



Bulletin

The Official Publication of the Schipperke Club of America, Inc.

2019 Summer Edition



Colton



The Bulletin

Of the Schipperke Club of America, Inc.

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The Bulletin is a free service for SCA members only. Non-members must purchase a subscription.

On The Front Cover

GCHP Rivendel's Barefoot Bandit is breaking records in 2019. He started the year making history being the first Schipperke to win the group at Westminster Kennel Club dog show. In March he broke the record for most Best In Shows. Colton had a fantastic April winning all three Regionals and the National specialty. We are looking forward to the rest of the year to see what this fabulous little black dog may accomplish. The sky's the limit. Thank you to all who have supported us on this journey.

Message from the SCA President

Kathy Navarrete - knavarrete.sca@gmail.com



The new Club year began on March 1st and the 2019 board was given the oath of office during the Annual Meeting. I would like to say on behalf of the board that our main goal is to continue to move the club forward and to find ways to expand the treasury.

There will be continued focus this year on revisions to the Policy & Procedures Manual, cleaning up the Standing Rules and streamlining many of our past practices to help conserve club funds.

A big thank you to the outgoing board for all their hard work and to all the committee chairs who volunteered during 2018. The club would not exist without the dedication of our members.

I would like to personally thank everyone who attended this year's National. Due to some very hard working people, it was a very fun week of sun and Schipperkes. We now look forward to Ohio for the 2020 National and a new venue at the Roberts Center.

Currently the club is still seeking volunteers for the following committees:

- Merchandise, Stationer
- National Specialty Site selection and
- Ways & Means

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Vice President Deb Dellamonica or any board member.

As always, please feel free to utilize the "Contact your Board" feature on the SCA website if you have any questions, ideas or concerns.



Bulletin Submission and Publication Dates:

Submission Dates	Publication Dates
February 15th	March 1st
May 15th	June 1st
August 15th	September 1st
November 15th	December 1st

Advertising Rates

Size & Frequency	Member Business Cards	One Full Page Ad	Multiple Full Page Ads	One Half Page Ad	One Quarter Page Ad
Per Issue	\$10.00 (size 3 1/2" x 2")	\$60.00 (up to 4 pictures)	\$45.00 (up to 4 pictures)	\$30.00 (up to 2 pictures)	\$20.00 (1 picture only)
Same Ad per year	\$30.00 (size 3 1/2" x 2")	\$45.00 (up to 4 pictures)	\$35.00 per page, (up to 4 pictures)	\$20.00 (up to 2 pictures)	\$15.00 (1 picture only)
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Marnie Layng**

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Schipperke Performance

Columnists *Kathy Swan & Deb Bruner*

Two Schipperkes excelled at 2019 National Obedience & Rally Championships

Short History of Obedience

According to the AKC web site, Mrs. Helen Whitehouse Walker receives credit for the existence of AKC Obedience Trials. She was a pioneer in the sport of purebred dogs. Helen was a breeder of Standard Poodles recognized as having outstanding quality and character. Like many Poodle breeders, she fought the stereotype that Poodles were nothing more than just a fancy haircut. To combat this image, she devised a series of exercises to display their intelligence.

She borrowed the idea from an English Society that had developed competitive tests. She devised the first obedience "test" in Mt. Kisco, New York in 1933.

Enthusiasm for this new event spread quickly. A second test held in conjunction with the North Westchester Kennel Club show in June of 1934. In a letter to the American Kennel Gazette (AKC's official publication), she reasoned that the average public observer would be interested in watching tests that displayed dogs' intelligence.



Mrs. Walker emphasized the importance of dog owners developing a deeper relationship with their dogs. She encouraged amateurs to participate and stressed accuracy and precision in performance while the dog demonstrated enjoyment and willingness to work. She submitted the first set of guidelines and procedures for obedience tests to the American Kennel Club for consideration. The AKC approved *Regulations and Standards for Obedience Test Field Trials* on March 10, 1936

Obedience tests were then divided into the three classes we know today, Novice, Open and Utility. The exercises have not altered that much over time; however, to achieve the Utility Dog title a dog was required to pass a tracking test.

Today's Obedience trials (paraphrased from the AKC website)

Obedience trials demonstrate the dog's ability to follow specified routines in the obedience ring and emphasize the usefulness of the dog as a companion to humankind. The objective of obedience trials is to recognize dogs trained to behave in the home, in public places, and in the presence of other dogs. These manners reflect credit on the sport of obedience at all times and under all conditions.

Annually, there are over 100,000 entries in AKC obedience trials. Judges compare the team's performance to their mental image of a theoretically perfect execution a series of specified exercises. Accuracy and precision is vital, but the natural movement of the handler and the willingness and enjoyment of the dog are essential for a winning performance. Teams start with 200 points (the perfect score). Deductions are made for any deviation from the perfect performance. Examples include forging, lagging, slow response, touched handler, and anticipating. A qualifying score is 170 or higher. Ties for placement are determined with a run-off where teams complete a Novice heeling pattern. Titles require receiving three qualifying scores under two different judges.

At each level of obedience competition – Novice, Open, and Utility – dogs master a specific skill set, which increase in difficulty, before advancing to the next level. There are additional levels that allow teams to bridge or prepare for the next level. These are not required for advancement. Beginner Novice and Graduate Novice are bookends to the Novice class. Graduate Novice and Graduate Open prepare the team for the next level.

Schipperke Performance (Con't)

Columnists *Kathy Swan & Deb Bruner*

The Novice class (Companion Dog - CD title) demonstrates good canine companion skills such as heeling, both with and without a leash, coming when called, standing for a simple physical examination, and staying in both a sit and a down position with a group of dogs. The Open class (Companion Dog Excellent -CDX title) is more challenging, more exercises are done off leash plus retrieving and jumping skills are tested. The Utility class (Utility Dog - UD title), which includes scent discrimination, directed retrieves, jumping and silent signal exercises, is the most challenging class. Dogs may earn the Utility Dog Excellent (UDX) by qualifying in both the Open B and Utility B classes on the same day at 10 different trials.

Obedience Trial Championship (OTCH)

The American Kennel Club states that the Obedience Trial Championship (OTCH) title is often referred to as the "PhD" for dogs. It is the highest obedience title. The best obedience dogs earn OTCH titles by winning through competition. Only the top finishers earn points. This is not a pass/fail competition. Before any OTCH points accumulate, a dog must first have earned a minimum of a CD, CDX, and UD. To obtain an OTCH title, a dog and handler team must receive 100 points by placing first, second, third or fourth in the Open B or Utility B classes and a first place in Utility B, and first place in Open B and an additional first place from either class.

Very few dogs become Obedience Trial Champions. Last year, 2714 dogs of various breeds earned CD titles, 854 dogs earned the CDX title. There were 438 UD titles and 192 UDX titles. Only 69 dogs earned OTCH titles. There are even fewer OTCH Schipperkes. Why so few? It requires time and dedication.

AKC National Obedience Champion

To compete in the AKC National Obedience Championship dogs must be the top OTCH and OTCH-pointed dogs in their breed. Attendance is by invitation only. This year there were 118 dogs, roughly a third were golden retrievers. The AKC National Obedience Championship held on March 16 and 17, started with eight rings, and teams performed two to three exercises in each rings. The exercises were a mix of the regular class open and utility exercises according to the Obedience Regulations.

After the first day of competition, to the four highest scoring dogs in each group receive awards. Schipperkes are one of twenty breeds in the Non-Sporting group that includes Boston terriers, Dalmatians and poodles. This year's top Non-Sporting obedience dog was **OTCH Heart Throbs Masquerade UDX OGM RE AX AXJ** (Zorro) a Schipperke, handled by **Kathy Sweet**.

The top 50 teams go on to compete in eight more rings on the second day. In the afternoon, the final 20 teams performed in four rings. The dog that has lost the fewest points becomes the AKC National Obedience Champion title (NOC). Only one dog each year will have the prestigious NOC letters precede its name in AKC records.

Meet Kathy and Zorro

Kathy Sweet has been showing dogs for forty years. Obedience is her main love. She is an AKC obedience and rally judge for all levels of competition. She started with a Labrador retriever that earned a UD and Tracking Dog Excellent title (TDX). Kathy switched to Flat-coated Retrievers and used their talents in fieldwork. There are only eleven Brittney with OTCH's; she earned three of them. Kathy has completed seven TDX titles on three breeds.



Kathy attended the SCA National in Michigan in the early 1990s. She watched breed competition and

obedience and helped with agility. Years later, she enjoyed watching Wilma Dame working with her little black dogs. Kathy also saw agility Schips. The time was right to get a Schip. She learned that Pat Boggs was raising a litter for Susan Frey. Pat picked Zorro for Kathy and shipped him to her at eight-weeks old. Kathy says, "He is a sweet, sweet boy. Zorro is easy to live with. He came that way."

Although Kathy doesn't enjoy agility, Zorro completed agility and rally titles before concentrating on obedience. He earned his excellent agility and excellent jumper's titles in just 12 trials! Zorro loves to work and play. Typical of a Schip, he is in a hurry to do everything. Kathy remembers people telling her, "you can't do obedience with a Schip." She believes, "Schips can do anything you want them to do. You just have to put in the time." It took 24 tries for Zorro to earn his UD. She quickly agrees that Schips can be more challenging than other breeds; she loves the challenge.

Sweet is a member and trainer at a local training club. Training is all about how you approach it. "Keep it fun. They love to work. People don't understand how much Schipperkes want to work." Physical and mental exercise is required for a healthy dog. Each one is an individual, with individual needs. Zorro doesn't like sitting still. He would rather be moving. He loses points in competition when he anticipates their next move. Kathy really enjoys competition as a way to see if your dog can perform in the ring as they do in training. She is not new to major tournaments. This was her 15th appearance at the National Obedience Championship. She placed second in the Non-Sporting Group a couple of times. She has also advanced in the top 50.

Zorro will be 11-years-old in August. Kathy has two other Schipperkes, four-year-old Flik (Minneka Abugslife CDX RE) and eight-month-old Crush (Kiara Cool Dude). Recently Flik was HIT from Open B class with a score of 199, Zorro was in second place with 198 ½. It was a large class with 20 dogs and other OTCHs.

Rally Obedience

Rally obedience (also known as Rally or Rally-O) is a dog sport based on obedience. It was originally devised by Charles L. "Bud" Kramer from the obedience practice of "doodling" - doing a variety of interesting warm-up and freestyle exercises. Started in 2005, AKC Rally is a fun family sport and participation increases each year. Scoring is not as rigorous as traditional obedience. Teams begin with 100 points. The judge will deduct points from their score for errors in performance. Qualifying requires a minimum of 70 points. All scores are posted ringside once a performance is completed. The team with the highest score (i.e., fewest number of faults) wins first place, followed by the next highest score for second place, and so forth. Rally is a timed event. If two teams achieve the same score, the judge determines the placements according to the time recorded for each team's course completion.

Unlike regular obedience, instead of waiting for the judge's orders, the competitors proceed around a course of designated stations with the dog in heel position. The course consists of 12 to 20 signs that instruct the team what to do. Handlers may encourage their dogs during the course. The judge watches for a smooth performance as well as skill in following the directions at each station.

Exhibitors receive a course map from the judge and can walk the course without their dogs prior to the start of the class. As in agility, judges design their courses and are different in every trial. When teams flow smoothly through the stations, their movements look like partners dancing.

Initially, there were three levels of competition: Novice, Advanced and Excellent. Two classes were added: Intermediate, an optional class to bridge from Novice to Advanced; and Master. As with obedience, the complexity of skills increases with each Rally level. Novice has on-leash exercises that demonstrate the dog's understanding of basic commands such as sit, stay, down, and come and heel position. Advanced is performed off-leash and includes at least one jump. Excellent is a more difficult off-leash course that includes at least one jump and demonstrates more precise skill and coordination between the dog and handler.

For the RN (Rally Novice), RA (Rally Advanced) and RE (Rally Excellent) a dog must earn three qualifying scores from two different judges at the appropriate level. Upon completion of the Rally Excellent title, qualifying scores accumulate from the Rally Advanced B class and the Rally Excellent B class to earn the Rally Advanced Excellent (RAE) title. A dog must earn qualifying scores in both Advanced B and Excellent B classes at the same trial 10 times. Rally Master (RM) title requires 10 qualifying scores by at least two judges. Numbers following RAE and RM titles indicate how many times a dog has met the requirements (RAE2 for 20 qualifying scores, RM3 for 30 qualifying scores, etc.).

Rally Championship “RACH”

The Rally Championship title was introduced on November 1, 2017. Points requirements were amended effective February 1, 2019. Rally Championship points and triple qualifying scores are recorded for dogs after earning the Rally Excellent (RE) title. Dogs earn Rally Championship points for scoring 91 or better in the Rally Advanced B, Rally Excellent B and Rally Master classes. A dog must earn a total of 300 points, with a minimum of 150 points from the Master class. Additionally, the dog must receive qualifying scores in Advance B, Excellent B and the Master class, on the same day at the same trial at 20 separate rally trials. (More details regarding point schedule is available at the AKC Rules website)

AKC National Rally Champion (RNC)

The 2019 RNC held on March 15 in Tulsa, Oklahoma consisted of six classes. Each Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Excellent and Master entry showed twice, in two different rings, in the class entered. Each Rally Championship entry showed four times in four different rings. This competition had two Master courses, one Advanced course, and one Excellent course. In order to compete in the Championship class, dogs must have earned a Rally Advanced Excellent (RAE) title. Dogs must have also earned three scores of 93 or more in Advanced B, Excellent B and Master during of the qualifying period. These qualifying scores may be earned singularly or in any combination. There were 69 dogs in this class. The 2019 AKC Rally National Champion was **OTCH Shadowlends Winter Mist of Aws UDX12 OGM VER RM RAE3** (Misty), a Schipperke handled by **Carol Davis**. Carol and Misty finished with a score of 399 out of 400 and a time of 413.5 seconds.

Meet Carol and Misty

Carol started training, showing and breeding German Shepherds in the early 80s. Although she completed conformation championships, she preferred obedience. Over the years, she noticed Schipperkes. She liked their temperament and work ethics. She saw a quick, sturdy dog that was portable. It was time to downsize from shepherds. She wanted a girl. Carol waited two years for the right dog, with a working background and a brain. She got Misty from Pat Boggs at 5 ½ months-old. Carol has been a trainer with Monterey Bay Dog Training Club since 1996. She has taught classes ranging from puppy to utility. She finds it very rewarding to watch dog and handler progress as a team. Training Schipperkes is different from Shepherds. Schips come up with inventive ways to do things “better.”

Misty is her first Obedience Trial Champion and is 12-years old. There are very few Schips competing at the highest levels. The past 3 years they have finished second at the RNC. Three years ago, they tied for first with a perfect 400. Time is the deciding factor in breaking a tie and they were second. It is difficult for small dogs to win based on time. Another year, there was a four-way tie for second. They placed fifth based on time. This year, time was on their side. Losing only one point all day, Misty was the fastest.

Schips aren't easy. Carol believes “the best thing is to keep them busy – they need a job.” She has two other Schipperkes, ten-year old Phantom (CH DHS Invisible Spirit of Aws CD PCD BN GN GO RAE)

Schipperke Performance

Columnists *Kathy Swan & Deb Bruner*

and five-year old Crystal (CH Shadowlends Danzn Starz Winter Ice CDX PCDX BM GN GO RM RAE).

Based on their titles, she is keeping them busy. Phantom now watches over the house while the girls are working. Crystal also competed at the RNC and finished 19th. She is currently working on her UD. Misty is not retiring yet. She still has RACH to finish.

Carol reflected on their journey together, "Misty is a special dog to me. We have a special connection." She is concerned that people will see their success and select a Schipperke without fully understanding the breed.

