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SCHIPPERKE CLUB OF AMERICA RESCUE & HEALTH FOUNDATION

Schipperke Outreach

Health and Genetics

DNA Testing - The Road to Health in the Future

by Shirley Quillen

With the mapping of the dog genome, the possibilities of having DNA tests for many canine diseases is a distinct possibility. Therefore our first priority has to be a Schipperke DNA bank. We have little chance of participating in today's research projects without the availability of appropriate genetic material. Since it is not feasible to save and store this material ourselves, we recommend that Schipperkes participate in the CHIC DNA program.

The CHIC DNA Repository is co-sponsored by the OFA and AKC Canine Health Information Center. It collects and stores canine DNA samples

with corresponding pedigree and health information in order to aid in future research and testing aimed at reducing inherited diseases in dogs.

<http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/dnabank.html>

The SCA R&HF website eventually will have a list of available health screening tests with explanations of why they are important. A suggested schedule of testing specifically for Schipperkes, information to encourage breeders to use health screenings, and how to register the results on the open database provided by CHIC will be included.

The Health and Genetics Committee is working on a proposal

to help owners of dogs affected with Epilepsy, LCP, Cushing's, Diabetes Mellitus, Cancers, Autoimmune Thyroiditis, and Progressive Retinal Atrophy participate in the DNA storage program. Criterion for financial help with this is being considered.

A list of current ongoing research projects that Schipperkes can participate in if enough affected ones are available have been outlined in a past issue of The Bulletin and will be available on the SCA R&HF site. Information is available at: <http://www.akcchf.org> (search 'all breed')

Editorial

by Beverly Henry, Editor

Welcome to our first edition of the "Schipperke Outreach" newsletter. The Foundation is finally a reality and we are eager to accomplish the following goals:

1. Develop a program to offer financial support to third parties engaged in Schipperke rescue
2. Develop and maintain references about rescue for the general public.
3. Develop and make available to the general public information about proper

development and training of Schipperkes, including the importance of training and socializing Schipperkes as puppies and throughout their lives in order to help avoid the need to place dogs in rescue.

4. Develop better understanding of the diseases and genetic anomalies that affect Schipperkes by promoting the participation of breeders and owners in the existing open health database.
5. Support and promote studies and research on the ge-

netics and health issues which affect Schipperkes.

6. Keep abreast of and make available to the general public and the purebred dog fancy, information about proper care, treatment, breeding, and development of Schipperkes relative to the health and well-being of individual dogs and the breed as a whole.

We encourage you to be generous with your donations to help this very worthy project get off the ground. We cannot do it without you!

Foundation Logo Contest

Contest:

The Schipperke Club of America Rescue & Health Foundation is in dire need of a Logo. Such a Logo should reflect the characteristics of the breed as well as the objectives of the foundation. The Trustees, wanting to involve as many Schipperke owners as possible who possess artistic talents, have decided to promote a "Logo Design Contest". The Trustees have also decided that the Schipperke fancy should also play a role in selecting or approving such a Foundation Logo; therefore such submitted designs will be voted upon by any and all persons who wish to participate in the voting process.

Contest Rules:

1. Any person eighteen (18) years or older may submit one or as many designs as they wish. Any and all such designs shall be submitted to the Foundation's Secretary: Beverly Henry, 1129 Lake Bluff Drive, Little Elm, TX 75068 or to chestara@sbcglobal.net.
2. All logo designs submitted to the Foundation will become the property of the Foundation and the artist/designer agrees to allow the Foundation to use any and all such submitted designs as the Board of Trustees deems appropriate.
3. Logo designs may be submitted via hard copy or electronically (300dpi, in JPG format) and must be received by the Foundation's Secretary on or before February 1, 2007.
4. Within two weeks following the closing date for design submission, the Trustees will select between three (3) and five (5) designs that will be submitted to the public for consideration and the voting process will begin.
5. The public will be allowed to vote for the designs and cast as many ballots for as they wish. The voting period shall begin on the date such designs are published in the "Schipperke Outreach" newsletter and continue through and until the end of the 2007 National Specialty (April 7, 2007). Each vote cast for one or more designs must be accompanied by a \$5.00 donation for each such vote cast. Such donations shall be made to the Foundation in order that such votes to be counted.
6. Donations received from this voting process will be designated and apportioned to the Foundation's General Fund.
7. Winner will be announced in the first issue of the "Schipperke Outreach" newsletter following the closing date for the voting process, the Board of Trustees will announce and publish the Winning Logo design and the name of the artist/designer.

