



SchipSnips

Winter 2021





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**Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year**

From

Marnie Layng

Mardeck Graphic Design



VETERINARY STUDENTS TAKE DEEP DIVE INTO FINGER LAKES DOG SHOW WORLD



Credit: Carol Jennings/Cornell University

11/08/2021

By [Melanie Greaver Cordova](#)

On a clear Saturday morning in early October, a caravan of veterinary students winds its way through vineyards and the lush Finger Lakes National Forest, heading from the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine to Romulus, New York, where this year's Wine Country Circuit dog shows are on the third day of exhibitions.

The event is a unique opportunity for students to refine their understanding of dog breeds and explore how veterinarians intersect with the American Kennel Club (AKC) dog show world. Their objective for the day is to listen, watch and learn.

“Few veterinary students have a chance to work at a dog show like this,” says organizer and event judge Susan Hamlin, who has been judging dog shows for 50 years.

The Wine Country Circuit is one of the largest dog show circuits in the country. Four independent kennel club shows happen over four days at this yearly event at Sampson State Park: Elmira Kennel Club, Finger Lakes Kennel Club, Kanadasaga Kennel Club and the Onondaga Kennel Association. Each of the four shows feature conformation, obedience and agility, and averages a daily total of over 1,400 dogs. Many go on to compete at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show.



The Cornell veterinary care team. Credit: Carol Jennings/Cornell University

The 19 Cornell students arrive bright and early for their Saturday Elmira Kennel Club event. Students are assigned a mentor, and they spend the day getting an inside look into the world of breeders, exhibitors, field veterinary care providers and more.

“We were pleased to be able to send students to advance their understanding of different dog breeds and interact with the dog show community,” says [Dr. Meg Thompson](#), director of the Cornell University Hospital for Animals.

“I hope that this is the beginning of a long-term relationship, benefiting not only dog sports, but also canine health providers,” says Carol Srnka, event liaison and agility coordinator for all four days. Srnka currently sits on the board of directors for the Finger Lakes Kennel Club and has been involved with the event since 1986.

Although this is the first year with student involvement, Cornell has had a presence at the circuit for a long time. Retired ophthalmology professor [Dr. Thomas Kern](#) runs an eye exam clinic for the dogs on the show grounds, and [Dr. N. Sydney Moise](#), M.S. '85, retired CV Starr Professor of Cardiology, holds a cardiovascular clinic. Not only did Cornell clinicians provide the on-site veterinary care, but Hamlin herself retired from the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine.

Watchful observers

There are students present from each class year in the veterinary program. The event also functions as a way for them to get a fuller picture of what path — large or small animal — they might like to take when they're done with school. For many, the Wine Country Circuit will be the first shows they've ever seen.

"I had only watched the national dog show on television Thanksgiving Day, so I had no idea what to expect," says Michelle Greenfield, D.V.M. Class of 2023.

For Greenfield, the high point of the day was soaking up knowledge from her mentor, Ereign Seacord, president of the Finger Lakes Kennel Club and chief ring steward for the Friday show. "She was phenomenal," Greenfield says. "She not only took the time to explain all the intricacies of winning points and becoming a champion, but she also pointed out the various dog breeds so I could become more familiar with them — and there are so many." Indeed, there are 197 breeds recognized by the American Kennel Club that participate in these shows.

Seacord also enjoyed the mentorship experience. "We visited the performance venues to see how much fun owners can have with their dogs," Seacord says. "I'm hoping that Michelle and the other students appreciated the bonds that exist between handlers and owners and their purpose-bred dogs."

Although Greenfield wants to become an aquatic veterinarian, she found there were principles from the show she could apply to other situations. "It was a unique experience to have as a veterinary student, and I'm truly thankful for the opportunity," Greenfield says.

Alanna Horton, Class of 2024, also had limited experience with dog shows. She says her mentor's enthusiasm was similarly contagious. Horton was partnered with mentor Julie Luther, Hamlin's daughter, who introduced her to fellow exhibitors and let her shadow the preparation process. "It was very clear to me how passionate the people at the dog show were about their dogs — and how much they loved talking about them!" Horton says.

Talking to the exhibitors about their motivation to enter dogs into shows like this was also a high point for Vivian Shum, Class of 2023. "I was surprised to find how much of a time and financial commitment it is to participate, and many of them do so because they love the entire process, from training to qualification," Shum says.

Hamlin likewise has been passionate about dogs since a young age, starting a junior kennel club at age 13. She says she was happy to facilitate this opportunity for the Cornell students. Over lunch, students were also able to meet with Kern as well as Sandy D'Andrea, the American Kennel Club field representative. "They were able to ask lots of questions and get a really good feel for the whole thing," Hamlin says.

Brushing up on breeding

While students basked in the excitement of the event and met an array of unique people, they also saw a door to a wider world open — a deeper understanding of dog breeding.

The show's mentors gave students an inside look at their own motivations and goals for breeding. Srnka, for example, notes that health, structure and temperament are equally important in a performance dog. "As a breeder and exhibitor, it's important to me to have all the genetic testing done for my breed to ensure that my dogs lead as long and healthy lives as possible," Srnka says.