Watch one of Carol and Misty's Rally National Championship runs at:

<https://www.facebook.com/WatchAKCTV/videos/2256127467742160/>

Sources and more information at:

<https://www.akc.org/rules/>

<https://www.akc.org/sports/obedience/resources/akc-obedience-history/>

<https://www.akc.org/sports/obedience/what-is-obedience/>

<https://akc.tv/watch/7/2097/events/2019-akc-national-obedience-championship>

<http://www.canismajor.com/dog/rallyo.html>

<http://www.verdevalleyagilityclub.com>

<http://www.canismajor.com/dog/rallyo.html>



GCH Rivendel's Chasing Rainbows

and Emma Stanchina

Had a stellar week during the
2019 SCA National Specialty

3 x AOM

AOM Southern California Regional Specialty #1 - Judge: George Milutinovich

AOM Southern California Regional Specialty #2 - Judge: Janice McClary

AOM Central Arizona Regional Specialty - Judge: Shalisa Neely

4 x Best Junior Handler

at the three Regional's and the SCA National

PLUS



Winner of the 2019 SCA Top Twenty Competition

Judges: Johnny Shoemaker, Alice Rojo Mitchell Hollencamp, and Jessica Baldwin

Freddie



2019 Schipperke Club of America National Specialty
Winners Dog, Best Puppy and Best Opp in Sweeps

Ebony Sand's N Telstar Mercury Rising

MBISS GCHB Ebony Sand's Gone in Sixty Seconds x Ch. Telstar Daybreak Ruby Tuesday

Freddie was also Winners Dog, Best of Winners and Best Puppy
at the Schipperke Club of Central Arizona Specialty the day before the National.



Owner
Lisa Haines
Ebony Sands

Breeder
Beth Burke
Telstar

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Mardock Graphic
Design



The Schipperke Club of Canada 2019 National Specialty

August 17, 2019

Specialty Judge: Dr. Terill Udenberg, BC



“Beauty & Brains”

Conformation, Obedience & Rally

August 16th, 17th, 18th

4 All Breed Shows + Schipperke Specialty

In conjunction with

Thousand Islands Kennel & Obedience Club

Brockville, Ontario



Conformation Judging Panel:

Robert Terry Gains, BC, Raymond Lariviere, ON,
Johan Becerra-Hernandez, PR. Nancy Popovich, AB

Obedience & Rally Judging Panel:

Robert Terry Gains, BC & Kate Darbyshire,



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Just a 3 hour drive north of Syracuse, NY, or an hour drive south of Ottawa, ON

You are invited! Join us!

- Start & Finish a Canadian Championship - 10 points
- Earn a title - 3 Obedience & 3 Rally Trials
- Indoor Rings & Air Conditioned Grooming Area
- On site camping
- Attend fun Schip events
 - Friday BBQ & Pool Party, Saturday Banquet, & Sunday complimentary Lunch Social

Be a tourist - take a boat tour on the beautiful St. Lawrence River.

Schipperkes with tails are eligible in Canada as of 2018!

Want more information contact:

Helpful websites:

Co-Chair: Janice Armstrong-Purnell
willysammi@hotmail.com
Co-Chair: Marnie Layng
mlayng@bell.net

schipperkeclubofcanada.com
ckc.ca
dcss.ca - Show Secretary
tikodogclub.ca



The Schipperke Club of Canada 2019 National Specialty

August 17, 2019



“Beauty & Brains”

Obedience & Rally

August 16th, 17th, 18th

**The TIKO Obedience & Rally Trials
“Indoors” at the Memorial Centre, Brockville, ON**

This year the SCC wants to showcase Schipperke intelligence & versatility during the 2019 SCC National Specialty weekend in Obedience & Rally with CASH prizes!

**\$600 IN TOTAL CASH PRIZES
ONLY FOR SCHIPPERKES!**

You are invited! Join us!

Start and Finish a Canadian Obedience and/or Rally Title

Friday 2 Rally Trials, Saturday 1 Rally Trial & 1 Obedience Trial,
Sunday 2 Obedience Trials

**The Highest Qualifying Schipperke in each Trial wins \$100
The Highest Qualifying Schipperke in each Class wins a trophy**

Enjoy all the planned SCC Social events

**There is something
for everyone!**

Visit the SCC website often for more details as they become available



Want more information contact:

Co-Chair: Janice Armstrong-Purnell
willysammi@hotmail.com

Co-Chair: Marnie Layng
mlayng@bell.net

Helpful websites:

schipperkeclubofcanada.com
ckc.ca
dess.ca - Show Secretary
tikodogclub.ca



LONE STAR SCHIPPERKE CLUB



GET YOUR
ENTRIES IN
EARLY AS
SHOWS ARE
LIMITED TO 40
DOGS PER
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FREE ADMISSION

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Sweepstakes: Mr. Robert E Stein, Bulverde, TX
4-6 Month Puppy: Mrs. Nancy D Simmons, Flower Mound, TX
Breed: Mrs. Nancy D Simmons, Flower Mound, TX

Afternoon Show

Sweepstakes: Mrs. Ruth Rohrbach, Benton, LA
Breed: Mr. James A Fehring, Bixby, OK

Houn' House Kennels,
4926 Dozier Rd., Carrollton, TX 75010

LONE STAR SCHIPPERKE CLUB

Back-to-Back Regional Specialty Shows

Join us in Carrollton, Texas on Saturday, September 28, 2019
for another of our fun-filled, back-to-back shows at
OUR LARGE CLIMATE CONTROLLED SHOW SITE.
Entries close September 11th

Show Secretary - Caper LLC, www.caper-dogs.com.

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Show chairperson - Beth Lilly & Kay Greenway Williams
bethalilly@gmail.com

In Memory of **TWISTER**

AM GCH CAN CH LOGAVEN'S TRYST W'MARDECK

**APRIL 21, 2006 -
FEBRUARY 28, 2019**



**Loved- by
Dale Smith**

**Loved & Co-bred by
Shirley Smith - Logaven
and
Marnie Layng - Mardeck**



Ask a Breeder

by *Lisa Haines*

This monthly column will feature reader questions answered by Schipperke breeders.

We are fortunate to have our very first column be extra special because it features 3 Schipperke breeders from Australia who recently attended the SCA National Specialty week in Pomona, CA.

Pauline Grutzner, Neil Curwen, and Graham Cruse have agreed to answer a few questions; inquiring minds want to know.....

1. How different is the Australian standard to the US standard?

- a. **Pauline** - There are a number of major differences – yours is more specific on a number of features – in particular the coat pattern – I prefer your description.
Your topline is allowed to slope – ours is level only
We are only allowed a scissor bite
You are only allowed black – we have creams as well out here
Your standard describes the schipperke as tailless- here we can have tails or no tails (providing we have paperwork LOL) but having a tailed dog is not a DQ as is colour!
We have a weight range – you have a size range
 - b. **Neil** - The ANKC & AKC breed standards differ on quite a few points;
Your standard is far more specific when it comes to coat definition.
Your standard has a height, ours is a weight.
Yours allows for scissor or level bite, ours is scissor only.
Your standard states black only, ours allows any solid colour.
Your standard states docked, tailless only. Our standard allows for docked, natural bob tail and full tail.
 - c. **Graham** - The first thing that strikes me about the AKC breed standard is how wonderfully descriptive the whole standard is. Ohhhh how I would LOVE our standard to describe the coat pattern, body, General appearance and in fact every section of the standard the way AKC does in such fine, but easy to understand detail. In comparison, the Australian ANKC breed standard (UK breed standard) lacks depth and often relies on the reader to “fill in the gaps themselves”. It is so open to interpretation by judges and breeders alike. I have presented the breed lecture to trainee judges for the past 10 years and strive to include the important missing pieces to ensure they understand what makes our breed what it is.
- Question 1 - To compare some points in the standards:

- The Australian ANKC Schipperke standard does not have a height, it has a weight, described as “about 5.5-7.5 kgs (12-16 lb)”. No judge ever tests the dogs' weight so this is practically ignored.
- Coat pattern is mentioned in the ANKC Schipperke standard, however it does not make mention of the cape, or jabot & also says the coat is to lie close on the back & sides.
- The docking of tails has been banned in Australia since 2004. Many dogs have full tails, but there are also several breeders who have natural bobtails being exhibited & in their breeding programs. We introduced the bobtail gene to the Monterrez Schipperke lines approximately 7 years ago & have been breeding bobtails ever since. Perhaps it is a different topic for another time, but this must be done correctly, ensuring to only breed a bobtail to a full tailed. The resulting progeny generally is approximately 50% of each and this ensures that all puppies are born healthy with no defects. It is strongly recommended not to breed bobtail to

Ask a Breeder

by *Lisa Haines*

bobtail due to the lethality of the gene and is something I would never do. Done correctly, it does not pose an issue.

- Perhaps the biggest difference between the AKC & Australian ANKC Schipperke breed standards is the fact that the ANKC does allow all solid colours “usually black, but other whole colours permissible”. There have been and still are several cream, or gold Schipperkes being exhibited in Australia.

2. What was the biggest difference you saw between US Schipperkes and Australian Schipperkes?

- a. **Pauline** - Then biggest difference was the presentation, fronts and coats – I did not see as many big dogs as I was led to believe I would find in the States- I was at Crufts in 2018 so I saw a lot of the English and European dogs. There were dogs that would be too big for the Australian scene – we stand between the Toy Poodle and the Shih Tzu in the group lineup and as discussed our standard is smaller. However most of the bitches and a lot of the dogs would fit in well out here.

We still have some exhibitors out here who adhere to the no bath, no trim rule, so it was lovely to see all the clean dogs (my spaniel background!)

As a gundog person (and a multi group judge) I am very conscious of forward placed shoulders and short upper arms and I felt there was a problem there – we do not see as many failing in that area out here. I did notice some soft open coats – this is not what the standard calls for and while I love coat as much as the next person we must remember what the dog was bred for – form and function are important even in show dogs.

- b. **Neil** - The coats were the main difference. You have some amazing coats that were presented to perfection. Unfortunately in Australia we still have an element that believe Schipperkes should not be bathed or blow dried for shows (not ours).
- c. **Graham** - I think I would say that the biggest difference between American & Australian Schipperkes is the American dogs are more eye catching, glamorous & presented beautifully. In general, I was impressed to see that they have great showmanship in the ring and extremely attentive to their handlers.

3. What are 3 things that impressed you?

- a. **Pauline** - Again the presentation – when it was done well it created the total package – the dogs were the right shape and they showed.
Temperaments on the whole were very good – some puppies were a bit overawed on day 1 but were fine later on in the week. Great to see the dogs out and about in the hotel and good with strangers! Top marks here!
The shape of the dogs and therefore the type – the majority were cobby and the majority were very good on the out and back – yes I saw a number I could take home! The depth of quality in the Best of Breed class especially in the bitches was exciting as it means the future of the breed is in good hands.
- b. **Neil** - Presentation of your dogs
The temperament of your dogs
The depth of quality of your dogs

Ask a Breeder

by *Lisa Haines*

c. **Graham** - 1). American Schipperkes were mainly presented beautifully. You all had taken great effort to bath and present you dogs for a dog show. 2). Great temperament. The vast majority of dogs were extremely attentive to their handlers and on their toes. This is not always something that a dog can be trained to do, but I attribute this to good sound temperament & the breed's keen, inquisitive, lively and confident nature. I am an advocate of good temperament & insist on it in my breeding program. 3). I was impressed with the general overall in depth quality that existed in both dogs and bitches. Yes, as in all Countries, there were variances in style, size, heads, coat etc. and this is to be expected wherever you go in the world, but I have to say, being my first time in the USA, I really came away with a great impression of your dogs.

4. What are 3 things you think we need to improve on?

a. **Pauline** -

- 1) the soft coats – they are not correct and while the profuseness and the fact they are easy to scissor and easier to prepare, any judge who knows the breed should penalize them.
- 2) the forward placed fronts and lack of upper arm- they may look cobby on the topline and to the casual observer but the underline tells the story and they do not look great on the move.
- 3) there were a few there that were too big (for me) and I felt they were no longer the small dog called for in the standard.

b. **Neil** - Watch the size, some were well up to size and as size increase you lose type. Watch the big open coats. They are impressive but too much of a good thing will lead to losing the coat definition that is an essential hallmark of our breed. Some heads were a bit course and plain and lacked the fox like expression that is so important to a Schipperke.

c. **Graham** - Hmmm, ok as an all breeds judge, I do always like to try and see the positives & virtues whenever I am judging. I hate to be negative as I feel all dogs have a fault or faults and these need to be taken into account as a whole. But as you have asked me the \ question, for what it's worth here are what would be my 3 Improvements:

- 1). Height – I did observe that some exhibits appeared to be slightly over the top end of the height standard. As with any fault, it is taken into consideration along with virtues, but if a judge has 'a thing' about height it may go against you when decisions are to be made.
- 2). Coat texture – I did get to pet quite a few dogs during my time there and felt that in some cases, coat texture could have been harsher. I must say though that this can be attributed to being thoroughly bathed & presented, but maybe something to be mindful of if a judge is an advocate of harsh coats.
- 3). My 3rd criticism is not against the dogs but the exhibitors / organisers. Sorry guys, but wearing black trousers when showing a black dog makes the dog disappear when you are moving them (I know because I used to always wear dark suits and was told countless times by photographers to wear light ones). Also, the back drops / tablecloths in the ring were black so the dogs did disappear against the background. Maybe just something to think about for future shows

5. What advice would you give to US Breeders?

a. **Pauline** - Keep doing what you are doing – there are some lovely dogs there of different

Ask a Breeder

by *Lisa Haines*

styles but they all conform to the standard- just watch the coats and fronts!

- b. Neil** - In Australia we have had a docking ban for the last 15 years so tailed Schipperkes are very common. We are lucky enough to have the natural bobtail gene (NBT) in our dogs and carefully and selectively breed for it. Unfortunately a lot of the other breeders have been slow to embrace the NBT gene. Luckily our ANKC will endorse registration papers of certified NBT dogs. This is crucial if you are to be able to positively identify dogs for future breeding purposes. Please don't be complacent that this never happens to you. Think about your breed standard and how it can be amended to allow tails & NBT.
- c. Graham** - The only advice I can really give is to keep breeding to your breed standard, as this is the blueprint we should all be breeding to. Maintain your fabulous temperaments, great showmanship and presentation as this goes a long way in keeping our wonderful breed on the pegs and in the public eye. Work with each other, put aside your differences for the sake of the breed. Lastly, celebrate & congratulate others when one of our breed has a great win. You may not like the owner or breeder, but any success our breed achieves should be celebrated. This is not only great for the owners / breeders, it is also great for the breed as a whole as it will benefit us all in the long run, by maybe attracting newcomers to our breed, thus hopefully ensuring our breeds survival in the future.

Anything else you would like to add?

Pauline - Thanks to everyone for their hospitality and letting us look at their lovely dogs! We are looking forward to incorporating some new lines in the future! And yes I will be back!

Neil – Thank you to the organising committee of the National and the Supporting shows. We know what a huge effort goes into running these events. You made us all feel so welcome. It was great to be able to talk to breeders who have the genuine interest of the breed at heart. This was Graham's and my first visit to America and yes we will be back.

Graham - Thank you for asking me to partake in your ask the breeder questionnaire. It was an absolute pleasure to attend your recent National and meet all of you and your dogs. Thanks so much to those of you who were so welcoming to us foreigners. I certainly would love to come back again.



Supreme CH Monterrez Power and Might

Ask a Breeder

by *Lisa Haines*



Graham Cruse
Monterrez
Schipperkes
Australia



Neil Curwen
Monterrez
Schipperkes
Australia





Blitzen

AKC Agility Grand Champion!

On Easter Sunday Blitzen became the 2nd Schipperke in the USA to earn this highest AKC agility award. And now the only Schip in the USA to have a GR CH in both conformation and agility!

