

SCHIPSNIPS

Summer 2020



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Mardeck Graphic Design



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Publication Schedule 2019

Submission Deadline	Publication Deadline
April 15th	April 30th
August 15th	August 31st
December 10th	December 22nd

SchipSnips Advertising Rates

Member	Per Issue	Per Year	Plus Web
Kennel Kards	\$5.00	\$15.00	No Charge
Whole Page Ad Including 2 Pictures	\$15.00	\$40.00	\$5.00 per issue / \$10.00 per year
1/2 Page Ad Including 1 picture	\$ 10.00	\$20.00	\$2.00 per issue / \$5.00 per year
1/4 Page Ad (no pictures)	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$5.00 available per year only

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AM CAN CH Mardeck's Iridessa

DESSA



Sire: AM CH BISS CAN CH Fyrewater's Northern Lights
Dam: AM CAN CH Mardeck's Mystic Ice Delamer



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Co-owned, Loved & Handled by:
Larry Wolfe, & Melanie Pacanowski
Oasis Schipperkes

Bred, Owned & Adored by:
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Celebrating the Accomplishments of

GCH CH Delamer Whale Of A Tale CD BN RA
CA DCAT SCN SIN SEN FM RATM CZ8B CGCA
TKP "Moby Dick"

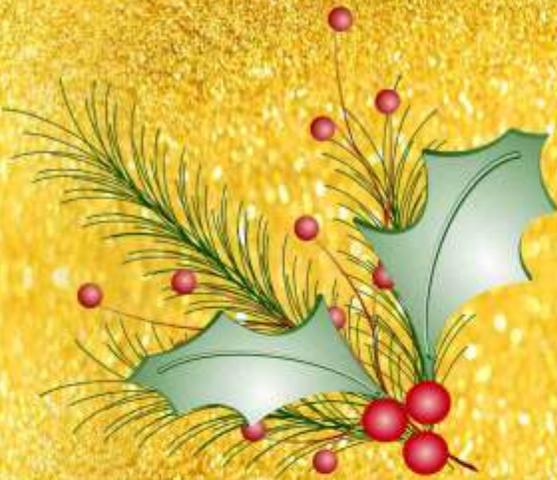
CH Delamer Sea No Evil CD PCD BN RAE AXP
OJP NFP CA DCAT SWN SHDN RATO CGCA
TKP "Lucifer"

As Covid-19 moves across our country,
we are looking forward to attending
Scent Work trials in Albany, NY and
Cleveland, OH.

If required to quarantine for two weeks
afterwards, it will be well worth it, just to
get out doing what we love to do - the
challenge of earning Qs.

Loved and trained by:
Anne Colgan
acolgan10@gmail.com

Created by
MCD



The Winter Issue Is next....

Be sure to participate

SHELTERING YOUR ANIMALS IN THE CASE OF A DISASTER

By *Dolores Reich*

Don Evans asked me to give everyone information on my passion for helping animals, in the case of a disaster, like Hurricane Sandy or Hurricane Katrina.

There are some of you who don't know me. My name Dolores Reich. Along with my husband, Gary, we live in Pittstown, NJ. My kennel name is Mysta's Lhasa Apso's. I have been showing Lhasas since 1973. In fact, my first Champion was almost 11 years old, finishing out of the Bred by Exhibitor class, Champion Mysta's Thruppence. Our dogs, like everyone else's, are family.

Back in 2006, our Governor put out a law that every county in NJ had to form an animal response team. A response team sets up a shelter in case of a disaster, not a rescue. In 2006, we started the Animal Response Team where I live in Franklin Township, Hunterdon County, NJ. In 2007, our County asked us if we would become a County team, since we were helping other Counties.

Ok, now that I have given you a brief outline on myself, I would like to give everyone information about what you should do to prepare if there is a disaster in your county, or state.

