



# Schip Snips

## Newsletter of the Erie Canal Schipperke Club

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE— URSULA HUTTON

**Dear ECSC Members,**

I know that we're all looking forward to spring after this exceptionally cold and snowbound winter. Let's hope all this snow melts slowly, but consistently, so that we get to enjoy spring without the flooding. The Schips are getting antsy since the volume of snow has curtailed their NASCAR activities—but I sure would like to minimize the amount of spring mud we get.

A number of us have been working hard on ECSC projects: 2015 SCA Regional hosted by ECSC, 2015 ECSC . Regional at Sampson State Park, ECSC Website, ECSC Newsletter, ADCNYS...to name a few. I would like to especially acknowledge and thank the following members for all the time and effort they've volunteered toward these projects: Paige Carey, Rose Ellen Stone & JoAnn Giovinetti, Mary Hare, Dave Hutton, Marnie Layng, Spencer & Sandi Lovelace, Kent MacFarlane, Laura & Chris Pelletier, Eva Raczka, Richard & Arlene Schalk, Jean Schroeder, MaryAnn Simanek, Shirley Smith, Don Sutkowski, Nathalie Lussier & Pamela Whittles.

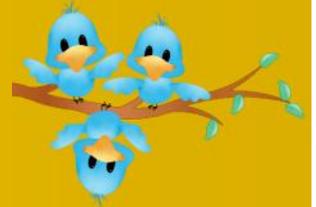
Also, THANK YOU!! to all of you who have funded the trophies for the two Regional's this year. It's unusual to have two events to solicit for in a year, so thank you for stepping up. Those of you who haven't had a chance yet, please do contact MaryAnn Simanek at [messchip1@aol.com](mailto:messchip1@aol.com) to sponsor a trophy for our Regional at Sampson State Park in September. Of course, we will gladly accept monies toward the general trophy fund as well <g>.

Wishing everyone going to the SCA Regional/National in Chattanooga, TN, a safe trip and good luck. Hoping to see you at our next meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Salt City Cluster at the NYS Fairgrounds.

**Respectfully,**

**Ursula**





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## ECSC Website Update

Well folks we now have a website and while it is still a work in progress you can begin to use it. Some sections of the site have a lot of information and others need more input. One of the things we really need are pictures of our member's dogs so please send me your favourites. I need cute pictures, performance pictures, conformation win pictures, etc. Help us make this a great site to visit and learn about Schipperkes.

To view the ECSC website you can either do a web search for the Erie Canal Schipperke Club or go directly to

<http://eriecanalschipperkeclub.com/>.

Visit often to see how it evolves. The more often our website is Google and visited by us the easier it will become for the public to find it and that can only help our club to grow. Some of the pages are of special interest to members now. You can always visit the ECSC Events page to find out when and where the next club meeting, SchipNic and / or Specialty show will be held. Let me know if you like the format of that page or would prefer just a list of events without a calendar appearance.

The Members Only section requires a password to enter. Each member in good standing will be provided with the password as soon as we officially open the website following the next general meeting in March.

I hope you will all take the time to view your club site and if you have any suggestions or think you may have something that others will benefit from that we can put up on the ECSC Website that would be wonderful. See you all soon and keep thinking "Spring".

**Yours in Schips**

**Marnie**  
Website Editor



# Schipperke Forum - Marnie Layng

Dear ECSC Member

I would like to introduce a new section of SchipSnips that I hope will be used to educate, cause informative discussion and help us all to know more about dogs in general and specifically the Schipperke.

I would like to start things off with a topic that is emotional for some people, but I hope here that it will just be considered an opportunity to consider options. Much discussion has been taking place in the USA and Canada regarding the docking of tails for many breeds and Schipperkes are no exception. Veterinary associations and governing bodies are causing us to rethink how we manage our dogs by refusing to perform services as they have for years and or by passing legislation.

