

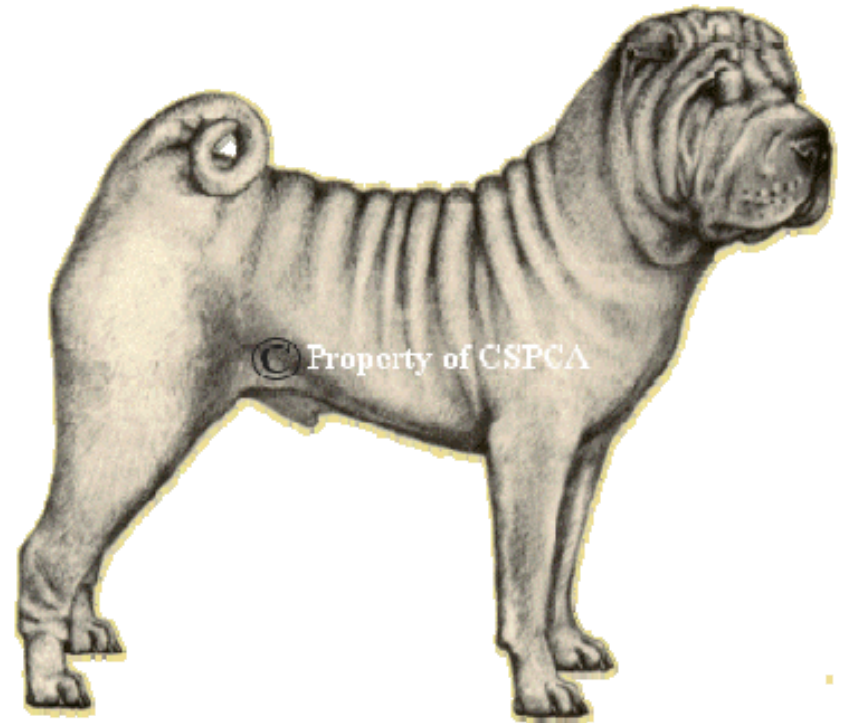
**ILLUSTRATED STANDARD**  
**FOR THE**  
**CHINESE SHAR-PEI**



**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

An alert, compact dog of medium size and substance; square in profile, close-coupled; the well proportioned head slightly, but not overly large for the body. The short, harsh coat, the loose skin covering the head and body, the small ears, the "hippopotamus" muzzle shape and the high set tail impart to the Shar-Pei a unique look peculiar to him alone. The loose skin and wrinkles covering the head, neck and body are super-abundant in puppies but these features may be limited to the head, neck and withers in the adult.

*The harshness of the coat is imperative.*



We wish to acknowledge Donna Kurtz for creating the excellent Shar-Pei drawings in this Illustrated Standard.

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(Revisions - 1993, 1998)

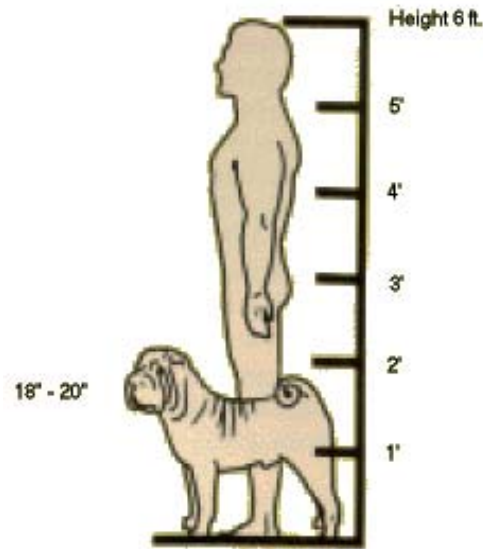
## SIZE, PROPORTION & SUBSTANCE:

### **Size**

The height is 18 to 20 inches at the withers. The weight is 45 to 60 pounds. The dog is usually larger and more square-bodied than the bitch but both appear well proportioned.

### **Proportion**

The height of the Shar- Pei from the ground to the withers is approximately equal to the length from the point of breastbone to the point of rump.



## HEAD:

**Head-** Large, slightly but not overly, proudly carried and covered with profuse wrinkles on the forehead continuing into side wrinkles framing the face.

**Eyes-** Dark, small, almond-shaped and sunken, displaying a scowling expression. In the dilute colored dogs the eye color may be lighter.