Think about this; you hear there is a storm coming, you don't know how bad it is going to be, but according to the news it doesn't sound good. You could be without power for who knows how long. It could be days or weeks. Ok you might say, I have a generator and know the problem, but you are going to need fuel for the generator. However, you could have a hard time getting out to get fuel. It could happen. It has for folks around here.

Now you are thinking still no problem. I can go stay with my family, or friends and take my animals. Well what happens if they have to leave their homes also. Ok, you think "I can go to a motel, or hotel", but then you find out the motels, hotels are full. Ok, you say "I have a motor home, no problem", but then you end up not having electric hook up, water and the other things we all need.

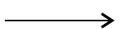
Now what are you going to do? You not only have yourself and your family, but you have your precious animals. To add to this, you might have a litter of pups. Think about it. We all know litters need more attention, especially if it is winter. Since you may have more than one dog or cat, it is harder to find a place to take everyone. Human shelters generally **DO NOT** take pets. Again, what are you going to do?

I am the Hunterdon County Animal Response Team Administrator / Director. We have Veterinarians, Vet Techs and volunteers on board 24/7. I am asking everyone to **PLEASE**, check with your local county about its Animal Response Team. Each county should be able to give you information, about its own team.

If you have large animals, horses, cows, etc., our team helps the owners out with them as well. When you are checking into the animal response team, ask them also about the large animals. Even though you think that you might not need help with them, believe me you just might. Our team has provided water, generators, hay, and fixed fences, etc.

You might never have to worry about this, but as the saying goes "never say never". It could be that you lose power in the summer, and you can't get access to electric. That does happen.

One more thing, put together a GO PACK which includes a list of meds for your dogs, etc. a list of



SHELTERING YOUR ANIMALS IN THE CASE OF A DISASTER

Con't

what you need to put in it, so if you have to leave you will not forget anything. Have a health record of each of your dogs. You probably will have to update it often, but keep the updated list in the GO PACK.

Fortunately, we have not been called out since Hurricane Sandy in 2012. We were called out a couple of years ago, because a town lost their power in August and had no electricity for a day. Luckily, the State of New Jersey's Department of Agriculture awarded us a fully equipped trailer, which had crates, a vet station, air conditioning and heating.

Again, we are on call 24/7, 365 days a year. We have Veterinarians, Vet Techs, and volunteers.

PLEASE, look into the animal response team, in your county. DON'T say, I already have a plan because that plan may not work, and like we all know...it is good to have a backup.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to explain about our team. If you would like any other information, please feel free to reach out to me. My email is ooniee@aol.com. You may text me at (908) 963-8077. If you want to find out more about our team, go to the Hunterdon County Animal Response Team (CART), website (<http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/911/oem/cart.html>) and you will see what we are all about.



When a disaster strikes, who ya gonna call?



In Memory of **Brenda Atkinson**

ATKINSON-Brenda A. (Brockman), of Eden, NY died suddenly June 3, 2020.

Devoted daughter of late the Gilbert "Butch" and Sharon (Romano) Brockman. Survived by several aunt, uncles and cousins.

Brenda became a canine enthusiast at a young age and nothing pleased her more than handling her dogs, or her friends dogs in the show ring. She loved her Schipperkes, Anna and Rosie and commented many times on how she was looking forward to showing her young Sky to her championship.

Brenda will be sorely missed by all who knew her and especially by her extended family of friends. Rest in Peace.



1964 - 2020



**“Because I have loved life,
I shall have no sorrow to die.
I have sent up my gladness on
wings,
To be lost in the blue of the sky.”**

by Amelia Josephine Burr



Mana

AM CAN NZ CH Exmoor Mana Magic

Sire: AM CAN GCHB NZ CH Mardeck's The Sorcerer's Son, ROM

Dam: NZ CH Exmoor All Bright Black Star



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Movin' On by *Gay Hisatake*

It has been a 9-month journey. Our mom is a gypsy! She has moved 13 times since graduating from college years ago. Fortunately, we only met up with her during the past 10 years, so our story begins in August of 2019.

