

Lhasa Apso or Shih Tzu?

A new owner seeks help determining the breed of her rescue dog.

By Allan Reznik

Q. I have adopted a rescue dog, and I'm not sure if she's a Lhasa Apso or a Shih Tzu. Can you tell?

A. I would say you have a Shih Tzu. She has much more of a pronounced undershot bite. The Lhasa Apso standard asks for a level or slightly undershot bite. The Shih Tzu skull is also round, which your girl exhibits. The Lhasa has a flatter skull. Finally, parti-color (white with silver, black or gold markings) is far more frequently seen in the Shih Tzu than in the Lhasa Apso.