Schipperkes and their relationship to Health and Genetics

By Diana Kinnear

Breeding a good Schipperke takes a lot of work and knowledge of the Breed standard and dog structure and an understanding of the essence of the breed. There is another component to breeding a good Schipperke - health and genetics.

Science today has helped breeders. With our Schipperkes - we can now identify the defective gene for MPSIIIB - and have a test for it to determine the genetic status of each individual dog. We have tests for thyroid problems, eye conditions, and hip disease. It takes a lot of research and money to create these tests for breeders. We need researchers and foundations to fund them and we can all help with this.

One health issue that has eluded an answer so far is Genetic Epilepsy. Not seizures caused by trauma, or other underlying health issues or poison or fevers. Genetic Epilepsy is from causes unknown or unsuspected.

We can do something about this. We can make a difference. We have beaten other diseases and health issues - let's win the fight against Epilepsy!

<http://www.canine-epilepsy.net/cerc.html>

If you have or know of a Schipperke that has seizures, please go the above website. Participate in the research study by having blood drawn on your dog and sent in so that some day they can find a genetic marker for epilepsy in Schipperkes. The University of Missouri and the Research team are close to finding some answers. To be included as one of the breeds who will have the gene sequence mapped the breed must have 20 affected Schipperkes. We are close. It is important to contribute a sample from every dog that has had a seizure, and as many relatives as possible. We are standing on the edge of having an answer.

You can also help out the Schipperke breed by contributing to the Breed Health Survey being compiled by the Schipperke Club of America Health and Genetics Committee. Information may be found here: <http://www.schipperkeclub-usa.org/>

It is only by all Schipperke owners, breeders and lovers working together that we will find the answers to having the best, healthiest Schips we possibly can have.

Put a little Schip in your heart!!

The Foundation's advance exemption and what it means to you

by Dale W. Green

"Your gifts and donations to the Schipperke Club of America Rescue & Health Foundation now qualify as a tax deduction on your personal tax reports."

With the advanced exemption as a 501 (c) (3) public charity, your gifts and donations to the Schipperke Club of America Rescue & Health Foundation now qualify as a tax deduction on your personal tax reports. After January 1st and no later than January 31st of 2007, each person making a donation to the Foundation will receive a notice of the total amount of any and all donations made to the Foundation for the preceding year and such total donations can be claimed as a deduction on your personal tax report if you itemize. Please keep in mind that only those gifts and donations made directly to the Foundation and made payable to the SCA Rescue & Health Foundation, will qual-

ify as a tax-deductible gift. We would ask that everyone making a donation to the Foundation use the remittance envelopes enclosed with this newsletter, this will allow for the proper tracking of such donations and to categorize such donations to the appropriate funds.

Thanks to the generosity of the Board of Directors of the SCA, the Foundation will receive \$3,000.00 in the very near future for the Foundation's General Fund. These funds will be used by the Foundation to fund the cost associated with the Foundation's newsletter "Schipperke Outreach", the purchase of QuickBooks Nonprofit accounting software, provide funds to

establish a website for the Foundation, and hopefully leave a little extra money for future Foundation expense.

The Trustees of the Foundation take our stewardship responsibility to any and all donors very seriously and pledge that all gifts and donations will be used for educational needs, health & genetic research, and the rescue of Schipperkes as outlined in the Foundation's Declaration of Trust and the IRS form 1023 (narrative). The Foundation's ability to collect tax-deductible gifts and disburse such gifts is controlled by IRS regulations as well as the Foundation's Operating Procedures.