My best friend and I (should I mention that we are both Schipperkes?); have spent all of our lives on a 2.5 acre property. This gave us lots of room to run, play, and explore. There were birds, squirrels, deer, flowers, and so many good smells which made every day exciting. And of course, you all know that Schipperkes see day to day activities, that humans find ordinary, as a grand adventure. There were other dogs with us too, big dogs; Alaskan Malamutes, who we never really played with. We did spend considerable time angrily barking at them and running circles around their houses. We knew that life must be dull for them as they were too calm and quiet; so, we added some excitement to their lives! Or at least that is what we thought we were doing.

During the spring of 2019 mom told us she was getting too old to care for this property, and although it was a beautiful place, and since Joe had moved back to Hawaii; the time had come to move. The house sold quickly to a weekender from NYC who did not have a dog. What a shame it was to leave all this property empty. There would be no dog to pick up our scents, and continue our memories. No dog to enjoy lying on the soft green grass, or to dig deep cool holes in the best part of the lawn, and no dog to continue watering the trees and mom's favorite bushes. There were also graves, but they were outside of the fenced area, and protected.

On moving day there was a lot of commotion. We sensed something was happening, but not really sure what it was. We were put in our crates in mom's car. We wondered where we were going. The trip took about 3 hours until we arrived at our brother's house (mom's human son, Klynn). There were two big dogs in the yard, mom's Malamutes, who had already moved from upstate. We were a bit nervous, and my partner Schipperke, who is a bit more, high strung than I am, was not happy. She is vocal; perhaps I should say a big barker, and she let everyone within earshot know her displeasure. When she finally settled down; she decided that she owned this new house and the room she was living in, and protected it with all of her little might. Although living here was not what we were used to; we managed. We had walks in the local park, which, actually was not bad. Everything was new, and there were kids playing basketball, and baseball. I was so surprised at how many of them admired us, and asked questions, and said we were beautiful. We did miss the freedom of our large yard. Now we were in ex pens in my brother's back yard, if we weren't being walked, and crated at night, which is ok. It kept us out of trouble which we definitely would have gotten into since we both like to explore, take things out of closets, and chew! It is really hard when you can't talk. We had so many questions about what was coming next. Were we going to stay here and continue walks in the park? Were we going someplace else? We both had a sense that this was not the end of our journey.

I began to hear mom talk about an apartment. I was not sure what that was since I had always lived in a house. But maybe another move would be a good thing since my partner had become increasingly bossy. Her vocal abilities seemed to be enhanced, and if you dared to walk past her crate, she let you know that you were in her space, possibly a burglar, and did not belong there. I, on the other hand, am a very peaceful guy. My big enjoyment, aside from walks in the park, is to sit in front of my mom with my front legs crossed, just staring at her.

One month after moving in with my brother (my mom's son), the final move, or so I thought, began. We had been waiting, until my mom got a new mattress delivered. We had things scattered everywhere, in my brother's basement, in my brother's garage, in my brother's house, and in a self-storage unit. We

Movin' On

stayed home until the essential items were moved.

The apartment was very large, and mom loved all of the closets and the large rec room downstairs where we could run around. There was also a balcony off the living room which was a joy for us. It faced the front of the complex. There was so much going on, people coming and going, maintenance men doing various jobs, dogs being walked, and of course the usual squirrels and birds. It was all very exciting, but also a big problem for mom. I guess you can figure out why. Yes, lots of noise! We could not contain ourselves. Well let me correct that; me, being a peaceful guy was able to sit and watch most of the time. But my partner was beside herself with excitement and concern. Her bossy side took over, and she did not let anything or anyone get past her without a huge chorus of Schipperke barks. Of course I could not just sit and watch because I felt that she needed my support, so I quickly joined in and added to the ruckus. At this point mom had to quickly pull us back into the house because there are some people who do not appreciate the fact that we are just doing our job.