BISS Am GCH Can CH AGCH PACH 3 Willow's Who'll Stop the Rain?

RA MXP10 MXPC PDSP MJP11 MJPC PJSP PAX3 MFPS TQXP T2BP5 RATO

The AGCH award followed his conformation recognition at the SCA National Specialty Top Twenty Competition in Pomona, CA and after competing in the AKC Agility National Championship in March in Tulsa, OK.



Many thanks to Diane Johnson, Willow Schipperkes for breeding this awesome and very versatile Schipperke.

He is one of a kind.

Blitzen is owned and adored by Deb Bruner in Bellingham, WA

Created by
Mardock Graphic
Design

Mardecks Where The Magic Is



MORGAN



Seven month old Morgan earned three points his first weekend shown in Canada



Loved & Owned by
Dr. T.M. & Mrs. L.D. Thorne
Schipdale Schipperkes
Greater Manchester, England

Bred by:
Marnie Layng, Larry Wolfe
& Mel Pacanowski

Created by
Mandeek Graphic
Design



 ringsideimages



Place Your Business Card
Here!
And Get Attention

Next Bulletin Issue!



Submission Cut-off: **August 15th**

Publication Date: **September 1st**



Featuring:

Schips Excelling in Performance...Plus

Are you ready?



Zipper



MBISS GCHG CH Daradan's On The Fast Track

In 2018 Zipper finished his **GOLD** Grand Championship!
He is the only Schipperke to achieve gold all Breeder & Owner Handled!!

Finishing 2018 as #3 breed points #2 SCA,
#5 all breed, #4 SCA and # 1 Owner Handled Schipperke



Co-owned by:
Dara Wilcox &
Betty K. Rego

4 times BISS at Lone Star Schipperke Club Regional Specialty
3 times BISS at Greater St. Louis Schipperke Club Regional Specialty
Winner of the 2015 SCA Top Twenty Competition and a qualifier 6 years

Created by
Mandeeh Graphic
Design

New Champion

Ch Katch Mimi If You Can De Sang Bleu

Sire: Ch Dantes All Fired Up

Dam: Godivagoddess de Sang Bleu



SCA National Specialty

Winners Bitch, Best of Winners, Best Bred by Exhibitor

April 12, 2019, Judge: Linda Hurlebaus

SCSC Specialty

Winners Bitch

April 8, 2019, Judge: Janice Mc Clary

Mimi is from a frozen semen litter of 1

Breeders: Maureen Garrity, Arleen Meininger & Barbara Guerini

Owners: Maureen Garrity, Arleen Meininger & Susan Garrity

SCA Breeders Directory

The Schipperke Club of America Breeder's Directory is a service to those members of the SCA who may have puppies or older Schipperkes for sale or who may offer other Breeder services to the public. Inclusion in this directory constitutes no endorsement of the dogs or breeding practices of any member listed, but it can be inferred that any person listed is a member of the Schipperke Club of America in good standing and is therefore bound by the SCA Code of Ethics.

ARIZONA

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520-722-7741
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Margar01@yahoo.com
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Please contact the SCA Corresponding Secretary for any changes to your Directory listing.

2019 SCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY WEEK PICTORIAL RESULTS



S
C
C
A

2019 SCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY WEEK PICTORIAL RESULTS



SCSC
#1

2019 SCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY WEEK PICTORIAL RESULTS



S
C
S
C
#1

2019 SCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY WEEK PICTORIAL RESULTS



S
C
S
C
#1



S
C
S
C



#2



2019 SCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY WEEK PICTORIAL RESULTS



S
C
S
C
#2



Comments from the 2019 SCA National Specialty Judge - Linda Hurlebaus

Beautiful weather and site in California with a beautiful breed.

I was impressed with the breed entry. Although the numbers may not have been high, the dogs were of high quality and the exhibitors as well.

Everyone was gracious and made the event special. Congratulations to the club members and workers.

Winners Dog that day came from the 6-9 puppy class. This is a young dog that is very typey, well balanced, and moves well. He was also awarded Best Puppy. This young dog presents great promise for the future. Res Winners Dog was from the Bred By Exhibitor class. A very nice dog that had a good head and expression. Moved well.

Winners Bitch and Reserve Winners Bitch came from the Bred By Exhibitor class. This is a class that should showcase your best and it didn't disappoint. The Winners Bitch, who was also Best Bred By, was a striking bitch that commanded the ring as soon as she walked in. Beautiful head and expression, great outline, and movement that was outstanding. I believe this bitch will make her mark in the ring if shown as a special. Reserve bitch was also a standout on type and movement. She will also be a great representative if shown in the breed ring.

Best of Breed was GCh Rivendels Barefoot Bandit who needs no introduction to most. This is a stunning dog of beautiful type, proportion, movement, and showmanship. Best of Opposite Sex was GCH DeLamer Suzi Sells Sushi on the Boardwalk. She was a great compliment to the dog.

Congratulations to all the winners and those who placed in the classes. You have done a really good job as keepers of the breed. If I had to comment on possible areas of improvement it would be to watch getting too fine in bone and proportion. Overall I believe that the past generations of breeders would be pleased with the state of the breed being shown today.

Regards and Best of Luck.

Linda Hurlebaus



Regional News

Schipperke Club of America Regional Clubs

EASTERN REGION

(AL, AR, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, SC, TN, VA, VT, WI, WV)

Should host National in even years.

COLONIAL SCHIPPERKE CLUB

Website: www.schipperkes.org

Area Served: DC, DE, MD, VA, Southeastern PA

President: Cathy Thistle

Secretary: Karen Martino, secretary@schipperkes.org

Treasurer: Carol Burnett

Publications: Schip Scoop (Terry Hale, Editor)

ILLIANA SCHIPPERKE CLUB

Area Served: IL, IN, IA, WI

President: Brian Carbone

Secretary: Barbara Moore, bmoore582@gmail.com

Treasurer: Sandy King

Regional Specialty:

ERIE CANAL SCHIPPERKE CLUB

Website: www.eriecanalschipperkeclub.com/home

Area Served: NY

President: Larry Wolfe, larry33westave@yahoo.com

Secretary: Jen Green greenj@springbrookny.org

Treasurer: David Hutton

Publications: SchipSnips

Regional Specialty: With Wine Country Circuit on Sept. 28, 2019 & June 22, 2019 at the WNY Twin Valley Cluster shows

SCHIPPERKE CLUB OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

Area Served: IL, MO

President: Michele Kasten

Secretary: Lynn Hartke, hartkelk@gmail.com

Treasurer: Sandy King

Regional Specialty: 0301/2019.

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN SCHIPPERKE CLUB

President: Amy Halterman

Secretary: Jaime Adams-Stanchina,

embraceskips@gmail.com

Treasurer: Gary Hester

Regional Specialty: July 6, 2019

WESTERN REGION

(AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, KS, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OK, OR, SD, TX, UT, WA, WY)

Should host National in odd years.

CASCADE SCHIPPERKE CLUB

Website: www.cascadeschipperkeclub.org

Area Served: AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY

President: Grant Fredericks

Secretary: Lisa Haines, haines.lm@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Barb Noetzelman

Concurrent Specialties July 6 & 7, 2019, Puyallup, WA

SCHIPPERKE CLUB OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Website:

www.schipperkeclubofsoutherncalifornia.com

President: Kathy Navarrete

Secretary Karen Ward:

Treasurer:

Regional Specialty:

Schipperke Club of America Regional Clubs (Con't)

SCHIPPERKE CLUB OF CENTRAL ARIZONA

President: Vicki Marks

Secretary -Treasurer: Ken Marks

kmarks50@cox.net

Regional Specialty: November 23, 2019

CENTRAL ROCKIES SCHIPPERKE CLUB

Website: www.schipperke.com

Area Served: CO, NM, WY

President: Donna Keihl

Secretary: Barbara Murray & Donna Keihl,

crscsecretary@schipperke.com

Treasurer: Barbara Murray

LONE STAR SCHIPPERKE CLUB

Website: www.lonestarschip.com

Area Served: DallasFort Worth, TX Metroplex

President: Sherry Gill

Secretary: Kay Williams, kaygreenway@icloud.com

Treasurer: Beverly Henry

Regional Specialty: September 28, 2019,
Carrollton, TX

Please send updates to Regional Clubs Chair, Vicki Marks,
vmarks.sca@gmail.com



ECSC 2019 Regional Specialty

Saturday, September 28th

Judging Panel:

Sept. 26 - Cindy Stansell

Sept. 27 - Shelly Hennessy

Sept. 28 - Kimberly Meredith-Cavana

Sept. 29 - Dr. Valeria Rickard

Specialty Sweeps Judge - Janina Laurin

Complimentary Lunch Saturday Sept.
28th in the Park Pavilion after Specialty
Judging. Raffle and Silent Auction too.

For more information contact Specialty
Chair **Ursula Hutton** at 315-655-2998 or
email hutton@windstream.net

Show Superintendent:

Jim Rau Dog Shows

<http://www.raudogshows.com>

Regional Club Upcoming Events

SCHIPPERKE CLUB OF AMERICA NATIONAL SPECIALTY

April 19 –4, 2020 –**Roberts Centre**, 123 Gano Road, Wilmington, OH 45177

Show Chair: Sara Name; sara@joename.com 317-522-6212

April 19 –Southern Michigan Schipperke Club #1

April 20 –Southern Michigan Schipperke Club #2

April 21 –24 –Schipperke Club of America National Specialty

ERIE CANAL SCHIPPERKE CLUB (Eastern Region)

Supported Entry: Saturday, June 22, 2019, at the WNY Twin Valley Cluster shows June 21-22-23, 2019, in the Dome Arena, Henrietta, NY. Superintendent: MB-F, Inc., mbf@infodog.com

Regional Specialty: Saturday, September 28, 2019, and SUPPORTED ENTRIES on Thursday, Friday, and Sunday, September 26, 27, 29, 2019, at the Wine Country Circuit all-breed shows, Sampson State Park, Romulus, NY; Show Chair: Ursula Hutton – Hutton@windstream.net

Superintendent: Jim Rau Dog Shows, Ltd. - <https://www.raudogshows.com>

ILLIANA SCHIPPERKE CLUB (Eastern Region)

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN SCHIPPERKE CLUB (Eastern Region)

Regional Specialty July 6, 2019 and supported entry July 7th, Ann Arbor Kennel Club. Fred Basset doing breed on Saturday and Richard Jackson sweeps. Sunday breed judge is Robert Hutton. We have a potluck following the specialty on Saturday.

COLONIAL SCHIPPERKE CLUB (Eastern Region)

Saturday, June 1. SchipNic in Arlington, VA. Noon - 3 p.m. For more information, email secretary@schipperkes.org

Saturday, September 7. SchipNic at Olney Regional dog park, Olney, MD. Noon - 3 p.m. For more information, email secretary@schipperkes.org

Saturday, October 12. Schipperke Specialty at the Howard County Fairgrounds in West Friendship, MD, in conjunction with the Catonsville Kennel Club. Entry information available at InfoDog.com.

SCHIPPERKE CLUB OF GREATER ST. LOUIS (Eastern Region)

June 14- 16, 2019, All Breed Agility Trials.

[Dog Sports at Kim's](#)

1951 Townsley Ln

Caseyville, IL 62232

	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Classes	All Standard, JWW and FAST	All Standard and JWW classes	All Standard and JWW classes Premier Standard
Limit (runs)	350 runs	350 runs	350 runs
Judge	David Nauer	David Nauer	David Nauer

Carolyn Johnson, Trial Secretary,

Lab Tested Secretary Services 632 N Forest Ave Webster Groves, MO 63119

<http://www.labtestedsecretary.com/SCGSLJun19.htm>

March 6, 2020 -

Regional Specialty: Friday, March 6, 2020, 2 Sweeps, 2 Specialties, Purina Farms, Gray Summit, MO.

Followed by 2 all-breed shows hosted by Belle City Kennel Club on March 7 & 8

<https://foytrentdogshows.com>

Regional Club Upcoming Events

SCHIPPERKE CLUB OF CENTRAL ARIZONA (Western Region)

November 23, 2019 Concurrent Specialty at Rawhide Event Center, Wild Horse Pass, Chandler, Arizona, with the Fiesta Dog Show, all breed show, which runs from Friday through Monday. We will be having conformation, sweeps and Junior Handler. There will be an opportunity to show in five separate conformation classes.

For information contact show chair, Ken Marks, kmarks50@cox.net. Show superintendent is Onofrio Dog Shows.

SCHIPPERKE CLUB OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (Western Region)

CASCADE SCHIPPERKE CLUB (Western Region)

Saturday, July 6, 2019 and Sunday, July 7, 2019.

The specialty will be concurrent with by 3 all-breed shows at the same location July 6-8, 2018.

Location: Washington State Fairgrounds, Puyallup, WA

Show Chair: Lisa Haines - haines.lm@yahoo.com

Superintendent: BaRay - <https://www.barayevents.com/>

CSC Judges:

Saturday Show - Breed - Mrs. Sharon Dykes, Sweepstakes - Ms. Laura Pond

Sunday Show - Breed - Mr. J. Calvin Dykes, Sweepstakes - Mrs. Susan Altmeyer

All-breed Judges:

Saturday - Kathryn Cowsert

Sunday - Sue Goldberg

Monday - Edd Bivin

AKC NOHS offered all 5 shows!

Entries close: June 19, 2019

CENTRAL ROCKIES SCHIPPERKE CLUB (Western Region)

LONE STAR SCHIPPERKE CLUB (Western Region)

Back-to-Back Regional Specialties: Saturday, September 28, 2019 –4-6 mo. Puppy Show, Sweeps and Specialty in the morning and Sweeps and Specialty in the afternoon. Location: Houn'House Kennels, Carrollton, TX. Show Chair:

Beth Lilly bethalilly@gmail.com, Superintendent: Caper LLC, <http://www.caper-dogs.com/index.htm>.

See www.lonestarschip.com for more information

Send Updates to

Vicki Marks, Regional Club Chairperson vmarks.sca@gmail.com

CH Deloran's Good Witch Of The North

Emy



Photo by
Jessica Baldwin



Photo by
Jessica Baldwin

Despite very limited showing in 2018,
Emy was eligible and competed
in the 2019 SCA TOP Twenty
Competition in Pomona, CA

Bred, Owned & Loved by
Ursula Hutton, Deloran Schipperkes





Schip Around The World

This column is intended to provide our readers with the opportunity to view the perspectives and experiences of other Schipperke enthusiasts from other countries. While the opinions of other people may be different than our own, knowledge can be gained by just being aware of those alternate views.

The following document will be published in two sections. The first part in this issue, the second in the September issue. Some of you may have already read The Blueprint of the Schipperkes by Dr. Robert Pollet, others may not. However, it is an article which one can read many times and still find something interesting to add to your knowledge base.

Agnes Pollet, wife of Dr. Robert Pollet, has also been very involved with our breed for a long time and served the Belgium Royal Schipperke Club as Secretary for many years. Mrs. Pollet, like her husband, has also been an internationally recognized dog show judge for many years. She advised me recently that unfortunately Dr. Pollet has been in failing health and is now residing in a nursing home.

I know we all wish him the best and appreciate them sharing their knowledge with us.