It Matters To This One

by Michele Kasten

Another one of those phone calls I dread, "We can't keep our Schip any longer, can you take her? She's only 10, in good health, housebroken, spayed and up to date on her shots. A real joy, but we don't want her anymore." "Of course, we'll take her, I said", knowing that this "perfect" dog was most likely not anything like what her soon to be ex-owners described.

I arrived at the house and took a look at this little gem that was now my responsibility. Marie was probably 12-14, grossly underweight, dry, brittle coat, blind in one eye and the other one was very cloudy. She had a raging bladder infection and arthritis in her neck and back. Her shots were up to date two years ago along with her last heartworm test. The only thing that was correct was that she had been spayed.

I knew she would probably live with me for the rest of her life, who would possibly want such an old, debilitated dog? After a year at my home, I got a call from a couple who were looking for a companion after

losing their older Schip. I spoke to them about all our available rescues, but not Marie. They didn't sound sold on any of the dogs and asked if I had any others. I hesitantly told them about Marie. I didn't hold anything back, telling all of her health concerns, her dislike of all other dogs, her prima donna attitude. I mentioned she was blind in one eye and rapidly losing sight in her other eye. "Can we meet Marie?", they asked. I couldn't believe it but made arrangements to take Marie to visit them to see how it went.

I arrived at the house and the husband, Bob, came out to the car to get his new girl. They disappeared into the house where Marie promptly settled herself into the easy chair with her new family. Marie was blind in one eye, so was Bob. Marie had bad arthritis, so did Bob. Marie was old, as was Bob. Bob's wife Kelly said that he had been inconsolable after the loss of their last Schipperke and she had been worried that his health would decline even further if something didn't change. Marie

changed everything.

Marie lived there for a little over a year, pampered, loved and loving in return. She died of lymphoma, and when the time came, she died peacefully, held by the two people who never once saw an old, blind, un-placeable dog.

Dogs live in the present; they do not worry about their past or future. The things that matter to them matter now. Rescue gives these dogs a future that they would not have anywhere else. When rescue takes in a dog like Marie, it is with the knowledge that every day is important to her. Every day matters to her. Every minute is a gift. In our throw-away society, rescue recycles, and everyone benefits. The definition of rescue is to recover or preserve from loss or danger. It sets no time limits, it puts no restrictions on who or what to rescue. At the end of the day, it really does matter..... to all of us.

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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.



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



Schip toward the future!

OFFICERS

- Chairperson - Lee Ann Stusnick (12/31/09) lstusnick@aol.com
- Vice Chairperson - Shirley Quillen (12/31/09) imaskip@earthlink.net
- Secretary - Beverly Henry (12/31/09) chestara@sbcglobal.net
- Treasurer - Dale W. Green (12/31/07) winjef@aol.com
- Trustee - Virginia Larioza (12/31/08) raffineeskips@ohanakarate.com
- Trustee - Vacant (12/31/08)
- Trustee - Vacant (12/31/08)

There are two Trustee positions open that will run until December 31, 2008. If you are interested, please contact one of the present Trustees to discuss it. If you are good at fund raising, WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU!

You can find all of the organizational documents on the SCA website at <http://www.schipperkeclub-usa.org/>. Look on the sidebar under "Rescue & Health Foundation". You MUST be an SCA member and a U.S. resident to qualify as a Trustee.

Shown are just 3 of the lucky little black dogs that have found for-ever homes through the efforts of rescue.



Jiggs, one of 12 Schips rescued from a puppy mill in Texas. He had lived in a wire cage all his life and had no idea what grass was. He was adopted by a wonderful family and was the constant companion of their little boy, even sleeping in his bed.



Meet 5 year old Dewey and 10 year old Skippy, who is epileptic. These two boys were rescued and are now owned and loved by Valerie Poff with the help of Coleen McCarthy. Their story will be in the next issue of *Schip Outreach*.