Since it is a topic that is very current and important to our breed it seems appropriate to address it in our newsletter. On the surface this may seem very black and white. You either want a Schipperke to have a tail or you don't. Well it isn't that simple. While the Schipperke usually is born with a tail, the fact is that this breed has had their tails docked for centuries. Until recently most standards around the world clearly stated the Schipperke was tailless. Consequently we have not bred for tails and contrary to popular belief all Schips are not born with the same type of tail. That is likely because of the other breeds that have been bred with the Schipperke over hundreds of years to produce the type of Schipperke silhouette breeders wanted. Now that the world-wide push to ban docking has succeeded in many countries and seems imminent in North America there is much to learn so as to avoid some of the mistakes made elsewhere when revising standards that really do affect breeding programs. Some governing bodies insisted on a specific type of tail (i.e. shepherd like) only to find the majority being produced did not match the arbitrary standard they had set. Others just as arbitrarily have set the Spitz (curled up) tail as the standard even though that might not be best for the Schipperke either. And yet others have stated in their standards that the preferred tail hangs down, but have insisted on a high tail set which would seem to contradict the intent. I think if the banning of docking is going to happen we should keep open minds, prepare, learn as much as we can about the aesthetics, health affects, and proper measurers we must take to set the right standard, and thereby avoid creating more avoidable issues should we end up having to leave the tails on our Schips. For the record I should state that I do prefer the look of the tailless Schipperke, but I also prefer to be proactive rather than reactive. Personally I also believe the Schips come down from the herding dogs of Belgium such as the Leuvenaer and Groenendael. I do just as firmly believe that Poms, possibly Spaniels and other breeds are back there in our dogs lineage as well. So having said that what ever happens I do not want us to lose our breeds unique silhouette which we can still maintain with or without a tail. To me it is all about keeping that nice rounded rump and not allowing a tail to interfere or blend in with the ruff like some of the Spitz breeds do (i.e. Pomeranian, Keeshond). Of course that is just my opinion and I would love to hear yours.

I recently had the opportunity to serve on an SCC committee that addressed Tail docking and I learned a great deal more than I might have otherwise. To get us started on this thought process

I have included an article by a breeder in Sweden who has lived through the ban on docking. I hope you find it interesting. I will also include some pictures of various tailed Schips to help you visualize the different types of tails and tail sets.

Over time other articles may be published here on this and other important subjects. I welcome your suggestions on what those topics might be.

**Marnie**



**COOKBOOK GRAPHIC**

**Design**

- \* Logos
- \* Layouts
- \* Advertising Design



**LAURA PELLETIER (607-377-6643) COOKBOOKSCHIPS@GMAIL.COM**

## Schipperkes and Tails

On January 1st 1989 a ban on the docking of dogs' tails was introduced in Sweden. Around this time there were a lot of discussions among Schipperke owners and breeders and many were quite upset about the fact. Some breeders said they would quit breeding, some said they would leave Schipperkes in favour for other non-docked breeds. Others, like me, just faced the reality of the new law and accepted the situation. I could never contribute to any of these arguments as I have always thought that there is so much more to the Schipperke than just the tail.

Of course the specific Schipperke silhouette that I had been used to seeing during the almost 40 years I have been in the breed is gone. Now they resemble more of a little Spitz and when you are used to seeing them tail-less it takes a while before you get used to the tail. However this is just habit, nothing else and you do eventually get used to them that is for sure. People that are new in the breed and puppy buyers do not want anything but a Schipperke with a tail. They never ask for a tail-less dog. They want a Schipperke **with a tail**. Some even think they look ugly without a tail, resembling a little Hyena! The only ones that talk about Schipperkes without tails are breeders and show judges. During the last five to ten years Schipperkes are becoming more and more known to the man in the street and the demand for puppies is also increasing a little compared to before the docking ban.