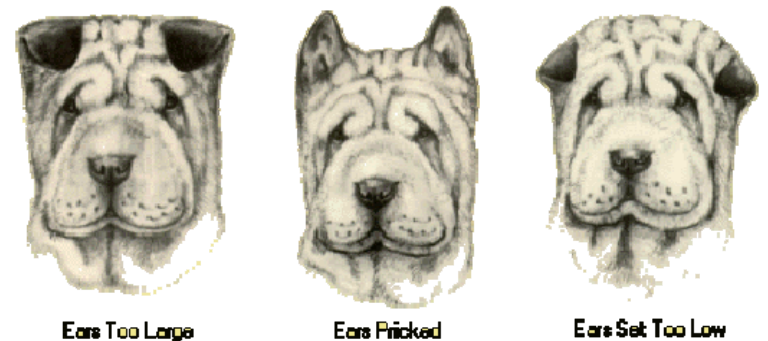
**Ears-** Extremely small rather thick, equilateral triangles in shape, slightly rounded at the tips, edges of the ear may curl. Ears lie flat against the head, are set high, wide apart and forward on the skull, pointing toward the eyes. The ears have the ability to move. *A pricked ear is a disqualification.*

*Correct ear set can best be assessed when the dog is fully animated. When he is alert, the ears should lie flat against the head. The ears can be quite mobile and be used independently to locate sounds. When gaited, the Shar-Pei may carry his ears away from the skull (toward the sides).*

Correct Head, Ears and Set



Incorrect Head, Ears and Set



**Skull-** Flat and broad, the stop moderately defined.

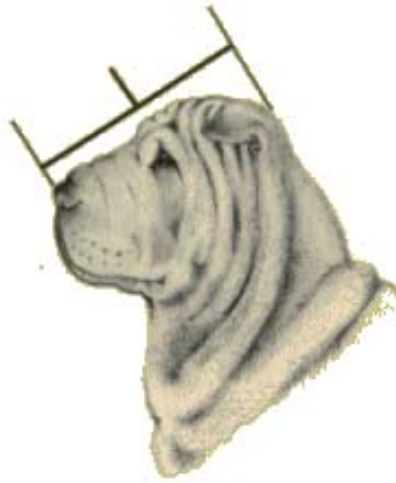
**Muzzle-** One of the distinctive features of the breed. It is broad and full with no suggestion of snipiness. (The length from nose to stop is approximately the same as from stop to occiput.)

**Nose-** Large and wide and darkly pigmented, preferably black but any color conforming to the general coat color of the dog is acceptable. In dilute colors, the preferred nose is self-colored. Darkly pigmented cream Shar-Pei may have some light pigment either in the center of the nose or on the entire nose. The lips and top of muzzle are well-padded and may cause a slight bulge above the nose.

**Tongue, Roof of Mouth, Gums and Flews** Solid bluish-black is preferred in all coat colors except in dilute colors, which have a solid lavender pigmentation. A spotted pink tongue is a major fault. *A solid pink tongue is a disqualification.* (Tongue colors may lighten due to heat stress; care must be taken not to confuse dilute pigmentation with a pink tongue.)

*Tongue colors should conform to the general pigmentation of the dog. In dilute-colored dogs, there must be no black pigmentation. A spotted pink tongue is a major fault, and a solid pink tongue is a disqualification. Fawns, reds and blacks should have solid black noses. In dilute-colored dogs, the nose is self-colored. Cream colored dogs with black pigment may have a lighter nose.*

**Teeth-** Strong, meeting in a scissors bite. Deviation from a scissors bite is a major fault.



**Neck-** Medium length, full and set well into the shoulders. There are moderate to heavy folds of loose skin and abundant dewlap about the neck and throat.

**Topline-** The topline dips slightly behind the withers, slightly rising over the short, broad loin. A level, roach or swayed topline/backline shall be faulted.

**Chest-** Broad and deep with the brisket extending to the elbow and rising slightly under the loin.

**Back-** Short and close-coupled.

**Croup-** Flat, with the base of the tail set extremely high, clearly exposing an up-tilted anus.

## FOREQUARTERS

**Shoulders-** Muscular, well laid back and sloping.

**Forelegs-** When viewed from the front, straight moderately spaced, with elbows close to the body. When viewed from the side, the forelegs are straight, the pasterns are strong and flexible. The bone is substantial but never heavy and is of moderate length. Removal of front dewclaws is optional.