Marnie Layng
Bulletin Editor

THE BLUEPRINT OF THE SCHIPPERKE

THE OFFICIAL BREED STANDARD (IN BOLD)

INTERPRETATION AND COMMENTS (NORMAL TEXT)

GUIDE TO JUDGING SCHIPPERKES

by Dr. Robert Pollet

C O N T E N T S

Acknowledgments
The author
Introduction Blueprint
Terminology (general-canine, tail, gait, coat, genetics)
Breed Name
History
Behaviour
Head
Neck
Body
Loins
Croup
Tail
Limbs
Forequarters
Hindquarters
Movement
Coat
Colour
Seize and Weight
Faults
Severe and Disqualifying Faults

Figures

- 1 Posture of the neck: page 20
- 2 Tracks of the footprints: page 24

Cover Photo: Ulf Stormwall

Acknowledgments

My grateful thanks are due to

- The entire Committee of the “Royal Schipperke Club” of Belgium:
Mrs. Nicole Tits, President, Count Louis de Liedekerke, Vice-president,
Mr. Ivan Kempeneers, Secretary, Mrs. Agnes Pollet, Treasurer, Countess Costanza de Liedekerke-Ferraris ‘Public Relations’, Mrs. Gerda Celis (Boutique and Exhibition stands) and Mr. Eric Malengré, commissioner.
- The Fédération Cynologique Internationale F.C.I. / International Canine Federation



In particular I should like to thank my wife Agnes Pollet for her help and encouragements while I have written this Blueprint

Coordination: Agnes Pollet

Editor: the Belgian Breed Club “Royal Schipperke Club”
Dorpsstraat 85,
B-3550 Heusden-Zolder / Belgium

First edition: May 2016

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THE AUTHOR



Dr. Robert POLLET, Belgium, doctor of chemical sciences and retired research manager has been a successful exhibitor since 1966 and his international judging career commenced in 1974.

Together with his wife Agnes (also an international judge), he has bred German Shepherd Dogs and Schipperkes, and he owned many other breeds such as Belgian Shepherd Dogs, a Rough Collie, a Mastino Napoletano, an English Bulldog, a Bull Terrier and a Bloodhound. At the moment he owns two rather old Champion (Belgian and American) Schipperkes: the male 'Duvel' (= 'Devil') and the American lady 'Merry'.

He is an ardent promoter of the Belgian breeds and he likes judging them.

He wrote the Breed Standard of the Schipperke.

Dr. Pollet is qualified to judge internationally all the breeds of the FCI-groups 1, 2 and 5, and also the Airedale and the Bull type terriers and the Bloodhound. He is a 'selection judge' (suitability for breeding) for many breeds, among them the Belgian Shepherd Dogs and the Schipperke.

He has a vast judging experience with national, international and specialist shows. He officiated in major shows in 23 European countries, and had assignments all over the world, such as in Israel, Indonesia, Australia, South Africa, the United States and Puerto Rico. He officiated at several European Championship Shows and at the FCI world dog shows in 1994 (Bern), 1995 (Brussels), 1996 (Vienna), 1997 (San Juan), 1998 (Helsinki) and 2000 (Milano). In 1992 he judged at the Crufts Dog Show and in 1997 at the 'FCI Supreme World Champion of Champions Show.

He is an honorary member or president of several canine clubs or associations in Belgium and other countries. In Belgium he was the president of the "German Shepherd Dog Association", the president of the "Belgian Committee for Nomination of Judges" and a member of the Belgian "Standards Commission", the "Studbook and Regulations Commission" and the "Commission for Identification and Championship". He was also the Belgian delegate to the "Judges Commission" and the "Show Commission" of the F.C.I.

He has been the author, as a regular contributor, to many Belgian and foreign canine magazines, of articles on judging and on specific dog breeds. He has given many lectures all over the world and has written many articles concerning the scientific aspects of the canine hobby, such as dog psychology, the learning process, genetics, dog anatomy, morphology, nutrition, canine terminology, judging dogs, etc.).

He wrote the study "A Blueprint of the Belgian Shepherd Dog" (translated into 10 languages). He is the author of several books, among them in Dutch and French: "The German Shepherd Dog", "Great Dane", "Encyclopedia of the Belgian Dog Breeds", "Canine terms", "Bouvier des Flandres", and several breed books in English on the "Belgian Shepherd Dog" (Tervuren, Groenendael/Belgian Sheepdog and Malinois), the "Schipperke" (an European and an American version), "Showing" and the "Bouvier des Flandres". Many of these books have been translated (into German, Spanish, etc.).

THE BLUEPRINT OF THE SCHIPPERKE

THE OFFICIAL BREED STANDARD (IN BOLD LETTERS) INTERPRETATION AND COMMENTS (NORMAL TEXT)

THE IDEAL SCHIPPERKE

Each owner of a Schipperke asks himself the question one day “what is the value of my dog as a representative of its breed?” “What does the perfect Schipperke (doesn’t exist!) look like?” Every breeder hopes that one day he will breed a Schipperke which approaches as close as possible the ideal picture, which the experts of the country of origin tried to describe in the official Breed Standard. Each owner of a Schipperke asks himself the question “Is the general appearance of my dog in accordance with the Breed Standard and to what extent?” To have the answer it should be enough to read and to understand the “Breed Standard” (the ‘characteristics of the breed’). A dog which meets the Standard is by definition “of pure breed” (has a good construction or anatomical conformation). This is a canine or cynological, and certainly not a biological definition. ‘Cynological’ is the adjective of cynology. ‘Cynological’ and ‘cynology’ are two officially nonexistent words in English.

“Cynology” means literally ‘the science or scientific study of dogs’ and a ‘cynologist’ is a canine specialist or a specialist in dog matters, such as care and breeding of dogs. In general dictionaries or ‘dictionaries of canine terms’, we can only find the etymologically wrong definition or meaning of words like the adjective ‘cynophile’ (can also be a substantive) and the noun ‘cynophilia or cynophily’. The adjective ‘cynophile’ means ‘pertaining to cynology’, which in fact is the same meaning as for the adjective ‘cynological’, and ‘cynophile’ as a noun/substantive literally means ‘a person who loves dogs/canines’. The official and in English only existing term instead of ‘cynological’ or ‘cynophile’ is ‘canine’, like in ‘Fédération Cynologique Internationale’ (FCI) = ‘International *Canine* Federation’. The more or less already existing English terms ‘cynophilia’ or ‘cynophily’ exactly or etymologically mean ‘the dog fancy or hobby’.

The “(Breed) Standards” give a description of the “ideal type” or the “model dog” of a specified breed, in which one describes the ‘exterior’ or the different parts of the body, as well as the character and the faults. However, the Breed Standards are not always adequate guides, especially for the novice fancier, who has not yet acquired sufficient knowledge of the canine anatomy and the typical canine language or terminology. For the Schipperke and other breeds there are mainly three Breed Standards, which describe the ‘ideal’ or ‘model dog’ (the physical or bodily and temperamental or behavioural characteristics of the perfect specimen) of each known and recognized breed.

We have in the first place the most important canine world organization, the ‘Fédération Cynologique Internationale’ (FCI) and the ‘FCI-Standards’, which are used and with which (only?) comply the dog fanciers in continental Europe, as is sometimes said, written and wrongly accepted as truthful, especially in the USA.

In reality, the FCI is the largest canine organization ‘of the world’. There are 89 countries which are members or partners of the FCI all over the world.

The FCI's founding nations (on May 22, 1911) are Belgium, France, Germany, Austria and the Netherlands. World War I brought an end to the FCI, but the Federation was recreated in 1921 by the governing canine organizations of Belgium and France. The office of the FCI is still located in Belgium: B-6530 Thuin, Place Albert I 13, www.fci.be.

The FCI issues their Breed Standards in four languages (English, German, French and Spanish) and recognizes about 340 breeds, which is practically double the number of breeds recognized by any other canine organization.



Next we have the 'American Kennel Club' (AKC) in the US, which also publishes Standards 'describing the ideal dog of each recognized breed, to serve as a word pattern by which dogs are judged at shows'. This description is literally the sentence expressing the meaning of the word 'Standard' as given by the American (and Canadian) Kennel Club.

Finally, in the United Kingdom and several other English-speaking countries, the conformation judges have to judge dogs in accordance with the Kennel Club Breed Standards and have to comply with the rules and regulations of The Kennel Club. Fortunately, the Breed Standards for Schipperkes of these three main governing canine organizations are very similar, but the show regulations under the auspices of the FCI, the KC and the AKC are somewhat different. The Schipperke for instance belongs to different breed groups in these three canine organizations: the FCI has placed the Schipperke in Group 1 of the Shepherd and Cattle Dogs, Section 1 (Shepherd Dogs), breed number 83; the American and also the Canadian Kennel Club have placed the Schipperke in Group VI (non-sporting dogs) and The Kennel Club (UK) placed it in the Utility Group.

We also have to mention, that in many English speaking countries, Schipperkes are considered being a Spitz breed. Regarding the ancestry of the Schipperke some experts think that the Schipperke descends from and belongs to the Spitz family. That the Schipperke in former days in Belgium was called Spits or Spitske in fact refers to the pointed muzzle and/or ears, and does not mean or prove that the breed descends from the Spitz family of dogs. Actually, the breed has had many names over the years, including Moorke, which means 'little black animal'.

In some countries such as France, it are the breed clubs which propose the texts of the Breed Standards of their national breeds and in other countries such as Belgium, it are the 'Standard Commissions' of the national canine organizations which propose/suggest and write the breed Standards of their national breeds. The Breed Standards proposed by the owner countries of the national breeds also have to be approved by the Standards and Scientific Commissions of the FCI.

The FCI furnishes the rules and regulations for the International Shows. As for the national shows, the member countries of the FCI have their own rules, which are similar to each other but not really identical.

The FCI also wrote and published/proposed a "Model Standard", which serves as an example to follow by each country or club having the responsibility to write a text for a modified or an entirely new Breed Standard.

It should be clear that the Schipperke is a Belgian breed, because Belgium is the 'country of origin'. Accordingly, the original Standard of the Schipperke was drawn up in Belgium and proposed by this country. This Breed Standard of the Schipperke has been accepted by the FCI, firstly in the appropriate FCI-commissions (see above, page 5 below) and finally it has been approved by the General Committee of the F.C.I. Therefore, the only official and valid Breed Standard of the Schipperke (of the country of origin) is the FCI-Standard.

Each science, each hobby and also of course the canine world has its own terminology (specialized expressions and words), which is incomprehensible for the majority of the neophyte amateurs. It is therefore absolutely necessary to know the expressions and terms of the canine language/vocabulary, for the purpose of being able to understand the literature on dogs in general and on the Schipperke in particular. This makes it possible to converse or discuss with canine or breed experts.

Unfortunately, no Breed Standard is perfect. In fact, the Standards are often incomplete, full of contradictions and wrongly translated. Very often quite a few incorrect/wrong canine terms can be found in the texts of the Standards.

Ideally, one should be able to read a Breed Standard in its original language, which, of course, is not always possible. It is unbelievable and even inadmissible how the (translated) text of a Standard can greatly differ from the original text or language.

The official and most recent Breed Standard of the Schipperke, published in 2009, is reproduced below in bold and the comments are printed in normal type. This Standard has been approved by the FCI and therefore we do not call it the Belgian Standard, but the FCI-Standard. The FCI ('Fédération Cynologique Internationale'), established in 1911, is the International Canine Organization, which was created with the aim of promoting and protecting cynology (p. 4) and pure-bred dogs worldwide.

The Schipperke Standard which will be commented here is qualitatively an excellent one and is in essence a version of the Breed Standard published in 2003, which has been changed/modified, but not to a great extent. The main change concerns the description of the tail (see below, page 27-28).

Some canine terms, frequently used in this Blueprint, are defined here:

- Cynology, adjective cynological: 1. Study or science of dogs; scientific studies of the dog. 2. Organized dog fancy (dog shows, breeding of pedigree dogs, trials, etc.). 3. Dog sport, dog fancy.
- Cynologist: dog or canine expert/specialist; one who (scientifically) studies (domestic) dogs in respect to the anatomy, physiology, care, judging, breeding, training, behaviour, etc.
- Disqualifying or eliminating: depriving a dog of an award or qualification.
- Qualification: a rating or quality grading given to each dog in FCI Shows, which is based solely on conformation or conformity to the Breed Standard.

The official qualifications in most FCI countries are:

'Excellent' (Exc), 'Very Good (VG)', 'Good' (G) and 'Sufficient' (Suff) or 'Satisfactory' (Sat).

The commonly used qualifications can be defined as follows:

- Excellent (Exc.): awarded to dogs very close to the ideal dog, as detailed in the Breed Standard.
- Very Good (V.G.): only a few minor faults are tolerated; solely granted to dogs of high quality; may not receive a Championship Certificate.
- Good (G.): to dogs that possess the characteristics of the breed, even if having faults, which may not be concealed.
- Sufficient (Suff.) or satisfactory (Sat): to dogs that correspond to their breed but that not possess the generally accepted characteristics or whose physical condition is not all right; In Belgium, dogs with this qualification may not be used for breeding.
- Disqualified: to dogs that are atypical, bad-tempered and aggressive or having a disqualifying fault as specified in the Standard.
- Cannot be judged: given to dogs that do not move, jump constantly or try to get out and also given when faking is suspected.
- Faking: illicit operations or treatments, for example cosmetic surgery to change the dog's appearance in order to artificially correct faults; p. 41.
- Harmony (adj.harmonious): when all the anatomical parts of a dog form a well ordered and corresponding entirety.
- Judge report: a description of the dog's conformation, movement and character. The judge usually dictates this 'critique' to the ring secretary.
- Sex character: gender differentiation; anatomical or conformational (pertaining to the structure and outline) and behavioural difference between males and females; sexual dimorphism; different characteristics of the two sexes; the sex character in Schipperkes is not very pronounced nor always clearly visible.
- Concave: rounded inward.
- Converge: to come together.
- Convex: curved or rounded outward
- Morphology: cynologically (relating to dogs) it means the branch of biology that deals with the exterior form and the structure of dogs and any of its parts.
- Conformation: cynologically the structure or the exterior anatomical characteristics, proportionate shape (contour, silhouette) of a dog, so in fact the 'morphology' of a dog which is described in the Standards.
- Standard or Breed Standard: a description especially of the exterior structure or exterior anatomy of the ideal dog of a recognized breed, mostly with a brief historical summary of the breed, a brief description of its Behaviour or Temperament, a part describing the Gait or Movement and a list of the ordinary or common, severe and disqualifying faults of the exterior anatomy, including the faults of the character, the movement, the size and the weight, the skin, the nature (length, texture, etc.) and the colour of the coat and the pigmentation faults.
- Morphological classification: best-known is the classification introduced by Baron and Dechambre, which divides the dogs in the types 'brevilineal', 'mediolineal' and 'longilineal':

- Brevilineal, brachymorphic or shortlined: describes an anatomical type of a dog which is stocky, compact, robust, fit as guard and for pulling and with an obtuse shoulder angulation (a questionable characteristic) and brachycephalic (short-headed, brachycranic) or having a broad skull. Nowhere in the canine books can be read what the real meaning is of this originally French terminology. This classification is certainly not a matter of body length, but means essentially and simply that the proportion (ratio) surface/volume or external surface to weight is small.
- Longilineal, longlined or dolichomorphic: an anatomical type which is slender, fine, fit for the race, with a pronounced shoulder angulation (is questionable); is characterised by length and slenderness. This type is dolichocephalic (long-headed or dolichocranic). This morphological classification means simply that the ratio surface/volume is rather big.
- Mediolineal (mediolinar or mesomorphic): an intermediary type between brevi- and longilineal; Is also intermediate in head form (is mesocephalic, mesaticephalic or mesocranic).

Many dog fanciers are not familiar with the terminology of Baron and Dechambre. Anyway, this anatomical or morphological typology is useful but, unfortunately, not well known outside France or in not French speaking countries. Even in France, most canine experts misunderstand the terminology of Baron and Dechambre. For example many have the idea that these morphological terms are connected with the length of the dog. Moreover, certain characteristics such as the shoulder angulations, are very varied, even in the same type described by Baron and Dechambre. So, this morphological classification only has a global basis and refers to the general structure of the body and its proportions and also to the silhouette of the dog. The majority of the dogs belong to the 'mediolinar' type. These dogs, including Schipperkes, are harmoniously proportioned and their silhouette or outline is very often square (height and length are equal).

