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February 2007



LEADING THE DOG FANCY INTO THE FUTURE

by Shirley Quillen

A veterinary medical professional with no direct connections to the AKC, the SCA, or any member in the SCA is proposing to do a long term prospective epidemiological (dealing with the frequencies and distributions of normal and disease parameters in the schipperke population) study of schipperkes.

The project will include a database to trace information on schipperkes and their offspring from birth to death and storage of DNA for all animals in the database. Information collected for this project will differ from surveys which can be anecdotal or biased. It will be fact based and designed to be population based, so that breeders and owners can have an accurate picture of breed health, and researchers can have an objective database from which to target the most significant problems in the breed.

Because this will be a population based study, we would be looking for the participation at the start of approximately 50-75% of the breeders within the SCA. Participation of owners will be required, but every effort will be made to keep the cost and time of participation to an absolute minimum while also achieving the study goals. Such a study should lend added value to your dogs and breed, would put the breed on the forefront of animal health initiatives, and would allow us to capitalize quickly on the research developments coming from the canine genome project.

All information would be submitted directly from owners and would be handled by independent agents outside the club, and medical confidentiality will apply to all access to and results from this information and samples. There would be annual updates to the SCA as well as scholarly publications.

The purpose of this project is to improve the genetic understanding of conditions affecting dogs in general, schipperkes in particular. It will include the usual conditions affecting schipperkes as well as the unusual ones that crop up. It should provide a model for a thorough and scientifically valid health database that will be maintained and updated over numerous years, at least 15 years, and hopefully longer.

Health records and DNA samples will all be in one place and if a disease or condition presents

itself, researchers will be ready to jump on it and hopefully come up with some answers in a timely manner. With MPS IIIB we were lucky. Studies were already in place and proceeding before we were so besieged with the disease that it destroyed the breed. With a high carrier rate for MPS IIIB, the breed was fortunate and had the tools to avert a worse catastrophe than that experienced by some of our owners and pets.

This project will be an investment in our breed's future as well as a model for the canine community. With the current prevalence of eye problems, cancers, and autoimmune problems in the dog fancy community we need to be proactive and be ready to combat these conditions before they get hold in the population.

A prominent veterinary medical researcher will oversee this project. This project will require a dedicated research associate to maintain the database and samples and will also need funds for equipment and disposable supplies. We envision this as being funded by an AKC Health Foundation grant with some small percentage from the SCA Health and Rescue Foundation.

This is not a short term project and we predict there will be few if any immediate benefits. The pay back will be in the future. Additional and practical benefits to the schipperke community may include the availability of veterinary medical personnel to present information at club meetings and collect data in mass at nationals at minimal cost. This would fit in with the foundations purposes of educating breeders as well as helping with health concerns. As stated above, it would also allow Schipperkes, the SCA and the SCA Foundation to lead the way in the canine health community.

This announcement is the first step to see whether there would be interest in moving forward with this research. I will be enlisting your support in the months to come. I hope you see the potential benefits, and will come on board.

One Way To "Dew" Rescue

by Valerie A. Poff

This year started out really bad for me. I had a female Schipperke, who had turned six this past December. "Pumpkin" was my "baby girl", my heart, she was my angel dog. She had Epilepsy and seizures. I lost her to MSPIIIB in January. My heart was broken and I thought my tears would never stop.

After some thought, I decided to go online and see if I might find another female Schipperke puppy. I did find males but it seemed at the time, females were hard to come by. Some breeders had dozens of names on their waiting lists. I contacted Coleen McCarthy, inquiring about puppy. She ask me if I would consider Schipperke rescue...I told her I would after we chatted and she then sent me the bios on these two male Schips that needed placement. I contacted the owner and we exchanged information and she sent me pictures of the "boys", ten year old Skippy and five year old Dewey. She told me that Skippy has Epilepsy. She had gotten both as new pups. I had asked her if they had been tested for MSPIIIB. They had not and she had never heard of it. My first instinct was to say no to taking them in, but after some thought, I decided maybe they needed me as much as I needed them. If indeed they had tested positive, I was prepared to deal with the MSPIIIB and the E seizures because of my "Pumpy Lou" as I called her. I called the owner back and told her I would take them.