Shum's biggest takeaway was hearing about responsible breeding, especially for breeds with a limited gene pool in the United States. "Their voices are largely overshadowed by less responsible puppy mill operations that dominate the news," Shum says. "I became more knowledgeable about the steps responsible breeders take, such as genetic testing their dogs and breeding to animals worldwide, in an attempt to maximize diversity."

Greenfield says that, after experiencing the show, she recognizes the love and care these owners have for their dogs. "I also can appreciate that the dogs have to fit certain standards, and many of these standards are developed for form and function," Greenfield says. "For example, we saw brachycephalic dogs — breeds with shorter skulls and snouts, like pugs and Boston terriers — breathing easily while competing in the show, which as the show mentors explained is critical since, if you're going to breed them, your goal is to provide them the healthiest and highest welfare situation."

Horton is ready to take what she learned about the breeders she interacted with into her career. "At times we may see very irresponsible breeding practices in veterinary medicine and assume all breeders are like that, but I think it is important to take a step back when we have breeder clients and try to avoid pre-determined judgements," Horton says. "At the end of the day, responsible breeders and veterinarians all want healthy dogs."

Gearing up for next year

Even as the students drive home to Ithaca that Saturday evening, plans for next year are in the works. A few of the students even hope to dip a toe into the dog show world with their own dogs. "My crew was planning to register their own animals, investigate their next breed, set goals to trial their own dogs," says mentor and judge Amanda Pough. "They were hoping and planning to attend other dog shows, and learning where to go for resources for healthy purebred dogs, now and in the future."

"I would love to stay involved in veterinary care at dog shows as a veterinarian eventually. It's a great way to get involved in the community," Horton says. And while she would enjoy training her (future) dog in agility after seeing them have so much fun on the course, meeting the people at the show was still the best part. "The best experience was to not only go to watch the dogs in the show, but also talk to a lot of people who have very interesting life experiences and perspectives."

With this first successful kickoff, this new partnership between Cornell veterinary students and the Wine Country Circuit dog shows promises to be an enriching opportunity for students to deepen their knowledge and professional skills.

"Their education is already so varied," Hamlin says. "They learn about dogs, cats, cows, horses, swine, birds, sheep, wildlife — our show is a deep dive into one species with 197-some breeds."

The unique learning opportunity wasn't lost on any of the students. Says Shum, "My time at the Wine Country Circuit dog show was absolutely fantastic and I couldn't have asked for a better experience."

*Wishing you all a Merry Holiday
And the Brightest Future!*

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Ursula Hutton - Deloran
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'Twas The Night Before Christmas

By Clement Clarke Moore

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;

The children were nestled all snug in their beds;
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,
Gave a lustre of midday to objects below,
When what to my wondering eyes did appear,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny rein-deer,

With a little old driver so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment he must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:

"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now Prancer and Vixen!
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Dunder and Blixen!
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

As leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;
So up to the housetop the coursers they flew
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too—

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a pedler just opening his pack.

His eyes--how they twinkled! his dimples, how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow;



Twass the night ...

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke, it encircled his head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a little round belly
That shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight—
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"



Happy Holidays Everyone!!



**Dave & Ursula Hutton
Deloran Schipperkes**

mg2

The SCA National Specialty

Wilmington, Ohio

April 18th - 22nd 2022

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Call the local number and #3 to
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Reservation Deadline:
Saturday, March 26, 2022



SCA

Conformation Judge: **Johnny Shoemaker**

Obedience & Rally Judge: **Anita L Eisthen**

Futurity / Maturity Judge: **Barbara Burns**, Sweepstakes Judge: **Dawn Hitchcock**

Tues April 19th -

Obedience, Rally & Educational Seminars

Wed April 20th -

Futurity / Maturity & Parades & Top Twenty Competition

Thurs April 21st -

Puppy Sweeps, Judging Dogs, SCA Annual Meeting, Awards Banquet

Fri April 22nd -

Judging Bitches, Judging Best of Breed

SMSC Regional Specialty

Conformation Judge: **Jeff Bazell**

Obedience / Rally Judge: **Kathleen Cook**

Sweepstakes & Juniors Judge: **Char Rutar**

Mon April 18th -

Regional Specialty,

Fast Cat, Obedience & Rally

Our goal is to have all the trophies and ribbons sponsored. SCA members have a long history of generosity and club spirit. We hope that will continue for 2022.

Please visit the SCA Website for Specialty information and to sponsor trophies.

Offsite Show Secretary: **Caper**

Co-Chairs:

Marnie Layng - mlayng@bell.net

Jaime Stanchina - embraceskips@gmail.com

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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



**2021 IS ALMOST OVER
TIME TO CELEBRATE AND
LOOK FORWARD TO THE
NEW YEAR 2022**

Dessa

AM GCHS CAN GCH MARDECK'S IRIDESSA

**Dessa finished 2021 ranked in the USA
as follows:**

- All Breed - #4 Schipperke
- Breed - #6 Schipperke
- Owner Handled Series - #1 Schipperke
- New Grand Champion Silver Level
- AKC GCH Status #3 Schipperke

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Happy Holidays

2021

2022