There was a very nice park like area around the apartment where we went for walks. We saw deer, rabbits, and an occasional cat. Some days we would go to Washington's Crossing State Park. This is a great spot, along the Delaware River with long walking and biking trails. I particularly enjoyed watching the ducks and geese. My partner enjoyed watching everything. Mom said if we were hounds, that I would be the sight hound since I walked at the end of my leash, somewhat dignified, with my head up, just taking in the sights. She said my partner would be the scent hound because she pulled at the end of her leash, nose to the ground, snorting, going side to side, determined to find whatever miraculous discovery she was searching for, which did include an occasional dead mouse!

Sometimes mom would take us for drives in the car. She seemed to be looking at houses. I heard her talking about how she liked the apartment and that living there gave her peace of mind because she did not have to worry about maintenance or taking care of a yard. But there seemed to be something missing. During the spring mom got sick for 2 weeks. She seemed very tired and was not herself, but she still had to walk us several times a day, which, I could see, was not easy for her. I heard her talking to someone about a house, which made me very excited. I thought maybe we were returning to our 2.5 acres.

Well; we did not go back there, but mom did decide to make a 3rd and final move. I guess during one of her drives she found a small house with a nice backyard, around the corner from our brother. I heard her talking about wanting a place where we could run around off leash and try to catch a squirrel. It was at the end of May that we moved for the 3rd time! Remember that this all started in August of 2019 and here we were in May of 2020 doing this again. We are now waiting to get our new yard fenced so we can have our freedom, and I love it. We have a cute tiled kitchen where we hang out. Mom has it gated to keep us out of trouble. My partner likes to pee on rugs, so tiles are good! The yard is nice, green grass, lots of trees, and several dogs for neighbors. And hey; one of them even barks as much as we do! Not sure what breed he is, but darn if he doesn't look like a white schipperke with a black spot. He has a short thick body, a beautiful topline, correct ear set, and a wedge-shaped head. And he does his job just as good as a Schipperke!

I am proud to say that we have handled all of these changes in stride. It is important that we have never felt left out despite all of the chaos involved with moving. With every change; we had a comfortable and safe place to stay, and our daily walks were a fun time that we always looked forward to. We got to meet lots of nice people too. But I am happy to say that we are finally settled in our new place, and it is good!

Morgan

AM CAN CH MARDECK'S WHERE THE MAGIC IS



Sire: AM CAN CH OASIS FASTEN YOUR SEAT BELTS

Dam: AM CAN GCH MARDECKS IRIDESSA

Morgan is shown finishing his American championship on July 23, 2020 handled by Larry Wolfe. He was held up for a while from attending shows due to Covid-19, but finished as soon as a major could be found. Morgan will be off to England to live with his owners, and our friends, Lesley & Terry Thorne of Schipdale Schipperkes.

Thank you to the judges in Canada and the USA who recognized the merit of this young Schip. We look forward to his continued successes across the ocean.

BRED BY:
MARNIE LAYNG, MARDECK
LARRY WOLFE, MELANIE PACANOWSKI, OASIS

OWNED BY:
LESLEY & TERRY THORNE, SCHIPDALE
lesley.thorne81@googlemail.com

My Unexpected Crew Change

by *Al Pietzold*

Sometimes it's surprising how much change a year can bring. Last year at this time Lynn and I were coming to terms with Gwen's diagnosis of kidney failure. We thought her remaining time would be measured in months but we were determined to make them the best they could be, and so I continued sailing with Gwen, Ike, and Mick in my little Sunfish sailboat. They always loved doing that no matter their age. At the time the thought of getting a fourth Schipperke was unimaginable but in September unexpected stars aligned. A crazy but exciting opportunity was there and we embraced it; the little scamp Pearl joined our pack!



Living with four Schipperkes was fairly easy at home, a circus at times when I hiked solo with them, but always fun. Pearl at five months was too young to go sailing in my Sunfish in October, and so I looked forward with anticipation and trepidation to squeezing four Schips into my little sailboat in 2020. Apparently, that was not meant to be... fate, or destiny, or the cards did not play out that way. Our four dog days lasted less than two months.