NOTE: The terms 'cynophilia' (in French cynophilie) and 'cynophile' are in fact only usual in France, and they respectively mean, among other things, 'cynology' and 'cynologist', but, as already discussed (see above, page 4-6), the etymological meaning of 'cynophilia' and 'cynophile' is resp. 'dog fancy' or 'dog hobby' and 'dog fancier' or 'dog amateur'. Another logical classification worthy of mention is the one drafted in 1800 by Georges Cuvier. The classification of Cuvier has been revived and improved by Pierre Mégnin in 1897. The type corresponding here to the 'mediolinar' one is the wolf-type (lupoid), to which belong the Shepherd dogs and the Schipperke. The three other types according to P. Mégnin are the gundog (braque) type ('Bracoid'), the molossian type ('Mastiff') and the hound type ('Graioid'). The lupoid type dogs have the following characteristics: pyramidal head, generally with pricked ears, long and pointed muzzle, lips closing tightly and the upper lips not overlapping the base of the bottom gums. The dogs of the wolf-type are generally as already mentioned 'mediolinar' and rarely 'hypermetric' ('with a more than average size'). 'Hypermetric' relates to very big dogs with strongly developed muscles. The other two terms belonging to this classification are 'eumetric' (with relation to medium sized dogs) and 'ellipometric' (pertaining to small dogs).

Preliminary comments

The latest official text of the Breed Standard has been written in Dutch. Then we have translated this text in French, English, German and Spanish. The reference text (authentic/valid text, having binding force), which was sent to the FCI, was the French and not the English text. So, if there would be a discussion of text meaning and interpretation, the French text will prevail or predominate. Professor Triquet, who was at that time the president of the 'Standards Commission' of the FCI, analysed the Breed Standard of the Schipperke and confirmed that this text was one of the best among the Breed Standards, as regards the correct use of the canine terminology, comprehensibility, clarity and perfect conformity to the 'FCI Model Standard'. However, we know and noticed that such appreciations or positive opinions are not always sufficient for a correct interpretation and comprehension of the Breed Standard of the Schipperke.

In fact, the difficulty is that it is not always possible to foresee all the unexpected problems which can arise when interpreting the text of a Breed Standard.

It should be noted that Standards have not been written for someone who already knows the breed, but also and perhaps especially for neophytes or beginning/potential fanciers of the breed, such as candidate-judges, etc., who are supposed to be only more or less and not yet profoundly familiar with the particular language and/or the canine terms used in Breed Standards.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY: in the Flemish dialect, Schipperke means « little shepherd ». The common ancestor of the Belgian Shepherds and the Schipperke was probably a sheepdog called Leuvenaar, an early breed, usually rather small and black. The Schipperke's origins go back to the 17th century. About 1690, the Schipperke was the favourite dog of working people and cobblers from the St. Gery quarter of Brussels, who used to organise competitions to show off the intricately worked brass collars with which they adorned their dogs. Its tail was completely docked, a fashion which seems to have existed since the 15th century. It was renowned as a catcher of mice, rats, moles and other vermin. The Schipperke was shown for the first time in 1882 in the town of Spa. It became fashionable thanks to Queen Marie-Henriette of Belgium. It was introduced into Great Britain and the U.S.A. in 1887. The first standard was drawn up in 1888 by the breed club, founded that year, which is the oldest breed club in Belgium. Over the years great efforts have had to be made to unify the type. Indeed at that time there was discussion about the different varieties coming from Antwerp, Louvain and Brussels.

We have to point out here, that in Belgium the local dialects are much more used than the Standard Netherlandic, and so it is completely normal that in the Breed Standard the meaning of Schipperke is given in the Flemish dialect, although the word 'scheper' (shepherd dog) and the diminutive or suffix '-ke' are also used and well known in the Netherlands or Holland (see above page 9, 'breed name').

A cobbler is an obsolete word (no longer in use) for shoemaker.

As a matter of fact it was the breed type or variety of Antwerp which most answered to the desired morphology or anatomical structure.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: Lupoid. The Schipperke is a sheepdog of small dimensions but very solidly built.

Its head is wedge-shaped with a quite well-developed skull, and a relatively short muzzle. Its body is well-balanced, short, quite broad and stocky but its limbs are fine-boned. Its coat is very characteristic, well-furnished and with straight hair, forming a ruff, a mane, a frill and culottes which give it its truly unique outline. The difference between the sexes is evident. Its straightforward morphology, allied to its sheepdog characteristics and temperament, and added to its small size, explains its great popularity which extends well beyond the Belgian borders

According to the Standard Schipperkes possess a distinctive coat and contour or silhouette (characteristic shape, form or outline of a body).

Regarding the general appearance we must point out that dogs that have certain little faults still can get very good results in the show ring. Our explanation is that it concerns dogs which are attractive because of their general appearance, good type, harmonious contours and which moreover behave freely and have a good temperament. According to experienced judges particular faults and the 'judging on faults' (especially looking for all the individual faults) can be compensated by the beauty or type (the distinctive breed characteristics) of the whole or the ensemble.

A 'point system' is even added to certain Standards. Fortunately many judges do not defend the idea that a well defined point system should be used when grading (to give/award/attribute a qualification) or placing the dogs in order. In many canine books the 'point system' is defended with the intention of fixing objective criterions which are comprehensible for or acceptable to everyone. In this connection two things may not be forgotten. Firstly, the general impression or appearance of a dog cannot be fixed in a number of points and most judges are against the use of a scale of points. It is essentially a method of allocating points to certain aspects and giving then a qualification depending on the sum or total (is mostly 100 points for the perfect dog). Secondly, when considering a scale of points, it is possible, if a dog does not give satisfaction for one characteristic (e.g. 'missing teeth' or 'hanging ear', etc.), that this can lead to or results in a disqualification.

The term 'lupoid' (see page 8) is rather vague, because the great majority of dogs are lupoid. The term 'lupoid' has been only used here to stress the fact that the Schipperke belongs to the morphological type having the general characteristics or the appearance of a wolf and does not belong to the other types, which are braccoid/braquelike, molossoïd/mastifflike and graïoid/racy/whippety. The term 'lupoid' was also introduced in the new Standard because (see below page14) especially the head is certainly not fox-like as mentioned in preceding Standards. In any case, the regrettable statement 'with a foxy head' should disappear from all the literature on Schipperkes and replaced by 'lupoid'. It cannot be said that the term 'lupoid' is wrong, but rather vague or not very precise and an advantage of this vagueness could be that a discussion about the term 'lupoid' is not easily provoked.

'Its small dimensions' do not mean that the Schipperke is a miniature or a Toy breed. Schipperkes don't show signs of 'dwarfism' (growth failure) or 'nanism', which is a condition of stunted growth or a disability characterized by the size which

is much inferior to the average size, but still with corporal proportions which are normal and a mental development which is also completely normal.

'Quite broad (description of the body) is indeed a more judicious and more justified wording than only and simply 'broad'. Perhaps 'rather broad' could be still better and a more understandable wording, because 'rather' means 'somewhat' or 'to a certain extent'/'in a less degree' and 'quite' means 'to the highest degree', 'to a considerable' or 'to the fullest extent'. Other usable adverbs or words to precise the meaning of 'broad' could be 'fairly', 'relatively', 'somewhat', 'moderately', 'slightly', or 'a little' broad.

'Stocky' means 'compact', 'sturdy', 'blocky', 'short-bodied'. A Schipperke certainly doesn't have a thick body, is not totally devoid of elegance and may neither be too refined in appearance or high-legged, nor heavy, clumsy or fleshy.

Important: As to the statement 'its limbs are fine-boned', see below 'Limbs'.

'Sexual dimorphism' or 'the difference between sexes' means that males and females have distinct forms (masculine and feminine forms) and formats (shapes, weights and sizes). The statement that the difference between the sexes is evident is an exaggeration and should be "the sexual dimorphism is still visible, but is not very marked."

I can't stress it enough that morphologically (as for the structure and the exterior anatomy or form), the Schipperke is not a miniature Belgian Shepherd dog (Groenendael or Belgian Sheepdog). The anatomical conformation (construction) of these two breeds is very different. Certainly, Schipperkes are little shepherds, but their structure or conformation is rather robust and solid. Their general appearance or silhouette (body outline, contour or shape/profile) is unique, very distinctive, very characteristic, and resembles no other breed. Ideally, the body of a Schipperke fits in a square (see below 'Important Proportions').

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS:

Height at withers equals length of body, hence this is a squarely built dog.

Chest comes down level with elbows.

Muzzle is definitely less long than half the length of the head.

These are the three important proportions which are also mentioned in the "FCI-Model Standard". 'Squarely built (square in profile) or 'body fitting in a square' is a very important characteristic

As to the 'length of body' and the 'square structure', these topics are discussed further (see below, page 21, 'Body'). Concerning the statement 'chest comes down level with elbows', see below, page 25, 'Chest'.

Regarding the 'length of the muzzle', see below, p. 16, 'Facial region - Muzzle'.

The length of body of a dog is measured (at breed surveys) from the point where the shoulder blade (scapula) and the humerus (arm bone) come together or from the point of the sternum or breastbone (prosthernum) to the back (posterior part) of the dog or to the point of the buttocks (ischium tuberosity).

That the muzzle is 'less long than half the length of the head' could be otherwise/differently (better?) formulated/expressed/worded, namely that the muzzle

or facial region is less long than the cranial region (correct proportion 'length of muzzle'/'length of cranial region' = 2/3) (see p. 16, muzzle = 40 % of length of head).

BEHAVIOUR/TEMPERAMENT: An excellent small guard dog, an exceptional alarm, bubbling with vitality, aloof with strangers. Active and busy, agile, tireless, perpetually interested in what is going on around it, inclined to snap if anyone approaches objects it has been given to guard, very gentle with children, always curious to know what is going on behind a closed door or behind an object which is being moved, showing its reaction by its high-pitched bark, its raised mane and hackles. It is an inquisitive dog which will hunt rats, moles and other vermin.

In the past, Schipperkes were a 'utilitarian' breed, but since they definitively became small shepherd dogs they are the guardians of their beloved family and their home. They warn and bark when not known persons come on a visit or enter their home, because most Schipperkes are aloof and by nature suspicious toward strangers. A Schipperke is still an excellent watch-dog. Generally, it takes quite a time before Schipperkes trust somebody and it is possible that they remain a long time rather reserved before they are on friendly terms or make friends with people they don't know.

Schipperkes are not everybody's friend. So, it is possible that when your Schipperke shows for the first time, that he may be unaccustomed, unwilling or even snappy. Such a behaviour in the show ring (perhaps or very probably growling at the judge or snapping will be blamed or penalized because all these undesirable traits can be misinterpreted as 'bad temper' or 'bad character' by the beauty/conformation judge, who expects that the dogs have an equilibrated and open-minded behaviour. All this signifies that a Schipperke must be prepared to the show until his behaviour is acceptable (fortunately, a Schipperke quickly learns). So, in advance to a show a dog and his owner need some show education: your Schipperke has to be accustomed to being placed on a table and handled or touched by the judge, who will control the substance, the coat, the angulations, the teeth, etc., and your Schipperke also has to be used to gaitting, moving or trotting up and down (coming and going in a straight line) and around the ring.

Apparently, in this Breed Standard, the character and temperament of the Schipperke are described in a quite detailed fashion. Schipperkes are excellent and faithful little guardians or watchdogs. They are suspicious and extremely curious, very active, lively, alert, confident, independent and faithful to all members of his family. The vivacious temperament of the Schipperke also must be obvious in the show ring and should be visible in all his attitudes and expressions. He is always ready for action and his body looks full of explosive force which he finds difficult to contain. The expression is alert, mischievous and questioning. His temperament is very characteristic, especially his readiness to pass into action. All this attitude of body and the expression of the head and eyes are very typical of the breed. The character qualities described in this Standard are also representative for his not disappeared capacities as a working dog. Therefore the qualities pertaining to the character or behaviour are very important at the moment of judging in the show ring and must be taken into consideration. The personality of the Schipperke is his most

remarkable trait. Some very typical traits (distinguishing qualities of character) of Schipperkes are mentioned here, such as above all his curiosity and his inquisitive nature; in the original text the term 'snuffler' is used, meaning his need to see, inspect or investigate everything at close range, for instance all the holes and corners of his house. He mixes himself into everything as if he is the boss himself. He is a prodigy of fidelity, attachment and is gentleness personified. He is a good stable dog and a good watchdog who barks at any kind of unusual sound (he is very suspicious).

'Hackles' means here 'standing up hair along the neck and the back, making the angry or fearful dog look larger, to impress adversaries' (the apparent size is increased).

A Schipperke is always busy, on the move or exploring and nothing escapes him that goes on within or without his dwelling (house or home). He likes mental stimulation. It is amazing how much he understands when you frequently talk to him.

However, reversely or oppositely, a very good quality can have a less desirable other side of the picture. So, Schipperkes are excellent guardians for example, but this quality of being an excellent guard dog, combined with other qualities such as vitality, tenacity, firmness, courage and an independent nature, make that when they start to guard or to warn, they not always easily stop their sharp or shrill and piercing barking, and as a consequence their 'high-pitched' bark may become irritating. So, this is a nice example of a pronounced and even appreciated quality, which perhaps became a (little?) disadvantage (for some?).

In spite of that, some people are able to deal with dogs and to neutralize the incessant barking or unkind welcoming of for instance a Schipperke. These people have a gift for making even distant/reserved or suspicious dogs feel at ease. But how do they manage to make that dogs feel secure and confident? We don't really know, but they behave (consciously or not) in such a way that dogs are instantly friendly and trustful. It is probably or a special gift to be able to send out such a trustworthiness or for the dogs quite a performance to record or feel/perceive the trustworthiness of a person. Is this perception by the dog a special ability or talent to receive the message 'I am trustworthy'? It can also be the result of having a sixth sense or better the prove or evidence, compared to humans, of the extreme high development of the canine organs of sense.

HEAD: Lupoid, wedge-shaped, but not too long and wide enough to balance with the body. Brows and cheek bones are moderately arched. Transition from cranial region to facial region is visible but must not be too pronounced.

The head is described as being well balanced (harmonious). So, the head is no more vulpine or vulpoid (resembling a fox or fox-like), as mentioned in previous Standards, what at most could have been related to its sharp look and the curious or inquisitive expression,

The muzzle of a fox is snipey/snippy, thin and very pointed/sharp at the extremity. This comparison with the fox could at the very most have pertained to its sharp look and



certainly not to the morphology or the shape of its head, consequently rather to the questioning expression and the curiosity of the Schipperke.

The expression of foxes and Schipperkes is indeed totally different. The facial expression of a fox is nervous, furtive and anxious or frightened and the expression (look) of a Schipperke is attentive, alert and open (frank, free and fearless). In the past, the precision, definition, or explanation 'fox-like' was rather unfortunate (unlucky) and had anyway to be removed in the Breed Standard, what has been done now. The question remained if 'fox-like' had to be replaced on the first occasion with another more justified term, such as 'lupoid' or 'wolf-like', but how can the head then be characterized?

We willingly admit that the term 'lupoid' is rather vague, because many dog heads and breeds are 'lupoid'. However, the term 'lupoid' is not incorrect, because according to morphological classifications, the Schipperke is indeed a 'lupoid breed'.

The brows or the superciliary arches, formed by the ridge of the frontal bone, are mentioned in the description of the head. The brows are the region above the eyes or the superior bone parts of the orbits (orbital cavities).

By 'cheek bones' was meant to say the 'zygomatic arches'. The term 'cheek bone' is rather used in humans for models and babies and not for (domestic) animals. The 'zygomatic arches' (bridges of bone connecting face and neurocranium below the eyes) are situated beside and below the eyes and they form the most external parts of the head. 'Moderately arched' means that these (zygomatic) arches may neither be too prominent (bulging), nor too pronounced or visible.

