The Seven Groups

The American Kennel Club recognizes more than 151 different breeds of purebred dogs. Each dog belongs to a group. The seven groups are made up of dogs that have similar characteristics and perform similar jobs. Every dog was originally bred to perform a certain job, such as hunting rabbits or herding sheep.

**Sporting**
These dogs were originally bred to help man find and retrieve game in the field, the water and the woods.

- The Vizsla and the Irish Water Spaniel are in the Sporting Group.

**Hounds**
Hounds come in a variety of shapes and sizes as they were bred for work in places from the cold Arctic to the hot tropics. Hounds track prey by sight or scent.

- The Pharaoh Hound and the Borzoi are in the Hound Group.

**Working**
Working dogs help man by serving in water, snow and disaster rescue, pulling wagons and sleds and guarding families and livestock.

- The Newfoundland and the Samoyed are in the Working Group.

**Terriers**
Terriers are intelligent and lively dogs that come in a variety of sizes. These dogs dig and hunt beneath the ground and were originally bred to hunt vermin.

- The Scottish Terrier and the Norfolk Terrier are in the Terrier Group

**Toys**
Toy dogs were developed for the pleasure they bring as companions and their special quality is their small size.

- The Papillon and the Manchester Terrier (toy) are in the Toy Group.

**Non-Sporting**
The breeds in this group are varied in terms of size, coat, personality and overall appearance.

- The Shiba Inu and the Poodle are in the Non-Sporting Group.

**Herding**
These dogs were bred to work with man as drovers, driving cattle and sheep, and as herders, keeping flocks under control.

- The Bearded Collie and the Pembroke Welsh Corgi are in the Herding Group.