There is far more about the Schipperke tail than just the fact that they are not docked. First let us look at the different lengths as there are several. A vast majority of puppies in Sweden, Norway, Finland and Denmark are born with a long tail that is considered normal in any other breed. But the tails can also be half of the "normal" length. There is also another variation of the tail and that is a length somewhat between a docked terrier and a "badly" too long docked Schipperke. Finally we have the ones that are born totally tail-less and they of course look as if they were very nicely docked. My uttermost belief is that the genes for tail-less and stump tails have been in the breed for a very long time and this is the reason why Schipperkes started to be docked to make the population of the breed look uniform.

Now let us look at the variations of tail carriage as there are several as well. First we have the vast majority that carry the tails in a curl over the back, just like a Spitz dog. This tail can be more or less curled over the back depending of the length of the tail. Some dogs with this sort of curl never or very seldom let the tail hang down. They always keep it up, no matter under what circumstances it might be or where they are. Other dogs with this sort of tail may let it hang down when standing still if they are afraid, scared, bored, tired, very relaxed etc., but as soon as the dog starts moving about, the tail curls up again over the back. The same phenomenon goes of course for the ones with "half" tail and "docked terrier" tails. Also I have on very rare occasions seen dogs with a tail hanging down all the time (at dog shows) but at home in safe and secure environment they keep their tail up. This latest I think is due more to the dog being badly socialised or having poor temperament than genetic factors.

An advantage of not docking is you do not have to upset and stress the mother and the young puppies and you do not have to pay vets for the cost of doing it. Also you do not expose the young puppies to the risk of getting infections that way. Finally you can see the dog happily waving its tail communicating with you and other dogs.

On the other hand, are there any disadvantages in not docking? Yes, in fact there are a few and they become more apparent at dog shows. Judges have to be more aware of the top lines of the



1965

50th Anniversary

2015

# The Schipperke Club of Canada National Specialty

## Saturday, August 22, 2015

### In Conjunction with

### The Thousand Islands Kennel And Obedience Club

### Three All Breed Shows Aug 21st, Aug 22nd & Aug 23rd

**Join Us in Brockville, Ontario Canada**  
**Located in the Beautiful 1000 Islands Tourist Region**

**Five Separate Opportunities for Canadian Championship Points**  
**Sunday, August 23rd is also a Supported entry for Schipperkes**  
**In addition to regular classes the Specialty & All Breed Shows include classes for**  
**Baby Puppy (3 - 6 mths), Sexually Altered, Veteran and brace**



## Obedience & Rally

**Friday August 21st** - 2 indoor All Breed Rally Trial - morning & afternoon

**Saturday August 22nd** - 2 Indoor Obedience Trials - judged simultaneously

**Sunday August 23rd** - 2 Indoor Obedience Trials - judged simultaneously

### The SCC Commemorative 50th Anniversary Catalogue

For SCC National Specialty Only (Aug 22nd)

The SCC invites all previous SCC Specialty **BIS & BOS** winners to share in the memories by placing a full page ad in the historical section of this special keepsake catalogue.

**All ads will be in colour.**

*Adv content can be emailed to ([mlayng@bell.net](mailto:mlayng@bell.net)) and payment made by PayPal or they can be snail mailed along with payment by cheque to Marnie Layng, 355 Line 8, Frankville, ON K0E 1H0. Do not discount*

*US cheques for Canadian funds as they cannot be processed by the banks.*

*Catalogues can be Pre-ordered through Marnie (same as ads above) or via the Show Secretary as indicated on the entry form.*

**Eye Clinic: Saturday**  
**CGN Test: Sunday**

### Other Schipperke Events

**SCC BBQ & Pool Party**  
at Marnie & John Layng's  
Friday After BIS  
Performance Event Demo's,  
Dog Costume & Trick Contests  
50 / 50 Raffle

**SCC Hospitality Luncheon**  
Saturday in the Air Conditioned  
SCC Grooming Area

**SCC Banquet Dinner & Auction**  
After BIS Saturday

| Advertisement              | Price   |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Historical Full Page       | \$15.00 |
| Inside Front & Back Covers | \$40.00 |
| Centre Pages               | \$40.00 |
| Regular Full Page          | \$30.00 |
| Regular Half Page          | \$15.00 |

