

Dear Sirs and Madame,

As American Kennel Club (AKC) member clubs, we represent the majority of Tibetan breeds, their owners, their breeders, and their supporters in this country. Please note these are Tibetan breeds, not Chinese breeds. It is outrageous that the Federation Cynologique Internationale (FCI) has changed the country of origin of these ancient breeds from Tibet to China. These breeds share a culture that is indigenous to Tibet. Their unique and distinctive characteristics were shaped by the terrain, the climate, the culture and the people of Tibet. They were not of Chinese origin when they were developed, and they are not Chinese now. This attempt to revise canine history dishonors those who made these dogs into the wonderful breeds they are. While we understand AKC and FCI are independent of each other, we also understand that the position of AKC, as a recognized authority throughout the dog world, is well respected and carries considerable weight. As such we call upon the Board of AKC to affirm that, as a historical fact, these breeds are of Tibetan origin.

The FCI has also decided to hold the 2019 World Dog Show in China. This decision was made notwithstanding the generally poor treatment of dogs in China, with the Yulin “Meat Festival” being a particularly egregious example. The politics associated with allowing China to host the World Dog Show and acceding to their request to be given origin status for the Tibetan breeds shows that the FCI, at least where China is concerned, has abrogated any standing as a moral force for canine welfare. As member clubs, we ask that the Board of AKC support the dogs in China by issuing a letter refusing to support or participate in the 2019 World Dog Show unless legislative steps are taken to improve dog welfare in China and the Yulin “Meat Festival” is banned.

Very truly yours,

Ronald Pankiewicz, President - Tibetan Terrier Club of America

Martha Feltenstein, President – American Tibetan Mastiff Association

William Chaffee, President – Tibetan Spaniel Club of America

Bonnie Prato, President – American Shih Tzu Club