

## 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 or 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/before mid-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 by the AKC BOD in placing breeds into groups. In the long term, however, the groups will be based on 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 have common physical characteristics and ancestry.)
- Terrier Group: Unchanged
- Toy Group: Toy Group: one breed moved to another group and one breed added.
- 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.