



January 4, 2009

American Kennel Club, Inc.  
Attn.  
Ronald H. Menaker, Chairman  
David C. Merriam, Vice Chairman  
Dennis B. Sprung, President  
James P. Crowley, Executive Secretary  
260 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10016  
Email: [grouprealign@akc.org](mailto:grouprealign@akc.org)

Dear AKC Board of Directors,

The American Rottweiler Club is concerned about the efficient use of time and money that the proposed Group Realignment will have on All Breed Kennel Club shows.

In terms of the show giving All-Breed Kennel Club, it impacts all breeds. It will not be cost effective, when the site contracts, superintendent contracts, and judges contracts are negotiated. The time to run 10 groups versus 7 groups efficiently and effectively may run into the evening. At present, most group judging begins between 1:30 and 3:00. Running two rings simultaneously, probably will not work for many of the all breed handlers. There will be too many time conflicts. The potential increased costs that will be incurred could very well inhibit a Club's ability to profitably hold All Breed shows. Smaller Clubs which face this concern may very well limit holding their usual number of shows or forego holding shows at all.

As entries continue to decline, ARC is very concerned about an exhibitor's ability to show these days, and hopes that AKC will work to encourage increased show attendance. Unfortunately increasing the number of Groups will instead discourage participation, especially for the exhibitor who has to travel at the conclusion of the show. Exhibitors in Groups with a higher number of contestants will be encouraged to bypass Group competition in this circumstance. It is AKC's and each individual club's responsibility to set a realistic goal to maintain and improve the dog show experience especially for the novice competitor OR to make the long day exhausting for everyone, including the dogs.

Yes, we do have a problem with the growing size of the groups. AKC might consider that the FSS breeds may be entering the ranks of American Kennel Club registered breeds before it is beneficial to them and to AKC. For instance, one example is many new Herding breeds can compete in Herding Trials, however, these breeds are not participating in their Herding venues.

ARC supports AKC's efforts to enable Clubs to hold shows and the exhibitors' ability to fully participate in these shows. Unfortunately, ARC does not agree that increasing the number of Groups is going to achieve these goals and, sincerely hopes that AKC will reevaluate its proposed Group Realignment.

Sincerely,

Gwen Chaney  
President

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cc: American Rottweiler Club Board, Peter Piusz, Delegate