About a month after this group photo was taken our thirteen-year-old "big guy" Ike died unexpectedly in my arms from a heart attack. In June before the

weather conditions were right for puppy Pearl's first sail, we had to say a tearful goodbye to our beloved fifteen-year-old "Miss Gwen". Now I sail with two but imagine four. The 2018 photo shows what was the 2020 photo shows what is. Rest in peace Ike and Gwen, we'll all sail together again someday!



To Insure or Not To Insure?

by *Deb Bruner*

Thinking about pet insurance? Many people see no need. Others are curious about it. Some people insist on it. I have pet insurance, as do a number of my agility pals. Am I glad I have it? Yes. I'm super happy when it kicks in and I never have to ever ask myself whether I can afford something (like a long-term expensive medication). However, when I pay premiums for years and it's clear that I've paid well more in premiums than I've used, well, it can feel a little like a waste of money. Pet insurance, unlike home insurance or auto insurance, isn't mandatory, and sometimes it's a roll of the dice whether it's a smart decision or not. That said, here's my experience along with a few suggestions for picking the company (and coverage) for you. Please note: The information in this article is based on my personal experience and what I have gleaned from other people who also have pet insurance. I am not speaking on behalf of Schipperke Club of America.

Consideration #1: Ask friends and Facebook acquaintances what they like or don't like about the pet insurance policy they have. Start a list of the pros and cons you've heard, and try to get specific information from your friends about what's been covered (such as, surgery? meds? office visits? hydro therapy? dentals? etc.) Don't forget to ask what they would do differently, if they would, with their next pet.

Consideration #2: You'll discover that various organizations, companies, and television personalities recommend a pet insurance plan. Be aware of possible commercial (vested) interests behind such endorsements. As with what you hear from friends, simply gather information about these plans. Years ago when I started looking into pet insurance, I noticed that my veterinary hospital had pamphlets of a particular pet insurance plan in their office, and when I queried the staff about the plan they all spoke highly of it. Further conversations with the staff revealed that this particular company gave premium discounts to employees of veterinary hospitals, so I had to ask myself whether the staff liked this company for the discounts or whether the coverage was better than what I could find with another company. When looking at plans, you need to be a bit of a sleuth. As the list of pet insurance providers continues to grow, remember that endorsements (such as from AKC, for example) may help a company stand out from the pack but that doesn't mean the plans these companies offer are right for you. Try consulting pet insurance reviews such as those conducted by *Whole Dog Journal* or other reliable publications; such reviews typically compare a number of plans and can you a lot of analysis.

Consideration #3: Consider your breed of dog. Do you have a breed where cancer is typical? Skin conditions are typical? Heart issues? Hip dysplasia? Schips are pretty healthy compared to a lot of other breeds though I do see not infrequent cases of cancer and seizures. I would look at policies with this in mind: What kind of coverage do the plans offer? Are there caps (either per incident, annual or lifetime) on coverage? If you are treating cancer (chemo, radiation, surgery), needing an MRI, or are looking at expensive heart meds, you do not want a cap in coverage. The whole point of insurance is to help cover the veterinary care of your choice (otherwise you should/would be setting money aside in your bank account to do this). If you tend to adopt rescues like I have in the past, much can be unknown about these companions so pet insurance can be a good option to protect your pocketbook. I had a rescue Schip years ago (before I knew about pet insurance), who had pulmonary hypertension, congestive heart failure, and seizures all at the age of five when I acquired him. No insurance company would have covered these particular issues since they fell under the "pre-existing conditions" category but having experienced the VERY high cost of keeping my most favorite buddy alive and well for an additional five years has made me well aware of just how helpful pet insurance can be. Heart medications can be truly pricey and my little fellow needed Viagra (yes, it's used to treat certain conditions other than what is advertised on t.v.!) which initially was pricing

To Insure or Not To Insure

out at \$400 - \$800 a month. Generic drugs aren't always available and the counterfeit market must be avoided (you'd be surprised at the number of veterinary practices around the United States, Canada, and abroad who offer deeply discounted counterfeit drugs). The moral of this little story: Lots of Schipperkes develop heart problems and heart meds aren't cheap and pet insurance can certainly keep your pocketbook more shapely.