**Feet-** Moderate in size, compact and firmly set, not splayed.



## HINDQUARTERS



Muscular, strong, and moderately angulated. The *metatarsi* (hocks) are short, perpendicular to the ground and parallel to each other when viewed from the rear. Hind dewclaws must be removed. Feet as in front.

When judging the Shar-Pei, it is well to remember the old saying, "All things in moderation." The Shar-Pei should be of medium size and substance with moderate boning. This emphasis on moderation does not, however, preclude the need for an impression of strength through well-conditioned and muscular shoulders and rear.

## COAT

The extremely harsh coat is one of the distinguishing features of the breed. The coat is absolutely straight and off standing on the main trunk of the body but generally lies somewhat flatter on the limbs. The coat appears healthy without being shiny or lustrous. Acceptable coat lengths may range from extremely short "horse coat" up to the "brush coat", not to exceed one inch in length at the withers. A soft coat, a wavy coat, a coat in excess of one inch in length at the withers or a coat that has been trimmed is a major fault. the Shar-Pei is shown in its natural state.

## Horse Coat



*The "brush coat", while not as short as the "horse coat", should have harsh texture. Although Shar-Pei means "sandy coat", the "brush coat", up to one inch in length at the withers, is as acceptable as the "horse coat". One coat should not be preferred over the other.*

## Brush Coat



## TAIL

The high set tail is a characteristic feature of the Shar-Pei. A low set tail shall be faulted. The tail is thick and round at the base, tapering to a fine point and curling over or to either side of the back. ***The absence of a complete tail is a disqualification.***

### Correct Tail and Set



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### Incorrect Tail or Set



Tail Too Bushy

Tail Not Up And Over

Tail Set Too Low

Incomplete Or Stub Tail

## COLOR

Only solid colors and sable are acceptable and are to be judged on an equal basis. A solid color dog may have shading, primarily darker, down the back and on the ears. The shading must be variations of the same body color and may include darker hairs throughout the coat. ***The following colors are disqualifications: Albino; Not a solid color, i.e.: Brindle; Parti-colored; Spotted; Patterned in any combination of colors.***

## GAIT

The movement of the Shar-Pei is to be judged at a trot. The gait is free and balanced with the feet tending to converge on a center line of gravity when the dog moves at a vigorous trot. The gait combines good forward reach and a strong drive in the hindquarters. Proper movement is essential.

***Shar-Pei should be gaited on a loose lead at a moderate trot.***

## TEMPERAMENT

Regal, alert, intelligent, dignified, lordly, scowling, sober and snobbish essentially independent and somewhat stand-offish with strangers, but extreme in his devotion to his family. The Shar-Pei stands firmly on the ground with a calm, confident stature.

*The Chinese Shar-Pei may be aloof with strangers.*

## RING PRESENTATION

When judging the Chinese Shar-Pei, as with all dogs, it is important to approach the dog from the front so that the dog is fully aware of the judge's presence. It is also important to remember that forehead, side wrinkles, and the desired sunken eye combine to limit Shar-Pei peripheral vision. A sudden approach toward a dog from outside his field of vision may startle the Shar-Pei. The dog should recover quickly and resume his confident stature.

## MAJOR FAULTS:

Deviation from a scissors bite.

Spotted tongue.

A soft coat, a wavy coat, a coat in excess of 1" in length at the withers or a coat that has been trimmed.

## DISQUALIFICATIONS:

Notes

Pricked ears

Solid pink tongue

Absence of a complete tail

Albino; not a solid color, i.e.: Brindle; Parti-colored; Spotted; Patterned in any combination of colors

## COLORS

**"Effective 12 June 2002. This is the list of colors available to register a Chinese Shar-Pei with AKC."**

### STANDARD COLORS(17)

Apricot dilute	Brown	Isabella dilute
Black	Chocolate dilute	Black sable
Blue dilute	Red	Cream sable
Lilac dilute	Five point red dilute	Fawn sable
Cream	Red Fawn	Red sable
Cream dilute	Fawn	

### Alternate colors: (3)

White      Blue sable      Brown sable

### Marking/Patterns: (7)

Mask Sable	Brindle White Markings
Spotted on white Saddle pattern	Pointed (tan or white. cream points)

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