
Papillon  
Pekingese  
Pomeranian

Poodle (Toy)  
Pug  
Shih Tzu  
Silky Terrier  
Toy Fox Terrier  
Yorkshire Terrier

**Group 8: Companion (11) (12)**

Bichon Frise  
Boston Terrier  
Bulldog  
Chinese Crested  
French Bulldog  
Lhasa Apso  
Lowchen  
Poodle (Miniature)  
Poodle (Standard)  
Tibetan Spaniel  
Tibetan Terrier  
*Xoloitzcuintli — Miscellaneous 1/10/09*

**Group 9: Herding (20) (21)**

Australian Cattle Dog  
Australian Shepherd  
Bearded Collie  
Beauceron  
Belgian Malinois  
Belgian Tervuren  
Belgian Sheepdog  
Border Collie  
Bouvier des Flandres  
Briard  
Canaan Dog  
Cardigan Welsh Corgi  
Collie (Rough)  
Collie (Smooth)  
German Shepherd  
Old English Sheepdog  
Pembroke Welsh Corgi  
Polish Lowland Sheepdog  
Puli  
*Pyrenean Shepherd — Miscellaneous 1/1/07; Full Recognition 1/1/09*  
Shetland Sheepdog

**Group 10: Northern (13) (16)**

Akita  
Alaskan Malamute  
American Eskimo Dog  
Chinese Shar-Pei  
Chow Chow  
Finnish Spitz  
*Icelandic Sheepdog — Miscellaneous 7/1/08*  
Keeshond  
*Norwegian Buhund — Miscellaneous 1/1/07; Full Recognition 1/1/09*  
*Norwegian Lundehund — Miscellaneous 7/1/08*  
Norwegian Elkhound

Samoyed  
Siberian Husky  
Schipperke  
Shiba Inu  
Swedish Vallhund