SCC Catalogue Pre-Order \$8.00 / Purchase On Site \$10.00 (Limited #'s)

Show Secretary: Diana Edwards Website, [www.dess.ca](http://www.dess.ca) & Email [diana@dess.ca](mailto:diana@dess.ca)

Go to the SCC Official Website for more details <http://www.schipperkeclubofcanada.com/>

dogs which are less apparent in undocked Schipperkes than in docked. It is far easier to discover a bad top line in a docked dog than in one half covered by a tail. Also great importance has to be paid to the length of the body. An undocked dog may seem shorter in back than one that is docked due to the presence of the tail. Another point to pay attention to is poor, falling croup which is hidden under the tail and dogs that are higher in the croup than in the front. When judging undocked Schipperkes on the table, if the judge is not used to seeing them, it is a good thing to hold down the tail and judge it as if it was docked. Then you can see the correct proportions of the dog.

A tendency I have noticed here in Europe lately is that judges are not aware of the original Belgian standard, and all FCI countries, calling for a **square built** dog. The tendency today is that longer backed dogs with short and heavy bone are becoming more and more frequent winners in the show ring and that is not what the standard asks for. I do not know if the judges are “fooled” by the tails or if there are other reasons for this.

Also the original Belgian standard calls for is a **short and straight croup**. If you have a croup like that you will automatically have a tail that is carried upwards. Now a few very “strong voices” in Belgium are saying the Schipperkes’ tails should be hanging down! They want the Schipperke to be like the Belgian breeds Laekenois, Tervueren, etc. in miniature. If you want the Schipperkes’ tail to hang downwards then you have to change the original standard to ask for a slightly sloping croup to fit that opinion. My feeling is that one does not change original standards to suit a few personal opinions especially as very few, if any, are carried that way with the exceptions mentioned above.

Another disadvantage that has occurred has been at shows when judges, not used to seeing dogs with tails, just put up docked dogs no matter what they look like, over good undocked specimens. Unfortunately I have seen quite a lot of this, especially with judges that come from countries where their Schipperkes are still are being docked.

In Germany and Norway docked dogs are not allowed to be shown at all. In Finland and Denmark older docked dogs can be shown and in Sweden at the moment all docked imported dogs can be shown as long as they have been legally docked in the country of origin.

None of the Scandinavian countries have any written description of the Schipperke tail in the standard. Judges are advised not to pay any attention to the tail. I think this is very wise as the Schipperke gene pool here as well as in other countries is very small and to start breeding for a certain type of tail at this moment is not a very good idea. The standard for the tail I think should be a matter for the far future. To begin with we have to observe what kind of tails there are and what different tails that are revealed from different countries and blood lines. When we know that and have a wide and sound gene pool to breed from then we can truly say something about how the Schipperkes tail should be.

**Agneta Johansson**

**Kennel Corinna**

**Sweden**



## Dingo



## Schipperkes with Natural Full Tails



Canadian Schip #1 M pup- Tail down ,relaxed (1)



Canadian Schip #1M pup- Tail up, attentive (2)



USA Schip #2 Fem adult - Tail, down relaxed (3)



USA Schip #2 Fem adult - Tail up, attentive (4)





# Brag, Brag, Brag



Marnie Layng & Ursula Hutton are so proud of "COZMO" Am GCh Can Ch Mardeck's the Sorcerer's Son for being awarded an AOM at Westminster. He also was the # 1 ranked Schipperke in Canada and # 6 in the USA. Way to go young man.

## From Marion Johnson:

Finally the snow has stopped falling, the sun is trying to emerge and the 5th season of Downtown Abbey is over. A new week begins with a moment of calm before the long drives for training and competition fill the days again. I would like to brag a little about some of our recent achievements. Bones, who I wrote about in a previous publication of SchipSnips, has been making big strides and has earned his Excellent Agility Standard and Excellent Jumpers with Weaves titles and his Open FAST title. Now he is in Masters level and working on Double Q's and MACH points along with Catcher and Bella.

