

Dear my colleagues, friends (*message from FB judges page; Author: Viera Staviarska*)

I took decision to put here some important information about judging of shar pei.

The reason why I decided to share it, is serious dissatisfaction of exhibitors and breeders across Europe.

Please, don't take it personally because some of the judges of our breed are familiar with the topic which I would like to mention here, but the biggest group is not. I receive complaints almost daily.

Judges are opinion leaders and can influence health and, step by step as years go by, the actual type of breed.

The shar pei is one of the breeds which are difficult to judge. We must observe a lot of details and typical aspects. I don't want to task your mind with all problems, only with one of the most resonating problems of the last few years – the quality of the coat. (The biggest problem is recognizing the types but this is not the platform for solving the problem ).

What is typical for the shar pei are wrinkles on the head and body, the structure of the coat, the silhouette, the carry of the tail, and 2 expression types(traditional and modern).

In the last years we have had big problems with a coat, which is soft, with an undercoat and long. We see dogs with these faults in the ring more and more often. They achieve titles and a championships...

The name of the breed is SHAR pei, because a typical characteristic of the coat is SHARPNESS. It must be the first thing what you should consider when you evaluate the coat.

You should consider 5 aspects of the shar pei's coat:

- Texture – Sharpness!
- No undercoat
- Not glossy (matte)
- As short as possible – max 2,5 cm
- straight and off standing on the body and withers, flatter on the limbs.

Because the problems are very pressing, Mr Matgo Law – one of the saviors of the breed and the creator of the first standard, wrote clear notes about the quality of the coat two weeks ago. If you are interested, please read them carefully.

Attached are some pictures of the right coat. Just a personal "tip": If you want to be sure if the coat is sharp enough, you can do a quick check: roll up your sleeve and run your forearm against the fur on the dog's back. If it stings the coat is correct. Ideally your skin will go a bit red:))



Check the coat. Sharpness? Correct!

The Shar pei must have more wrinkles ( this is another story:)) but the skin doesn't need to be as free as the skin of the fila brasileiro. Don't try to stretch the skin as we usually do with the fila. It's not necessary.

And one special comment regarding a hair on the tail: Dogs with extremely short coat have tails with extremely short hair too! **I attached the pictures with right hair on the tails.**



Nice tail of horse coat dog- puppy



Horse coat tail ...



Brush coat tail

**In my comment (above) I don't split coat or use a terms as horse and brush, because 5 aspects of shar peis coat relate to both...**

Thank you for your understanding on behalf of breeders and exhibitors. I have been a judge, a breeder and an exhibitor for more than 20 years and I would like everybody to be satisfied including you - judges.



Horse and brush coat

Correct brush and horse coat. 1 cm long coat is usually spinier than horse coat.



Incorrect coat.



Pictures: Wikipedia, Viki Matray, FB and author