

CHINESE SHAR-PEI

GROUP: Non-Sporting

GENERAL APPEARANCE:

The Chinese Shar-Pei is a medium-sized, compact dog with a square, short-coupled body. The head is slightly large in proportion to the body, but not overly large, with a characteristic “hippo” muzzle and small, high-set, flat-lying ears. The tail is set high and curled over to either side of the back. Skin covering the body is loose and wrinkled, especially in puppies. The loose skin and wrinkles may be limited to the head, neck, and withers in adults. The coat is harsh-textured and no longer than one inch in length. Females may be slightly longer in body and smaller than males.

SIZE:

18-20 inches at the withers; weight is 45-60 pounds. The dog is usually larger and more square-bodied than the bitch, but both should appear well-proportioned. Height from the ground to the withers is approximately equal to the length from the point of breastbone to the point of rump.

COAT:

The extremely harsh coat is an essential element of the Shar-Pei. The coat is straight and stands away from the trunk of the body, while lying flatter on the limbs. Coat length may range from the very short “horse coat” up to one inch in length at the withers, called a “brush coat.” The coat should appear healthy but is never shiny. Shar-Pei coats may not be trimmed. ***Serious Faults:* soft coat; wavy coat; coat length greater than one inch at the withers; trimmed coat.**

COLOR & MARKINGS:

Color may be any solid color, with or without sabling. The solid color may include darker shading, usually down the back and on the ears. Darker hairs of the same base color may be sprinkled throughout the coat. ***Serious Faults:* Color patterns or brindling and spotting other than listed above. *Disqualifications:* Albino**

HEAD AND SKULL:

Slightly large in proportion to the body. The skin on the head is loose and forms profuse wrinkles on the forehead continuing into side wrinkles framing the face. Viewed from the side, the skull and muzzle are approximately parallel and equal in length. Viewed from the front, the Shar-Pei’s characteristic scowl is achieved by a marked brow with a padded button of skin just above the inner corner of the eye; by sufficient loose skin to form frowning brows; and distinct wrinkles between the eyes beginning at the base of the muzzle and extending up the forehead and around the face; by correct eye shape and placement; and by correct ear shape, carriage, placement. The skull is broad and flat, viewed from side or front. The muzzle is broad and deep, with plenty of fill under the eyes and no taper from the stop to the nose. The square appearance of the muzzle is caused by a combination of correct bone structure and padding of the muzzle and lips. When the mouth is closed, the upper lips completely cover the lower. The lips and top of muzzle are well-padded and may cause a slight bulge above the nose. The top surfaces and edges of the tongue, lips, inner mouth tissue, and gums are solid bluish-black, except in dilute colors where the pigment is solid lavender. In hot weather, the tongue pigment may lighten. This should not be confused with poor pigmentation. ***Serious Fault:* Spotted pink tongue. *Disqualification:* Solid pink tongue.**

Eyes: Eyes are dark brown, almond-shaped, and small. In the dilute colored dogs, eye color may be lighter. Eyes are set deeply, obliquely, and wide apart.

Ears: Extremely small and triangular with thick ear leather and slightly rounded tips. Ears are set high, wide apart, and forward on the skull, lying flat against the head and pointing toward the eyes. Edges of the ear may curl. The ears have the ability to move.

***Disqualification:* Pricked ears.**

Nose: The nose is large and broad with well-opened nostrils. Nose color is black in fawns, reds, and blacks. In dilute-colored dogs, the nose is self-colored. Cream colored dogs with black pigment may have a lighter nose.

Bite: Complete set of good-sized, evenly spaced, white teeth meeting in a scissors bite.
Serious Fault: Any deviation from a scissors bite.

NECK:

Medium length, full and set well into the shoulders. Loose skin forms moderate to heavy folds and abundant dewlap around the neck and throat.

BODY:

Body is square, with the distance from the withers to the ground roughly equal to the distance from the prosternum to point of buttocks. Topline should dip slightly behind the withers, slightly rising over the short, broad loin. **Faults: A level, roached, or swayed topline or backline shall be faulted to the degree of deviation.** The chest is broad, muscular, and deep, extending to the elbow. Loin is short and broad and slightly tucked up. Croup is flat with the base of the tail extremely high, clearly exposing an up-tilted anus.

FOREQUARTERS:

The Chinese Shar-Pei's shoulders are well muscled and well laid back. The shoulder blade and upper arm are of approximately equal length. Forelegs are straight with substantial but not heavy bone. Elbows are close to the body. The distance from the elbow to the ground equals one-half the dog's height at the withers. Viewed from the front, the forelegs are straight and set moderately apart. Pasterns are strong and flexible.

HINDQUARTERS:

Muscular, strong, and moderately angulated. Hocks are short, perpendicular to the ground and parallel to each other when viewed from the rear. Rear dewclaws **must** be removed.

Feet: Round, compact, and tight. Front dewclaws may be removed; rear dewclaws **must be removed**.

Tail: High-set tail is a characteristic of the Shar-Pei. The tail is thick and round at the base, tapering to a fine point and curling over or to either side of the back. **Serious Faults: Low set tail; tail not over back; bushy tail. Disqualification: Incomplete tail.**

MOVEMENT:

Movement is to be judged when dog is at a trot, preferably on a loose lead. Gait is free and balanced with the feet tending to converge on a center line of gravity when the dog moves at a quick trot. The gait should combine good forward reach and a strong drive in the hindquarters. Proper movement is essential.

TEMPERAMENT:

The Shar-Pei is calm, confident, dignified, and aloof with strangers. Regal, intelligent, lordly, scowling, sober, and snobbish, essentially independent and somewhat standoffish with strangers, but extreme in devotion to the family. Never timid or aggressive. The desired wrinkles on the head combined with the deep set eyes limit the Shar-Pei's peripheral vision. Persons approaching a Shar-Pei should take this into consideration.

Any departure from this standard should be considered a fault, and the final score should reflect the seriousness of the deviation from the standard.

Disqualifications:

Pricked ears

Solid pink tongue

Absence of complete tail

Albino