Bella, CH DeLamer Foot Loose 'N Fancy Free, just earned her second leg toward her CDX. She was in a class of 16 other dogs in, and was one of six qualifiers. With a score of 194 she took second place, and won over a Sheltie and GSD among others. Pretty nice for a Schip. At an agility trial in Jan. she had gotten a double Q on a Sat. in NH and on Sun. took third place in obedience Open A in MA with a 195.

Bouncer started training for competition late in life, age 5 in rally, and after getting his RAE with some nice wins, took up obedience at about age seven or so. He is now working on Utility and has shown twice. He is doing really well and has been amazing in the ring, but Utility is a tough one so we still have no legs. Bouncer is eleven, but loves to work and has all his faculties so we will pursue our goal.

Catcher, CH Dideb's Dream Catcher, is doing great in agility. His double Q's are beginning to come. Agility with all three is always a work in progress. But to get back to Bones, my little surprise package, he is the most biddable in agility and continues to love it. The work has made all of them very happy and connected, but it has really transformed Bones, who had suffered from an autoimmune disorder, into a bold little soul. The cessation of vaccinations seems to have eliminated the arthritic bouts he was having two or three years ago, and he is pain free and so happy.



# Kennel Kards



**D** **ELORAN SCHIPPERKES**  
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 2628 Pompey Hollow Rd.  
 Cazenovia, NY 13035-9504  
 Tel: 315-655-2998

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SB

## SOCIAL BUG

### Events to plan on attending in 2015 are:

- The all-breed dogs shows at the State Fairgrounds in Syracuse, NY, March 26-29, 2015
- First ECSC General Membership meeting of 2015 March 28, 2015
- The TIKO All Breed shows, Group Six (Non-Sporting Dog) Club Specialty & 50th Anniversary SCC National Specialty Show August 21-23, 2015 in Brockville, ON (1000 Islands Resort Region).



The storks wings have been clipped it seems. :) No reported litters this time.

# Upcoming ECSC Events

| EVENT                   | WHERE  | WHEN  |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| Next ECSC Meeting       | At the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse, NY. | Saturday, March 28, 2015<br>Time: After Breed Judging |
| ECSC Regional Specialty | Chattanooga Choo Choo Hotel, Chattanooga, TN       | Tuesday March 10, 2015                                |

**The ECSC Schip Snips**  
As of the March issue Schip Snips will only be sent via email to all members as agreed by a majority vote at the last General Meeting. Any member wishing to receive Schip Snips by snail mail must pay an additional \$5.00 per year for this service to the Treasurer, who will then advise the Newsletter Editor of this payment being received.



## SCHIP SNIPS

### Advertising Rates

| Member Rates                       | Per Issue | Per Year |
|------------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Kennel Card                        | \$5.00    | \$15.00  |
| Whole Page Ad (Incl. up to 2 pics) | \$15.00   | \$40.00  |
| ½ Page Ad (Incl. 1 pics)           | \$10.00   | \$20.00  |
| ¼ Page Ad (No pics)                | \$5.00    | \$10.00  |
| Commercial Ad (Business / Product) |           |          |
| Business Card                      | \$20.00   | \$40.00  |
| Whole Page Ad (Incl. up to 2 pics) | \$40.00   | \$80.00  |
| ½ Page Ad (Incl. 1 pics)           | \$25.00   | \$50.00  |
| ¼ Page Ad (No pics)                | \$15.00   | \$30.00  |

## SCHIP SNIPS

### Publication Schedule

| Submission Deadlines | Publication Deadlines |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| February 15th        | March 1st             |
| May 15th             | June 1st              |
| August 15th          | September 1st         |
| November 15th        | December 1st          |

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

#### Hard Copy (mailed)

|             |                  |
|-------------|------------------|
| Members     | \$5.00 Per Year  |
| Non Members | \$10.00 Per Year |

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