The 'transition from cranial region to facial region' simply means "stop" (see next page).

A well-conformed and well-proportioned head, with correct ears and eyes, give Schipperkes their alert, vivid and keen/intense expression, which is so typical and certainly not mean.

CRANIAL REGION: Quite a wide forehead, narrowing towards the eyes, slightly rounded when seen in profile. The top lines of the skull and the muzzle are parallel.

A narrow forehead is clearly not desirable, because it goes together with a long head. The 'cranial region' or 'skull' could be correctly described as 'rather broad and not really flat'. A 'slightly rounded' forehead (the ideal) can only be found in rather big Schipperkes. The cranial region (forehead) is proportionally wider and less flat than in the other shepherd dogs, which of course are bigger. Really flat foreheads are seldom seen in Schipperkes, because in small breeds the forehead is mostly rounded, and so the fault "flat forehead" is not mentioned in this Standard. The cranial region should be neither flat nor domed. A domed, arched or rounded head ('apple head') is more to be feared for, especially when the size of the Schipperke would still more decrease.

As a rule, the smaller the Schipperke, the more the rounded contour of the head will be marked or pronounced.

An 'apple-head' (a high-domed or globular top skull), a common characteristic of miniature/dwarf or toy dogs/breeds, has to be avoided, because Schipperkes are not a really small (toy) breed and because this very serious fault (an apple-head) is mostly accompanied by other faults, especially a too pronounced or

too deep 'stop' (see page 16) and a pinched muzzle. All these faults are untypical and give Schipperkes the appearance of a Pomeranian (the smallest German Spitz breed).

We can add here that we sometimes hear the assertion that the Schipperke as a breed has been built or constructed by Pomeranians. Indeed, some experts claim that the Schipperke is a cross between a Pomeranian (a German breed) and another breed. We cannot deny that in the past some crossbreedings with Pomeranians have occurred and that many English speaking or anglophile authors are deeply convinced that Schipperkes are a Spitz-type breed, for example the author David Cavill in his book "All about Spitz breeds". However, a very strong argument against this descent theory is the fact that in Belgium Schipperkes already existed a long time before Pomeranians were known.

'Parallelism' of the head means that, when seen in profile, the (imaginary) lines of the top of the muzzle and the skull (cranial region) are parallel. We are speaking of 'convergence', when the upper line (from the nose to the ears) of the head is 'concave', and of 'divergence', when this upper line is 'convex' (bulging out).

If the top line of the muzzle is bulging out (convex), it is called 'Roman nose'.

Evidently, to ascertain parallelism (also meaning 'absence of convergence or divergence'), it are the imaginary (existing only in the mind) upper lines or axes of the muzzle and the cranial region which have to be looked at.

Stop: Pronounced but not exaggerated.

The stop is a depression at the transition between the cranial and the facial region and the stop must be definite (clearly visible) in Schipperkes.

A really pronounced or an abrupt stop is normal for a 'brachycephalic' (short-headed) dog and harmonises better with a 'brevilineal type' (see page 7). The stop in the Schipperke should be more perceptible than in Belgian Shepherds, but may neither be too pronounced (extremely obvious). Belgian Shepherds and Schipperkes are both mediolineal, but the latter 'with a tendency to be brevilineal'. Stops which are too or very marked/pronounced or too accentuated are rather characteristic for brevilineal (brachymorphic) dogs. A stop which is too pronounced goes together with a too rounded or domed upper part of the skull.

Conclusion: The stop should be 'well defined', but may not be too abrupt.

FACIAL REGION:

Nose: Small, nose leather always black.

Muzzle: Tapering towards the nose; well-chiselled, not too long, and not truncated; length approximately 40 per cent of the total length of the head; rectilinear foreface.

In some dictionaries of canine terms we often read that the term 'nose' means 'muzzle', foreface or face (the forepart of the head), a definition which is totally wrong. Sometimes the more correct definition is given, namely 'the part at the tip of the muzzle', or 'the organ of the sense of smell', or 'the anterior extremity of the muzzle'. In fact, anatomically, the nose could be better defined as the part of the head that bears the nostrils or as the front part (the anterior extremity) of the muzzle and of course the nose is also the organ of smell or olfaction.

The 'Nose leather' means the 'surrounding tissue' of the nose or simply 'the nose', which always must be black.

The (fore)face or muzzle is the forepart of the head in front of the eyes or in front of the stop.

The superior part (top line) of the muzzle, seen in profile, is called 'bridge of the muzzle', 'top line of the muzzle' or also 'top line of the nose', from the nostrils to the stop.

There is an apparent difference in length between the skull (cranial region) and the foreface, which is shorter. In spite of the fact that in Schipperkes the muzzle should be clearly shorter than the skull, some breeders still produce or show dogs with (too) long muzzles.

A 'rectilinear foreface' means that the top line or bridge of the muzzle (the part which goes from the nose to the stop) must be straight. When the top line of the muzzle is bulging out or convex, it is called 'Roman nose'.

'Chiselled' (especially related to the head), means that the outlines should be clean (smooth) and that the muzzle may not be coarse, heavy or disgraceful, but 'dry', which signifies 'without slack or wrinkled skin', or 'with good sustained lines', so that the skeletal structure is also visible.

'Truncated' means 'cut off', 'square at its extremity', appearing as 'cut off squarely'. 'Not truncated' simply means that the extremity of the muzzle may not be square or having the form of a truncated cone. So, the end of the muzzle in Schipperkes should be neither 'too' snippy (pointed), nor 'too' square (truncated or appearing/seeming with the end removed).

It may seem strange but it is really true, that according to some dog amateurs and even judges, stating that Schipperkes are lupoid or mediolineal, also would mean that as a general characteristic the length of the skull (the cranial region) and the muzzle are equal, which really is an incredibly wrong interpretation. We sometimes even read in judge reports 'head proportions mediolineal' (meaning ?) or also enormities in the descriptions of the head such as 'mediolineal proportions of 50 %'. It has to be clear that such descriptions are contrary to sense and erroneous.

That the length of the muzzle should be 40 % of the total length of the head is based on our accurate measurements carried out on a (statistically) significant number of show Schipperkes. The muzzle in Schipperkes always has been clearly less long than the cranial region. Even in the Breed Standard of the AKC the length of the muzzle is described as 'slightly less than the length of the skull', and in the British 'The Kennel Club', the muzzle is 'moderate in length'. According to the first Belgian Standard (1888) the muzzle ('museau') was 'pas trop allongé' ('not too long')

Conclusion: a long and pinched muzzle (means narrow, especially 'not well filled under the eyes') is really very atypical and the muzzle in Schipperkes may not be snipey (weak and pointed) or too broad and truncated.

Lips: Black, close-fitting.

Jaws/Teeth: Healthy, well-set teeth. Scissor bite, pincer bite tolerated. Complete dentition according to the dental formula. The lack of one or two premolars 1 (1PM1 or 2PM1) or of a premolar 2 (1PM2) is tolerated and the molars 3 (M3) are not taken into consideration.

In this Breed Standard the description of the dentition and its 'faults' (see also below, page 44-47, 'Faults') is very complete.

The teeth of the Schipperke should be well aligned (no irregular implantation and well-set) and the upper and under canines have to fit well together.

In English the abbreviation of 'premolar' is not PM, but P.

Despite the excellent description of the dentition we still have to warn: 'tolerate', in general and also in this Standard, means 'to admit or permit without active opposition something which isn't really approved by everybody'.

The 'bite' is the relative position of the teeth (the 'occlusion', the coming together or the meeting of the upper and lower teeth), especially the front teeth (incisors) of the lower and upper jaw/teeth, when the mouth is closed.

'Pincer bite' (level mouth, level or even bite): mouth having neither 'overbite' nor 'underbite (see below, this page)'; the upper and lower incisors (front teeth) meet edge to edge, like a pincer.

'Scissor(s) bite': most common bite, like the blades of scissors; the upper incisors extend over (closely overlapping) the lower incisors and the inner side of the upper incisors touches the outer side of the lower incisors. Everybody admits that the scissor bite is a normal and perfect way for teeth to close: As an advantage the incisors wear less quickly.

Dog fanciers are rather more divided as to the acceptance of the pincer bite: an often mentioned advantage is that for the whelping bitch it is easier to bite the umbilical cord and a disadvantage is the rapid wear of the teeth. Moreover, if in a breed a pincer bite is allowed, later more slight undershots are noted. We even wonder if the Belgian dog fanciers or cynologists are not very tolerant of the pincer bite, because both bites (scissor and pincer) are also accepted in the Belgian Shepherds and the Bouvier des Flandres

'Overshot', overbite or maxillary/superior/upper prognathism: bite, when the mouth is closed, with a space (even very slight) between the inner surfaces of the upper and the outer surfaces of the lower incisors.

'Reverse scissors bite' (disqualifying in Schipperkes): is the perfect opposite of a scissor bite; the lower incisors protrude beyond the uppers and touch them; can also be seen as a 'slight' underbite (lower jaw 'somewhat' longer than upper jaw) .

'Undershot bite', underbite or (mandibular/inferior/lower prognathism): bite in which the under incisors protrude beyond the uppers.

'Prognathism' or prognathy: abnormal forward protrusion of a jaw - the inferior/lower (mandibular) or superior/upper (maxillary) jaw - or incisors; etymology: 'pro' = forward and Greek 'gnathos' = jaw.

Prognathous or prognathic (adjective of the noun prognathism): having protruding/projecting jaws or incisors, especially the lower jaw or incisors.

A pincer bite may be criticized (see this page above) and is a (minor) fault in many breeds, but in Schipperkes this bite is allowed. However, when in some breeds a pincer bite is tolerated (also in Schipperkes), this bite (even a perfect pincer bite) can change later on (at a more adult age) to an over- or undershot bite (superior, but mostly an inferior prognathism, with or without contact).

Conclusion: a pincer bite in Schipperkes should not be penalized, but a scissor bite, which most cynologists (canine experts) consider to be the most normal, is more desirable, and is recommended, especially for breeding.

Cheeks: Clean, blending imperceptibly into the sides of the muzzle.

'Clean' means here 'smooth' or 'dry', 'without droopiness'/'not hanging downward'. In the original language not the word 'clean' was used, but 'dry'.

Cheek: fleshy part beside the head, below the eyes; walls of the mouth or of the oral cavity; cheeks can be dry or rounded/pronounced

'Dryness' is a very important term, which means that the dog doesn't have a gram of fat too much and is not heavy or puffy (inflated look). 'Dry' is the correct term which had to be used instead of 'clean' to describe the cheeks.

The canine term 'dry' refers to being free from surplus skin (no slack skin) or flesh, and also means 'with clean outline (especially the head)'. A dry dog must have hard, strong and solid muscles, and a tendinous (sinewy) structure.

Anatomically, a dry dog is well-muscled, not too fat and with firm and solid articulations, the skin is close fitting or stretched tightly over the body and without folds, so that the bones and the muscles are visible.

Eyes: Dark brown in colour, small, almond-shaped, neither sunken nor protruding; sharp, lively and mischievous look, black-rimmed eyelids.

The colour of the eyes is the colour of the iris. 'Dark brown' is the recommended, most convenient and favoured colour, because a black dog with light eyes is really an embarrassing imperfection in beauty and is very striking (judges notice light eyes easily).

Many breeders think that light eyes go together with a weakness of character, but that supposition has not been proved.

The small size of the eyes is a real breed characteristic. The eyes determine the expression of the Schipperke, whose look should be very expressive, alert, intelligent and mischievous.

Really too many Schipperkes have eyes which are not in agreement with the Breed Standard, because they are too large, too round and often also too light in colour.

Neither may the eyes be too oblique (set slantwise, with the medium corners lower than the outer corners), because then the expression becomes wolf-like.

The eyes have to be placed frontally, not positioned laterally.

Some experts think that the colour, such as light brown, is less important than shape. Anyway, yellow eyes are horrible.

The eyes must be small, not round or protruding/bulging, and the expression (the look) should be sharp and alert.

The placement of the eyes should not be on the side but somewhat forward (placed on the front of the head).

The look/expression of the eyes of a dog can also be masculine or feminine.

Ears: Erect, very small, pointed, triangular (as far as possible equilateral), set high but not too close to each other, firm and extremely mobile.

By 'ear' is meant the auricle (pinna, leather or flap of the ear), which is the visible part of the ear belonging to the 'external ear'.

In Schipperkes, ears which are not stiffly erect (not held vertically and placed high on the head) are really rare.



Because the statement 'triangular' is not very clear, it has been stated more precisely 'equilateral', although then both a triangle with two ('isosceles' triangle) or three equal sides ('equilateral' triangle) can be meant (an equilateral triangle is always isosceles). These two forms of ears are correct (two or three equal sides), provided that the ears with two equal sides are not too long. When the shape of the ears form an equilateral triangle (3 equal sides), the ears are rather wide at the base, but may not be too close to each other. That's why the cranial region/forehead is quite wide (see 'cranial region', p. 15).

It is very well known that in Belgian Shepherds the ears should be small, much smaller than in German Shepherds. In Schipperkes, the smallness of the ears is also a very important breed characteristic and ears which are too long or too large at the base, are really atypical. Proportionally, the ears in Schipperkes are even smaller than in Belgian Shepherds.

The ears in Schipperkes may not incline forward. Neither may they be narrow, because then they appear too long and don't have the typical shape. Overly long ears are a very common fault in Schipperkes because this is not compatible with the desired 'very small' ears.

Spoonlike ears (the sides of the ear are curved outside/outward, sometimes with a rounded tip) are most reprehensible in Schipperkes, especially with a rounded tip.

'Set high' means a high ear placement on the top of the skull and not at the outside of the (fore)head or skull.

It seems that some judges or authors really think that Belgian canine experts like very much Schipperkes having ears slightly inclining forward, but we never had knowledge of it, and so, we don't discuss it.

As already mentioned, not erect ears or semi-erect (standing ears that fall over at the tip) are very rare in Schipperkes and both are disqualifying faults.

The ears may not be feathered (have feathers or long hair). Feathered ears are indicative (at least genetically) of a long-haired coat.

NECK: Strong, powerfully muscled and appearing very voluminous because of the abundant hair on the ruff, medium length, well-set into shoulders, carried well and higher when dog is alert, upper line being slightly arched.

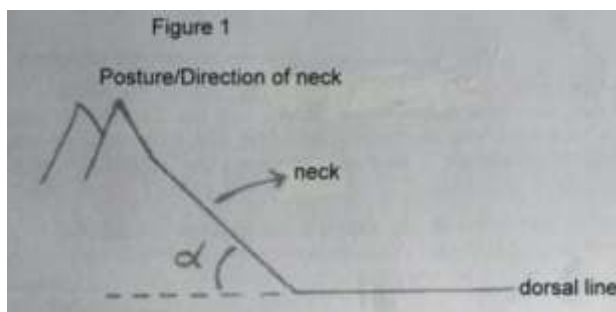
The neck is of moderate length and may not give the impression of lacking elegance or of being too short or deep-set. The carriage of the neck must be proud and full of energy. The neck may not be too short and neither too long.

Of course the ruff (long hair around the neck) may do look the neck shorter and stronger.

Too short a neck cannot harmonize with the general appearance.

When the dog is alert or fully watchful, the neck is carried higher and when the dog is moving the neck lowers.

According to the Breed Standards of 1888, 1904, 1960 and 1988, the neck of Schipperkes is strong and carried upright.



However, nothing in the Standards is/was mentioned about the direction of the neck. The degree of inclination of the neck can be quantified by the angle alpha (see Figure 1) formed by the direction of the neck and a horizontal. This angle α becomes larger when the dog is attentive, and smaller when he is trotting. We assume that in the Schipperke this angle, in normal position, must be a little larger than 45°, because this is the angle which we find in the Standard of the German Shepherd. However, this angle alpha should be 'a little' smaller than in the Belgian Shepherd, whose head should be carried 'rather upright'. In the Belgian Shepherd, the shoulder angulation is also steeper (larger) than in the Schipperke. As a matter of fact, the direction of the neck depends on the position of the shoulder (the shoulder blade or), but also on the temperament. The ideal angle of the direction of the neck in the Belgian Shepherd Dog has never been published.