Consideration #4: Do you compete in sports such as agility, flyball, or dock diving? If so, you may want to look at not only the surgical but also the rehab coverage in policies. Is chiropractic coverage offered? Physical therapy? What about massage? What about swim therapy? Case in point about swim therapy: One of my Schips had swim therapy twice a week to help her with joint and arthritis issues. The pool was owned and run by a certified warm-water therapist. Healthy Paws, the insurance company I use, covered the cost of the swims (based on the level of coverage and deductible I had chosen for this particular Schip). The pool owner was elated to hear about Healthy Paws covering the swims because many of her clients were frustrated that their pet insurance, who advertised their coverage of hydrotherapy, wouldn't cover their swims because a veterinarian wasn't on site or in the pool. Even though in many cases a veterinary surgeon had recommended hydrotherapy to help dogs recover from injury or surgery, some insurance companies were arguing that a certified swim therapist wasn't the equivalent of a veterinarian in the pool. In my opinion, this is ridiculous; as an analogy, a person working with a physical therapist doesn't expect this person to also be a physician. Switching insurance companies can be challenging because of the clauses about pre-existing conditions. When analyzing insurance policies, even if you see items like hydrotherapy being covered, it pays to revisit your list of what friends like or don't like about policies because you may discover details that you might otherwise gloss over when looking at coverage.

Consideration #5: Do you like using a holistic vet? Examine the pet insurance policy to see if acupuncture and non-Western medicines are covered. Healthy Paws, for example, covers acupuncture but not herb formulas, regardless of their efficacy.

Consideration #6: Cost (yes, I'm finally getting around to THAT). Rule of thumb with any policy: Take out insurance when you acquire your puppy! Don't wait until it's 8 years old to start thinking about insurance! I see people make this mistake all the time and the policies tend to be costly with older dogs (same as health-care policies for humans). Remember, avoid policies that have caps on coverage. Consider what level of coverage you want (usually varies from 70% to 100%) and deductibles. A word on deductibles: Healthy Paws (and other companies) have annual deductibles (just like policies for humans). I know of another company (perhaps there are others) that is a little different in that its deductibles are per incident or illness, and once you pay the deductible for that particular illness, you don't face paying the deductible again. Check out whether office visits are covered (as mentioned above, I have Healthy Paws and the cost of the visit itself, typically \$45, isn't covered, which I find annoying BUT I do like their swim therapy coverage so it was a trade-off for me (I come out way ahead with the swim therapy coverage).

Consideration #6: Read the policy exclusions carefully!

Consideration #7: A review in *Whole Dog Journal* made an excellent point: When it comes to medically necessary treatment, look for the phrase "as recommended by your vet" as opposed to "in our reasonable judgement" which could mean the insurer might not agree with your vet's treatment plan and therefore you have to appeal to get something covered. Arguing with an insurance company isn't my idea of fun.

To Insure or Not To Insure

Consideration #8: What kinds of discounts does a pet insurance company offer? Ask! You might get a discount on plans if you insure more than one animal, or are an AAA member, and so on.

Consideration #9: Call the company you're interested in and talk to their staff. Do they seem well trained? Knowledgeable? Be sure and ask questions about anything you don't understand in their policies.

Consideration #10: If you choose pet insurance, make sure you examine reimbursements carefully. Sometimes you'll encounter mistakes (especially if you're submitting an invoice that has charges for more than one dog on it; sometimes they'll incorrectly apply deductibles, and this has happened to me). Also, make sure you're notified of premium increases per the time frame the policy states. Earlier this year I got a whopping \$3500 refund from Healthy Paws because the Washington State Insurance Commissioner discovered that 18,000 Washington state policyholders had been overcharged for nearly five years. Two pet insurers were forced to pay \$4.7 million to consumers! Yeah ... a big oopsie!

