

SHAR PEI

A breed standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However, if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as unacceptable, it must not be rewarded in the show ring.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 01/01/2020

ORIGIN

China. (Patronage: FCI)

UTILISATION

Hunting- and watchdog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

This Chinese breed has existed for hundreds of years in the provinces bordering the South China Sea. The town of Dialak in the province of Kwun Tung is probably the place of origin.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Active, compact, short-coupled, and squarely built dog of medium size.

Wrinkles over skull and withers, small ears, and "hippopotamus" muzzle impart to the Shar Pei a unique look. Dogs larger and more powerful than bitches.

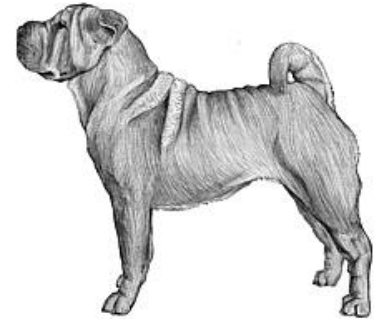


Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

- The height of the Shar Pei, from withers to ground, is approximately equal to the length of the body, from point of shoulder to point of buttock, especially in males.
- The length from nose to stop is approximately equal to the length from stop to occiput.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Calm, independent, loyal, affectionate to his family.

HEAD

Rather large in proportion to body. Wrinkles on forehead and cheeks continuing to form dewlap.

Cranial Region:

Skull: Flat, broad.

Stop: Moderate.

Facial Region:

Nose: Large and wide, preferably black, but any colour conforming to general coat colour permissible. Wide-opened nostrils.

Muzzle: A distinctive feature of the breed. Broad from root to tip of nose with no suggestion of tapering. Lips and top of muzzle well-padded. Bulge at the base of the nose permissible.

Mouth: Tongue, roof of mouth, gums, and flews: bluish-black is preferred. Pink-spotted tongue permissible. Solid pink tongue highly undesirable. In dilute-coloured dogs, the tongue is solid lavender.

Jaws and teeth: Jaws strong, with a perfect scissor bite, i.e. the upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth and set square to the jaws. Padding of lower lip should not be so excessive as to interfere with the bite.

Eyes:

Dark, almond-shaped, with a scowling expression. Lighter colour permissible in dilute-coloured dogs. Function of eyeball or lid in no way disturbed by surrounding skin, folds, or hair. Any sign of irritation of eyeball, conjunctiva, or eyelids highly undesirable. Free from entropion.

Ears:

Very small, rather thick, equilaterally triangular in shape, slightly rounded at tip and set high on the skull with tips pointing towards eyes; set well forward over eyes, wide apart and close to skull. Pricked ears highly undesirable.

NECK

Medium length, strong, set well on shoulders. The loose skin under the neck should not be excessive.

BODY

Folds of skin on body in mature dogs highly undesirable except on withers and base of tail, which show moderate wrinkling.

Topline: Dips slightly behind withers; then rises slightly over loin.

Back: Short, strong.

Loin: Short, broad, slightly arched.

Croup: Rather flat.

Chest: Broad and deep, brisket reaching the elbow.

Underline and belly: Rises slightly under the loin.

TAIL

Thick and round at the root, tapering to a fine point. The tail is set very high, a characteristic feature of the breed. May be carried high and curved, carried in tight curl, or curved over, or to either side, of the back. Lack of, or incomplete tail highly undesirable.

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: Forelegs straight, moderate length, good bone. The skin on forelegs shows no wrinkle.

Shoulder: Muscular, well-laid and sloping.

Metacarpus (pastern): Slightly sloping, strong, and flexible.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: Muscular, strong, moderately angulated, perpendicular to the ground, and parallel to each other when viewed from the rear. Wrinkles on upper thighs, lower thighs, rear pasterns, as well as the thickening of the skin on hocks undesirable.

Hock joint: Well let down.

FEET

Moderate size, compact, not splayed. Toes well-knuckled. Hind feet free from dewclaws.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

The preferred gait is trot. The gait is free, balanced, active, with good forward reach and strong drive from the hindquarters. The feet tend to converge to a center line when the speed increases. Stilted gait undesirable.

COAT

A distinctive feature of the breed: short, harsh, and bristly. The coat is straight and off-standing on the body, but generally flatter on the limbs. No undercoat. The coat may vary in length from 1cm to 2.5cm (approx. ½" – 1"). Never trimmed.

COLOUR

- All solid colours acceptable except white.

* Tail and rear part of thighs frequently of a lighter colour.

* Darker shading down the back and on the ears permissible.

SIZE

Height at withers:

44cm – 51cm (approx. 17" – 20").

***N.B.** Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.*

FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog, and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

Severe faults:

- Deviation from a scissor bite (as a transitory measure, a very slightly overshoot mouth is permissible).
- Snipey muzzle.
- Spotted tongue (except pink spotted tongue).
- Large ears.
- Low set tail.
- Coat longer than 2.5cm.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Flat foreface with badly overshoot bite; undershot bite.
- Solid pink tongue.
- Lower lip rolled in, interfering with the bite.
- Round, bulging eye. Entropion, ectropion.
- Skin, folds, or hair disturbing the normal function of the eye.
- Pricked ears.
- Absence of tail; stumpy tail.
- Heavy folds of skin on body (except withers and base of tail) and limbs.
- Not a solid colour (albino, brindle, patches, spots, black and tan, saddled pattern).

Remark:

Any artificial physical alteration to the Shar Pei (in particular lips and eyelids) eliminates the dog from competition.

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FCI Standard No 309: SHAR PEI

FCI Classification: Group 2: Pinscher and Schanuzer, Molossoid, and Swiss Mountain and Cattle dogs

Section 2.2. Molossian type
Without Working Trial