

7 new breeds at Westminster dog show

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Dog lovers have seven new breeds to root for in this year's Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, its parent organization announced on Thursday.

The breeds are newly recognized by the American Kennel Club and are now eligible to compete in the show, but have existed for a long time, according to the group. They will join nearly 200 recognized breeds eligible for the yearly competition.

"It's going to be a lot of fun," said Andrea Shaffer, 43, of Holtwood, Pennsylvania, who plans to show her Lagotto Romagnolo, Niko. "He loves what he does. He goes into the ring and he



CRAIG RUTTLE

The Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show recognizes nearly 200 breeds in its competition.

shines."

The Lagotto breed, which will enter the sporting group, was originally a water retriever but is now

best known as a truffle-hunting dog, Shaffer said.

The seven new breeds are the Berger Picard, the Bergamasco, the Boerboel,

the Cirneco dell'Etna, the Lagotto Romagnolo, the miniature American shepherd and the Spanish water dog, according to the club.