As I said earlier, I'm happy with my pet insurance. My special needs rescue taught me a lot about the high cost of many medications. I deliberately didn't take out pet insurance on two other older Schip rescues I adopted because the premiums were too high due to their age when I adopted them. I have taken out insurance with the pups I've acquired. Insurance gives me peace of mind and since I compete in agility and Barn Hunt and hike with my Schips, I feel good knowing that if an accident were to happen, I won't go into financial shock over it. Still, pet insurance is a personal decision and as the old saying goes, "the devil is in the details" so do your homework.

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ALFIE - LUCKY TO BE ALIVE

by *Bernard Fears*

There is a saying that “fate works in mysterious ways” and one young Schipperke is a testament to that prophetic statement.

To utter that he should not have been born seems like an awful comment to make, but it is true. He was conceived by artificial insemination but there was an error at the Christchurch veterinary practice when the wrong semen was used. The mistake was not known at the time but this was how Exmoor Alfie Sun Shock [AI], aka Alfie, came into this world.

One of his co-breeders, Vivienne Fears, was adamant that something was amiss when she looked at the litter. The mother, Exmoor Gilded Lily, is coloured and it was planned that before she retired from breeding, she would have a litter and the sire would be Exmoor Spring Soul, aka George, from whom semen had been collected as a virile young dog some ten years before he died.

Now George was a black Schipperke and all his ancestors were black so there was rather a surprise when Lily whelped and produced two bonny puppies, both gold. As they started to grow Vivienne was quite convinced that these were “not George's puppies” and did not hesitate to express her doubts at every opportunity. She was sure that semen collected in his youth from Corinnas Dacapo, a coloured dog, had been used in error. The possibility of both pups being gold was explicable but highly unlikely, so to settle any nagging doubts DNA samples were collected and sent away for a parentage report.

When the DNA results came back it proved Vivienne's doubts were completely vindicated and the vets were highly embarrassed. The situation was that Alfie's parents were both coloured dogs and the decision was made that puppy Alfie would stay at Exmoor for good. I might explain that coloured Schipperkes are perfectly acceptable in New Zealand, as in many countries, both for exhibition and for breeding; however, a coloured Schipperke is only ever bred to a black Schipperke and never to another coloured Schipperke. The justification for this principle is that breeding colour to colour can lead to loss of pigmentation and that can have serious consequences. This had been amply explained to us many years



Alfie (Son)

ago when we visited South Africa where coloured Schipperkes were very popular and much sought after by pet owners because of their photogenic qualities.



DACAPO (FATHER)

As it happened his dad Dacapo had to be put down when Alfie was three months old, so he has somewhat been treading in his father's foot-steps. There is now no doubt he is his father's son as the likeness is just amazing – compare the photographs of Dacapo and Alfie which were taken 14years apart.

Alfie is now two years old, but recently experienced a frightening health scare that had us all very worried. Back in February just a week before Anzac Day we noticed that he appeared to have a sore toe on his rear left foot. Upon close examination there did not seem to be any sign of

ALFIE - LUCKY TO BE ALIVE

injury and it was assumed that maybe he had tweaked a toenail. The next day he was no better and although there still no physical sign of injury we considered that perhaps he had bruised a digit. However, on the third day he was not eating his food and he had distinct weakness in his rear left leg. As he was definitely limping, we took him to our vet for examination. Dr Nick Deane, at Paws Vets, Woodend, immediately discovered that Alfie had no feeling or control over the muscles in his 'sore' leg but was even more alarmed when he discovered his temperature was 40.6 degrees Celcius (= 114 Fahrenheit). An antibiotic injection and an anti-inflammatory were administered and as it was a Saturday we opted to take him home, keep him quiet, try to feed him and ensure he was well hydrated.