We can conclude that in Schipperkes the neck is carried a little higher than in German Shepherds and somewhat less high than in Belgian Shepherds.

Finally, we also can mention that Schipperkes may not have loose skin ('throatiness') on the underside of the neck (the skin may not form a 'dewlap' on the throat).

BODY: Short and wide, therefore cobby, but not overbulky or heavy, ideally fitting into a square; its length from point of shoulder to point of buttock is roughly equal to height at withers.

'Body' means here the trunk or the main part of the body of a dog, except the head, the neck, the limbs or quarters and the tail. The body is short/close-coupled. A better wording for 'wide' would be 'rather/fairly wide', because the body is not really wide but 'moderately' wide. The French term 'trapu' was wrongly translated by 'cobby', instead of by one of the following terms: compact, blocky, stocky or solid.



'Cob' or 'cobby' signifies 'roundish mass' and is a morphological term (describing the form and structure of animals). It is in fact a hippological or horse term, meaning a stocky or sturdy short-legged horse. Some time ago and still now the term was and is also used, but wrongly, to indicate a square dog. 'Cob' should not be used as a canine term, because the meanings of 'strongly built' and 'square structure' are totally different.

A dog fitting into a square is not necessarily cob, and so the best synonyms for cob(by) which should be used are compact, stocky and blocky and perhaps thick-set, but not short-bodied or square. In the English text of the Standard the term 'cobby' is used, but in the original text (in Dutch) the term 'gedrongen' was utilized (in French 'trapu'), which means 'compact, robust, sturdy, stocky, massive and strongly built'.

There can be no doubt: the Schipperke is and stays a short dog, which means that the body (seen in profile) fits into a square. This 'fitting into a square' concerns as well males as females, and it certainly doesn't mean that at shows, regarding the length of body or the square structure imposed by the Breed Standard, the judges should be more tolerant towards/with females. Indeed, a female

'construite en lice', translated into English 'constructed like a breeding female/bitch' (meaning 'with a stretched body', in French 'le corps allongé'), produces/procreates as well long or stretched (long) females as males.

The body of Schipperkes may not appear high-legged, clumsy or too fleshy and may not be devoid of some elegance. We read here in the text of the Breed Standard that the body should be wide (= broad), but in the part 'General Appearance' of this Standard the wording is 'quite' broad. The formulation 'rather broad', would, strictly speaking; be much better than simply 'broad' or 'wide', because 'rather' ('somewhat') broad' is less broad than 'broad' and is a much better expressed.

A body which fits into a square is a requirement which of course applies to both sexes. Indeed, as already stated (page 21) a dam with a long body can produce offspring, both males and females, which are too long in body and lack the compact/short outline, so characteristic of the breed. Schipperkes can only be typical (presenting the features or characteristics that distinguish the breed), when their body structure is really square (if their body fits into a square).

Topline: The topline of the back and loin is straight and firm, often rising slightly from croup to withers.

The top line is the outline at the dog's upper side, back plus loin. Mostly is meant the upper side from the withers to the tail set. So, the most current definition is "withers + back + loin + croup". Sometimes, the meaning of this term also includes the superior parts of the neck and the tail. In a very narrow sense, it means only the back, and in a narrow sense, the back and loin or the dorsal-lumbar region is meant.

Back: dorsal region; anatomical basis: dorsal or thoracic vertebrae; in the strict and correct meaning: part of the top line between the withers and the loin; broad sense: the part from the neck to the croup and the part between withers and croup (these two broad senses are not entirely correct definitions).

Loin: lumbar region; anatomical basis: lumbar or loin vertebrae; strict or correct interpretation: the region between the 'back' and the 'croup'.

For some, a rising top line is disputable and very often this 'rising' has been contested, although this (slight) rising is an acceptable statement, if the rising is not exaggerated or when the sloping top line is mainly an impression due to the mane raising a little the height at the withers. Such a rising top line from croup to withers is sometimes called 'hypertypical' (excessively typical).

In a bitch we sometimes see that the firmness, especially of the back, leaves a little to be desired, often because of litters, birthing and feeding puppies. This weak back can be considered as an acquired fault, which, according to some experts, can be judged that way, on condition that or when the firmness of the back was correct before (but we wonder, how can judges know that the back ever has been correct?).

Withers: Very pronounced and seeming even more so because of the mane.



The withers (normally the highest point of a dog's top line), are situated between the neck and the back; the anatomical basis is 'the upper part of the shoulder blades or scapulas'; The withers should be distinct (not smooth or even) and may not be flat or low-lying. Anatomically, the withers are mostly well visible (distinct), because they are 'the highest point of the top line'. They 'look' even higher by the hair on the withers (the mane). The Standard only states or stipulates that the withers are anyway very pronounced, which is still more noticeable (accentuated) by the long hair of the 'mane' (= growth of hair on the rear of the neck and the withers).

Back: Short, straight and strong.

When the back is not short and rectilinear (which also applies to the loins), the general compact appearance of the Schipperke is not possible.

The back and the loins may not be weak and certainly not sagging, and neither be arched or curved upwards (have a rise in the top line). A saddle back (a very sagging back in the form of a saddle) is a serious fault and dogs showing such a fault should not be recommended for breeding.

A dip behind the withers at the 11th dorsal vertebra (is short and vertical and is called the diaphragmatic or anticlinal vertebra) is a dip which is not always visible and anyway must not be necessarily present. Such a dip is really not serious and may not be confused with a 'soft' back or still worse a 'sway back'.

A little dip behind the withers is considered a minor fault, if for the rest the firmness of the back or the top line is OK.

Loins: Short, broad and powerful.

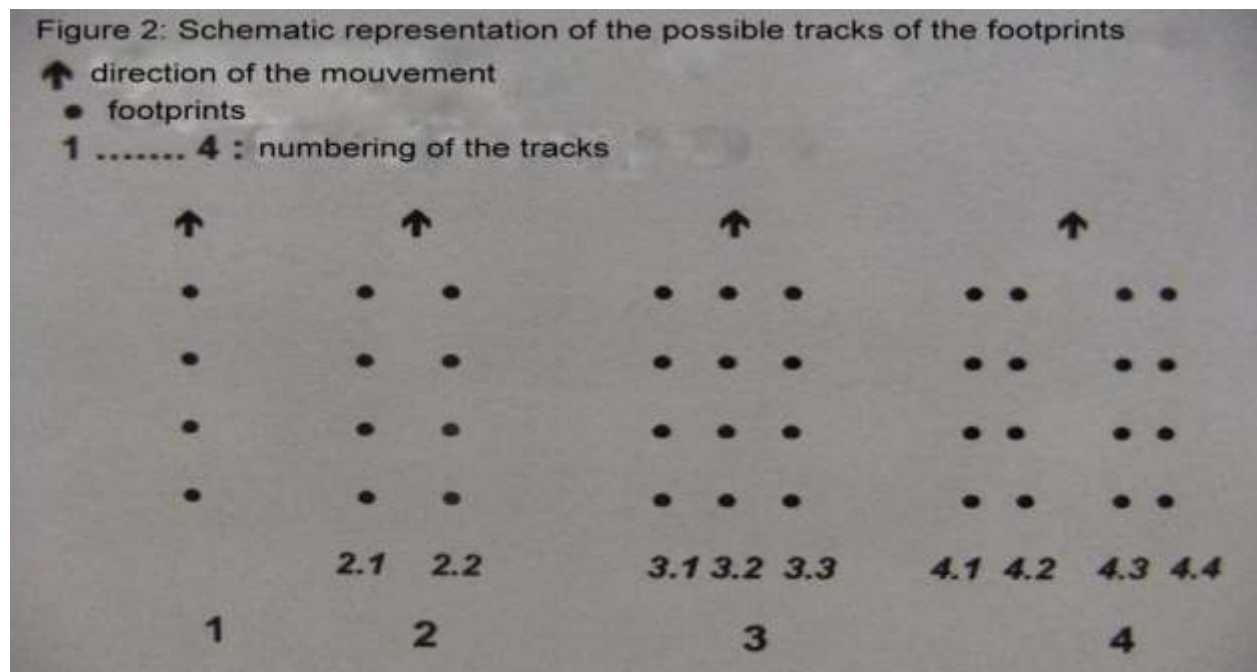
The Standard clearly demands broad loins (the region between the back and the croup). This is important because the body seen from above may not be 'pear-shaped' (with a broad chest and narrow loins). Due to a pear shape it is possible that in Schipperkes the hind legs move narrower than the fore legs, or that the footprints of the front and the hind feet are not equally wide. When the rear of the dog is narrower than the front part, it is possible that the movement is not 'single tracking' (Fig. 2, p. 24, Nr. 1) or 'double' tracking (same Fig. 2, Nr. 2), which is the normal gait of Schipperkes (walk or trot) (see p. 34 'Gait/movement) at a moderate speed, what means that there are two lines of travel, one for the footprints of the left legs/feet (see page 24, Fig. 2, 2.1) and another for the right legs or feet (same Figure 2, Nr. 2, 2.2).

In the American Breed Standard we read that as speed increases, the movement has a tendency to gradually converge (see higher page 7 for a definition of 'converge'). When there is a pear shape a line of footprints can be formed inside the front feet prints. It is possible that we then see a three or a four track(ing) gait or movement. In the three track gait (Nr. 3 of Fig. 2, p. 24): the two exterior tracks are the footprints of the forefeet left (3.1) and right (3.3) and the middle line of prints (3.2) are the prints of the hind feet. In Schipperkes even a four track gait can be seen (Fig. 2, Nr. 4), and in this case the two exterior lines are from the forefeet (Fig.2. numbers 4.1 and 4.4) and the two lines in the middle are the footprints of the two hind feet. (see Figure 2., 4.2 and 4.3). The four track movement (Fig. 2, Nr. 4) can be seen in Schipperkes with a tendency to be 'pear-shaped', what means with a body wider in front than behind, but this is evidently not applicable to the description of the ideal movement ('double tracking'). We cannot say that in Schipperkes a pear-shaped

body construction or conformation is very rare, because ever has been a time that some judges in certain countries really thought that the four track gait is the normal gait or movement of the Schipperke. Indeed, anatomically, the posterior part of the body or the hind quarters can be a little narrower than the front part or the forequarters, but only very slightly narrower.

Powerful' means broad, robust, sturdy and compact (short).

In Figure 2 we see the possible footprints of the gait (walking and trotting).



direction of the movement

footprints

1 4 numbering of the tracks

Croup: Short, broad and horizontal; the rear section of the croup i.e. the junction between the croup and the point of the buttocks is pleasingly rounded, a shape known as a Guinea pig rump.

The croup (the rump), is sometimes considered or regarded as the upper part of the hindquarters or as the gluteal (pertaining to the muscles of the buttocks) area. The croup, the region above the hind quarters and between the loin and the root of the tail, should be short. A long croup goes together with a pronounced rear angulation. The croup in Schipperkes is 'horizontal' or at most very slightly sloping. Actually, too many Schipperkes have a too sloping croup. Judges must react more severely against that fault, because otherwise we could arrive at a situation without possible return, unless we 'adapt' or change the Breed Standard, which really is the last thing to do. A straight hind hand angulation (especially the hock angulation) is frequently seen, but on the contrary, overangulation of the hind limbs is seldom seen.

A too narrow croup is an important fault, certainly in a bitch, because in a brood bitch a good and sufficient width of the croup is a requirement for easy whelping.

The croup (or rump) forms a whole with the back and the loins (the top line, p. 22) and accordingly, it is quite normal that also the croup is broad. However, the

croup is a little less broad than the chest, what is even accentuated by the longer hair of the forehead (ruff/mane, cape and frill). Neither ideal is a view from above revealing a pear-shaped silhouette, because then a morphological disharmony would exist between the fore - and the hind hand. Pear-shaped (seen from above having a broad chest and narrow loins) is a morphological description which is not applicable to the ideal structure of Schipperkes and it is absolutely not desirable for the breed.

The anatomical or skeletal basis of the croup is the pelvic girdle (the pelvis plus the sacrum or the three fused sacral vertebrae) and the very wide first caudal vertebrae. If the croup is horizontal, we speak of a level or flat (showing little or no slope) croup and if the pelvis (especially the ilium) is too inclined, the croup is termed, depending on the degree of sloping, receding, falling away, (very) steep, drooping (inclined downward), which are all heavy faults (croup too sloping) in Schipperkes.

Very often in judge reports in judge reports, something is said about the inclination of the pelvis (a term belonging to the skeleton!), but not about the inclination of a part of the exterior or a 'region of the body', such as the croup/rump. Such remarks or comments using parts of the skeleton are senseless, because for instance in this particular case, the pelvis is always very sloping, even when the croup is horizontal.

The description or comparison of the posterior part of the croup as or with a Guinea pig rump is not very instructive and therefore not necessary, in any case after tail docking or caudectomy was banned under Belgian law since 2006. Caudectomy or tail docking was also banned in many other countries. Moreover, it is also advised, when writing a Breed Standard, not to compare some characteristics with other breeds or animals whose exterior anatomy is supposed not to be sufficiently known.

According to some experts the characteristic posterior part of the Schipperke is only due to the taillessness (not having a tail), naturally, at birth, after a deep amputation or deeply docking, being the former custom of cutting the tails.

Chest: Well let down to the elbows; broad in front and also behind the shoulders, therefore having a good spring of rib. In profile the forechest is prominent.

The chest is the part of the trunk situated between the neck in front and the belly/abdomen, the loins and the flanks behind and which from the sides is enclosed by the 'region of the ribs'. These are also the limits (delimitation) of the 'thorax' or 'rib cage'.

The brisket is the lower part of the chest and its anatomical basis is the sternum or breast bone.

'Well let down' (having a deep chest) to the elbows doesn't mean that the chest should be 'very' deep (measured from above downward), nor that the 'depth of chest' should be half of the 'height at the withers'. As a matter of fact, the 'depth of chest' in Schipperkes is 47-48 % of 'the height at the withers', or, stated in a different way, the height from ground to brisket (the 'substernal distance') is 52-53 % of the size (the height) of the dog. The averages which we calculated and measured of the 'depth' and the 'width' of chest of Schipperkes are respectively 15,4 and 13,25 cm. That the sum of the 'depth of chest' and the 'substernal distance' equals the 'height at withers', is always correct. So, the ideal Schipperke must have a 'rather' broad and

'rather' deep chest. Consequently, the circumference of the chest is also important because the chest is voluminous: the average value of its circumference ('contour' or 'thoracic perimeter') is namely 46, 4 cm (measurements taken by the author in 50 show Schipperkes).

When the underline of the chest is not deep enough the Schipperke is too 'leggy' (having long legs) and there is too much 'daylight under the body'. Differently expressed the Schipperke does not have then the typical or correct outline or silhouette, it lacks robustness and strength, and the overall appearance or structure is not sufficiently blocky or compact.

In canine terms the ribs are also the 'region of the ribs', the 'costal region' or the side chest, from the shoulder to the flank or the belly and the 'costal region' is situated between above the back and below the brisket (lower chest or sternal region) (see also page 25).

Barrel-shaped ribs (rounded and wide, with too much spring of rib) are as much atypical as too flat ribs. The ribs in Schipperkes must be well/sufficiently rounded or rather well sprung, rather broad behind the shoulders and must taper to the brisket (= lower chest; underline of the chest, the sternum is the anatom. basis).