After checking each other out and ex-

changing information, we made plans to meet on the following Saturday morning. The boys were about 290 miles away. We agreed to meet at the half way point, which was the Massachusetts/New York state line. I live in north central New York State and they were in Rhode Island. Suddenly I was like a child waiting for Christmas. Roger drove and I counted the mile markers. Oddly enough, we arrived at the same time. I waved knowing it had to be them because of the Rhode Island tags on the van. We got out of our cars and there was Skippy and Dewey very friendly and curious. After chatting with Michelle and Adam and making friends with the boys, we put them in the back seat of the car. They seemed excited and anxious to go for a ride again. Within ten minutes, both were in the front seat in our laps on their way to their new home.

It didn't take long for them to feel at home here. They explored every inch and everything in the house. They are my gifts from heaven. Skippy the older of the two is laid back, easy going and sweet. Dewey on the other hand is sassy, mouthy, cautious and sweet. They are both so lovable but so very different from each other. They are extremely protective of their new home. I feel so fortunate to be the new "mom". They love to play with their toys and roughhouse. We are going to have to get a king size bed because the queen size just isn't big enough for all four of us. Skippy and Dewey have had absolutely no adjust-

ment problems, which kind of surprised me because of their ages.

I just can't thank the former owners enough for the joy they have given me. Somehow I feel that Skippy and Dewey knew how much I needed them to mend my heart. I spoil them as often as possible. Now after two months, they know how to get whatever they want from me.. I am "in love" with these two little black bullets. They are so special, my little DEW DEW and my little SKIPPY DEW.



Editorial

by Beverly Henry, Editor

Please take a look at the logos that were chosen by the trustees from the ones submitted for you to vote on as our official logo. You can vote using the form in this newsletter or the one on the website (www.schipperkefoundation.org) or at the SCA National Specialty (April 3-7) in Frederick, MD. In order for your vote to count it must be accompanied by a \$5.00 donation. You can vote as many times as you want for as many logos as you want as long as you donate \$5.00 for each vote. Logo donations will be applied to the General Fund. Deadline is April 7, 2007. The winner will be announced on our website on April 8, 2007.

Your generous responses received from both the SCA dues statements and the first issue of Schipperke Outreach are so very much appreciated.

We thank those of you who donated so much for rescue and ask you to also consider support for Health and Education or make a donation to the General Fund and let it be applied where most needed.

You may not be aware that the Foundation qualifies for many of the Matching Funds programs. Check with your employer to see if they participate. It is a good way to double your contribution.

We will have a booth at the SCA Nation-

al specialty. Come by and see for yourself some of the things we have planned and have implemented.

We would eventually like this newsletter to be distributed electronically, thereby saving the Foundation postage. Please send me your email address if you would be interested in something like that.

Logos Submitted to Logo Contest



SCHIPPERKE CLUB OF AMERICA

Rescue & Health
Foundation

1



SCHIPPERKE CLUB OF AMERICA
Rescue & Health Foundation

2



3



4

Logo Ballot

These logos may be viewed in color on our website:
www.schipperkefoundation.org

Ballots

Name

Address

<input type="checkbox"/>	Logo #1	Number of votes	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Logo #2	Number of votes	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Logo #3	Number of votes	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Logo #4	Number of votes	_____

\$5.00 per vote

Mail ballot to:
Beverly Henry
1129 Lake Bluff Drive
Little Elm, TX 75068

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

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The Schipperke Club of America Rescue & Health Foundation has received an advanced exemption as a 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization under the Internal Revenue Service Code. As a result, your gifts and/or donations for rescue, health research and education now qualify as Tax Deductible Donations. We are appreciative of any gifts and support you can provide in order to continue our programs and research.



Schip toward the future!

Checks **MUST** be made out to
SCA Rescue & Health Foundation
to be tax deductible.

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First Class