When the next day, Sunday, dawned we were up early hoping for signs of improvement but he was worse, in fact his whole back end was paralysed and he could not stand. He was placed on the grass but he could not support himself and tried to drag his torso forward by 'swimming' with his front legs. This necessitated another urgent consultation revealing he had no feeling in his lower back when Nick examined him again.

The only positive change was that his temperature had dropped markedly but his appetite had deserted him and he turned up his nose at his favourite food. Our vet spent considerable time taking multiple X-rays of his spine and also collected several blood samples for laboratory analysis. It was quite a puzzle as the X-rays did not show any sign of injury or swelling or disc misalignment. He researched the internet for possible clues on this young dog's sudden onset of spinal paralysis. One possibility was a grass seed that could have entered his body and then migrated to the spinal cord. This would not

necessarily show up on the X-ray pictures but an MRI scan might provide more information.



ALFIE, SUSPENDED IN HARNESS AND SLING, SNIFFS FOR THE RIGHT SPOT

On the Monday the blood test results began to arrive back, but nothing was pointing to a diagnosis. The toxoplasma report stated that the results were 'inconclusive'. His temperature was down to almost normal so at least that was heading in the right direction. Plans were made for us to take Alfie into Christchurch the next evening to a medical facility where an MRI scan of his spine could be performed. The initial scan from skull to tail showed no abnormality, no bleeding, nothing that could explain his paralysis. So, it was repeated using contrast, but still no cause was found. The veterinarian overseeing the scans was a spine specialist and when they were over, she confirmed that no spinal surgery was needed and all vertebrae and discs were in place and undamaged.

The scans were sent to Auckland for a veterinary radiologist to view, and a week later his emailed report said nothing obvious was amiss, but he thought there could a sign of inflammation around the spinal cord. In the mean time the paralysis had progressed over subsequent days to reach his neck. We had continued to nurse Alfie and rigged up a harness to take him

outside on the grass. Although he could not stand on his own he dangled like a puppet from the harness straps with his feet in contact with the ground. We 'manoeuvred' him round the lawn and when he found the right spot, he would indicate he wanted to urinate or defecate. Fortunately, he began to eat small meals and slowly his condition stabilised.

ALFIE - LUCKY TO BE ALIVE

Then we noticed small signs of improvement; after two weeks he began to show some control over his front legs and while we supported his weight with the belly strap holding up his rear end. He was still quite wobbly but showed progress, confirmed a day later when he managed to flick his tail with just a faint wag. Over the succeeding days and weeks he progressively improved and by four weeks he was able to stand unaided and move forward with minimal support. It was then possible to begin hydrotherapy to help his motor control and rebuild his awfully wasted muscles.

At first, he was a little apprehensive as he never had the opportunity to swim. His weekly sessions in the warm pool had a noticeable effect on his recovery and the improvement week after week was clear to see. Now two months later Alfie has almost made a full recovery and we are indebted to our vet Nick



ALFIE, WEARING HIS FLOTATION JACKET, SWIMS IN THE HYDROTHERAPY POOL AS PART OF HIS RECUPERATION.

Deane for his professional treatment. He too is not sure what caused Alfie's paralysis – was it a toxin, was it a virus, was it a bacterium – we will never know, but one thing is for sure, Alfie is lucky to be alive in more ways than one!

Editor's Note: Originally published in Schipperke News (NZ) March 2020

Butter

A black puppy is the central focus, standing on a white, ornate pedestal. The background is a rustic wooden wall. The scene is decorated with stylized blue flowers and green vines, some of which are wrapped around the puppy. Several blue and white butterflies are scattered throughout the image, including one on the puppy's back and others on the flowers and wood.

Can Ch Mardeck's The Magic Ingredient

Sire: AM CH Oasis Fasten Your Seat Belts

Dam: AM CAN CH Mardeck's Iridessa

Co-owners

Ursula Hutton - Deloran

Marnie Layng - Mardeck

Created by
Mardeck Graphic
Design

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.

Approved November 13, 1990

Effective January 1, 1991

SEE YOU THIS WINTER