'A good spring of rib' doesn't mean that the chest should be 'cylindrical' (rib cage too broad) or barrel shaped (too rounded or cylindrical ribcage; exaggerated rib spring or lateral curvature of the ribs). A good 'spring of rib' only means that the chest should be 'sufficiently' broad to have a compact appearance, but without exaggeration. The chest should be rather wide at the top and narrower at the bottom (the sternal area).

The 'forechest' has a special meaning here. It doesn't mean the forward or anterior part/side of the chest (seen in front or the front view of it), but more precisely the region 'seen in profile' situated between above the throat and below the region between the axillas (armpits) or forelegs. So, 'forechest' in this Breed Standard means the part of the chest in profile which stands out, juts forward/out or protrudes.

So, the forechest is the anterior part of the chest. In the French text of the Schipperke Standard the wording 'en saillie' is used, which means 'protruding', projecting or jutting out, sticking out, bulging or prominent. A prominent forechest in profile goes together with a pronounced or good shoulder angulation. When the forechest is prominent, but without exaggeration, it also means that the forehand is well developed and that the gait can be 'covering' because of a good shoulder angulation, but, when the chest is 'overloaded' the gait is of course too heavy and no more supple.

Underline: The underline of the chest well-let down, reaching the elbows, harmoniously and gently rising towards the belly, which has a moderate tuck-up, neither pendulous nor whippety.

For 'the underline of the chest' and the quantification (expressed in terms of magnitude) of the real depth of chest, see above "Chest", page 25. Many people think, when the underline of the lower chest reaches the elbows, that the 'depth of chest' equals half the 'height at the withers', which is completely wrong (see above, page 25, "Chest"). The lower line of the chest must elegantly rise to the abdomen, which means that the underbelly may be neither pendulous or drooping, nor too drawn-up or 'whippety'.

A belly which is too deep or drooping (hanging downward) destroys the delineation of the typical underline. A belly which is too tucked up (elevated or raised) makes the dog look too racy (long-legged, slender, slightly built) and gives the Schipperke a too refined general appearance, although 'some' elegance should be present/visible.

The height from ground to brisket can be called the 'substernal distance'. When the underside of the brisket (lower chest) is situated on a level with the elbows, it doesn't not at all mean, that the 'depth of chest' and the 'substernal distance' (see p. 25) are strictly equal or both 50 % of the height at the withers.

TAIL: Set high. Some dogs are born completely tailless or with a rudimentary or incomplete tail (stumpy or short tail). They should not be penalized for this. At rest a natural tail (reaching at least to the hock), is preferably hanging down and can be raised when the dog is moving, carried in line with the topline, but preferably not higher. A curled tail or a tail carried over the back is accepted.



This description is a modification of the Standard of 2003. This new text of 2009 is in fact a revision or a modified text of the preceding Standard of 2003, and in fact this modified text is much more tolerant for tails which are completely absent from birth, incomplete or not carried hanging. As to the tail, there are in fact no more many faults which have to be considered by judges, because the Belgian Standard Commission, the Royal Schipperke Club of Belgium and the Royal Society Saint-Hubert were of the opinion that being too strict or severe for the tail (absence or carriage) would harm the breed and be detrimental to the further good evolution or the increase in popularity of the breed. The Belgian Standard Commission and the responsible organisations also thought that being too severe would harm the realisation of the other desirable breed characteristics. Furthermore, it has never been irrefutably proven that dogs which are tailless born ('some' are, but the majority is born with a tail) or with an incomplete tail have a lower life expectancy/lifespan or a less good or bad health.

We can also mention here that, genetically, a 'tail curled over the back is dominant over the character or the factor 'dropping or hanging tail'.

In fact, a well rounded croup (formerly always required), is only possible when the Schipperke was tailless born (is very rare) or had a closely docked tail.

Since January 1, 2006, tail docking (caudectomy) is no more allowed in Belgium and then a new situation really started. Apparently, the implications of this ban were underestimated, as well by judges as by breeders. So, it was absolutely necessary to critically analyse the new Standards of the Belgian breeds and to take into consideration the actual genetic insights concerning taillessness, rudimentary tails and whole or natural tails. At the time when tail docking was still allowed, we didn't always know how dogs, with tails docked in accordance with the Breed Standard, really were 'at birth'. Only the breeders could know it and very often they said that they didn't remember if the pups were born tailless (without a tail). The dogs before 2006, were they born tailless, with a short tail or with a long tail? We didn't

know, but since January 2006, we really do know it, at least if everything happens honestly (in a fair way, without lying)). Because, the certificates declaring that a pup was born tailless or that the tail was docked on medical reasons, could be a lie (be false).

All in all, the tail docking ban is a step forward, although it was a mutilation because it imposes limitations to the dog. So, we also had to question if the genetic characteristics which determine taillessness ('anury' means absence of tail at birth), a short tail ('brachyury') or a whole/natural tail, whether or not go with other anatomical defects. On this matter genetic knowledge exists, although this knowledge is not yet sufficiently consolidated. We already know that the gene for taillessness or a short/rudimentary tail is considered to be a dominant gene and that this gene probably is not associated with serious congenital (present at birth) defects. However, we really think that breeding with parents which are born tailless or with a rudimentary tail, should be forbidden or at least dissuaded, except if it would concern a combination with a dog born with a natural (complete from birth) tail.

It has not been proven that tailless born Schipperkes, or Schipperkes born with a short or rudimentary tail, have a shorter life expectancy or a bad health.

For breeders and canine experts an entirely new situation has been created since the ban on tail docking in Belgium. As a result of the ban on ear cropping and tail docking a lot of fanciers of some Belgian breeds (certainly Schipperkes and Bouviers des Flandres/Flanders Cattle Dog) lost their interest in their favoured breeds, because the dogs did no more exhibit their former attractive appearance.

Nevertheless, we sincerely think that for the well-being of dogs the ban on ear cropping (2001) and more recently on tail docking (2006) was inevitable and the dog fanciers will have to get accustomed to the new appearance or looks of the breeds concerned. The ban on tail docking is much more important than the ban on ear cropping, because tail docking is a real anatomical mutilation (dogs use their tails to communicate and for balance).

In the past, we could assume that all the dogs with a docked tail were born with a natural (not docked) tail. This is no more the case now: at the present time we have to suppose that dogs without a tail or with a short tail are born as such. What we see now is how the dog was really born, without having been docked. Worded otherwise, we see the unchanged phenotype (physical appearance) of the dog.

Theoretically, this phenotype shows us the genotype (sum of genetic factors) of the Schipperke. In fact, the genetic factors determine the length of tail, not the environmental variance.

The ban on tail docking had positive consequences: we can really know if two undesirable characteristics, namely short or absent tails and tails which are curled over the back, are genetically present. When in a dog a characteristic is (phenotypically) visible, we may be sure that it is also present in the dog's genotype.

Conclusion: as a matter of fact there are now not many tail characteristics (tail carriages or lengths) which conformation/beauty judges can consider as faults.

Terminology:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| - anury: absence of tail from birth. | - caudectomy: docking of the tail. |
| - inborn: natural; from birth. | |
| - tailless: not having a tail, without tail. | - taillessness: absence of tail. |

To Be Continued.....

Schipperke Breed Standard (AKC)

General Appearance

The Schipperke is an agile, active watchdog and hunter of vermin. In appearance he is a small, thickset, cobby, black, tailless dog, with a fox-like face. The dog is square in profile and possesses a distinctive coat, which includes a stand-out ruff, cape and culottes. All of these create a unique silhouette, appearing to slope from shoulders to croup. Males are decidedly masculine without coarseness. Bitches are decidedly feminine without over refinement. Any deviation from the ideal described in the standard should be penalized to the extent of the deviation. Faults common to all breeds are as undesirable in the Schipperke as in any other breed, even though such faults may not be specifically mentioned in the standard.

Size, Proportion, Substance

Size—The suggested height at the highest point of the withers is 11-13 inches for males and 10-12 inches for bitches. Quality should always take precedence over size. **Proportion**—Square in profile. **Substance**—Thickset.

Head

Expression—The expression is questioning, mischievous, impudent and alert, but never mean or wild. The well proportioned head, accompanied by the correct eyes and ears, will give the dog proper Schipperke expression.

Skull—The skull is of medium width, narrowing toward the muzzle. Seen in profile with the ears laid back, the skull is slightly rounded. The upper jaw is moderately filled in under the eyes, so that, when viewed from above, the head forms a wedge tapering smoothly from the back of the skull to the tip of the nose. The stop is definite but not prominent. The length of the muzzle is slightly less than the length of the skull.

Eyes—The ideal eyes are small, oval rather than round, dark brown, and placed forward on the head.

Ears—The ears are small, triangular, placed high on the head, and, when at attention, very erect. A drop ear or ears is a disqualification.

Nose—The nose is small and black.

Bite—The bite must be scissors or level. Any deviation is to be severely penalized.

Neck, Topline, Body

Neck—The neck is of moderate length, slightly arched and in balance with the rest of the dog to give the correct silhouette. **Topline**—The topline is level or sloping slightly from the withers to the croup. The stand-out ruff adds to the slope, making the dog seem slightly higher at the shoulders than at the rump. **Body**—The chest is broad and deep, and reaches to the elbows. The well sprung ribs (modified oval) are wide behind the shoulders and taper to the sternum. The forechest extends in front of the shoulders between the front legs. The loin is short, muscular and moderately drawn up. The croup is broad and well-rounded with the tail docked. No tail is visually discernible.

Forequarters

The shoulders are well laid back, with the legs extending straight down from the body when viewed from the front. From the side, legs are placed well under the body. Pasterns are short, thick and strong, but still flexible, showing a slight angle when viewed from the side. Dewclaws are generally removed. Feet are small, round and tight. Nails are short, strong and black.

Hindquarters

The hindquarters appear slightly lighter than the forequarters, but are well muscled, and in balance with the front. The hocks are well let down and the stifles are well bent. Extreme angulation is to be penalized. From the rear, the legs extend straight down from the hip through the hock to the feet. Dewclaws must be removed.

Coat

Pattern—The adult coat is highly characteristic and must include several distinct lengths growing naturally in a specific pattern. The coat is short on the face, ears, front of the forelegs and on the hocks; it is medium length on the body, and longer in the ruff, cape, jabot and culottes. The ruff begins in back of the ears and extends completely around the neck; the cape forms an additional distinct layer extending beyond the ruff; the jabot extends across the chest and down between the front legs. The hair down the middle of the back, starting just behind the cape and continuing over the rump, lies flat. It is slightly shorter than the cape but longer than the hair on the sides of the body and sides of the legs. The coat on the rear of the thighs forms culottes, which should be as long as the ruff. Lack of differentiation in coat lengths should be heavily penalized, as it is an essential breed characteristic.

Schipperke Breed Standard (AKC) (con't)

Texture—The coat is abundant, straight and slightly harsh to the touch. The softer undercoat is dense and short on the body and is very dense around the neck, making the ruff stand out. Silky coats, body coats over three inches in length or very short harsh coats are equally incorrect.

Trimming—As the Schipperke is a natural breed, only trimming of the whiskers and the hair between the pads of the feet is optional. Any other trimming must not be done.

Color

The outer coat must be black. Any color other than a natural black is a disqualification. The undercoat, however, may be slightly lighter. During the shedding period, the coat might take on a transitory reddish cast, which is to be penalized to the degree that it detracts from the overall black appearance of the dog. Graying due to age (seven years or older) or occasional white hairs should not be penalized.

Gait

Proper Schipperke movement is a smooth, well coordinated and graceful trot (basically double tracking at a moderate speed), with a tendency to gradually converge toward the center of balance beneath the dog as speed increases. Front and rear must be in perfect balance with good reach in front and drive in the rear. The topline remains level or slightly sloping downward from the shoulders to the rump. Viewed from the front, the elbows remain close to the body. The legs form a straight line from the shoulders through the elbows to the toes, with the feet pointing straight ahead. From the rear, the legs form a straight line from the hip through the hocks to the pads, with the feet pointing straight ahead.

Temperament

The Schipperke is curious, interested in everything around him, and is an excellent and faithful little watchdog. He is reserved with strangers and ready to protect his family and property if necessary. He displays a confident and independent personality, reflecting the breed's original purpose as watchdog and hunter of vermin.

Disqualifications

A drop ear or ears.

Any color other than a natural black.

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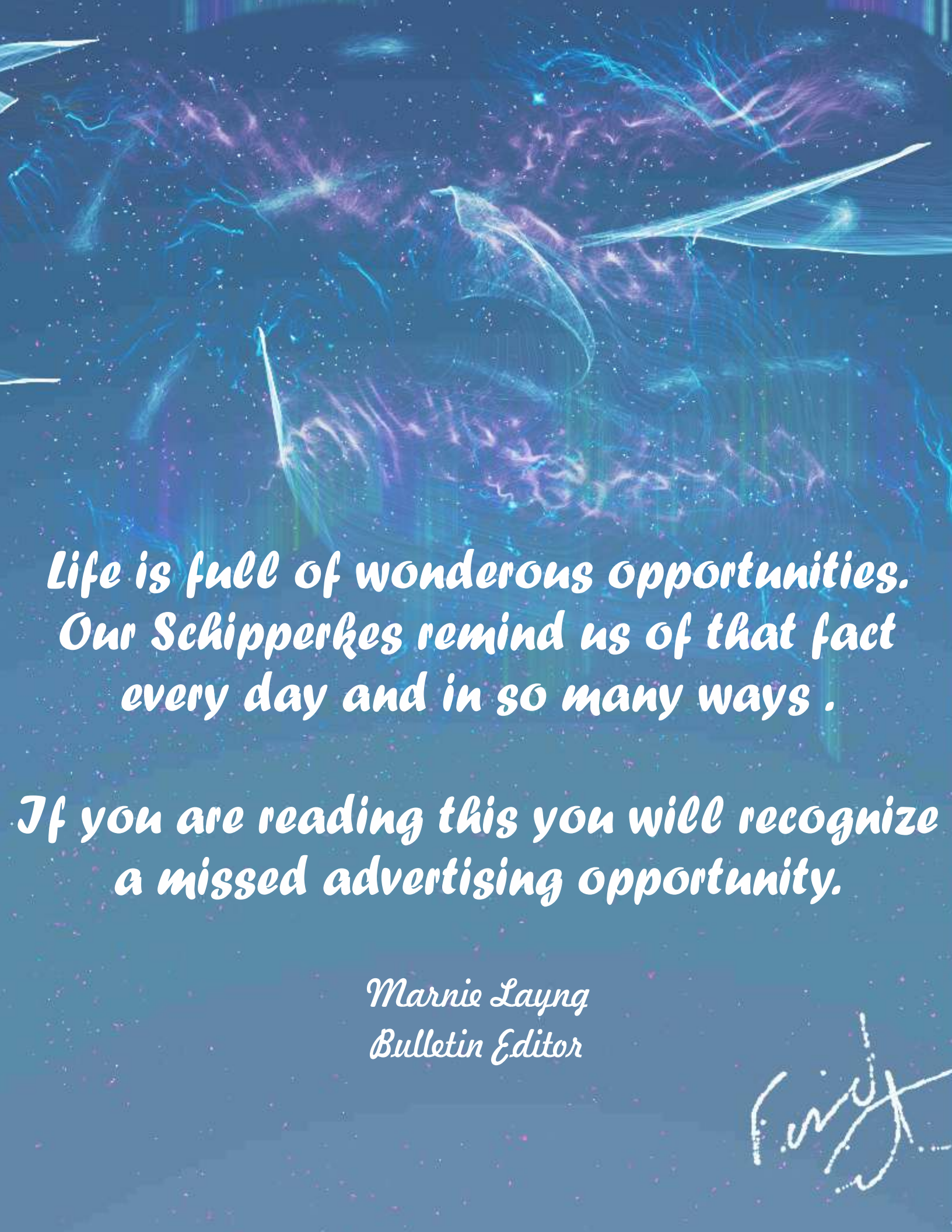
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